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Political science student wins year-long German fellowship

NICOLAS SARAVIA
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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 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 CBYX 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."

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.

During summer 2010, 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 algebra college 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 Wartzok, 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 struggling 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 Senator Faculty Senate chair at MDC.

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Through the initiative, placement in specific math courses for incoming freshmen and transfer students would be determined based on their performance.

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Chemistry students object to current grade deflation method

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In the grading scheme for chemistry labs at the University, not all A’s are created equal.

As the lab syllabus reads: “Course grades will be assigned based on your rank within the class. Historically, only the top 25 percent of each section has received an A.”

That means that if the entire class earned an A, only the top 25 percent would actually receive that grade. That also means that a few students’ chances at medical school could be put in jeopardy.

“It may not seem as it will have a great effect on the students,” said Kevin Downs, a junior majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry.

“But when you know there’s only 23 slots available and only 25 percent will be getting A’s, you know only roughly five students will pass with A’s,” he said.

FIU, as with most universities and medical schools, requires chemistry majors to take and pass laboratories, including arming the rebels and carving out a safe haven inside Syria from which the opposition can operate.

“Even who wins can change, as the justices read each section has received an A.”

Historically, only the top 25 percent of labs at the University, not all A’s are awarded. It is not fair because this scale does not reflect your true knowledge of the material.

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.

“Not all students agree that the policy is the right way of making it fair for all.

“I think that logic is even worse than the policy itself,” junior Steven Castillo said. “If that is what they are concerned about, they should use a uniform grading policy or use a group of individuals to do the grading for them to ensure conformity of grading standards.”

Some students don’t accept it as a benefit. They see it as a competition among classmates to try and gain that slight advantage.

“I didn’t feel that I could enjoy myself,” said senior Adriana Gonzalez.

Math, PAGE 1

performance on the ALEKS, the mandatory math placement test for all first-time students.

But, instead of completing the online exam at home as has been done in previous years, students would need to take the test during orientation in a proctored classroom.

The task force members agreed that several students may not be taking the exam themselves at home.

They mentioned in the report that biology major with a chemistry and physics minor.

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Baseball

Questionable calls could not prevent Panthers victory

EDUARDO ALMAQUER
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The ninth inning on March 28 was a game of inches.

Despite issuing three walks, being the victims of a controversial call at third base and almost giving up a bases-clearing double, FIU managed to escape game one against last-place University of Louisiana-Monroe with a 4-3 win.

FIU (13-12, 3-4 SBC) extended its winning streak to three, defeating ULM (13-11, 6-4), while the Aggies fell to 22-16 and 5-7 in Sun Belt Conference play.

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

FIU came into 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 outfielder 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, tallying just one run out of six individual matches. McVay was the lone Panther of the pack to clinch the win, as he started slow by dropping the first set 3-6, but regained 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 McVay sealed the deal with a 10-8 win bearing Casey Hertberg.

“I think I really picked it up in singles,” McLean said. “I’m very proud of way I fought and won the match.”

Juniors Jonathan Fuentes, Jonathan Moreno and Toron Swinson clinched their respective matches to clinch the win 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 getting it going,” said Thomas of Henry.

A ULM RBI double brought the Warhawks to within a run of FIU in the seventh inning. While 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 blown call at third base on a steal enraging 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.

As for the win, the win was important to the Panthers. Thomas shurged his shoulders and replied, “You don’t want to go 2-5 in the conference.”

Baseball

Losing streak up to three after home loss to Brown

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The FIU Panthers dropped their 3rd straight home loss this Friday in the hands of the No. 49 Brown University Bears, losing 6-1, to sink to a 5-3 overall record for the 2012 season.

“It was just one of those days that just didn’t go our way,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “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 Tournament coming up.”

Right out of the gate FIU played themselves into a hole as they went wireless in doubles, going 0-2. From the very start of the match Senior’s Lisa Johnson and Christine Serdeni could not take down the Brown Bears tag team of All-Second team Ivy League Senior, Catesia Aboukai and along Ft. Lauderdale’s own freshman, Laura Wiley.

Despite the high velocity serves and powerful returns, Johnson and Serdeni found themselves in a hole as they went winless in doubles going 0-3. Even the dynamic duo of Sophmores, Giulietta Boha and Antonio Myers, as Brown’s other All Conference Senior, could not take down the Brown Bears tag team.

As for singles, the Panthers could not

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Thomas devoted to build team

MASON McVAY
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With three seasons in the books as the head coach of the men’s basketball program, Isiah Thomas is beginning to see a shift in the way that the FIU basketball program is viewed by potential recruits. “When I first got here, we were trying to sell a program that people hadn’t heard much about. Thomas said. “Now we have name recognition. It is an easier sale right now.”

Although FIU has made some inroads in recruiting nationally, Thomas also feels that the program is making progress in obtaining recruits from Florida. “We are starting to get more traction in the state of Florida,” Thomas said. “Kids that traditionally looked at bigger programs out of state are now considering us.”

Although the program has not produced a season with a record over .500 under Thomas’ stewardship, the Panthers have received some early commitments for the 2012-2013 season. The Panthers currently have one recruit signed out of high school, with the addition of Milton Doyle from John Marshall High School in Chicago.

Doyle signed with FIU last October. He is a 6-foot-4 shooting guard whose skill set impresses Thomas. “Doyle is one of the top five players coming out of the city of Chicago,” Thomas said. “To be able to land a recruit like him in a big feather in our cap.”

Along with Doyle, the Panthers will have the services of 6-foot-11 center Lekan Ajayi who transferred from Wyoming. Ajayi has been practicing with the team since January. “We will have him for four years,” Thomas said. “He will be just like a freshman. Bringing in Lekan will be great for our frontcourt.”

Outside of Doyle, the Panthers apparently have landed two more high school recruits. According to reports, guard Usama-Abid Osman from Gorman High School in Las Vegas has committed to the Panthers. Osman is listed at 5-foot-10 and appears to be a pass first point guard. He led his high school team to the Class 4A state championship in the state of Nevada.

Tim Williams from Home-wood-Flossmoor High School in suburban Chicago has also committed to FIU for 2012. The 6-foot-7 forward will bring an athletic forward to the Panthers’ lineup that consists of Giles Diericks, Joey De La Rosa, Ajiyi, Brandon Moore and Dominique Ferguson. Williams also played football in high school.

Junior college prospect Antoine Myers from Pensacola State College has verbally committed to the Panthers. Myers is a 6 foot-3 shooting guard from Baltimore who can drive to the basket and can hit the mid-range jumper.

The Panthers will also have a familiar face return for the 2012 season as Tolu Aokomolafe will be cleared to play with the Panthers. Aokomolafe was deemed ineligible last January, which forced him to sit out the remaining games of the season.

MULTI-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Last October, the NCAA made changes to the type of scholarship that athletic programs could offer to student-athletes. Currently, student-athletes receive scholarships that are renewed on an annual basis. Athletic programs can now also offer student-athletes multi-year scholarships up to the full term of a student-athletes eligibility. When asked if he plans to offer a multi-year scholarship, Thomas stated, “We will use it when we need to.”

COMMITTED TO FIU

During his tenure at FIU, Thomas has been linked to possibilities to returning to his former employer, the New York Knicks. In 2010, Thomas initially accepted a consultant role with the Knicks, but rescinded the offer.

With two years remaining on his contract with FIU and the recent resignation of Mike D’Antoni as Knicks’ head coach, Thomas was asked if he had any interest in the Knicks head coaching position. Thomas stated, “As I have said since I have gotten here, my intention is to build this program.”
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 chinstrap 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 have 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 shot to play next year.

“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.”

Jake Medlock, Redshirt Sophomore Quarterback

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DEFENSE SHINES BRIGHT AS QUARTERBACKS STRUGGLE

As much as the offense seemed to struggle, the defense, however, did not have these 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 got to bounce back and get ready for Duke.”

“I think a lot of people don’t 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 a whole, the defense was solid.

Robert Boswell (top left) saw significant playing time March 30 during the Blue and Gold game. Not to be easily outdone was Jerimiah Harden (top right) who scored twice during the scrimmage. Defensive coordinator Todd Orlando (bottom left) looks on at his group. The defense forced four turnovers, including two interceptions by Sam Miller and one by Justin Halley. Defensive lineman Giovanni Francois (bottom right) gets prepared just before the scrimmage begins.

Robert Boswell (top left) saw significant playing time March 30 during the Blue and Gold game. Not to be easily outdone was Jerimiah Harden (top right) who scored twice during the scrimmage. Defensive coordinator Todd Orlando (bottom left) looks on at his group. The defense forced four turnovers, including two interceptions by Sam Miller and one by Justin Halley. Defensive lineman Giovanni Francois (bottom right) gets prepared just before the scrimmage begins.

Photos by Philippe Buteau/The Beacon

Robert Boswell (top left) saw significant playing time March 30 during the Blue and Gold game. Not to be easily outdone was Jerimiah Harden (top right) who scored twice during the scrimmage. Defensive coordinator Todd Orlando (bottom left) looks on at his group. The defense forced four turnovers, including two interceptions by Sam Miller and one by Justin Halley. Defensive lineman Giovanni Francois (bottom right) gets prepared just before the scrimmage begins.

Photos by Philippe Buteau/The Beacon

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Ninja Warrior TV preliminaries taped on campus

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One typically stays late on campus to study or complete an assignment, but last week, hopefuls from all over the east coast stayed into the late hours of the night on the Modesto Maidique Campus to compete for the chance to be the next “American Ninja Warrior.”

Among those competitors was Daniel Lopez, a senior majoring in biology. “I’ve been watching [the show] since it came out,” said Lopez.

Only three locations in the entire country were chosen to film the preliminaries—and the University was one of them.

“We were trying to find a place where it was easy to get everyone together. [Here], there is great weather, people and a good location,” said segment producer Scott Church.

The prelim was filmed in front of the Ryder Business Building between March 27-29 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

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 genres between the three types of performances.

“There’s a four-year program in the 21st century and we haven’t had a [film] course in 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 reasons—the classes 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 major programs, Church cannot stress enough the importance of a film or television component for student actors.

“Only BFA performance students can take it, but [theater majors] are all headed into a world of technology that we shouldn’t pretend doesn’t exist. I don’t think TV and film as entertainment forms have been given any serious thought,” said Church.

For Stephanie Sandvol, 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 Sandvol.

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

“The class started and it has to be expanded in front of the camera; TV is reflective of everyday life.” Church also notes the wake-up call many students receive when they begin the class after having solely studied theater, especially with typcasting.

“The typcasting is the big one, but it’s very good because many times the class is more than ready to take on.

“We have to take it seriously and make it big so that people can see what you do; however, you can’t show off your dishonor in chemistry class,” said Franciscus. “One group will write and do the storyboard and another will act, then we will switch. It’s open for the company to use if they should choose to.”

For Church, the class offers a creative outlet for students waiting for their chance.

“They don’t need a theater; they’ve got their cameras and have friends. They can write a script, get a daytime job and wait, but now at least they have this capacity 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.”

Introduction to Acting/Directing for TV/Film is being offered for non-BFA performance theater majors this upcoming Summer B.
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.

“Another bridge that connects both sides of Istanbul to Asiya 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.

Food and beverage is a big part of Turkish life as well. Chai tea is a capital drink that is akin to coffee for American culture. Drink various times throughout the day, chai tea is the principal go-to drink.

“Wherever you go, they give you tea,” said Ciplak. “We have Turkish coffee that we drink, but it is very strong.”

Despite their famous coffee, Turks stick to their tea, which is offered in various restaurants and food shops.

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 hamis (made with native fish) are quite popular.

Baklava, a sweet pastry dessert, is native to the city of Guzante (southern Turkey), but dorma and zalma (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.

Muslims walk 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, 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 publically.

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 south-eastern border by the Mediterranean.

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

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

Upcoming events

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<td>MEATLESS MONDAYS LUNCH KICKOFF</td>
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<td>WINDOW GARDENS WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>FIU FACULTY JAZZ ENSEMBLE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOW MUCH: $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE: Herbert &amp; Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE: MARC Building Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPTAIN PLANET &amp; THE FIU PANTHERTEERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE: GC Pit</td>
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<tr>
<td>GO PLANETI BASEBALL GAME</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN: 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHERE: Baseball Stadium</td>
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</table>

To have your event featured email: calendar@fiusm.com

Tweet Beat!

@TIME: Canada cancels its penny. Is the US penny next? - On Canada’s decision to stop making the penny because it doesn’t make “cents.”
THE BEACON RECOMMENDS

VOTING GUIDE

Visit fiusm.com for an updated elections guide

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

Modesto Maidique Campus

SANJEV UDHNANI (P)
CONNOR MAUTNER (VP)

Sanjeev Udhnani and Connor Mautner are MAD—Making A Difference.

The Beacon commends them for their dedication to the student body and recommends that students give their vote to the team that plans on improving the University.

As current Vice President for the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus, Udhnani will be able to easily transition into the role of president and continue ongoing projects with expertise and ease.

If elected as president, Udhnani will vote against all proposals regarding tuition increases.

“It’s not enough for us to complain that tuition is high, we need to collaborate across the state,” said Udhnani.

Mautner has been the executive assistant to SGC-MMC President Patrick O’Keefe.

In addition to sustaining his responsibilities, Mautner was able to prepare and present a comprehensive solar panel proposal.

The proposal aims to save the University over $30,000,000 in six years.

Through his proposal, it is evident that he is meticulous, organized and prepared to work—necessary qualities for a successful vice president.

SAMIR PATEL (P) / ANDRES WU (VP)

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 politics, with an eye over—and, hopefully, a firm grasp on—the ripple-effect of the needs, productivity, and indiscretions of every government element.

Additionally, Patel’s involvement with the Coalition of Students for Reform brings into question his potential governing skills. We believe that their platform is too similar to CSR’s.

LAURA FARINAS (P) / ALEX CASTRO (VP)

Laura Farinas 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 Farinas’ involvement with underage drinking at last year’s intern retreat.

And her failure to directly address it to the student body.

Additionally, Farinas 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.

Biscayne Bay Campus: Uncontested

PABLO HASPEL (P)
OLUWATOBI ADEKOYA (VP)

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, Olutwotobi 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.

THE BEACON RECOMMENDS

SEATs

THE BEACON RECOMMENDS

SGC MMC SENATE

VOTING INFORMATION

Polls will be open on April 3-4.

Visitors will be able to vote on either my.fiu.edu or various locations at Modesto Maidique, Biscayne Bay Campus, Pines Center and the Engineering Center.

For an up-to-date version of this voter guide, which includes coverage and analysis of the SGC-MMC Senatorial debates and SGC-BBC Candidate forum, log on to www.fiusm.com
GAS GUZZLER

KATHERINE MAS
Contacting Editor
bbc@fiusm.com

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 and $143 a barrel respectively because if the war was to last, there are no other options available. The price of gas is going to go up.

There 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 of necessity.

The lines at the bus stops near the Biscayne Bay Campus grow longer every day and it’s no surprise. Earl Raudazer, 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.

“Plan your routes,” 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 Modest 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 $100 in two days.”