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MEETING AND GREETING

Political science student wins year-long German fellowship

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Intensive language training, internship experience and $25,000 to live for a year in Germany all await political science senior Timur Kuzibaev, the second FIU student to win a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange fellowship.

“Winning this fellowship is a great honor and privilege,” Kuzibaev said.

Kuzibaev is one of three FIU students to make it to the finals of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program this year.

The program, sponsored by the Congress, the German Bundestag and the Department of State, selects 75 Americans to take part in two months of language training, four months of courses at a German university, and a five month internship.

“Initially, Timur felt he was not competitive because no one had empowered him,” said Hilarion Martinez, associate dean of undergraduate education and Diplomacy and National Security professor. “He met other FIU students who had applied and won national awards. In the end, he empowered himself and that is what I love about FIU leadership. Their goal is to empower our students.”

“I found about this wonderful opportunity in my Diplomacy course which I took this fall semester with Professor Martinez,” Kuzibaev said.

“The CBXY requires their fellows to represent the nation diplomatically, a task Kuzibaev feels prepared for. “I am planning to perform this flawlessly,” Kuzibaev said. “I fully recognize the responsibility which has been placed upon me. During my fellowship, I will be representing not just myself, but FIU as well as the people of South Florida.”

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Timur Kuzibaev

COMING UP | News
Check out Wednesday’s issue for coverage of the 2012 Student Government presidential and senatorial debates.

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A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University
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NEW INITIATIVE

New initiative to raise math passing rates

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A new administrative proposal may solve the problem of below average student passing rates in lower division math courses.

Through the Math Task Force comprised of more than 15 faculty members from FIU and Miami-Dade College, the initiative called Math Reform will restructure the approach taken by the University to teach college algebra by implementing computerized learning and peer tutoring. The program is set to begin in fall 2012.

“For years, student performance in lower level math courses at FIU has been below the State University System averages,” said Vice Provost of Academic Affairs Irma Becerra-Fernandez and math professor Enrique Villamor in their report to the FIU Faculty Senate on March 27.

The interdisciplinary task force, brought together by University Provost Douglas Wartzik, came to the conclusion that “college algebra should not be taught in the regular format any more.”

Data from the group’s proposal showed that University students struggle with passing college algebra, with only a third of students passing the first time.

More than 66 percent of the students end up repeating the class and having to take the course several times in order to pass.

“The department of mathematics has been trying actively throughout those years to improve those rates through different programs and methods,” said Villamor, in a presentation of the initiative, adding that passing rates for the Math Reform approach are at 50 percent.

During summer 2010, the University’s math department piloted three sections of college algebra using the learning model. The pilot involved students’ attending a lecture on a specific topic and then being required to practice the concepts presented in class at a computer lab. Students practiced on the computers for several hours a week, while receiving guidance and assistance by peer tutors.

It’s overdue but I’m glad we’re finally doing it.
Alan Gummerson, Arts & Sciences Senate Faculty Senator

Transfer students from Miami-Dade College are also targets for the program, according to Becerra-Fernandez.

“Because their college algebra is lighter than what we teach here, students that come from Miami-Dade to FIU have no chance to pass calculus,” said Becerra Fernandez, who has been working with the math department chair at MDC.

Through the initiative, placement in specific math courses for incoming freshmen and transfer students would be determined based on their
Chemistry students object to current grade deflation method

At the end of the day, it is not fair because this scale does not reflect your true knowledge of the material.

Kirstie Downs, junior biology

Math Task Force to also target transfer students

“a parent called to complain about the questions on the exam, but she was not supposed to be the one taking the exam.”

“Proctoring the exam at FIU is going to make a big difference,” Villamor said.

Faculty Senate members showed support for the program during their meeting.

“A lot of us here in the Senate have thought that this kind of thing has been needed for a while,” said Arts & Sciences Senator Alan Gummerson, an economics professor. “It’s overdue but I’m glad we’re finally doing it.”

“Could you have an A average in the class and instead get a B or B plus,” Downs said. “At the end of the day, it is not fair because this scale does not reflect your true knowledge of the material.”

Palmer Graves, general chemistry lab coordinator and senior lecturer, has been in charge of overseeing these labs as the policy has existed since before he arrived at the University.
The FIU Panthers dropped their 3rd straight home loss this Friday in the hands of the No. 49 Brown University Bears, losing 6-1, sinking to a 5-13 overall record for the conference.

"It was just one of those days that just didn't go our way," Applebaum-Dall'Asta stated, "we just need to regroup and get ready for next Friday and finish the season on a high note. Bottom line we need to get ready for Conference play with the Sun Belt Conference.

Left-hander Mason McVay struggled on the mound, pitching only 4 2/3 innings while allowing four walks and two earned runs.

The Panthers are in trouble in the third inning when he struggled to find the strike zone. The tall lefty walked two batters and could not get away unscathed after Warhawk outfiler Taylor Abdalla lined a double to knock in the first run of the game.

As for singles, the Panthers could not claw their way back and get the victory, falling just one run out of six without the single matches. Mclean was the lone Panther of the pack to clinch the win, as he started slow by dropping the first set 3-6, but regained his composure and came back with a vengeance in the second set, winning 6-4. This set victory sent the match into a tie-breaker where Mclean sealed the deal with a 10-8 win beating Casey Hertzberg.

"I think I really picked it up in singles," Mclean stated. "I'm very proud the way I fought back and won the match."

Lisa Johnson could not follow up on her spectacular performance versus FAU, and didn't as she came out with the right energy, dwindling to a 6-5, 6-2 defeat to Brown's Harrow.

Maisak also came out on the losing end (6-2, 6-2) of a slugfest by getting defeated by Junior Mina Kraowski. Maisak just could not establish a consistent rhythm, as went for the kill shot on almost every point and did not focus on hitting the open spots on the court.

Djordjiev avoided a serious facial injury in her (6-3, 6-1) loss as she leapt over and dove onto the court in attempts to salvage a point. The side of her face only inches away from the hard surface, was uninjured, and popped right back up and finished the match.

Junior Magali Holt, who has not seen action all season, filled in for Giuletta Bona, as she could not shake off the rust falling to a (6-2, 6-2) loss in her 2012 debut.

The Panthers play host to the Fresno State Bulldogs, April 6th where the Bulldogs look to average their 4.2 loss to FIU back on January 27th. The match is set for a 1 p.m. start at the FIU Tennis Center.

"[Mason] was not getting the breaking ball over the plate," said head coach Turtle Thomas after the game. FIU wasted no time responding, however, as senior slinger Mike Martinez knocked in his 170th RBI of his career with a single to score junior Nathan Burns and tie the game in the bottom of the same inning. The Panthers struck again the very next inning after junior Adam Kirsch walked and ended up on third base on a wild pitch. Freshman Julius Gaines drove him in with a fielder’s choice to second base.

The seesaw battle fell back to the Warhawks’ side in the fifth inning when left fielder Les Aulds got on base and caused havoc with his speed to get to third base. The speedster scored on a fielder’s choice to make it 2-2.

After an error (FIU’s first in 26 innings) and a walk, McVay was pulled from the game and replaced by right-hander Eddy Pidermann.

FIU scored for the fourth consecu- tive inning, driving in a run on a single over the first baseman’s head in the sixth inning made it 4-2. Henry, who had reached base with his third hit of the night, came around to score.

"He’s starting to get on track and get it going," said Thomas of Henry. A ULM RBI double brought the Warhawks to within a run of FIU in the seventh inning. While that would be the final run of the game, it would not be the final threat.

With a two-out, one-run lead in the ninth inning, closer Michael Gomez’s heart must have done a few somersaults.

A blow out at third base on a steal enrag ed FIU fans and players alike. It would have been the final out of the game.

"The throw beat the guy by quite a bit," Thomas said. "He said our third baseman missed the tag but he laid the glove right there in front of the batter."

Gomez escaped an eventual bases-loaded situation to win the game and secure the save.

Asked why the game was important to FIU, Thomas shrugged his shoulders and replied, "You don’t want to go 2-5 in the conference."
As the spring practice started to get under way, redshirt sophomore Jake Medlock began taking some shots behind the line of scrimmage, even though he was wearing the red jersey which signifies no hitting permitted.

Medlock picked himself up and ripped off his chin-strap in frustration, the sign of a long night, and eventually, a long summer, ahead for the Panthers.

The Jacksonville native knows that there is a long road ahead.

"The quarterbacks as a whole really struggled today," Medlock said. "We got to bounce back and get ready for Duke."

Medlock realizes he is being thrown into the leadership role and that he, among others, need to become the leaders of the team.

"They’re the type of group that likes it when someone steps up and talks to them. It’s something that the team needs. We’re missing it now losing Wes [Carroll] and T.Y. [Hilton]. Me as a person, Wayne Times, and Kedrick [Rhodes], we got to step up."

But with being a leader means staying healthy and Medlock realizes that as much he wants to hit, he cannot continue to do it.

"I kind of wish I was in a white jersey to be honest. I understand I got to be healthy. If I’m not healthy, were in trouble I think. I need to be able to lead this team and be the leader they need."

The rest of the quarterbacks on the roster got their chances to showcase their skills, and one in particular did not disappoint head coach Mario Cristobal.

"There were some flashes. I think Jake does have an edge," Cristobal said. "You could see what Lorenzo [Hammonds] could do with his feet as well as his arm, which has improved. Jake still is the starter, [but] Lorenzo has made tremendous strides. If not for a penalty, he would probably had over 200 yards of offense on his own."

That play that Cristobal mentioned was a 70 yard scramble by Hammonds where he made numerous cuts down the field until he eventually dove across the goal line for the score, however, a holding call on the offensive line erased one of the bright spots of the offense’s night. Cristobal noted that he would need to compete this offseason for a spot to play next year.

"He’s got to keep competing. He obviously has a lot of value to this football team," Cristobal said. "I think a lot of people don’t realize he was the South Carolina Player of the Year a couple of years ago. He played in a spread system, which coach Cramsey has brought over here and he’s feeling real comfortable."

A player that burst onto the scene last year and was expected to play a big part of the spring game, Kedrick Rhodes, saw limited action. Cristobal decided to hold Rhodes out of the game due to a bruised tailbone he sustained earlier in the week of practice.

As much as the offense seemed to struggle, the defense, however, did not have those same issues.

A swarming first unit that always had a nose around the ball carrier picked up right where they left off from last season, where they ranked 22nd in the nation against the run. Redshirt sophomore Justin Halley feels that having continuity is going to be a factor this year.

"I think that last year, scheme wise, we weren’t all the way there," Halley said. "We have a new coach every year basically so it took us a little while to get the scheme down but having [another] spring and summer to learn everything is going to be a factor this year."
TV/Film acting class offered to broaden curriculum

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The transition from theater to television and film for student actors on campus is being made easier with the help of Introduction to Acting/Directing for TV/Film, a class that exposes them to the various opportunities between the three types of performances.

To have a four-year program in the 21st century and not have [a] film [course] is a sin,” said Phillip Church, an associate professor at the Department of Theatre and instructor for the course. “We are doing the students such a disservice without giving them an appreciation for the film.”

Church, who has been battling to get a film program off the ground in previous years, states that the interest is there if only the many factors involved would come together to create it.

“I have gotten student petitions and would have these classes of 30 kids shoot up at the idea of a film program. There are so many students that are just wandering, and many of them could find themselves hooked on the new technology—but we have nothing to offer them.

“I worked out a whole curriculum and presented it to the provost 10 years ago and got shot down because of the football team or [parking] garage or all the reasons why a film program will never happen. I’ve since stopped the battle,” said Church.

While the course, which began five years ago, is only available to bachelor’s of fine art majors, Church cannot stress enough the importance of a film or television component for student actors.

“For Stephanie Sandool, a junior BFA theater performance major, the class has introduced her to acting in front of the camera and has exposed her to directing behind the camera. “We realize that, in the U.S., TV and film is bigger and provides more income for actors than theater. It has been very interesting and eye-opening in many ways that have made me want to pursue acting in front of the camera more than I had thought of before,” said Sandool.

As part of their training, Church set up auditions for students at the WLRN studios as well as various camera angles on the first day of class.

“The class started a little behind, but it has to be expanded in front of the camera more than I had thought of before,” said Sandool.

We are doing the students such a disservice without giving them an appreciation for [film].

Phillip Church
Department of Theatre, Associate Professor

Students gather to watch the contestants for American Ninja Warrior

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One typically stays late on campus to study or complete an assignment, but last week, hopefuls from all over the nation competed against each other in the Preliminary Round of the United States’ version for the original Japanese series, “Ninja Warrior.”

“The actual obstacles are not so simple, though. Contests face a series of hurdles that only the most fit and skilled student athletes can handle. Potential warriors must climb rope ladders at extreme heights, run up a very steep hill, and then make their way through an alleyway with no floor that is suspended over a pool. Eventually, the warriors must jump from a very high altitude to a platform, climb a rope ladder, and get shot down because of the football team or [parking] garage or all the reasons why a film program will never happen. I’ve since stopped the battle,” said Church.

Church also notes the wake-up call many students receive when they begin the class after having solely focused in theater, especially with typecasting.

“The typecasting is the big one, but it’s very good because many times the actor can think they’re above TV and film and all of that. It’s a shame because TV and film is the bread and butter—it just can’t be theater,” said Church.

“Beneath the Skin of the Actor,” an exercise in which Church requires the students to pick an actor of the same sex and study their physical and vocal techniques, demonstrates this very idea.

“It starts with the George Clooney syndrome; there is something very bankable and marketable about him,” said Church. “The theater actor prides himself in being transformational; being this character one week and another the next week. When we go to a movie, however, all we expect to see George Clooney. It’s not a put-down but the very life of film.”

The importance of the exercise, Church said, is revealing the reversal energy that is there if only the many factors involved would come together.

“[This competition] promotes an exercise as performers in the area they love the most. It’s win-win; it’s just a shame it can’t get developed into something more,” Church said. “In the meantime, we have to serve our theater and performance students and this class, for my money, is a major element in their development as performers in the 21st century.”

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Europe and Asia bring the Turkey to the table

If you happen to be undecided on whether to visit Asia or Europe, a country considered to hail from both of these continents, is a highly welcoming and multicultural place. Lovers of good food, sunny weather and beautiful Mediterranean beaches will thrive here. Bilal Ciplak, president of Turkish Studies and a graduate student in politics and international relations, is very knowledgeable of the different cultural cities in Turkey. Although Ankara is the capital, his No. 1 tourist spot suggestion is Istanbul, a city that is located in two places at once—no magic involved.

“There is a bridge that connects both sides of Istanbul to Asia and Europe,” said Ciplak. The bridge, known as the Galata Bridge, may separate both sides of the city, but the city is no different on each side. As a whole, the city is still full of hustle and bustle and full of many different cultures, much like Miami. It was even voted Cultural Capital of Europe in 2010. Incredibly ancient and rich with various types of breathtaking architecture, Ciplak suggested visiting the Grand Bazaar (a vast mall with thousands of shops), Hagia Sophia (Istanbul’s chief mosque) and the Blue Mosque. Turkish rugs are quite famous and are popular souvenirs that can be found in the Grand Bazaar.

As for food, the Turkish live on their personal dishes. Fast foods such as Burger King and McDonald’s can be found, but it is rare to dine there, unless you are a homesick American. Gyro stands are commonly found throughout the country, making it one of the No. 1 food dishes. However, kebabs and hamsi (made with native fish) are quite popular.

Baklava, a sweet pastry dessert, is native to the city of Gaziantep (southern Turkey), but domra and salam (stuffed vegetables and leaves with olive oil) can be found in the Mediterranean region. Due to a combination of Middle Eastern and European culture, fashion is quite diverse.

“The way people dress is very beautiful in Turkey. It is a very cosmopolitan city,” said Ciplak. Fashion is very important, and it consists of a combination of religious and secular clothing. Muslim catwalks provide clothing lines for very religious women. As for secular folk, dressing sloppily is not an option, for the Turkish take their style and fashion seriously.

Although most Turks own cars, a lack of one does not create difficulty as it would in the United States. “We have very efficient public transportation,” said Ciplak. These forms of transportation include trains, buses, taxis, boats and ferries and so forth. Cars are more of a luxury, and since transportation is so attainable, it is normal for tourists and natives alike to travel publicly. Although Turkey is generally very sunny, snowbirds can head to the northern border by the Black Sea for cooler weather, while beach lovers can enjoy hot weather on the southeastern border by the Mediterranean.

With rich culture and gorgeous weather, anyone with desperate travel fancies will not be disappointed on their Euro-Asian trip to Turkey.

“Explore International is a bi-weekly travel column where Holly McCoach interviews students and alumni about their native countries.”

NINJA, PAGE 5

Lopez hoped that the skills he honed as a gymnast and a martial artist gave him that extra edge he needed to stand out among the college, said Jorge Cardenas, a freshman engineer major. Whether you attended the overnight competition or just noticed the obstacle course being set up on campus, “American Ninja Warrior” was a part of the University for three days—and many students were excited that this campus was the chosen one.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Tweet Beat!

Explore International is a bi-weekly travel column where Holly McCoach interviews students and alumni about their native countries.

SQA 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

SGA.FIU.EDU

NATURE PRESERVE, GARDEN & COMPOSTING TOUR
WHEN: 10 -11 a.m.
WHERE: Preserve main entrance across from the Rec Center
MEATLESS MONDAYS LUNCH KICKOFF
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
WHERE: Fresh Foods Company in GC
WINDOW GARDENS WORKSHOP
WHEN: 4-5 p.m.
WHERE: Housing Quad
NATURE PRESERVE, GARDEN & COMPOSTING TOUR
WHEN: 5:15-6:15 p.m.
WHERE: Preserve main entrance across from the Rec Center
SCREENING OF “DIRTI THE MOVIE”
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
WHERE: GoGreen Lawn between Panther Parking Garage & Century Bank Arena
regarding tuition increases. will vote against all proposals

Samir Patel and Andres Wu are a good team; however, Wu’s inexperience with Student
government is disconcerting. Although, Wu has been actively involved with the Residence Hall Association, his lack of participation within Student Government suggests an isolated understanding of student politics, whereas, with the Udhnani/ Mautner ticket, both candidates will have spent a full academic year immersed in executive

Laura Wudas and Alex Castro want to “Put Students First.” However, their platform merely
states what they plan on accomplishing, not their tactics to achieve those goals. We do feel that this ticket’s ideas are innovative, but outside issues surrounding them discouraged our vote.

While their platform aims for transparency, we question the integrity of their ticket due to Fairinas’ involvement with underage drinking at last year’s intern retreat and her failure to directly address it to the student body. Additionally, Fairinas and Castro are currently dating. While they claim that they are able to keep their relationship separate from their work, we can not help but be skeptical. Should they break up while in office, its influence on the presidency could be problematic.

Due to the fact that Student Government Council elections at Biscayne Bay Campus are uncontested, The Beacon will not recommend any of its candidates. Platform aside; however, it’s doubtful that these two will be able to work together.

There have been two separate grievances filed with the SGC-BBC Supreme Court.

Presidential candidate Pablo Haspel has filed a grievance against his running-mate, Oluwatobi Adekoya, and Adekoya filed one against Haspel. SGC-BBC politics have been plagued all year with strife among its members, and even now change seems unlikely given that, before elections have even begun, the single presidential ticket has already been divided by personal differences.

Realistically, knowing that the elections were going to be uncontested, the candidates should have reconciled their differences. It just goes to show that if Haspel or Adekoya is your running mate, you don’t need an opponent.
Despite a near splitting of ticket, candidates unite for ‘greater good’

JONATHAN RAMOS
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The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus’ presidential election is uncontested, but it hasn’t been free of controversy.

Initially a presidential ticket featuring SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate Pablo Haspel running for president with SGC-BBC Senator at Large Oluwatobidi Adekoya as Vice President, there were a slew of dealings that preceded the ticket being finalized.

Adekoya emailed Elections Commission Director WeeYee Wang on March 5, a week after the deadline, attempting to split the presidential ticket.

In addition, Adekoya also filed a writ of certiorari on March 21 in an attempt to disqualify Haspel because of application concerns, asking the SGC-BBC Supreme Court to rule Haspel ineligible to run for office. Neither of Adekoya’s complaints came to fruition, however, as Haspel was ruled eligible and the original ticket was restored in a March 26 hearing.

“Those are the things of types of things you need to set aside for the greater good, in this case the student body,” Haspel said.

“Haspel feels that communication within the council has also lacked this year....

“I would like to build a foundation,” Haspel said. “Student involvement is not something that happens overnight. It’s something that you set the groundwork for and it begins to transform the student body and student interest. (Working with) SGA, SPC, SOC, Panther Power, BBH, to make sure that they have the tools and we are there to support them to make sure they are able to expand and we are able to expand.”

Haspel has since spoken to Adekoya to clear the air, and is confident his running mate will make better acquainted with the council’s governing documents. Adekoya was unavailable for comment at press time.

“I’ve worked with him the entire year in Senate. I am comfortable with his knowledge,” Haspel said, while adding that everyone in the council is thoroughly briefed on the governing documents at the beginning of each semester. “They are very long documents, so every now and then you pull out a document you might forget a certain part of it, and that’s completely acceptable.”

Haspel’s platform includes addressing communication between the council and student organizations. This could also alleviate what he calls a “lack of overall student involvement.”

Haspel said that although it is hard to tangibly quantify this, he is committed to it.

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“Currently there is very little communication between the branches,” he said. “Different branches don’t necessarily always know the sufficient amount of time and what each other is doing. That would be one thing, making sure that Senate know about announcements, about different things that are coming up before nominations prior to the actual day.”

Haspel will graduate this semester with a bachelor’s degree in economics, international relations and political science and has been accepted to graduate school, where he will pursue a master’s in public administration. Haspel initially joined Student Government as a Senate At Large and Speaker Pro Tempore in the spring of 2011. He was an Honors College Senator from fall 2011 to this spring, in addition to his Speaker of the Senate duties.

Among Haspel’s other goals for his upcoming presidency are pushing for more classes at BBC. While this means ensuring that students voices are heard in regards to class demands, Haspel sees technology playing a big part in the future.

“We have done a lot of expansion in terms of technology in the last few years,” Haspel said. “So what we can do is have smart classes with video links and you are able to have classes here and at [Modesto Maidique Campus] going on simultaneously where you’re able to interact while you’re here, with the professor and with the rest of the class.”

In his SGC-BBC tenure, Haspel has played a large role in the rewriting of the council’s statutes last year, while also working closely with Wolfe University Center Director Greg Olson on crafting a three phase plan to renovate the Wolfe Center beginning in the summer of 2012.

SGA elections will take place on April 3 and 4, and students can vote on my.fiusm.edu by stepping by Academic One between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Increase in gas prices a deciding factor in daily commute

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Gas prices are higher than ever and students affected by it are finding new ways to deal with this economic dilemma and share tips on how to save money and gas.

Prices have risen steadily these past couple of months. According to an article about the US economy on About.com, “High gas prices are usually caused by high prices for crude oil which accounted for 72 percent of the price of gasoline as of February 2012. Distribution and taxes influence the remaining 28 percent of gas prices.”

Other reasons why gas prices have gone up are also due to fears about unrest in Libya and Egypt which sent oil prices up to $113 a barrel Monday morning. Ongoing war around the corner and prices tend to spike during the summer driving vacation season.

“Those isn’t much students can do to influence the change in pricing but many are finding ways to save money during these times when jobs are scarce, living is expensive and transportation is not a commodity anymore,” says Sodusta.

The lines at the bus stops near the Biscayne Bay Campus grow longer every day and it’s no surprise. Erel Rauder, a sophomore hospitality major, explained that she used to drive to school occasionally but with prices rising on a daily basis, she would rather wait for the bus to save money.

Jeffrey Sodusta, a junior and journalism major on campus described how it has affected his daily routines as a student and his personal life.

“I’m not going out as much,” Sodusta said.

He went on to explain how he had to find an alternate route to school in order to conserve gas and how he keeps a good eye out to not let the car go less than half empty or half full depending on your personal point of view.

Sodusta was also able to share some helpful tips on how to manage and stretch a dollar.

“My plan for you,” Sodusta said.

“If you don’t know where you are going, you are going to waste gas and money.”

He encouraged eco-friendly cars that offer valuable gas mileage and to shop around for cheap gas without compromising your safety. Pumping gas at a desolate and sketchy gas station offering a cheaper price is not a good idea. “Your life is more valuable than possessions,” Sodusta said.

According to fueleconomy.gov, some tips to conserve gas include observing the speed limit, removing excess weight, avoiding idling, and using cruise control when possible. Aggressive driving such as speeding, rapid acceleration or braking also affect gas. According to fueleconomy.gov, “It can lower gas mileage by 33 percent on highways and 5 percent around town.”

Reginald Thermitus, a junior information technology major, commutes from BBC to the Modesto Maidique Campus on a daily basis. Although he drives a BMW 745, Thermitus prefers using the shuttle to take him there and back.

“Gas costs too much,” Thermitus said. “I would rather spend the $5 to go there and come back rather than spend $180 in two days.”