Slowly, unsurely: Florida’s economy lags behind

NATALIE BAEZ
Contributing Writer

With the highest long-term unemployment rates, Florida’s Great Recession recovery is slow – emphasis on slow.

According to the 2012 “State of Working in Florida,” report released by the University’s Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy, Florida exceeded the national average of long-term unemployment by 9.3 percent in 2011.

Written by Bernardo Oseguera, a research associate from RISEP, the “State of Working in Florida” is a yearly publication outlining the Florida employment climate.

According to the recent study, during the Great Recession, Florida lost 715,200 jobs and has since recovered 96,600 jobs, or 13.5 percent. The rest of the America has recovered 34.6 percent. States facing an economic hardship similar to or worse than Florida, like New York and Pennsylvania, have been recovering more efficiently.

Florida’s private sector has been recovering but the public sector is still losing jobs, losing 2.8 percent in the recovery while losing only 0.9 percent during the actual recession.

Additionally, the professional and business services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and leisure and hospitality industries recovered 56 percent of the jobs lost during the recession.

“Hospitality is very flexible and it’s a seasonal business. Depending on the time of year, Florida, being the tourist spot that it is, can attract people to do a lot of things hospitality related,” said Alex Choi, a junior majoring in hospitality management.

“Great Recession recovery is slowly, unsurely: Florida’s economy lags behind.

EPA stops by to sign understanding with University

LORDANA GUILLAUIME
Contributing Writer

The University was greeted this past Friday by Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, regional administrator of the Southeast Region for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Fleming was welcomed by Michael Heithaus, director of the University’s School of Environment, Arts and Society program and professor of biological sciences, to sign a memorandum of understanding between the EPA and the University.

According to Heithaus, this MOU is expected to “lead to substantial new scientific collaborations and fantastic new opportunities for students to get involved and work at EPA and with EPA.”

Once the memorandum was signed, Fleming announced the EPA’s new “tradition of exchanging pins.”

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming (far right) shakes hands with students attending the signing event.

After exchanging folders containing documentation of the MOU, as well as pins with Fleming, University Provost Douglas Warzek acknowledged the “real action planned” with this MOU and expressed his gratitude to Fleming for her presence and compliance in speaking to the University on behalf of the EPA.

Fleming took the stage to discuss with students the importance of protecting and sustaining the environment.

She said that by renewing focus on environmental education, we are “positioning the graduates of this institution to ride a strong foundation for how America will not only survive in the 21st century, but how we will thrive in the 21st century.”

“I need for your [University Core Curriculum] and how many classes you have left until you graduate,” Saintlouis said.

She also stressed the importance of conversation and communication when discussing environmental issues.

With environmental education nowdays people need to, “look beyond the traditional work,” because each study is “interconnected and it’s going to take that interdisciplinary approach to find solutions.”

Contributing Writer

PHOTO CREDITS: Ethan Martizio-Beacon
and still, unemployment for black workers began to see a turn around, it wasn’t until 2011 when Hispanic males are recovering faster. Among certain demographics, some have been 3 percent higher had they not dropped out of the labor force and as a result are not included in the 2011 unemployment rates, which would mean that everyone has relative equal lower wages.

Women are also at a disadvantage, making up nearly half of the labor force, but hired four times less than men at the national level. In 2011, women in Florida earned 88 percent of what men earned, 74 percent at the national level. “You could look at it two different ways,” said Underberger. “Either the glass is half full or the glass is half empty. Glass full Florida women are making more per woman compared to women at the national average. The second way, glass half empty, everyone in Florida has depressed wages meaning that everyone has relatively equal lower wages.

Daniela Alvarez, a nursing and health care administration major said, “I don’t see why women would be paid less than men, especially in nursing where females dominate the profession. It’s not fair that we do the same amount of work and get paid less.” Following the release of the report, Florida Gov. Rick Scott said that “Every economic indicator we have is good.” When questioned by reporters on the numbers reported by FIU and other economists at a press conference Sept. 18, Scott answered, “I’m saying we generated 130,000 jobs.”

“Advisors will still always be needed because they can help guide you if you are considering changing a major or can help you with paperwork in regards to transient courses,” Saintlouis said.

Farida Quant, a sophomore studying civil engineering, needed more help during her freshman year. “My first semester I had a math class that I needed to drop and I didn’t know how, so I had to meet with an advisor,” Quant said. Lertora advises students to make sure that they regularly meet up with their adviser to avoid discrepancies. “I always encourage students to follow up with an adviser regularly. This ensures that all records are up to date and that in making course selection students enroll in the best courses for their needs,” Lertora added.

Students can access more information about GSI, along with its integration with MyMajor and My E-Advisor by logging in at gsi.fiu.edu.
QUIT CLOWNING AROUND

What you see

What we see

Coital encounters of the third kind

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

To the couples that have sex, or near-sex, in places on campus,
Please don’t.

The last thing I want to see on a Friday morning is you getting it on in your car in a crowded parking lot.
I understand, sometimes you can’t wait. But 9 a.m.? That means you basically drove to the University to have sex.

Do not do this. I mean, there is a stairwell right across from where you’re fornicating. Go hide in there.

And to those of you who glare at me as we walk by: Sorry, I didn’t realize I might spray you in the face with water.

Do whatever you want and no one will care.

Andrea Najera
Contributing Writer

Most people’s daily routine likely involves logging into Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr and getting lost in what everyone else has to say. What may have started off as a way to simply keep up with friends has now evolved into a worldwide chat-room where anybody can shout their opinions to the masses.

Scrolling through a Facebook or Twitter timeline, one finds that the big subject right now is the upcoming presidential election.

With no censor, people openly spew out their opinion, often with little regard for facts.

Just a warning. That’s not your conjugal bed or any kind of bed for that matter.
Go sleep and/or make out somewhere else. There’s plenty of semi dark corners on campus for that.

To the couples that have sex, or near-sex, in places on campus, I mean, there is a stairwell right across from where you’re fornicating. Go hide in there.

And to those of you who glare at me as we walk by: Sorry, I didn’t realize I might spray you in the face with water.

- Jenna Kefauver - fiu.com
Students learn the importance of permaculture

Marcus Thomson, local permaculture expert (standing left), demonstrates how to build a worm composting unit to students at the Organic Garden.

Participants of the workshop learned how to construct their own worm-composting unit using accessible materials that are available to anyone at their local garden store or Home Depot.

“With the collaborative help of the Agroecology Program, is to provide students with specialized skills and training.

The worm-composting unit was created about three years ago. Braian Tomé, a senior in the environmental studies program who is currently studying abroad, was the person who vigilantly maintained the garden’s vermiculture unit for the past three years.

“Everyone could use a little training on this practical application that is discussed in class,” says Miles Medina, manager of the Organic Garden, explaining why vermiculture was the topic of the first workshop.

“Tomé is the one that knew the most about it, I wanted everyone to be able to handle it while he was gone.”

“The practice is scientific,” says Bhat. “You need to know exactly what to feed, how much to feed, when to feed, what type of base you need to have, what depth you need to maintain, the temperature that you need to maintain [the unit].”

According to Bhat, Facebook and Twitter helped to make this event.

About to leave, Bhat looked over and realized he didn’t know half of the students who were crowded around Thomson.

“That’s great,” Bhat says. “The more that get to participate, the better it is for the program and for students.”

Both Medina and Bhat agree that the workshop was a success.

“It went really smoothly,” Medina said.

“I think it’s good for beginners to learn about how they could do little things to contribute to make the world a better place,” said Adis Alvarez, a junior environmental science major and treasurer of the Garden Club.

On the Organic Garden’s Facebook page, students are already requesting to know when the next workshop will be.

Medina said another workshop may be in the works for the end of October at the garden.
Up close and personal with trainer for Lose It program

JO DI ANN JACKSON
Contributing Writer

After a hard workout by one of the Lose It personal trainers at the Recreation Center, Student Media sat down with trainer Iyana Hamid, a junior majoring in dietetics and nutrition.

He has been involved with the Lose It program since fall 2011 and a personal trainer for over a year at the University. He discussed how he became a personal trainer as well as his involvement with the Lose It program.

STUDENT MEDIA: Why did you decide to become a personal trainer?

HAMID: Many reasons. First, because my passion for dietetics and nutrition goes hand in hand with physical activity and wellness, and also because I’ve been an athlete my entire life, and I love working out.

STUDENT MEDIA: Why did you become a personal trainer for the Lose It program?

HAMID: I felt that my education in this proficient dietetics and nutrition program here at FIU would allow me to offer great nutritional advice to the Lose It program. I also understand how hard it can be for a person to be motivated to go to the gym, so I hope all of the participants understand how reputable it is that they get in the gym everyday and work on their calorie intake everyday. I know how hard it is, and they are all very respected. I’m honored to be their trainer.

STUDENT MEDIA: What do you think will be your biggest impact on the contestants?

HAMID: I hope I impact everyone in the manner of leading a more healthy lifestyle. Eat right, work hard, and finish strong!

STUDENT MEDIA: How would you encourage someone who is not part of the program to lose weight?

HAMID: Baby steps. First, shorten your portions in your food. Eat slowly and swallow your food before taking another bite. A few moments after your meal, you will see that you are satisfied, and that extra food you left on the plate was never necessary.

STUDENT MEDIA: As a personal trainer, how do you think the program is benefiting?

HAMID: Two-thirds of the U.S. population is overweight, and half of those overweight, are obese. This program is allowing me to fulfill my desire of making a difference in that number, even if it is only a few people at a time. This program is also allowing me to help the participants when choosing their meal plans. I offer some nutritional counseling and advice for everyone who needs it.

STUDENT MEDIA: What type of workouts can contestants look forward to while training?

HAMID: I change the workout routine every four weeks, but my workouts mainly consist of circuit training. Circuit training has shown to help with losing weight while strengthening the body. I also do Tabata style workouts. Tabata has shown to increase a person’s VO2 max, maximal oxygen consumption, more quickly than any other exercise. I also incorporate stairs for cardio and boxing.

STUDENT MEDIA: What would be your word of encouragement for the trainers and the contestants?

HAMID: Learn your modifications. A lot of people in the program have knee, shoulder and back problems. It’s important that you know your modifications so that you don’t trigger pain.

When the going gets hard, and the hard gets going, just remember all of the benefits of losing weight. Remember why you’re doing this. And if none of that works, just imagine what you would look like in a bikini after you reach your goal!

-life@fiusm.com

INTERESTED IN WRITING? JOIN THE BEACON!

Pick up an application at MMC, GC 210 or BBC, WUC 124.
 kindergarten to a Final Four. But Rick’s son does not focus on the idea that he has to fill his dad’s shoes. He said that leaving Louisville for UF was one of the best decisions he has ever made. “I learned more in those two years [in UF] than I had ever learned, because I saw a different side of it. I know what my dad is going to do. I’ve been around my whole life, but to learn from another guy who is going to be in the hall of fame one day, is something that is invaluable,” Pitino said. 

Pitino has been a part of three Elite Eight teams, four Conference Titles and have won over 1,000 games,” said Pitino.

“With Ashlee, it’s like if you’re doing an NFL Draft and with the number one pick you select a quarterback and you want to build your team around that quarterback,” Theroulde said. “Ashlee is that pivotal player that you would want to pick.”

Ashlee came in with a lot of skill and ability— run the opponents out of the building. She had bounced around three different high schools when she finally found herself at Olympia High School for her senior year. Then she served as the team captain and picked up MVP honors. Her success did not come easy as she had to sacrifice her health for the team. “You will not find another true freshman,” said Pitino. “Ashlee brought new life and now we are on opposing teams.” 

“IT WILL BE KIND OF WEIRD TO LOOK DOWN AT THE OTHER END THERE AND TO SEE HIM, TO COACH AGAINST HIM. I’VE BEEN ON HIS TEAM MY WHOLE LIFE AND NOW WE ARE ON OPPOSING TEAMS. I’VE BEEN ON HIS TEAM MY WHOLE LIFE AND NOW WE ARE ON OPPOSING TEAMS.”

Ashlee’s toughness and will to win brought her to the college scene against Florida A&M University where she notched 38 total assists, followed by her senior year. She was also a part of one of the premier volleyball club teams in the state, Top Select Volleyball Academy Club Team where she contributed to their 2009 title as well as being recognized as the team MVP the following year. 

“I just love this campus, I really enjoy being here,” Hodgskin said. “I wanted to stay in Florida and I have always wanted to go to school in Miami.”

“I’m from South Florida and now we are on opposing teams,” said Pitino. “Ashlee brought new life and now we are on opposing teams.”

“I couldn’t be where I am today without my wife. She has moved with me every step of the way. For her to pick up everything and just leave...certainly I couldn’t have done it without her,” said Pitino.

“I could see the storm-filled controversy of firing Isaiah Thomas which prompted several FIU players to voice their displeasure and requests to be transferred. Pitino is not worried about the past and is here to put his own stamp on the program. “We look to the future, we don’t worry about the past,” said Pitino.

He wants his players to get better through weight lifting, conditioning, individual instruction, study hall and class. His main goal is to build a consistent winner every year. At one year’s end there was not a single player responded well by reaching a 3.0 GPA in the summer.

“I’ve got two mentors in this game. I’ve got his feeling will be strange, considering he worked there for three years. “He’ll be kind of weird to look down at the other end there and to see him, to coach against him. New coach Richard Pitino is charged with the task of improving a team that only won eight games last year.

“IT WILL BE A LOT OF PRESSING, running, a lot of shooting threes. So guys are going to need to be in great shape to do that,” said Pitino.

Pitino will take this new culture and style to Louisville on Dec. 19 to play against his dad. He knows the feeling will be strange, considering he worked there for three years. 

Freshman setter brings depth to injury-ridden squad

Hodgskin’s toughness and will to win brought her to the college scene against Florida A&M University where she notched 38 total assists, followed by her senior year. She was also a part of one of the premier volleyball club teams in the state, Top Select Volleyball Academy Club Team where she contributed to their 2009 title as well as being recognized as the team MVP the following year. Hodgskin led her team with 350 assists so far this season, accounting for 67 percent of FIU’s assists this year.

“I’ve been on his team my whole life and now we are on opposing teams,” said Pitino. Pitino is bringing both youth and experience to a basketball program that sat in the cellar of the East division of the Sun Belt Conference for the majority of the year.

“Now that basketball is coming up, hopefully we can build a good brand and a fun style of playing.”

Jonathan Jacobskind
LeBron James: Champion Heat can be better

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

LeBron James was back in the Miami Heat locker room on Friday morning, took a look around at his teammates and quickly came to a realization.

“The reigning NBA champions might even be better this time around.”

With 12 players back from last season’s championship roster — foremost among them himself, after a season where he won the NBA’s MVP award, the NBA Finals MVP, his first league title and an Olympic gold medal over the summer for good measure — the Heat clearly have tons of talent.

Adding Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis to the mix figures to make them that much better. Naturally, James isn’t complaining.

“It’s scary to see, to look in our locker room today and say that we can be better than we were this past season,” James said.

“Are we better right now than we were just a couple months ago? Of course not.

“But we have the potential to be a lot better. That is scary.’”

Friday was the annual media day for the Heat, who open their training camp officially with practice on Saturday morning — the Heat can open camp earlier than most other teams because they have a trip to China in early October.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh talked about how they’re continuing to heal after injuries dogged them in last season’s playoffs, and Udonis Haslem was followed around by a camera crew there to, as he said, document “The Little 12,” his description for everyone not in the “Big Three” club of Wade, Bosh and James.

Haslem’s cameras might have been the only ones not on James, who hasn’t spoken publicly much since the Olympics ended.

“He’s not on cruise control, no,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said when asked about James. “He’s as driven a professional as I’ve been around. He understands not only his legacy, but team legacy and the opportunity that this team and organization has. And he savors that. He’s the ultimate competitor.”

It took James nine years to win that long-coveted first title, after leading the Heat past the Oklahoma City Thunder in five games. His clinching performance was a classic — a triple-double, 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds. James came out with 3:01 remaining and the celebrating started, waving his arms and jumping on the sideline, then wrapping anyone and everyone he could reach in massive embraces.

So began his summer vacation. It lasted about a week.

Not long after the champagne dried and the Heat parade ended, James went to play for the U.S. Olympic Team, helping the Americans win gold. After that, some business dealings — including a trip to China and a switch of agents, from Leon Rose to Rich Paul — took up more of his offseason.

And now, training camp has already arrived.

“Not much down time, but neither James nor the Heat seems all that concerned.”

“I’ve worked on a few things,” James said.

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“Not much down time, but neither James nor the Heat seems all that concerned.”

“I’ve worked on a few things,” James said.
Several organizations and departments decorated bras to help spread awareness of breast cancer. The decorated bras were being collected by the Wellness Center for the Feel Your Boobies event on October 2 in which students can donate 50 cents to vote for their favorite bra. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is from October 1 to October 31.

Feel Your Boobies is a national campaign, founded in 2004 by Leigh Hurst, a breast cancer survivor. This year with Hurst’s support, the University is hosting different events related to breast cancer and early detection.

On Oct. 2, in Panther Square, a variety of decorated bras representing different organizations, departments, clubs and associations will hang. The assistants will be able to vote for the best bra and enjoy music, baked goods, t-shirts and Steele and meanwhile raising money for the cause.

Graduate student from public relations and advertising, Janinha Piazzetta, agrees with the importance of early prevention.

In October of 2004 she was diagnosed with breast cancer, two semesters before getting her master’s. Even though her parents, brother and nephew died from different types of cancer, she was ready to overcome the disease with the support of some of her colleagues, professors, friends and family. She said her experience was life changing.

“Suddenly, I had to learn new ways to overcome and compensate my body. There was no time to be a victim. I had to create new possibilities in order to honor my essence and my new-me.”

Now as a founder and executive director of H3: Health. Hope. Healing. Piazzetta shares her experience as a cancer survivor. H3 is an organization that supports breast cancer patients, survivors, their family members and those who desire to improve their wellness by providing a connection to community-based educational resources.

After losing a family member from breast cancer, Janet Choongo, public health alumna, strongly supports the initiative of breast cancer awareness.

“Breast cancer educational events on campus and conduct campaigns for self-breast exams can save many lives. Students and staff should enjoy these events, support and learn more about this illness,” said Choongo.

The University Health Center is also “calling all boobies” to participate on Oct. 7 on a 1.5 run/walk to celebrate breast cancer awareness for a better health.

The event will start at 9 a.m. Participants will be able to register the same day of the event at the fitness center – Wolfe University Center Room 160.

“There is always hope, and possibilities to find a cure, such as alternatives or conventional treatments,” Piazzetta said. “Families who are battling with this sickness have to embrace this journey with positivism.”

CONSELO NARANJO
Contributing Writer

Around 1 in 8 U.S. women will develop breast cancer.

In light of this statistic by breastcancer.org, the Wellness Center with the support of the Women’s Center and the Recreation Center is leading the Feel Your Boobies awareness campaign against breast cancer.

To commemorate the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, the Wellness Center will collect new bras to donate to women in need at local shelters.

In 2012, the National Cancer Institute estimated 229,060 new cases of breast cancer and 39,920 deaths of females and males in the United States.

For Sarah Kenneally, employee of the Division of Students Affairs at Biscayne Bay Campus, prevention is better than the cure.

“We are looking forward to spread awareness and inform students about this illness. Breast cancer does not distinguish age, sex or race,” she said.

"Breast cancer awareness campaign comes to the Bay"