University homeless students: difficult to identify

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Alejandro Rizo said he lives off campus with four roommates. Even though he is not homeless, he often looks for food in the University’s food pantries.

“The food is good throughout the month, but towards the end, I’m scraping by. The pantry allows me to not have to starve myself,” said Rizo, a senior psychology major.

He said most of his scholarship and financial aid go to school expenses.

University students are sleeping in their car, the library, on a friend’s couch or at a shelter, said Ana Ramos, Student Access and Success program director.

“We know that our students face a variety of hardships, including at times homelessness,” said Cathy Akens, Student Affairs associate vice president and dean of students.

Over 58,000 students were identified as homeless on the 2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Florida has had one of the largest increase in homelessness from 2014 by 14.8 percent since 2007, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sexual abuse leads to homelessness from 20 to 40 percent and 40 to 60 percent from physical abuse. Some were thrown out of their homes because of their sexual orientation or because of a pregnancy from 20 to 40 percent, according to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

It is difficult to identify homeless students because their appearance do not reflect their financial status, Ramos said. She said people imagine homeless tattered, unkempt or without hygiene, but that is not normally the case.

“Homelessness carries a stigma, and there are a lot of students that don’t want to be labeled homeless or talk about their status.”

They blend in with everyone else, they don’t reveal their needs or they don’t realize that they qualify as homeless to receive financial aid, she said. Homeless students who prove their living status and wish to pursue a post-secondary education can qualify for a tuition exemption.

Nearly 30 students receive a homeless tuition waiver, making FIU the No. 1 university in the state to give out waivers, according to Ramos. Not all states provide this service and states that do include Florida, Arizona, South Carolina and Texas.

1,015 exemptions were granted in the 2012 to 2013 school year. From 2008 to 2013, that number increased five times each year from the waivers administered in 2008, according to the Florida College System. To address the needs of former foster care or homeless students, the University created the Fostering Panther Pride program. The program was launched in 2013, but was established in February 2014. It is comprised of five components.

The first is a College Coach, which provides a contact person for students in need. The student is provided with support and help to navigate the University’s resources.

FIU is the first school in the state of Florida to hire a success coach and to accommodate both former foster care students and homeless students.

The program’s Mentoring Program assigns a student with a trained mentor to help guide them.

Employers look to hire at the annual Career Fair

PHILIPPE BUTEAU & BELEN SASSONE
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University students will have the opportunity to meet nearly 150 employers looking to hire at the annual Career Fair.

Career Services will be hosting the fair on Tuesday, Sept. 29 and Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Over 1,500 students and alumni are expected to participate, according to the Career Services website.

“All students, even if they’re not ready to graduate, should come and walk through the fair,” said Fernando Figueredo, Career Services executive director.

Employers vary from public, educational, non-profit organizations as well as military.

Participants include American Express Technology; General Electric; Walmart; The CIA; The Force Base and The Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute, which offers internships, fellowships and scholarships opportunities with NASA.

Most of the employers that attend normally return because they have established FIU as a strategic-hire university, said Figueredo.

“It’s good for students to get to know some of the recruiters,” Figueredo said.

Figueredo advises students to come prepared by having their resumes on hand while being professionally dressed. He said it is important to have an elevator pitch, which is a concise and persuasive sales message.

“First impressions are critical. Be enthusiastic and be energetic, so the employer gets a picture of who you are soon as they see you,” Figueredo said.

He also said students should determine what their strengths and weaknesses are to present to potential employers.

While on the spot hires rarely happen, employers have reserved the interview room in Career Services’ office – GC 230 – to further evaluate potential employees, according to Figueredo.

Good grades and work-related experience can also be brought up during interviews.

“The best advice I can give about both those things,” Figueredo said. “Why they should be someone the employer should consider.”

The National Security Agency was once looking to hire people for nine available positions and left having offered 17 jobs, according to Figueredo.

Career Services requires students to dress in business professional attire, to bring a printed copy of a current resume and their Panther ID. Book Bags are not allowed, and students who fail to meet the requirements will not be admitted into the event.

“I think the Career Fair is a great idea to help students like myself who never had a job, get an idea of what it’s actually like,” said Michael Chobini, a freshman exploratory major.

In order to prepare for the Career Fair, students are advised to attend professional development workshops and take part in the Practice Interview Program. Students practice mock interviews and get critiqued on their skills to improve and impress employers.

The first day of the fair is dedicated to technical and education majors. Technical majors are those in the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

The second day of the fair is open to all majors and will include employers from The Home Depot, Target Corporation, Waffle House, Burger King Corporation, Trump National Doral and the CIA.

A complete list of employers attending the event can be found in the Career Services website.

Davy Alvarez is planning to attend to get connected with local employers and to see what job is out there.

“Graduation is coming up faster than I expected, so this is a great opportunity to get my foot in the door and see where I could potentially be working after I graduate,” said Alvarez, a senior management and finance double major.

Career Services holds two Career Fairs a year at MMC, so students who are unable to make it to this one will have another opportunity during the spring semester.

Students who attend the Biscayne Buy Campus will also have the opportunity to attend Career Fair at the main campus.
**NASAD: Evidence of flowing water on Mars**

With the help of a pair of Georgia Tech scientists, NASA announced Monday morning that it has found strong evidence of flowing water on Mars, raising the tantalizing possibility of extraterrestrial life. Led by Georgia Tech doctoral candidate Lujendra Ojha, the scientists used instruments on NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to study mysterious streaks that snake down the Red Planet’s steep slopes. These streaks — known as recurring slope lineae or RSL — appear during the warmer seasons and then disappear at colder times during the Martian year.

**Syrians who supported Assad find flight now a nightmare**

The Lady Su was 14 hours behind schedule, and there would be no food other than soft drinks available for the 12-hour journey to southern Turkey. But for the President Barack Obama called on before U.N. sets up confrontation with Russia

“Not only have the current elections been widely covered by news companies such as CNN and Fox News have shown the highest ratings in the history when they covered the two previous GOP debates,” said Moreno.

“The first course offered is called, “The Political Conventions,” which focuses on the primary system in the United States. It closely follows the Democratic and Republican primary elections and assemblies. The Party Conventions, will then be offered summer 2016. It examines the Republican and Democrat Party conventions, and it analyzes events occurring prior to, during and after each convention.”

The final “General Elections,” course focuses on the general election between the Republican and Democrat nominees. Other themes include campaigning, polling, and strategies.

Moreno will be traveling to Iowa, New Hampshire and some of the early primary states to give students a first-hand account of the electoral process.

“This is a course that can be taken without having any background in politics, and the only requirement really is an interest in what is happening in the elections,” said Moreno.

He said he was inspired to create the series from watching last public interest in the 2016 presidential elections.

“We want to stress engagement and encourage students to ask questions,” said Moreno.

The courses are designed to be highly interactive. According to the idea for the series and with the help of Moats, they developed online discussion boards.

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Using tampons might be life-threatening

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As women, most of us remember that special moment in our lives when we first got our period — for many of us this is one of the first steps in transitioning towards womanhood. As the years pass, the menstrual cycle can be an often painful experience due to cramps and other annoying symptoms.

According to the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine, a tampon introduced by Proctor and Gamble in 1922 is now one of the most common feminine hygiene products used by women during their periods. Using either pads or tampons is the most common method to handle menstruation. However, there are those who are not aware that tampon use can be risky.

In our adolescence, we’re taught that “yes means yes,” but what about “no”? According to the Los Angeles Times, “no” meant something different to many women. Often, a woman who says “no” has her no’s ignored, dismissed, and even labeled as manipulative or stubborn. Women have been taught that their consent is a result of using Rely tampons. Even though the number of TSS reported cases has significantly decreased since the 1980s, many women can still be affected if they are not careful in using tampons and it is a fact that some women may not even be aware of it before it’s too late.

On Oct. 3, 2012, a model named Lauren Wasser was not feeling well while at a friend’s birthday party; she figured her period was making her feel a bit wary, so she left the party early to get some rest. The next day, her mother was worried since Lauren told her she would call in the morning but never did. She asked a friend to check on Lauren along with a police officer; they found her passed out on the bedroom floor with a fever of 107 degrees. At a hospital, Lauren was diagnosed with TSS after a tampon she was using came back positive with the bacteria. As a result, her right leg was amputated from the knee down due to the infection developing into gangrene. It is a blessing that Lauren is alive today despite not being aware of TSS from the beginning. She still shares her story to let other tampon users know to use the products with caution.

However, there are those who are not aware of the illness and have lost their lives because of not knowing about it sooner. Jemima-Louise Roberts, a 13-year-old British girl and keen swimmer, felt unwell with sickness and diarrhea while on a family vacation. She used tampons as a convenient way to continue her swimming training. A few weeks later, she was diagnosed with TSS after a tampon she was using came back positive with the bacteria. As a result, she was diagnosed with TSS. Lauren was able to receive the proper medical treatment early.

To all the women at FIU: be careful while using a tampon for you may never know if you will get TSS one day. Always remember to read the warnings carefully and go to a doctor in case something goes wrong while using a tampon. It’s important to keep in mind that tampons can be life-threatening to a man’s request for attention and his romantic advances to angry and terrifying.

When is “no” just “no”?

Several studies have shown that society’s expectations of women’s behavior have changed, despite women’s demand for respect and equality. Women continue to experience sexual relations as a result of unwanted advances to angry and terrifying. While rape is not always the outcome, there are instances in which women are stalked or beaten for saying no. Just because rape doesn’t always occur, it does not mean that this isn’t a symptom of rape culture. The fact that saying no is no longer valued, respected and required gives space for rape; that’s the problem with telling a woman she’s “playing hard to get.”
PalmCon celebrates Star Wars franchise

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The latest comic book convention to come to Florida was PalmCon. From Sept. 26-27, 2015, the PalmCon Comic Convention took place at the Palm Beach Convention Center. This was the fifth year of PalmCon, and it was better than ever. The theme of this year’s convention was Star Wars, to commemorate the release of the seventh film due to be released on Dec. 18, 2015.

From booths filled with various Star Wars comics to stands propped up with dozens of Star Wars action figures, the Force did not disappoint this year. The guest actors attending were outstanding as well.

Staring at this convention were two guests from the Star Wars franchise: Matthew Wood and Catherine Taber. Matthew Wood is best known among Star Wars fans for voicing the nefarious Star Wars villain General Grievous in “Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith” and “Star Wars: The Clone Wars.” He is also currently providing the voice for the Stormtroopers in “Star Wars Rebels,” and is the lead sound editor for “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

Catherine Taber is also well known among fans for voicing Palpatine Amidala in the 2008 “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” animated film and television series. Both actors were incredibly nice, talking to their fans while signing film memorabilia for very reasonable prices. Both actors had an excellent time at PalmCon and praised the convention and the guests.

“It’s great to be here at PalmCon. Clearly, the Force is strong in West Palm Beach,” said Taber.

“I’m having a great time here at PalmCon, meeting all the fans and I’m feeling a lot of great energy from the people and the folks here. It’s great to see so many interesting people and costumes. Thanks a lot,” Wood said as he signed a photo of General Grievous for an excited young fan.

Also appearing at PalmCon was Chris Harrelson, who portrayed numerous walkers on Season 5 of the hit AMC series, “The Walking Dead.”

All three hosted several panels during the weekend, where they talked to fans about their experiences. During Wood’s panel, he spoke about how he had first gotten hired by LucasFilm, his cameos in Star Wars Episode I and II, his work in sound editing and how he had gotten the role of General Grievous for Episode III. Taber’s panel was excellent as well, where she talked about her experience on Clone Wars, and her other voice acting projects for Star Wars, including “Knights of the Old Republic” and the new app “Uprising.”

There were also numerous artists attending PalmCon, such as Joe Rubinstein, who has worked on some of the most important comic series of all time, like the famed “The Infinity Gauntlet” series. Also appearing was Joel Delbo, accomplished Wonder Woman and Transformers artist from DC Comics. Other artists attending included Disney artist Vanessa Wood. Many of the people attending found PalmCon to be a wonderful experience, such as Gina Milian, who was attending PalmCon for the first time with her husband and young son. It was also the very first comic convention she had ever attended.

“Being my first comic convention, I felt nervous at first, but I had nothing to fear. I found it was very family oriented. My husband, son and I had a great time. We bought comics, art, action figures and had things signed by the artists and the actors, who were very nice to us.”

Many other comic conventions opportunities are available for those who could not make it to PalmCon, such as Wizard World Fort Lauderdale next week on Oct. 2-4, and Comic-Con Miami on Oct. 23-25.

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Wertheim Performing Arts Center opened its doors Friday night for FIU Theatre’s first performance of “A Flea in Her Ear,” a farce full of charming characters, sexual innuendos and mayhem.

As Raymond Chandebise begins to doubt her husband’s loyalty to her and her marriage, she and an old friend plan an elaborate trick to catch him in the act of adultery byfaking a letter from a mysterious seductress. Fast-forward through a miscalculation, a drunken doppleganger and one hot, she hotel proprietor and you have an ensemble of colorful characters all caught in the cross fires of fun chaos.

The cast and crew clearly had fun with the show and as difficult as a period piece is in theatre, they executed this performance in a rather entertaining fashion. Each actor in the performance brought a special character to each character. From Etienne, the noisy butler with the brilliantly delivered punch lines (played by Brandon Hoffman), to Camille, the young nephew who can’t pronounce his consonants (played by David Zeale), every actor had fun with each of their parts, no matter how big, small or odd. Although it took them the first act to warm up, it was evident the cast had fun with the show, which in turn, called for the audience to have fun watching the show.

Special attention should be called to one of the leads of the show, Allyn Moriyn, who played both Victor Chandebise, the dignified husband in question and Poche, the drastically different drunken redcap who has Victor’s face. Seamlessly, Moriyn was able to change from one character to the other within mere seconds of each other. To the point that it started to feel like there were actually two different actors playing these characters instead of just the one, which is no small accomplishment.

The technical aspects of the show were equally as commendable. The costumes and set were crafted to really set the play in 1910 France. The first scenes that took place in the Chandebise home were simply designed to simulate a French home from 1910 which was both effective and clever, as it was used to cover up the enormous set of “The Frisky Puss Hotel” which was where most of the chaos ensued.

The second act’s set is when the characters finally arrive at the very gaudy Frisky Puss Hotel, where it is obvious that scenic designer Steven Lopez had the most fun designing the set. From a technical aspect, a lot of the set design choices were genius. It had so many levels and depth, like using a house-orchestra pit as a stage exit and having a functional trap door, which had its comedic use in the show. “A Flea in Her Ear” was a fun comedy that effectively had the audience laughing hard and loud throughout the whole night. The cast hit their comedic timing, played off each other like they had been working together for years and breathed life into the old farce. It is a highly recommended performance for a night of good laughs and panic for those that will stay with you for days to come.

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Brian Trujillo /The Beacon

Actors Matthew Woods signs photographs of General Grievous for fans at the fifth annual PalmCon comic book convention that took place in Palm Beach County Sept. 26-27.

‘A Flea in Her Ear’ features ‘charming characters’ and ‘good laughs’
Sugar emerges as cause of heart disease

LESLE OVALLE

From the beginning of time, salt has been known to ward off evil, but during the late 1970s, salt became the evil when government and healthcare providers began to preach the dangers of salt. This white crystal then became known as the culprit of high blood pressure and therefore heart disease—America’s number one killer of both women and men, according to Naturalnews.com.

High blood pressure or hypertension is a condition in which the force of blood flow against artery walls is found to be high enough to cause health problems. According to Dr. Cecilia Tellez, Florida International University’s registered dietitian for Student Health Services, these probable health problems include cardiovascular disease, which can lead to kidney and eye damage, development of atherosclerosis, heart attacks and strokes.

Recently, many studies have been proving that a different white crystal may be more to blame for high blood pressure. In Discover Magazine’s September issue, Hillevi Cohen, co-executive editor of the “American Journal of Hypertension,” explains that sugar and hypertension are largely linked by weight gain and calorie consumption.

“Even a person that has a healthy weight and is physically active has a higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease if they consume a lot of sugar in their diet,” said Tellez, “excess sugar in the diet can lead to over weight gain and weight gain can often raise blood pressure.”

Weight gain problems, such as being overweight, increase a person’s blood volume so that tissues can keep their needed oxygen and nutrient levels. This increase in blood volume puts pressure on artery walls, which is where the damage is caused.

Excess sugar, according to Tellez, also contributes to hypertension in the formation of advanced glycation endproducts or AGEs which make arteries stiffer and in turn more difficult for blood to travel through them.

In regards to sugar, Tellez recommends choosing lean non-refined carbohydrates and limiting added sugar intake to six teaspoons per day for women and ten teaspoons per day for men.

One of the main reasons why sugar is taking salt’s place as the culprit of hypertension is because studies have found that people react to sodium in different ways—not everyone is “salt sensitive.”

“Many people with hypertension are what is considered ‘salt sensitive,’ meaning that high salt intake raises their blood pressure more than in the average person,” said Tellez, “people that are salt sensitive tend to be men, older adults and African-Americans.”

Still, salt’s effect on high blood pressure has yet to be discounted. Tellez, along with the USDA, recommend keeping sodium intake under 2300 mg per day, which equals a teaspoon.

Dietitians, including Tellez, remind us that a diet based on whole foods, including: whole grains, lean proteins, healthy fats, non-starchy vegetables and fruits, is naturally low in sugar and salt and therefore will ward off the real evil—heart disease.

SDA Health is published every Wednesday.

Jefe’s Original Soul Shack offers ‘delicious’ tacos

E V E R Y  T U E S D A Y  a n d  T h u r s d a y,  I  h a v e  t h e  f o u r  h o u r  b r e a k  b e t w e e n  c l a s s e s.

GABBY ARZOLA

I like to explore North Miami have tacos, but they also have burgers, salads and even pastrami sandwiches. Their culinary theme seemed to be a little abstract, but that just makes this restaurant even more unique.

I ordered an Ensenada Style Fish taco and a New Mexican Yardbird (Chicken) taco, with a side of guacamole.

The food came out within minutes and the presentation was definitely Instagram worthy. With colorful and fresh toppings like pico de gallo and fresh slaw, the quality of the tacos were outstanding.

The chicken was juicy and seasoned perfectly. Their salsa verde complimented the taco by giving it a nice tang and their red onions and added a nice freshness dimension to the meal.

The guacamole was unique in which it wasn’t mashed up like most guacamole I’ve seen. Instead, it was in small chunks and mixed in with cilantro and lime juice.

It was definitely a unique experience and not something I would have expected to be only a couple miles away from school. If anybody has a craving—or any craving, I’m sure Jefe’s Soul Shack will have exactly what you need!

With my taco craving satisfied, the world now feels a little brighter and my belt feels a little tighter—I call this a successful day.

Bryam Ricuarte/The Beacon
The #24 men’s soccer team (6-2-0, 2-0 in Conference USA) added their sixth straight win on Saturday, Sept. 26 in a 5-1 victory over Marshall University. The high scoring effort, second-straight high scoring effort in a row - FIU defeated Florida Atlantic University 7-2 on Monday, Sept. 21. Over the six game winning streak, they have outscored opponents 20-6. The first half struggles the Panthers displayed earlier in the season grew more distant on Saturday night as Florida International University’s offensive attack continued to impress time and time again against FIU.

As unfortunate as that can be, it’s exactly what happened to FIU (2-2) this past Saturday, Sept. 26. The Panthers dropped their Conference USA opener by a score of 27-17 to the University of Massachusetts Minutemen (0-3). As unfortunate as that can be, it’s exactly what happened to FIU (2-2) this past Saturday, Sept. 26.

Sometimes in the great sport of football, a team can play a solid all-around game and still not have much of a chance to win on that given day. The two main concerns I had while watching the game were the lack of touches for Anthony Jones and the play calls that are as talented as LA Tech’s.

Defender Juan Benedetti scuffles against Conference-USA foe, Marshall during the Sept. 26 game, where the Men’s Soccer team won for the sixth time consecutively. FIU avoided turning the ball over, which was a major step for the Panthers to keep up with LA Tech cost them.

There were quite a few players who stepped up with great performances for the Panthers, and they’re the main reasons why there’s no shame in getting burned by Dixon, who had 169 yards on the ground with two rushing touchdowns and was on the receiving end of another.

Despite this, it seemed as if a lot of drives were stalled because of the lack of touches for Anthony Jones and the play calls that are as talented as LA Tech’s. The two main concerns I had while watching the game were the lack of tackles for Anthony Jones and the play calls that consistently gave the ball to Gardner up the middle for little-to-no gain.

At the end of the day, FIU would’ve needed to play essentially a perfect game to keep up with the Bulldogs and unfortunately that just isn’t how it turned out. This isn’t a game that many people gave FIU a chance in and this is a game that many people gave FIU a chance in and to their credit, they were in it until the very end.

The #24 men’s soccer team (6-2-0, 2-0 in Conference USA) added their sixth straight win on Saturday, Sept. 26 in a 5-1 victory over Marshall University. Florida International University has continued to impress time and time again against FIU.

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Women's Soccer

Panthers have 2-0 weekend at home

SANTIAGO ARCHIERTI Contributing Writer

FIU women's soccer went 2-0 this past weekend after winning their last contest in impressive fashion.

The weekend home stand started on Friday, Sept. 25, when FIU hosted the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners.

The Roadrunners came to Miami wireless and were completely dominated by the Panthers after FIU emerged victorious with a final score of 3-1.

FIU went on to have eight shots on goal with 26 total shots, compared to the Roadrunners' one lone shot on goal with eight total shots.

It was a fast paced start for the Panthers, as Midfielder Steffi Reischmann sent a cross off a corner kick directly to freshman Lyrik Fryer, who took an advantage of the opportunity and gave FIU a 1-0 lead with her first career goal.

The eighth minute goal marks the earliest goal FIU has scored all season long.

FIU went on to score again 11 minutes later, when Scarlet Montoya scored her first goal of the season. The Roadrunners showed signs of life in the 35th minute after a goal by Channing Machen, but FIU ended the first half on a 2-1 lead and outshot the Roadrunners 17-2.

It was much of the same in the second half. The Roadrunners were unable to get a shot on goal for the rest of the game. FIU sealed the game in the 88th minute when Alyssa Robinson recorded her fourth goal of the season and gave FIU a 3-1 victory.

The game changed gears towards the end of the first half, when Kennadie Chaudhury scored the first goal of the game for the Miners, and it would carry on to the half as UTEP was up 1-0.

FIU wasted no time to level the game in the second half and in the 47th minute, FIU was awarded a penalty kick after a foul in the box. Malden Meinhardt took the penalty for the Panthers, but it was deflected off the Miners' goalkeeper and Scarlett Montoya was there to clean up the mess as she controlled the deflection and assisted it back to Meinhardt, who tied the game at 1-1.

Sophomore Paula Quintero continued the hot second half start for the Panthers. Quintero scored on an unassisted goal to mark FIU's second goal of the game and put the Panthers up 2-1.

The game looked to be all but over, but in the 99th minute, UTEP capitalized off a corner kick and Aleah Davis would tie the game up at 2-2.

The Panthers were not ready to give up a victory. A late push led to a UTEP foul in stoppage time and FIU was awarded a free kick which was taken by Scarlet Montoya. Montoya's kick sailed over the wall of UTEP defenders and to the back of the net, which gave FIU the 3-2 win.

FIU ended the Miners five game winning streak and went back over the .500 mark for the first time since they started the season 1-0-0. FIU is now 6-5-0 and 2-2-0 in Conference USA games, three of which are against CUSA competitors.

The Panthers will return home and host the next four games, three of which are against CUSA competitors. They will host Marshall University on Friday, Oct. 2, University of Texas at El Paso on Sunday, Oct. 4, Florida Gulf Coast University on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Friday, Oct. 9.
The University is hosting a first annual event benefitting a third world country neonatal pediatric intensive care unit.

In collaboration with the Belize Tourism Board, the Consulate of Belize in Florida and Belize’s Office of Special Envoy for Women & Children, The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will host See and Taste Belize festival. Belize, a Central American country, borders Guatemala and Mexico towards the Caribbean Sea. It was ranked as the third most dangerous country with a high homicide rate by the United Nations in 2014. The idea for the event began when the University visited the Cooper Center in Belize earlier this year with Kim Simplis Barrow, the country’s first lady. The partnership came about with the idea of fundraising for a new care unit.

With the finishing of unit, Belizean patients will receive quick immediate care instead of waiting to be airlifted to Guatemala.

The funds raised for the new unit will also provide medical equipment and dormitories like rooms for overnight patients.

13 babies died at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital in Belize between the months of February and May 2013, according to Breaking Belize News. Since then, the hospital and other organizations have tried to avoid repetition of the event.

Amanda Schouten, office coordinator at the Chaplin School, is pleased to have been given the opportunity to plan for a large festival.

Of course, these are important causes,” said Schouten. “What better way to get students engaged and involved than for a cause like this.”

The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rovens Conference Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The festival will bring five of their top chefs flown from Belize to provide hand-crafted samples of their food. Guests will also be able to create their own Belizean spice mix from a variety of spices. There will also be live dance and soca music, Belizean style. “It’s cool that FIU is bringing its cultural influence on the world,” said Joseph Nova, a senior biology major. “It’s a nice thing to be involved.”

The event will start with a VIP brunch and a silent auction from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stephanie Menendez, a junior hospitality major said she is glad that the University is partaking in this fundraiser.

“I like that FIU does stuff that tries to help around the world,” said Menendez. “FIU has a lot of international students, and people are bringing awareness to what’s happening.”

“[It] gives FIU and its students a chance to become involved in a cause like this [and] hopefully increase some awareness to Belize itself,” Schouten said. The Office of Special Envoy in Belize is dedicated to advocating for children and families. It raises awareness through humanitarian efforts by addressing women and children issues and by raising money in support of the new care unit.

The event will bring five of their top chefs flown from Belize to provide hand-crafted samples of their food.

The event exposes FIU’s involvement with international affairs,” said Schouten. “[They’re] always slightly more internally focused than some of the other schools around here.”

The festival is open to the general public, with varying ticket prices. To purchase tickets, participants must register at seeandtastebelize.com.