WELCOME ABROAD

International students from Universidad Technologial de Honduras take a tour around the Modesto Maidique Campus. These students are looking at the campus to decide if they want to transfer and become future Panthers.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Carpool program an alternative for University commuters

DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Students may save gas money while benefiting the environment. Students, staff and faculty who are part of the University's Department of Parking and Transportation Carpool Program have access to convenient parking on campus, such as the second floor of gold garage and may save money.

Participants can reduce the cost of fuel normally spent on commuting alone by dividing the cost of gasoline. “Students save money and help the environment,” said Director of Parking and Transportation Lissette Hernandez.

The site, www.get2fiu.com, allows users to track the amount of gas and emissions they are saving by sharing a ride. “The site...will keep that kind of information but they have to maintain it themselves,” Hernandez said.

The program is not limited to students who already have a carpool partner. The registration site has a feature that helps applicants find other people that want to carpool to the University.

In case of a personal or family emergency, the Department of Parking and Transportation is in partnership with South Florida Commuter Services to provide a taxi ride to participants through South Florida Commuter Services' Emergency Ride Home program. The program offers participants a ride home from campus and reimburses them for the taxi fare, with a valid receipt. The Department of Parking and Transportation must be informed before 4 p.m. and the reimbursement limit is $50 a year.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must have a valid parking decal and be members of the University community. To apply for SFCS' ERH program, visit the department's website, www.1800234ride.com. Alex Suarez, junior and psychology major, did not know about the carpool program. “I never knew FIU did, honestly,” Suarez said.

Sanabria thinks the program has done little to aid parking availability. “The carpool spaces are often open and I don’t think many people know about it,” Sanabria said. “I think there should be an incentive; this could make it more successful.”

All students interviewed by Student Media agreed that the carpool decal, sent to participants at no cost, and the availability of carpool parking are attractive features of the program. Individuals can apply in person at the Department of Parking and Transportation or online at www.get2fiu.com. The site links users to the SFCS site which verifies the applicant’s information and sends out a decal by mail between seven and 10 days.

As for any future plans to expand the program, “We would look at usage and work with SFCS for any expansions,” Hernandez said.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

New dean to point students towards University services

ASHLEY MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

The Division of Student Affairs now has a new bridge to connect students and University resources. The position of dean of students, which is new to the University, was created last month and serves as a way for students to learn and get more involved with already established resources on campus, such as Counseling and Psychological Services, Victim Advocacy Center and Disability Resource Center.

Cathy Akens, associate vice president of Student Affairs, was appointed to the position of Dean of Students this month. “My position is really intended to help create a culture of care about the well-being of students,” Akens said.

Akens also said that it is important for her to voice the fact that there is help for students who are struggling in overcoming situations like family emergencies, separations or depression from feeling unhappy or unsuccessful with how their university career is unfolding.

The 2007 Virginia Tech incident also inspired the creation of this position, which is meant to direct students to different University services involving crisis management and academic and social counseling.

SEE DEAN, PAGE 2
Agroecology program growing in grants

AGROECOLOGY, PAGE 8

The University was selected as one of 71 universities to receive the USDA’s Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities designation.

Mahadev Bhat, professor in the Department of Earth and Science and co-director of the agroecology program, said the program helped the University gain awareness of important issues involving sustainable agriculture.

“Because of all these activities, the programs, our community engagement activities, I think we have increased the University’s national profile in terms of agrcultural science education and research,” Bhat said. “It has definitely played an indirect role in the University getting designated as HSACU.”

During the summer, the program offers a week-long workshop for teachers in grades K-12 in which professionals from the University, the USDA and other agencies teach the students in agroecology.

The program also selects 10 high school students from both Miami-Dade and Broward counties to participate in a six-week internship program where they learn about sustainable agriculture and participate in hands-on activities.

Stephany Alvarez-Ventura, agroecology program coordinator, said it’s important to get the younger generations to understand more about agroecology.

“Right now a lot of people are disconnected with how food grows,” Alvarez-Ventura said. “You can go to any elementary, middle or high school class and many of them still can’t connect where food comes from or the benefits, for example, of natural remedies and herbs.”

Larry Lansford, interim vice president for Student Affairs, said Agens was his best choice for the position because of the her experience.

“She was the strongest Student Affairs member and was exposed to all types of scenarios with students,” he said. “I have to be neutral in my position, but she, as the dean of students, can work with different students as an individual.”

Lansford also stated that her role would require her to “understand and represent the student’s interest and look for the best solutions… to help the student feel better externally and internally.”

Agens’ previous experiences with students include her involvement in emergency situations on campus, housing and residential life.

“I have in mind that responsibility for students who live on campus, I encountered a lot of students who were struggling emotionally, psychologically or had been through some type of personal crisis,” Agens said. “I think that all of those personal situations prepared me to be able to be in a position where I think I really can help students and help our campus community.”

As dean of students, Agens also serves as chair of the Behavioral Intervention Team, which is made up of staff from different areas of the University who are responsible in responding to students of concern.

“If a faculty member tells us that they are concerned about a student in the classroom, we have a pattern of behavior or a student comes to our office and tells us that he or she has a personal crisis, this team is in place to manage the more complicated cases,” she said. “They try as a team to look for the best response.”

Agens’ position is under the Office of Student Affairs, and her office is located on the second floor of the Graham Center.

“There are so many issues that can get in the way for a student, but when we can connect the resources with the student, we see them succeed and work through those issues.”

—news@fiusm.com
HALLOWEEN: OVERRATED

What’s with all the horses and bayonets?

LOURDES GINART
Staff Writer

From these 2012 presidential and vice presidential debates have come catchphrases and quips – most noticeably “malarkey” and “binders full of women” – that have far surpassed that of the 2008 “maverick” and “rogue” one-liners.

However, during the last and final presidential debate, when Governor and Republican nominee Mitt Romney addressed the need for more naval ships, how the U.S. has fewer ships than it did at the start of the 20th century, President Obama replied with the debates’ most twinned moment:

“You mentioned the Navy, for example, and that we have fewer ships than we did in 1916. Well, Governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets, because the nature of our military’s changed.”

From this debate, not only did a great phrase arise, but the idea of returning to basic combat came to mind. So what if combat still majorly consisted of horses and bayonets? How would life be for us, as students and citizens, be different?

Our military’s budget today is roughly at $700 billion; if we get rid of most of our technology and strip back to Civil War weaponry, and the budget could be somewhere around $200 billion consisting of the cost of a bayonet and horse for each of our 764, 591 current soldiers is $100 per bayonet and $3000 per horse, as well as having housing, camps, food, uniforms, salaries, paycheck, and pensions included.

That leaves us with an excess of around $500 billion. So where would this extra money go?

Back into our pockets, back into education.

Horses and bayonets may seem like a silly idea, but we would be getting more out of our education.

Class sizes would be smaller, more faculty could be hired, more colleges and schools implemented, and more degrees offered. Beyond that, tuition would also be significantly cheaper.

What’s with all the horses and bayonets?

Amendment no. 12: to pay, or not to pay

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Opinion Editor

On Nov. 6, when Florida citizens go to the polls and are faced with the task of deciding on the fates of 12 separate Florida State Constitutional Amendments, we, as students, of the State University System should give a bit of extra thought to the more relevant of the bunch, Amendment No. 12, titled “Appointment of Student Body President to Board of Governors of State University System.”

The proposed amendment calls for the revision as to how the student representative to the BOG is selected. If approved by Florida voters, the BOG would establish a council of student body presidents from the SUS schools and the chair of said council would sit on the BOG.

The Florida Student Association is an independent organization comprised of student body presidents of the SUS schools; all of which must pay an annual membership fee based on the enrollment of their respective institutions.

However, if the student body of a university does not pay its membership dues, it loses its seat of representation within FSA’s Board of Directors, as is the case with Florida State University.

As is, I see problems with both the current and the proposed method for the selection of our student representative on the BOG.

With the proposed amendment, the BOG itself will be organizing a council of student government presidents – under the purview of the BOG – whose chairperson would sit as a member of the BOG.

In 1975, FSA was established as a means of giving student representatives a degree of independence from the BOG, who was trying to take away control over the allocation of Student Activities and Service fee monies from student governments throughout the SUS.

Since then, FSA has been the main lobbying organization in the state of Florida within the state legislature, and has been able to do so as an independent entity from any respective SUS administrations.

However, FSA has evolved into an organization that follows a pay-to-play formula in which if one of the 11– soon to be 12 – universities’ student bodies select not to pay their membership dues, their voice on FSA’s Board of Directors, and in turn, the BOG is revoked. Currently, FSA only represents 10 Florida universities – FSU decided not to dish out the thousands of dollars in annual dues.

The problem with the casting of our respective votes on Amendment No. 12 on Nov. 6 is that we will be faced with choosing the lesser of two evils.

The first of the two evils is the current model for student representation which is chosen from an organization whose members are, to an extent, coerced into paying thousands of dollars in order to be heard; the second being that a council be formed by the BOG – select a student representative to sit on the BOG and the run the risk furthering the BOG’s own agenda and not that of the over 300,000 SUS students.

In other words, do we, as students, pay for independent representation, or do we vote for mandatory representation that runs the risk of drinking the Kool-Aid of the BOG’s own agenda.

Diversity, with exposure comes awareness

One of the myriad traps one encounters in assessing issues of race, religious or religious differences, and their influence on certain social platforms, is the dissonance of wanting to acknowledge – perhaps even celebrate – those differences while wanting, at the same time, to “look past” them.

To look past them, however, to act as though they bear no influence, is to close our eyes to reality. While we can assuredly say that such differences do nothing to make any of us more or less human than any others, they do bring with them an exposure to different life experiences. A student from Azerbaijan and a student from Germany are identical under an x-ray, but with different cultural backgrounds come different values, different opinions, different attitudes.

Equality no longer means closing our eyes to these differences, but embracing them. And thus we commend the University – the administration as much as the students – in its strides toward that all-encompassing embrace.

The Beacon’s Oct. 26 issue reporting on the burgeoning Latino Student Union, already 100 members strong, and the blossoming presence of non-Muslim students participating in the Muslim Student Association’s Hijab-a-thon at the Modesto Maidique Campus, implies the student body’s broadening appreciation for cultural differences and the deconstruction of stereotypes.

In the article “Non-Muslims embrace culture at University”, the reporter cited The Miami Herald with the growing number of 100,000 Muslims living in South Florida, the majority being of Latino descent.

While many of us may be indifferent or passive about the numbers, showing no interest in learning about these cultures on the basis that, wherever a person comes from or whatever they believe, we would treat them the same.

Such thinking cannot be of use in today’s times. Respect for another culture, on an ever-diversifying campus, will soon require more than just acknowledging the presence of it. We need to actually understand, to know the outline of its history, its customs, its beliefs, adding in the unique ingredients for the University melting pot.
Halloween, an evolving tradition around the world

KATHERINE LEPRI  Staff Writer

As one of the world’s oldest holidays, the celebration of Halloween, or All Hallows’ Eve, is descended from ancient religious and superstitious rituals that stem back centuries and across the globe.

“Halloween emerged as a harvest celebration,” said Sarah Mahler, professor of global and sociocultural studies. “Halloween celebrates harvest time. It is embraced by people around the world.”

Most scholars believe that western European harvest festivals and festivals of the dead with pagan roots, particularly the Celtic Samhain, originally influenced All Hallows’ Eve.

Gaetic for “summer’s end,” Samhain was the most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The ancient Celts believed it was at this time, during the fall equinox, that the souls of the dead traveled into the other world.

The Celts believed that on Oct. 31, the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped, and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc, such as sickness or damaged crops.

During the festival of Samhain, the Celts wore costumes of animal skins and heads and attempted to tell each other’s fortunes. “The typical ritual way of trying to fight some kind of force is the idea that by adapting some of the characteristics of the thing you are trying to combat, you are able to have power over it,” said Leslie Northrup, associate professor of religious studies at the University. “The original idea is that the rituals would appease these frightening beings.”

“The notion that Halloween is purely a pagan holiday is incorrect,” Northrup said. “Halloween has very ancient roots in early Christian practices.”

In the early Christian church, before Rome was distinguished as the center of Christianity, All Souls Eve signified the day those who had departed. This early Christian practice was a common practiced celebration.

“The church did not necessarily promote it,” Northrup said. “It was not until the 8th century when Pope Gregory III officially designated Nov. 1 as All Souls Day, the day to honor all saints and martyrs. The evening before then became officially known as All Hallows’ Eve and later Halloween.

Modern traditions of Halloween include trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving and throwing parties. Halloween parties, which became popular in the late 19th century, focus on games, foods of the season and festive costumes, and are now the most common way to celebrate the day.

“Trick-or-treating is a relatively new invention,” said Mahler. “The treating part or trick part makes fun of death. It allows people to have identity freedom they don’t normally have.”

At FIU, both students and staff are more familiar with the cultural rituals than the religious based ones.

“We grew up in a rural community in Pennsylvania where it was very much a part of life,” said Julia Pinto, associate professor of journalism. “You got dressed up, and it was fall and you did the harvest festivals, all of it.”

Unlike Pinto who grew up in a rural community, Charlotte Hart, a student visiting FIU from Victoria University in Australia, did not grow up with trick-or-treating or dressing up in costumes until she went to parties as a teenager.

“It’s no where near as big as here,” Hart said. “The treatment is more. They aren’t really supposed to do that.”

This Hart’s first time celebrating Halloween in the U.S., and she is excited to get dressed up. She is going as a cartoon Dora the Explorer.

“When you leave college for 46 days out of the year, children are taught not to talk to strangers and definitely not to take candy from them. Yet on one day, Halloween, parents across the country encourage the reverse behavior. Halloween is the one exception from daily routines when normal is flipped on its head like an upside down jack-o’-lantern.” -katherine.lepri@fiusm.com

How to have a wallet-friendly Halloween costume

Today is Halloween, and for any student on a college budget, spending your week’s check on a $100 costume you’re probably only going to wear once is not ideal.

Thankfully, this is the one holiday of the year where your creativity can kick into full gear. This past week, MMC was crawling with students and alumni attending the football game and tailgates, but when the sun set and the moon came out, everyone seemed to shift gears from football fun to costume madness.

A great costume doesn’t need much, just some ingenuity, confidence and perhaps a mask. Senior economics major Franco Diolivero understood that completely. Making use of some un-used bed sheets at home, he wrapped them around him in a Greco-Roman style for a make-shift toga. Then investing less than $30 at Party City, he got a classic facial armor mask and a plastic sword to complete his look as a gladiator.

Amanda Ortega, junior theater major, spaced things up as a Candy Corn Witch. Grabbing most of her costume from her closet, and her mother’s, Ortega used spider web stickers and creepy rings to give her look a more traditional Halloween vibe. She did admit though to investing in her black and orange-striped dress that she found at her local Goodwill.

Another Goodwill junkie was senior liberal arts student Shane Zaldivar. This student took things to the next level with his costume, doing it successfully and in stillets.

Zaldivar created his own version of the famous Poison Ivy from a Goodwill skirt and embellished bra, satin full length gloves and hand-made leafy bracelets.

To say the least, the possibilities are endless of do-it-yourself costumes, but if your closet seems to be lacking that final finishing touch, just head over to your local Goodwill and store and you’ll be sure to find whatever it is you are looking for.

If you don’t, then you’ll surely find something even better and for less than $30.

COLUMNIST

ASHLEY GARNER

Are you ready for the zombie apocalypse?

T he undead can strike at any time. Little is known of how or when these flesh-eating monsters will ravage humanity. Refuge, whether it be bunker, condemned building or cramped closet can only keep you safe for so long.

Learn to fight back! Equipped with detailed illustrations and how-to’s on handling any zombie situation, Max Brooks’ “The Zombie Survival Guide” will give you the knowledge that can keep you and your fellow survivors safe from a muscle-tearing death.

Warning: being exposed to this book may also lead you and your fellow survivors safe from a muscle-tearing death.

To prove the validity of zombies, Brooks also says that studying recorded outbreaks will prove that every lesson in this book is rooted in historical fact. As mentioned, in this book at first, a reader who continues into the book will find that this “complete guide” under the mentioned state of the world, can actually work.

Overall, “The Zombie Survival Guide” is a fun read before the apocalypse and a must-read during the apocalypse. He may sound crazy and exhaustively detailed, but when hordes of the undead are closing in, it will be Brooks’ wise words that will resonate in the still beating hearts of those sole survivors.

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COLUMNIST

MARCY DIAZ

Warning: being exposed to this book may also lead you and your fellow survivors safe from a muscle-tearing death.

Critical and sociological phenomenological analysis of the history, beliefs, rituals, and social significance of Rasta-farianism, Vodou, and Santeria on the Caribbean and the U.S.

COLUMNIST

MARCY DIAZ

Warning: being exposed to this book may also lead you and your fellow survivors safe from a muscle-tearing death.
Get to campus the quick and easy way. Just take a car2go when you need it, and leave it when you're done. No mandatory reservations, no late fees. For a limited time, students get free registration and 30 minutes free at Miami.car2go.com (promo code: COLLEGE).

Must be 18 years or older and have a valid U.S. driver’s license to register. Free minutes of driving time are valid for 60 days after credited to an account, unless otherwise noted.
Panthers earn third seed, to face Troy in first round

MEN'S SOCCER

Branding Wise
Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Panthers eliminated from postseason contention

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Michael Ortega
Contributing Writer

VOLLEYBALL

Blocks cannot push FIU past top Sun Belt teams

Men's soccer

Brandon Wise
Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Women's soccer

Jonathan Jacobskind
Staff Writer

There is a bold saying in sports that defense wins championships; that is, unless your offense is not below average. This can be said for the FIU volleyball team that is fresh off of two consecutive losses against Middle Tennessee and No. 19 Kentucky on penalty kicks because of goalstake Kaitlyn Savage's stellar performance. Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt believed that the team last year was very similar to this year, where each knew what they wanted. “Last year the team played great in the tournament, they knew what they wanted and they went after it,” said Chestnutt. “They didn’t want anything else than to win and finish the season on top.” This year the SBC tournament will be just as treacherous for the Panthers, who will be the third seed and will be facing Troy, the sixth seed (9-9-2 overall; 4-5-1 SBC) first on Oct. 31 at Mobile, Ala. FIU defeated Troy earlier on the road in the regular season 2-1 in overtime. However, the game was not as close at it seemed, as the Panthers out shot the Trojans 26-27 and had more corner kicks, 12-1, than Troy. Chestnutt thinks that the team needs to continue its recent success both offensively and defensively. “We need to continue with what we are doing both on offense and on defense,” said Chestnutt. “We have a pretty good game plan in mind and we are going to get ready this week in practice.” One of the main focuses the team must continue with is improving the offense, which has scored 17 goals over the last four matches. The offense did improve throughout the season, improving from averaging 10 shots a game to over 20 a game at the end of the regular season. After ending the regular season in a three way tie for first with North Texas (13-4-2 overall; 8-1-1 SBC) and Middle Tennessee (13-4-1; 8-1-1 SBC), FIU sets its sights on the Sun Belt Conference tournament. Last season, the Panthers won the tournament last season against Western Kentucky on penalty kicks because of goalstake Kaitlyn Savage's stellar performance. Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt believed that the team last season was very similar to this year, where each knew what they wanted. “Last year the team played great in the tournament, they knew what they wanted and they went after it,” said Chestnutt. “They didn’t want anything else than to win and finish the season on top.” This year the SBC tournament will be just as treacherous for the Panthers, who will be the third seed and will be facing Troy, the sixth seed (9-9-2 overall; 4-5-1 SBC) first on Oct. 31 at Mobile, Ala. FIU defeated Troy earlier on the road in the regular season 2-1 in overtime. However, the game was not as close at it seemed, as the Panthers out shot the Trojans 26-27 and had more corner kicks, 12-1, than Troy. Chestnutt thinks that the team needs to continue its recent success both offensively and defensively. “We need to continue with what we are doing both on offense and on defense,” said Chestnutt. “We have a pretty good game plan in mind and we are going to get ready this week in practice.” One of the main focuses the team must continue with is improving the offense, which has scored 17 goals over the last four matches. The offense did improve throughout the season, improving from averaging 10 shots a game to over 20 a game at the end of the regular season.
Freshman continues strong play, wins Pat Bradley Invite

TAREK HAMZEH
Contributing Writer

It’s almost a shame that the fall leg of FIU golf is coming to an end because the Panthers are rolling through their opponents.

After placing first in the 2012 Wolverine Invitational and fourth in the Johnie Imes Invitational, the Panthers continued to display their dominance by winning the 35th Annual Pat Bradley Invitational held at the Cypress Links Course in Sarasota, Fla., on Oct. 21 to 23.

The Panthers put on a tremendous display of consistency by holding the lead after each day of the three-day, 54 hole-invitational. After leading Cincinnati by just one stroke after day one, the Panthers controlled their destiny over the next two days.

They maintained their consistency over the next two days, finishing the tournament with a team score of 876 strokes, the second-lowest team score in the history of this event. They also dominated the field of play as runner-up, Cincinnati finished 26 strokes behind the Panthers.

After being named the Sun-Belt Conference Women’s Golfer of the Month for October, freshman Meghan MacLaren won the individual medalist honors at the invitational.

She shot an astounding two-under (70) on the final day to record a one-over (217) for the tournament. Her collegiate career is off to a stellar start, finishing at the top of the pack in two of her first three matches, winning her first match at the 2012 Wolverine Invitational in Ann Arbor.

After the Pat Bradley Invitational, Head Coach Pat Vogel raved about his standout freshman.

“MacLaren’s confidence comes as no surprise to me. I knew I was getting a great player when she chose to come to FIU,” Vogel said. “After shooting over par for the first two holes of the tournament, I had no doubt she would be able to gather herself and bounce back. She is a very hard worker and her work is paying off.”

Two other Panthers, senior Tania Tare and junior Shelby Coyle finished tied for fifth place overall shooting six-over par (222).

Coyle, last year’s FIU Pat Bradley Invitational medalist, came into the final round in 15th place. She shot two-under (70) on the final day to make the biggest leap all the way up to fifth place.

Freshman Sophie Goldey came into the final round placed in second right behind MacLaren. She shot a 79 on the final day of the invitational to finish tied for ninth-place with a three-day score of 224. Senior Yolecci Jimenez finished right behind Goldey shooting a 225 over the three-day span. Freshman Carla Jane rounded out FIU scoring by shooting a 237 leaving her in a tie for 41st overall.

“The team played so consistent throughout the tournament. We had four girls finish in the top 10 and we held the lead after each day of the tournament. Once we got out in front the pressure was on us and we responded,” Vogel said.

The Panthers are currently finishing up the second day of the Rainbow Wahine Invitational in Oahu, Hawaii. FIU is the highest ranked team of the 12 schools competing in the invitational. This tournament marks the last one of the fall season for the Panthers and Vogel is pleased with how the team has played.

“The girls are working hard and more importantly, having a lot of fun out there and as long as they keep doing that, we should be just fine,” Vogel said.
Sustainable gardens outside the farm, in the University

The Agroecology Certificate Program at the University gives students scientific and practical knowledge of issues that emerge from the relationship between natural resources, agriculture and urban development. The program built an organic garden at the Modesto Maidique Campus with the help of students in 2008. The garden gives students of the program a hands-on approach. In 2010, the USDA named the University’s organic garden a People’s Garden. To receive this designation, the garden had to be ecologically sustainable, be maintained by the community and benefit the community.

Oktoberfest in November

BREW club hosts beer expo in Kovens Center

SHANNON COPELAND
Contributing Writer

October might be over, but the Oktoberfest is still on for beer lovers. The Biscayne’s Renowned Engineers of Wort club under the umbrella of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will host the first Biscayne Brewers Expo set for Nov. 4 at the Kovens Center, serving beer with ingredients ranging from wheat to oats.

The event will be held from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will be open to anyone over 21 years of age. Participants need to bring their IDs.

Tickets are $20 for Florida International University students and $35 for non-FIU students. Tickets at the doors will be $35.

“Guests will be treated to good beer, while overlooking the bay at the Kovens Center,” said Zhi Long Yang, vice president of BREW.

Bread, pretzels and nuts will be served but a special ingredient is going to be added. “Actually, instead of water, we will use beer to make the butter and the mustard as well,” said Yang.

The Brewer’s Expo is a celebration of Oktoberfests, which is a 16-day festival to celebrate beer which originated in Munich, Bavaria in Germany.

The event is meant to create an awareness and appreciation of beer and how it’s made. “Usually people would just chug down beer, but some enjoy it and they want to know what’s in it; that’s what we want,” said Yang.

All beer showcased by the BREW club is authentic from the ingredients to the expected taste.

Along with the BREW club, Cigar City Brewery and Due South and other local breweries will showcase their beer, which will be served at 5 oz per person.

A large turnout is expected and tickets are limited due to a maximum capacity of 300 patrons.


SOMAILY NIEVES
Contributing Writer

Agriculture is not always limited to a farm. Sustainable agriculture considers its impact in the environment, society and the economy. This is agroecology.

The Agroecology Certificate Program at the University gives students scientific and practical knowledge of issues that emerge from the relationship among natural resources, agriculture and urban development, with emphasis on the importance of ecologically sustainable agriculture.

The certificate program includes 18 credit hours in agroecology courses, internships, scholarships and research to prepare students for the workforce.

The United States Department of Agriculture gave funding to support the beginning of the agroecology program in 2005 and then gave financial support through the Hispanic Serving Institutions grant, Multicultural Scholars program and the National Needs Fellows program.

The agroecology program received a multi-year, multi-institutional HSI grant called the Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agricultural Education, a grant scholarship for students.

Daniella Vargas, a junior studying biology and president of the Student Farmworker Alliance, is part of the agroecology program and received the FCCAE scholarship.

“It’s really strict, but it’s really good because it pushes the boundaries and it does open doors to research,” Vargas said.

The program concentrates on lectures and classroom experience. The agroecology program built an organic garden at the Modesto Maidique Campus with the help of students in 2008.

The garden gives students of the program a hands-on approach.

Vanessa Sanchez, a graduate student of the agroecology program and environmental studies, enjoys the hands-on aspect of the program.

“The program is great because it allows you to actually do things yourself and it helps you to understand things better,” said Sanchez.

“You can sit in a classroom for hours and not learn much, but when you get to do things is when you see the effects and how things work.”

In 2010, the USDA named the University’s organic garden a People’s Garden. To receive this designation, the garden had to be ecologically sustainable, be maintained by the community and benefit the community.

SEE AGROECOLOGY, PAGE 2

KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO’S THERE? VOTE!

Mary Pink substituted speaker Laurence Fishburne on Oct. 29. Pink worked a few decades in the non-profit sector focusing on education and performing arts. She committed to the Obama campaign in Feb. of last year. She spoke on her personal experiences as a campaign volunteer which included knocking on 500 doors by herself.