Leslie Ovalle
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The University’s Model United Nations Team was chosen to participate in the upcoming Harvard National Model UN Conference.

The Conference will bring together students from universities across the United States, as well as hundreds of college students with common goals of furthering international awareness and building consensus.

Denney Salviatierra, a senior majoring in political science, is a new delegate and one of the seventh in the country, later moving to fifth in the nation and, last semester, fifth in North America by bestdelegate.com, an organization in charge of calculating MUN ranks based on universities’ performances.

In addition to the ranks, the team placed among prestigious national universities, including the University of Chicago, Harvard, Georgetown, New York University and Yale.

The MUN program is offered as a political science course. It is designed to build students’ public speaking, analytical writing, negotiations, critical analysis and research skills.

It makes you a leader and gives you confidence.
For me, no other class has done that.

—Denney Salviatierra
Senior
Political Science

For this, extensive practice and time is required.
“It makes you a leader and gives you confidence,” said Salviatierra. “For me, no other class has done that.”

To be part of the team, students are required to go through a long process, which entails a detailed application and two interviews, in which the student is tested and screened.

For Gabriela Guadalupe, a senior majoring in political science and minoring in journalism, it’s all about the diversity and context of the program.

“I’m excited for the Harvard competition because it’s the most international and substance-driven conference,” she said. “We see people from all over the world.”

MUN puts forth a wide range of scenarios that stimulate students’ critical thinking and knowledge of various topics.

According to Ethan Roberts, the University’s MUN program director, these topics can range from creating an international anti-piracy regime to rewriting the constitution of Thailand.

Some of Roberts’ most memorable topics have been the 1982 Berlin Conference and the 1996 UN Security Council, where they dealt with the fall of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, which is now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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See UN, Page 2
Bombed-out houses in Gaza violated international law, Israeli rights groups charge

In the most extensive report yet on Israel’s policy of bombing homes during last summer’s war with the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the Israeli rights group B’Tselem said Wednesday that some of the attacks violated international law while others raised “grave concern” of such violations.

The study, which examined 70 incidents in which 606 Palestinians were killed and 3,000 were wounded, said that despite the “foreseeable, horrifying consequences” of the bombing of homes filled with civilians, top Israeli government and military officials continued the policy for weeks. B’Tselem, the most prominent Israeli rights group documenting alleged violations by security forces in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, said it had sent the report to the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but there was no immediate public comment from the government or the military.

Israel strikes Syrian government positions after rockets land on Golan Heights

Israeli aircraft struck Syrian government artillery positions early Wednesday as tensions mounted along the Israeli-held Golan Heights a week and a half after an Israeli airstrike killed an Iranian general and six members of the militant group Hezbolla.

Israel’s army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said the early morning airstrikes were in response to the firing from Syria of at least two rockets that struck the Golan Heights on Tuesday. The rockets landed in open areas and caused no damage, but Israeli forces have been on high alert for recalcitrance since the deaths of the Iranian and Hezbollah members.

New Islamic State video sets 24-hour deadline for release of Iraqi bomber

The Islamic State on Tuesday gave the Japanese and Jordanian governments less than 24 hours to release a female militant who’s been on Jordan’s death row since 2005, in exchange for the release of a kidnapped Jordanian fighter pilot.

The demand for the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman involved in the suicide bombing that killed at least 57, was al-Qaida in Iraq, which the IS group has linked to the Islamic State. The US government has said there wasn’t a link to the IS group. The group added that despite the “foreseeable, foreseeable violations, in Gaza, the Israeli human rights group B’Tselem has called for the release of a kidnapped Jordanian fighter pilot.

The group added in an online statement that because Gaza has been under a blockade since 2005, in exchange for the release of the pilot, it is demanding the release of Sajida al-Rishawi.

FIU’s Model UN Team going to Harvard for competition

The team is

University honor society rechartered after hiatus

HONOR, PAGE 1

Vazquez, assistant director of event management at the Graham Center, was an honor society member for four years and had been a member of the University’s chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, plans on returning to help the organization after graduation.

Anibal Enrique Morales was voted as the new treasurer, and Jahkel Lazarte as the new vice president. Jannell Padron, senior international business and finance major and previous member of the University’s chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, plans on returning to help the organization after graduation.

“Now that it’s being chartered I hope to give it the foundation that it needs in order to succeed the last four years that I have been a part of it,” she said. Those interested in learning more information about Phi Eta Sigma may visit its web page at www.phietaSigma.org.
The number one spot at the bottom of the barrel

JEAN-PAUL BOSQUE
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Miami is known as the second rudest city in the United States, right behind New York as seen on Travel+Leisure’s “Rudest Cities in America.”

I'm here to argue that. I think we Miamians have been cheated out of the number one spot. It's not fair to throw us out of the number one spot because of our lack of subways and smog.

Miamians are some of the rudest, most self centered people in all of the 50 states. Our driving skills and lack of road etiquette alone should be enough to reward us with the number one spot on Travel+Leisure’s “Rudest Cities in America.”

The fact that our self centeredness translates so often onto the road and could potentially cause an accident and hurt someone else is ridiculous to the point where we find ourselves joking about bad drivers here.

Like, is it really necessary to cut someone off because they look at you wrong?

Yeah, we don’t have skyscrapers as high as some of the buildings in New York City, but our downtown skyline is built on cocaine money and corruption within our system.

We don’t have the famous Macy’s Day Parade, but we have La Parada de los Reyes magos, aserí. (The three Wise Men Day parade, my comrade). Even the way we talk about our city is rude and shows that even we don’t take ourselves seriously.

The Miamian walks around with a swagger of exfoliated testosterone, Axe body spray, cafecito cubano and bulldog look that will scare the stripes off your shirt. He pulls up next to you at a red light and gives you that, “Hey man, wanna race man, cause I’ll so take you man, cause man bro, man man bro?”

We have to start asking when did we start priding ourselves with being obnoxious and ‘trying’ or challenging every other person that walks by because our ego needs to be inflated a little bit more. This kind of outward attitude already proves that we're basically asking to be named number one in rudeness.

So why isn’t Miami in the top spot, are we still not rude enough? Is it because our streets don’t smell like garbage? Well, take another sniff Travel+Leisure, cause what you think smells like Axe body spray is just a cover up.

Take a walk down any other part of Miami but the beach and you’ll be greeted with the raw Miamian. The one that will make you sick to your stomach and make you cringe when you hear the song Welcome to Miami. I still don’t get it and I don’t think I ever will.

Why you should drink more coffee

MEGHAN MACLAREN
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Too much of anything is bad. We all know that. Too much candy, too much alcohol, even too much of the things that are supposed to be good for you.

Let’s be honest, when you’re running late for your 9 a.m. class, standing in a Starbucks line for 20 minutes trying not to get irritated by the mixture of overly happy morning people and overly impatient not-morning people isn’t really what you want to be doing.

But coffee can change your life. I know that sounds extreme, but none of the most successful people in history got where they did by having ten hours of sleep every night.

Sleep is wonderful, but there are a lot of important things to get done – and if you haven’t realized that yet, you’re not in college for the right reasons. I’d love to be one of those ridiculously efficient people.

You know the ones who go through one task and the next with a machine-like application while you’re still struggling to actually write your to-do list. Try as I might, I can’t make myself into one of those people. But give me a couple of well timed coffee breaks during the day and suddenly I am one of those people. It might be artificial, but the work you’ll produce won’t be.

For any of the other coffee drinkers out there, you’ll know what I’m talking about. I don’t just mean the people who like going to Starbucks because it’s Starbucks, the ones who alternate between various types of frappucinos and rejoice when the beginning of the fall brings the pumpkin spice latte with it.

I mean the ones who are tired – not just wanting some more sleep tired, but the tired of trying to find inspiration in a world where people themselves leave you drained.

Until you have that first sip, and suddenly all of that mess fades into the background; an abstract blur that is somehow now easy to keep at bay.

All of the ideas and knowledge that had been simmering on the fringes of your brain is able and ready to get turned into something concrete.

Something you can put on a page. Something that will get you an A, or boost your resume or inspire your classmates. College isn’t easy – if you try not to completely rely on coffee. It’s hard, trust me. Try not to get to the stage where it’s mid-morning and you have a headache for no reason other than lack of caffeine.

But if one more espresso shot is what it takes to get that paper done or that extra hour of studying in, don’t give up and go to sleep.

Don’t go out and party again. Ease out the alcohol and ease in the coffee. You’ve got work to do.
DakaBoom act brings music performance, comedy together

AMANDA RABINES
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For Ben McLain and Paul Peglar, high school in northern California was a combination of jazz choir, and a cappella groups.

They learned falsettos, baritones, crescendos, and harmonics and in the midst of learning performing arts they quickly learned they’d become friends.

“We became insta-besties,” said McLain who has a stage act with Peglar as the travel comedy duo, Dakaboom.

The two performed at FIU in the Graham Center’s Ballroom, Monday at 6 p.m. and livened up the crowd with a show that mixed humor, theater, opera, jazz and hip hop.

They yodeled, danced, cried, sang, and screamed during different parts of their show while interacting with the audience.

Some of their sets included catchy mash-ups and loud acts which all revolved around their friendship on stage.

McLain says most of their skits were made for fun and show, but some are derived from real life experience, like college life and trying to land an acting role in Los Angeles.

“There’s definitely truth behind it,” said McLain. “It’s really frustrating being an auditioning actor in Los Angeles, it’s incredibly hard because you’re rejected, you’re rejected and you’re rejected.”

Peglar went to UCLA to study musical theater and opera and acting.

McLain went to UC Irvine to study opera and acting.

They yelled, danced, cried, laughed, and quickly digressed. McLain “We hit the ground running and tried to act. It was a lot of cattles calls.”

What really started Dakaboom, was their high school.

“We really started doing this because we wanted to do a fundraising show for our old school,” said Peglar. “So we put together Dakaboom because we were heavily involved with the music department there, and I think it was more an excuse for us to do something.”

Even their name, Dakaboom, can be accredited to their schooling, specifically in Peglar’s ballet class where his professor would recite “Tic Taka Boom” as a way to give instructions.

We created something of our own,” said McLain. “So we put together an hour’s worth of material and went back and put on a show and built our repertoire and kind of one thing led to another.”

Though the two went to different colleges to perform their comedy skit and before coming to FIU, the two had a show at Saginaw Valley State in Michigan.

Though the two went to high school together, they split for over four years while they went to college.

“There was a girl who kind of instigated the separation,” said Peglar. The tried not to laugh and quickly digressed.

“College we did on our own thing and then moved in with each other in L.A,” said McLain “We hit the ground running and tried to act. It was a lot of cattles calls.”

Now they travel to different colleges to perform their comedy skit and before

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COLUMNIST
MARLISA PONCE

Dating apps: Am I your Tinderella?

Dating apps are all the rage nowadays. Not only are they user friendly, they’re also the fastest and easiest way to meet new people.

Our generation relies heavily on technology as well as being able to do practically anything on our phones, which makes dating apps that much more in demand.

Dating apps have been around for a while now, but have only recently blown up in the past few years. Apps like OK Cupid, Plenty of Fish and Tinder have all grown in popularity.

Tinder is a combination of a hook-up and dating app, combining from TheSpark.com, OkCupid is. This is extremely useful when traveling around.

Another application that has increasingly grown its member list is OkCupid. Originally forming from TheSpark.com, OkCupid has become another front-runner for those looking to network, or for just fun.

Anthony Santovenia, a senior communications major, was asked whether or not he would recommend OkCupid to someone else.

“I wouldn’t recommend it to someone looking for something serious but if you’re trying to have fun and meet new people, yes,” Santovenia said.

Meeting someone from online will probably always be a bit awkward or flat out scary, but as the world changes so do the rules in the dating world and how we meet one another.

According to pewinternet.org, one in ten Americans have used a mobile dating app or website themselves...

So if you’re debating on whether to get Tinder, OkCupid or whatever other dating app that’s caught your attention, go for it. You never know—maybe the hottie that sits in front of you is on it as well.

- Marlisa Ponce

FIU students, but also found a home in the 100-mile radius the person on the other side you to know how close or far within the app in order to keep her from being distracted.

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- Marlisa Ponce
Top Tres: Best hangout spots on campus

TOP: The swinging tables outside of the Ernest R. Graham Center is the number one spot to hang out on campus.

CENTER: The gazebo between Lakeview Hall and the lake outside the Frost Art Museum is the second best spot to hang out on campus.

RIGHT: The breezeway by the P.O.D. of the University Towers buildings is the third best spot to hang out on campus.

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**“Vulnicura” is Björk best album in over a decade**

**ALBUM REVIEWS**

David Sanabria

Icelandic singer Björk is known for her varied discography, featuring sounds that originate from an array of cultures, musical styles and creative minds.

Her vision and collaborations have led to several stunning albums, each of which is a departure from the preceding release. She is an artist who is unafraid of creating bizarre and seemingly unorthodox music.

For 2015, Björk intrigues our ears with “Vulnicura,” a trip into her gloomy landscape. The nine-track album features Venezuelan-born producer and Kanye West collaborator Arca.

The album deals with her thoughts and emotions shortly after the breakup with visual artist Matthew Barney. The album begins with opener “Stonemilker.” This track contains a steady build-up which evolves into grandiose instrumentation. A full orchestra plays while Björk clearly conveys her emotions through her lyrics; the songs are fascinating, complex and immersive.

The songs feature Björk’s modulated voice over Arca’s sublime beats and some soothing violins. She announces “Maybe he will come out of this” which alludes to Barney.

Ten-minute track “Black Lake” illustrates the vocalist at her lowest. The beats, which include some of the darkest pulsing rhythms on the album, complements Björk’s somber poetry. “Notget” sounds like a bonus track from her 2007 album “Volta,” that is, until Arca introduces an apocalyptic synthesizer. The song later dissolves into near anarchy, displaying one of the highlights of Björk and Arca’s collaboration.

Anthony, who was featured on “Volta,” makes his presence known on “Atom Dance.” His duet with the celebrated vocalist works great with the atmosphere of the album.

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David Sanabria writes album review biweekly on the latest hits and releases of alternative music.

-david.sanabria@fiusm.com
Offensive Line Recruit Williams Flips Commit from FIU

JACOB SPIWAK
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FIU football got a tough piece of news earlier this week when Richard Williams, an offensive lineman from Hollywood, FL who was nationally regarded as a 2/3-star player, decided to decommit from FIU and join the Florida Atlantic University Owls.

Williams, who committed to FIU on Jan. 18, was expected to be a key player moving forward for Ron Turner’s Panthers. FIU lost five offensive linemen from last season, three of which were starters, so the need for the position was obvious and Williams was thought to be a great fit.

However, Williams took his official visit to Boca Raton to see what the Owls had to offer, and he determined that FAU was the place for him. He spoke with FAUOnlineAccess.com and discussed what led him to make a final decision.

“I felt at home when I visited FAU,” Williams said. “It wasn’t the environment I wanted to be in. I just felt more comfortable at the FAU campus [than I did] at the FIU campus.”

Williams is a 275-pound lineman who played at Everglades High School in Miramar, FL. He was given a 3-star rating from ESPN’s recruiting website, and gets a 2-star rating from 247Sports. Aside from FIU and FAU, he also received offers to play at Wagner University who was FIU’s first victory during the 2014 season, Sanborn University and Fordham University.

This decommitment came less than two weeks before National Signing Day, which is where schools across the country receive official letters of intent from their future players. National Signing Day marks the day when teams will know which players will officially be apart of their roster next season.

According to 247Sports, the decommitment of Williams, FIU’s class of commits is currently ranked 84th nationally and fourth in Conference USA. This ranking is the best the Panthers have gotten since the 2012 recruiting class that included Jere-miah McKinnon, Michael Wakefield and Davison Colimon, among many others.

However, the class for next season is not set in stone yet, as there are still more student athletes yet to officially declare where they will be attending in 2015.

There will be a lot more clarity as to who will be included on the Panthers roster after players begin to sign their letters of intent next week.

Panthers Fall Flat at Florida Classic

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Monday, Jan. 26, the golf team kicked off its Spring season against the state’s best at the Florida Challenge in Ocala, FL. Unfortunately for the Panthers they did not get off to the start they wanted to this Spring. They finished in last place and had one of their worst performances of the season.

Junior Meghan MacLaren entered the tournament as the team’s number one golfer but did not perform like it. She finished third best on the team and placed tied for 21st place by shooting 81-74 -155. It was her two worst rounds of the entire year. It was the first time this season that MacLaren has not finished with the best score on the team or in the top 10 of the final standings.

Freshman Katrina Krasova entered the tournament as the team’s number two golfer and performed just as expected. She turned in her third top 20 finish of the year. She finished tied for 19th final player standings after she shot 75-79 -154.

Sophomore Coralia Arias was a bright spot in the tournament. She came into the tournament as the team’s third golfer on the conference account for seven all conference selections of the entire 16 player list. All in all, the 2015 season shapes up to be an interesting and competitive one for the Panthers.

For FIU during the Florida Challenge, Wade shot, 76-85 - 161, 17-over-par and finished 29th overall in the final player standngs. Godley shot, 85-87 - 172, 28-over-par and finished 37th overall in the final player standings.

The University of Miami and University of South Florida both tied for first to win the tournament, followed by the University of Florida in third, Florida State in fourth, and FIU in fifth place. The golf team won’t play again until February 23rd when they play in the 2015 Amelia Island Collegiate on Amelia Island, FL.

FIU to give Conference USA a run for their money

LOUIS AGUDELO
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We are a little over two weeks away from the first pitch of 2015 and Conference USA baseball looks to be just as much, if not more, of a tight race as last season.

In 2014, 9 of the 12 teams finished with no more than a seven-game difference in conference play. Rice University is projected to lead the pack, being the only CUSA school to crack the Perfect Game USA Preseason Top 25 list as No. 21 and the Division-I baseball Top 25 list as No.13. Rice will be led this season by Second Team All-American Blake Fore. The junior stepped off of the mound after the 2014 season with an astounding 1.46 era, 12 wins, and not a single loss.

Florida International University is expected to finish the season as a close second place, which would be quite the accomplishment, in their first season without All-American and Conference USA player of the year, Aramis Garcia Garcia was drafted and signed to the World Champion San Francisco Giants in the second round of the 2014 MLB draft.

Projected to finish closely behind FIU is the University of Southern Mississippi. USM looks to repeat their in-conference dominance from a year ago. They’ll be doing so behind senior slugging Designated Hitter Matt Durst. A season ago they went 19-11 against their respective CUSA opponents, but the task at hand might be a bit different, as the landscape of Conference USA player list. All in all, the 2015 season shapes up to be an interesting and competitive one for the Panthers.

2015 Conference USA Projections (W/L denotes 2014 totals)

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*Conference Wins and Losses
Hey NFL. Let the Players be Themselves

“I’m just here so I won’t get fined,” Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch said.

That is actually all he said for the Super Bowl XLIX media day. He answered every question with that same saying. He did do a great press conference with the company Skittles, who he is sponsored by.

I think that the portion of why some players and fans deem as the “Fut League” that fines—or threatens a fine—for things such as not speaking with the media, wearing gold cleats, or a semi-obscene scene touchdown celebration. That touchdown celebration, which Lynch has been fined for, is now being sold as part of a collage of photos by the NFL about the Seahawks Super Bowl Ship Game, that was held on Sunday, Jan. 18 where the Seahawks beat the Carolina Panthers 43-7.

Whether it will With the company Skittles, which Lynch endorses, the NFL fined him for wearing gold cleats, and he’s not speaking to the media.

As a bandwagoner like everyone else in Miami. I know that won’t happen because the administration is all about getting more money from their partnerships with such companies as Bose and Nike among others but I have a different way to do this. Do not sell anything NFL related that is not made by a sponsor but let the players do what they wish. They will get their team gear, which will show the sponsorships but also have some freedom in the choice of headphones that they use.

They need to remember that the players have the ability to sign with any brand or company as a sponsor. Don’t get me wrong with all of this though. I am here at FIU as a Physical Education for Coaching major and one day want to coach at the highest level but I would much rather be a part of a league that gives thought to the lives of players. To end off I would just like to let everyone know something.

“I’m just writing this so I don’t have to. I know that won’t happen because the administration is all about getting more money from their partnerships with such companies as Bose and Nike among others but I have a different way to do this. Do not sell anything NFL related that is not made by a sponsor but let the players do what they wish. They will get their team gear, which will show the sponsorships but also have some freedom in the choice of headphones that they use.

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Health Enrollment Event for a Healthy FIU Community

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With the ObamaCare enrollment deadline only a couple weeks away, FIU will host its final Health Insurance Information Enrollment Event at the Biscayne Bay Campus Feb. 7.

For the past year, FIU Health, Student Health Services, and FIU Law set a campaign on the Affordable Care Act to inform the FIU Community on their health insurance options.

As part of the plan, this year, the FIU departments/divisions started a collaborative effort with the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) workgroup, Enroll America and Health Council of South Florida to bring as much health information as possible to FIU campuses.

Based on a survey done by 460 students by the FIU Healthcare Network on August 2014 during Week of Welcome, 70 percent of them were insured — 47 percent of them through their parents’ health insurance plans.

According to University alumna Natalie Castellanos, the supervising attorney in FIU Law’s Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, students, faculty, staff and relatives sit down with federally-certified in-person-assisters to guide them through the application process.

She said they offer free guidance so they can get covered before the Feb. 15 deadline. They present different health insurance plans and help determine if the person is eligible for financial assistance whether for first-time enrollment, or to re-enroll.

Milton Vázquez, Field Organizer of Enroll America, said, “Federally-certified in-person-assistants (sic) can offer counsel about the intricacies of health insurance.”

“So that the FIU Community (sic) can not only get covered, but understand what their coverage means and how they can make the most of it,” Vázquez said.

Similar events held previously at FIU have helped to open up the dialogue about the importance of having health insurance and create awareness about the Affordable Care Act.

“The students (sic) could have to pay a fine of $395 or 2% of their taxable income, whichever is greater,” Milton said. “This is in addition to the hundreds of dollars they could have to spend on doctor’s visits and prescription medicines, even for simple illnesses.”

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, many adults fall into a “coverage gap” of having incomes below the lower limit for Marketplace premium tax credits but above Medicaid eligibility limits, and this includes some FIU students.

Roberto Rodriguez, a junior music major, “I don’t make any money and the State of Florida has no Medicaid, so I am exempt from having Obama Care, but, at the same time, I do not qualify for Medicaid.”

For students like Roberto who have limited options because they fall in the Medicaid gap, the event team informs them about their FIU Student Health Fee, and all other primary care services available to them on campus, either free of charge or for a nominal fee.

“Healthcare can be very complicated and expensive,” said Mariela V. Gabaroni, Associate Director of Student Health Services.

“Not having health insurance when one has a medical or (sic) health care need can have significant financial, and ultimately academic impact, for our students,” said Mariela.

The event team also works to let the FIU Community know that the student health fee they pay each semester is not an insurance plan.

It provides prevention, on-campus primary care, and mental health services during the semester they are paid by the student, but there is no more coverage beyond that.

According to Milton, the average monthly premium paid by Floridians who received assistance through the marketplace was $68 in the last enrollment period.

“So far this enrollment period, 94% of those who have enrolled in this state have received assistance,” said Milton.

For information about what documentation is needed to complete the enrollment process at the event, students can visit: http://student-health.fiu.edu/insurance-and-fees/affordablecare/ FIU_Health_Insurance_Information_Enrollment_ Event.html

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