



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

## Elections week kicks off with candidate events

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Today begins the Student Government campaign season and this year is anyone's game.

The 2012-2013 Modesto Maidique Campus elections are the first to bring in around 50 senatorial candidates.

This is more than any other previous year, according to Alessa Torres, student government elections commissioner.

With a full week of events, students will have the several opportunities to get to know the candidates and their opinion on student and University issues.

During the Meet & Greet event at the Lakeview North Lounge on March 29, candidates will be able to share their

platforms and listen to student concerns.

Senate and presidential debates take place on April 2 in GC 140, with candidates getting a chance to state their platforms in a public setting.

Voting will continue for two days on April 3 and 4, with candidates allowed to campaign until the last day of voting.

Students place their ballots through their my.fiu.edu accounts and vote for the respective candidates from the campus where they take the majority of their classes.

The official announcement of the election results is set for April 5.

*See page four for full coverage of this year's candidates.*

## NINJA PANTHERS



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

The tv show American Ninja Warrior sets up their "ultimate obstacle course" on the lawn facing the Ryder Business Building on March 25. Filming for the Northeast & Southeast Regional Tryout began on March 26.

**COLLEGE OF LAW**

## Law school moves up in US News Report ranking

**AURA ALTAMIRANDA**  
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In a recent graduate school update by the US News & World Report, the FIU College of Law made a significant jump in the ranks, rising 19 spots.

Out of 195 spots, the University went from 132nd to 113th.

The jump was celebrated by the dean and faculty as it gave merit to the University as a growing institution for law students.

One factor for students who choose FIU lies in affordability as a public university in an increasingly costly field of study.

"FIU's loan debt would be more equivalent to a car payment versus a mortgage payment. Most law schools leave you with a mortgage equivalent in debt without a house to show for it," said FIU graduate Michelle Nahmias, who is currently considering it among her choices for law school.

The jump in ranking, however, gave attention to the University for its other offerings.

The decade-old college ranked first in Florida bar passage last year, organized law clinics for well-versed students to offer legal counseling to members of the

community, and performed well in several courtroom competitions, one of which was judged by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

"The rankings are not my top factor but they're definitely a factor in the back of my

began teaching at the University in August 2010, praising the management and the motivation within the college to further its reach.

The US News & World Report rankings are made through what the US News calls

measures focus on LSAT scores, bar exam passage and job opportunities post-graduation.

Along with the competitive nature of many schools to rise to the top however, comes skepticism in the ranking process.

James Harden, junior, is also currently considering FIU among his choices for law school.

"The only real ranking I care about is LSAT passing rate," he said. "I don't care about law school rankings."

According to the Miami Herald, skeptics in the academic world argue that ranking works highly in favor of wealthy universities, which would explain why the Ivy League schools are always at the top.

Despite criticism, schools continue to strive to work their way up.

"People always criticize the ranking system, but for some reason, there's some sort of social desire to end up at the top," Weisbord said. "We know reasonably that these rankings miss many important factors, but it is human nature. I take it with a grain of salt."

He continued, "The institution is important and even though FIU isn't ranked among the top 10, they are certainly advancing."

“...it is really unheard of for a school that’s 10 years old, or any school for that matter, to jump 19 spots in the rankings.”

Michelle Nahmias,  
graduate  
FIU

head because it is really unheard of for a school that's 10 years old, or any school for that matter, to jump 19 spots in the rankings," said Nahmias.

Law professor Noah Weisbord acknowledged FIU's accomplishments since he

"input and output measures" of all universities with accreditation, in this case, by the American Bar Association.

Input measures encompass the worth of factors in the college including professors, programs, and performance. Output

**COMING UP | News**

Check out Monday's issue for "The Beacon Recommends..." a student voter guide for the 2012-2013 Student Government Elections.

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## WOMEN'S GOLF

# WIRE TO WIRE

## Panthers take first place over Stetson in UC Invitational

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After finishing seventh at the Clover Cup, hosted by Notre Dame on March 16-18, the Panthers looked to shake off the rough weekend with something positive. Sophomore Shelby Coyle gave them just that.

The FIU women's golf team came in first place at the 2012 University of Cincinnati Spring Invitational at the Plantation Golf Resort on March 23-25.

The Panthers, who led the competition in all of the event's three rounds, finished the weekend 14-over-par and 24 strokes ahead of second-place Stetson. Morehead State finished in third with a score of 59-over-par.

Coyle led the way for FIU, finishing in first place on the individual leaderboard with a score of 3-under-par and being the only golfer to finish under par for the weekend. After shooting a score of 69 on the first day of competition, Coyle stayed on par with scores

of 72 on both the second and third day to finish with an overall score of 213.

Senior Katie Mundy finished the weekend 2-over-par for a third place tie in the individual leaderboard with Mallory Viera of Stetson, with her best score coming on the final day of the invitational when she scored a 72.

Junior Tania Tare finished tied for seventh with a 7-over-par, along with Mary Alice Murphy of Mercer University and Alex Buelow of Stetson. Senior Monica Miller finished the event tied for 11th with a 11-over-par score with Sun Belt Conference rival Anna Wiklund of Florida Atlantic. Junior Yolecci Jimenez finished off FIU's scores, shooting a 15-over-par to tie for 25th in the standings.

The Panthers will next take part in the Knights 'n Pirates Invitational April 9-10 in Melbourne, Fl., hosted by the University of Central Florida. Notable schools attending the invitational will be the University of Illinois, Texas Tech and Michigan.



DANIEL RIVAS/THE BEACON

Shelby Coyle (above) finished first, posting a three-under mark for the tournament.

## BASEBALL

# FIU snaps longest losing streak of season against WKU

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On March 21, the Panthers took a tie game into the ninth inning and could not come away with a win. Two days later, they found themselves in the same exact position. This time, they made sure to capture the win.

Despite committing a season-high six errors, FIU (9-11, 1-3 SBC) snapped its longest losing streak of the season on March 23 after defeating conference foe Western Kentucky University (9-13, 1-3 SBC) 6-5.

The win was FIU's first in five games and only the second on the road this season. It was at the expense of WKU's starting pitcher Justin Hageman, reigning Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year.

Panthers Nathan Burns, Adam Kirsch and Roche Woodard all recorded three hits in the match with Mike Martinez and T.J. Shantz chipping in two hits each.

Redshirt junior left-hander Mason McVay pitched five innings, allowing one earned run, three walks and six walks.

The first eight runs of the game were scored in the first two innings, as



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

The Panthers won two of three games from the Hilltoppers in Bowling Green between March 23-25.

both teams got off to a fast start.

After leading the game off with a single, Burns came around to score on senior Pablo Bermudez' first sacrifice fly of the game. Shantz, who hit a single after Burns, scored on Martinez' hard-hit double off the wall one batter later.

Sloppy defense got the better of

the Panthers in the bottom of the first inning, as errors by Shantz in left field, Kirsch at first base and freshman Julius Gaines at shortstop allowed the Hill Toppers to tie the score 2-2.

Gaines was hit by a pitch in the second inning and moved to second base on Woodard's single. With two men on base, Burns drove in Gaines

on an RBI single.

After Hageman hit his second batter of the inning, Shantz, Bermudez followed with his second sacrifice fly to make it 4-2.

Once again, however, the Panthers could not hold steady in the field after a failed pick off attempt, and another error by Gaines allowed the Hill

Toppers to score two more runs and tie it 4-4.

FIU had a chance to break the game open in the fourth inning when they had the bases loaded and freshman Aramis Garcia at the plate. Garcia drove one out to the warning track, however, and ended the inning with no runs. A lengthy rain delay halted the game in the top of the sixth inning, where Hageman was substituted for Tate Glasscock.

In the eighth inning, Shantz led off with a single and eventually stole his team-leading sixth base and ended up at third base by tagging up. Martinez then drove him in to take a 5-4 lead.

The theme of the match continued, however, with WKU tying the game back up after a bases loaded walk in the bottom of the eighth.

With a tie game in the top of the ninth inning, Burns drove in Kirsch with his second RBI of the game with a two-out single as his teammates roared from the dugout.

Closer Michael Gomez earned his first win as a Panther, securing the 6-5 victory.

The Panthers took two out of three games over the Toppers, winning 5-3 in 11 innings on March 24 and losing 9-4 on March 25.



## SOFTBALL

# Burri's sacrifice fly hands FIU series win over UNT



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers have won four of their last five games dating back to March 14.

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With the Panthers splitting their double header against North Texas on Saturday, FIU was able to win the rubber game of a three-game series against the Mean Green – this time in an extra-inning affair.

FIU 15-14 (3-1, SBC) took care of North Texas in a tight 6-5 game on March 26 at home.

North Texas got off to a hot start, lacing a pair of home runs

in the first inning to grab an early 3-0 lead.

Jenn Gniadek got the start but only lasted two frames while giving up four earned runs on six hits. Mariah Dawson, who leads the Sun Belt in total strikeouts, replaced Gniadek. Unlike the first game of the series where she pitched a complete game but got the loss, Dawson was able to control the tempo for FIU.

“I came in with the mindset that I’m not going to get mad no matter what happens. I’m just

going to stay positive towards everyone and stay confident within myself,” Dawson said.

Dawson pitched six innings, allowing only two hits while giving up one run.

North Texas notched another run in the top of the third, extending their lead to 4-0. The FIU bats came out in the bottom half of the inning, scoring three runs, cutting the deficit to one. An Ashley McClain single that scored Kayla Burri from second and moved Beth Peller to third got the Panthers started.

With runners on first and second, the North Texas starter issued two bases on balls—one to Brie Rojas that loaded the bases and one to Jessy Alfonso giving FIU another run on the scoreboard. One out later, Kelsey Grabiak laced an infield single to third base, scoring FIU’s third run.

FIU snatched their first lead of the game in the fifth inning as the Panthers played small ball. After getting back-to-back singles from McClain and Rojas, Alfonso laid down a sacrifice bunt, moving the runners over. Alex Casals then hit a shallow fly ball that scored McClain and moved Rojas to third. Grabiak then followed up with a bloop-single, handing FIU a 5-4 lead entering the seventh inning.

But North Texas wouldn’t go away. In the seventh, Brooke Foster hit a home run to send the game to extra-innings.

In the eighth, Erik Arcuri led off with a double and was then moved to third thanks to a Megan Horn’s sacrifice bunt. The game then ended on a walk-off sacrifice fly in foul territory by Burri. Arcuri tagged from third base to win the game.

“With UL [Louisiana] in our conference, every single game matters. We need as many wins as we can. So the more we win, the better we can be, especially against teams like these. We should be able to beat them all three games” Dawson said.

## CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 78 of *The Beacon* the story titled “Cell phone pictures can be considered art, too” in the Life! section was written by Esra Erdogan, not Ashley Lapadula.

In Vol. 23, Issue 78 of *The Beacon* the story titled “FIU finishes conference play with win over FAU” in the Sports section was written by Jonathan Jacobskind, not Jonathon Jacobskind.

*The Beacon* will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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# STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2012

## MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

### Presidential Candidates

## Laura Farinas and Alex Castro

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS PUBLICATIONS

With the goals of “innovation, transparency and representation,” senior Laura Farinas and sophomore Alex Castro are currently running for the presidential ticket at the Modesto Maidique Student Government Council Elections of 2012.

Farinas, currently lectures coordinator & committee chair has been working with the Student Government Association for the past four years, while Castro has been involved for two years, and currently serves as chief of staff.

Among their top priorities, Farinas explained that they seek to restructure the way SGA operates to incorporate more accountability.

“The one things that makes us different is that we want to change what is student government,” Farinas said. “We are going to sit down and evaluate

every position and make sure each position has a purpose and a plan of action.”

Among their initiatives is a plan for campus collaboration, where the different organizations that operate at MMC cooperate while planning and organizing goals and events.

“We want to bring all these organizations together so that they can not only brainstorm and collaborate, but also [create] a support system, and make sure we come out to each other’s events,” Farinas said.

Another goal for the ticket is to better SGA relations with the student body.

“Involvement has to start

Castro also added that its time to focus on commuter students’ needs.

“I think its beautiful that FIU is expanding,” Castro said. “But now we need to push for the other initiatives, where we cater to [commuter students] lifestyles.”

Farinas and Castro are currently dating but explain that their relationship can only benefit their campaign goals.

“We have always known each other in a professional capacity...and never once has [our relationship] been a problem,” Farinas said.

When asked about the things that set them apart from other candidates, the pair referred to their “unique” approach to student issues.

“As students, the resources are there for us,” said Wu in an interview with Student Media.

Several key issues that the campaign will target, if elected, include the transparency and accountability of the University and the SGA in its operations and expenditures, the quality and speed of student services, the academic and professional preparation at FIU, the imple-

## Samir Patel and Andres Wu

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS PUBLICATIONS

Presidential candidate Samir Patel and vice presidential candidate Andres “Andy” Wu are hoping to bring “progress” to FIU.

As the only non-greek affiliated presidential ticket in this year’s student government race, the Patel/Wu ticket focuses its efforts on addressing the issues that “affect our daily lives as students that live, work and study at MMC, BBC and its auxiliary campuses.”

“As students, the resources are there for us,” said Wu in an interview with Student Media.

Several key issues that the campaign will target, if elected, include the transparency and accountability of the University and the SGA in its operations and expenditures, the quality and speed of student services, the academic and professional preparation at FIU, the imple-

mentation of the green energy fund and the support provided to our student athletes from less popular sports.

“We have teams that are performing at top levels and there is no reason that hundreds of students should be attending their games,” said Patel.

A senior physical education major, Patel was born in Philadelphia and raised in Henderson, Kentucky. He began in SGA as the senator for the College of Education in 2010 and was then elected to serve as a senator at-large.

As this year’s speaker pro tempore, Patel is a member of the University-wide Council.

His running mate’s background centers more around student activities.

Born in Argentina, and raised in New York, Shanghai and Miami, Wu, is a senior liberal arts major who hopes to attend the FIU College of Law. He is currently interning at Borbolla & Fernandez P.A. Law Firm.

Andy has lived on campus in Lakeview South’s Honors Place, Everglades and Towers halls, and has worked for FIU’s Housing and Residential Life department for the past three years. He spent two of those years serving as a resident assistant, managing up to 45 students at a time each year.

“Andy and I are qualified to take these positions because we have the ability to speak to students,” said Patel.

In regard to the creation of a one council system, both candidates agreed that having one president and council at SGA would be the better option.

“We believe that a well thought-out process, with certain regulations and safeguards that ensure that BBC remains active in the decision making process, would not only work, but also be in the best interest of the entire student body,” according to the campaign.

Transparency is also an issue that the candidates feel that SGA must focus on.

“We as a student government need to inform the students of what we have to offer,” said Patel.

He adds that he would like for all SGA meetings to be videotaped and posted online “so that all students have access to them.”

## Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS PUBLICATIONS

Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner are not insane, but they are MAD.

“Make A Difference” for FIU is the campaign of Udhvani and Mautner, presidential and vice-presidential candidates of this year’s student government elections at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The mission of their campaign is to empower students by giving them the resources needed to achieve professional, academic and leadership success.

The candidates’ platform is centered on improving student services and the student experience at the University.

If elected Udhvani and Mautner plan on voting “no” to any tuition or fee increases, advocate for the addition of another line to the Panther

Mover, advocate for a larger shuttle to the Engineering Center to enhance transportation, bring DVD rental services such as Red Box on campus, promote a 24-hour study lounge on campus, secure reserved study space in the Green Library for graduate students and encourage University administration to “implement a green campus” by adding solar panels on the roof of buildings at the University.

“It was a completely multi-faceted approach that we took to this because not all the students are created equal,” said Mautner.

If elected, Udhvani said he would vote “no” to any fee or tuition increases.

“An increase in tuition and fees for some students means the difference between going to school part time and not enrolling in classes at all,” the candidates wrote in a questionnaire submitted to Student Media. “It’s not enough for us to complain... we need to collaborate across the state to start a branding strategy that will improve the state legislature to see [they should] invest in higher education.”

The Udhvani/Mautner ticket ties together the expe-

rience of Udhvani and creativity of Mautner.

Udhvani, a senior international business honors and finance major, has almost two years of experience within SGA. Since fall 2010 Udhvani has been deputy attorney general, attorney general and is currently vice president of SGC-MMC since summer 2011.

Mautner doesn’t have Udhvani’s experience in SGA but the experience he’s gained outside of SGA to the ticket.

“I bring an outside business perspective to SGA while [Udhvani] brings experience and leadership,” Mautner said.

Mautner established his own business at 14 years old in which he “facilitated transactions over 20 countries worldwide.” Within SGA, Mautner has been the executive assistant of current SGC-MMC President Patrick O’Keefe since fall 2011.

### Senatorial Candidates

#### At-Large

**Boris Dan Aparicio Jr.**

- Increase participation and awareness of organizations and forums on campus.
- Promote external recruitment of students
- Discuss and negotiate better food options.

**Giovanni Castro**

- Increase the Senate’s identity in the student community.
- Increase internship opportunities and inform students of these opportunities.
- Advocate for weekly informative events on University resources.

**Juan “Johnny Bravo” Canton**

- Change representation of students from a reactive to a proactive viewpoint.
- Listen to concerns and suggestions of students and advocate sentiments to administration.
- Expand the relationship between students and SGA.

**Nicole Buchely**

- Work with administration to increase safety through more parking lot lighting.
- Encourage sustainability initiatives.
- Engage students in more university events.

**Steven M. Gonzalez**

- Get students involved with University decision-making.
- Work to bring down textbook costs.
- Encourage on-campus living.

**Eduardo Staton\***

**Liane Sippin\***

#### Lower Division

**Benjamin “Ben” Rosa**

- Materialize the concerns of underclassmen with regard to financial aid and course availability.
- Educate underclassmen on the resources available for their disposal.
- Inform underclassmen on the ability they have to impact the decision-making process at FIU.

**Nicholas “Nick” Alvarez**

- Provide better academic advising for students.
- Inform students on campus involvement opportunities.
- Bring student concerns to attention of Office of Financial Aid.

**Vanessa Martinez**

- Improve the selection process of classes for lower division students.
- Advocate a way for students to learn more about the programs FIU has to offer.
- Help students better communicate with their academic advisors.

**Christopher Garrido\***

**Javier Morales\***

#### Honors College

**Anthony Maneiro**

- Facilitate textbook exchange between FIU students.
- Use SGA to lobby for little to no tuition increase.
- Expand the available parking spaces at FIU.

**Raul Alvarez**

- Ensure that Honors College receives necessary funding.
- Provide better advising resources for Honors College students.
- Push for an Honors curriculum that better suits student needs.

**Daniel Rodriguez\***

**Joshua Sixon\***

**Sabrina Petrosky\***

#### Arts & Sciences

**Andreina Espina**

- Make sure every student that wants to be heard is heard.
- Address textbook affordability.
- Continue efforts within Student Government to give students more options, which includes a Student Book Swap.

**Andrew Garcia**

- Work alongside senators and administrators to tackle issues and concerns.
- Work with the College to address the issues of course offerings and study spaces on campus.
- Work with faculty and students to promote increased communication.

**Andrew Withers**

- Ensure that budget is appropriated in a way that reflects the demands of the student body.
- Improve the academic experience by working with administrators to improve quality and quantity of course offerings.
- Remain accountable and transparent.

**Carlos M. Chueca**

- Work with administration so students are able to choose from a broader offering of courses
- Make sure to have more events where students can meet with administration.
- Work with the FIU Alumni Association to have career fairs that target CAS majors.

**Kristen Barros**

- Secure a wider variety of prep courses.
- Work with administration to ensure that the majority of classes for specific majors are in same place where there are study areas.
- Encourage students to approach professors.

**Sebastian Larrazabal**

- Push for more student involvement.
- Improve parking.
- Address textbook affordability.

**Stephanie Wietrzychowki**

- Make sure that the College is helping students figure out their career path.
- Work with SGA to take a look at the budget and make sure that the College is being allocated a fair amount of money.
- create Arts and Science career fairs and grad school workshops so that students can see future possibilities.

**Giancarlo Simpson\***

**Jeffery Hernandez\***

**Juanita Louis\***

**Sandra Ramirez\***

**Stephanie C. Ortega\***

#### Business

**Celia Valle**

- Expand College of Business career fair.
- Create College of Business newsletter for Business students.
- Promote environmentally friendly initiatives within COB complex.

**James Harden**

- Create a better relationship between SGA and the student body.
- Offer more lecture-based classes within COB.
- Offer more variety in choice of electives for Business students.

**Jocelyn Cardenas**

- Highlight the resources available to business students.
- Promote business clubs and organizations.
- Promote the CBA career link to help students secure employment before graduation.

**Gabriel Freitas\***

#### Housing

**Christopher Lebrun**

- Keep housing students informed about dormitory construction and listen to their concerns about the matter.
- Open use of Panther Bucks to off-campus food businesses.
- Improve parking for housing students, through convenience and safety.

**Michele “Mich” Feldman**

- Facilitate diffusion of ideas by forming strong relationships with the Hall Councils and RHA.
- Attend all housing events and hall meetings.
- Establish strong relationship with housing community.

**Clement “Mario” Winter\***

**Daniel Diaz\***

**Henry J. Noonan II\***

#### Architecture & the Arts

**Michael Katzmayr\***

#### Engineering

**Bryand Acosta**

- Balance funds efficiently between social and professional events, conferences, competitions and guest speakers.
- Increase collaboration between organizations.
- Reduce the amount of organizations that go inactive.

**Emmanuel Okwor**

- Increase recognition and representation of Engineering Center.

**Laura Gutierrez**

- Improve learning conditions for engineering students.
- Promote resources available to engineering students.
- Host social events to create a sense of community between engineering students.

**Khalid Chaar\***

**Kristopher S. Rosado\***

#### Public Health & Social Work

**Nicole Hosken\***

#### Graduate

**Anas Salah Eddin\***

**Sidney Drake\***

**Svetlana V. Tyutin\***

#### Education

**Katerina Cortina\***

**Kristen Robillard\***

#### Nursing & Health Sciences

**Russhele Flowers\***

**Stephanie Guzman\***

\*Candidate did not respond to The Beacon’s interview questionnaire.



## ART ON CAMPUS

# New mural leaves a mark

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Hope, love, and dominoes are just a few of the canvases painted by students, faculty and staff to help a local artist and University alumnus create a mural of health care professionals.

Aramis O'Reilly, a local artist and teacher of painting and drawing at the New World School of the Art, has begun a mural behind Academic Health Center 3.

"The fact this is a green building designed for the environment and it's the health and science building is my inspiration for this piece," said O'Reilly.

The mural has nearby picnic tables and benches for students and faculty to sit while admiring the piece and taking a break from work or school.

"The mural is of a tree with leaves like a body, or

a system of organisms, per se, which is why cells are being included on the piece as well," said O'Reilly.

Over 25 students, faculty and staff have added their own taste to the mural.

"It gives you an opportunity to develop your imagination and be a part of the building," said Engie Rodriguez, a junior and nursing major, as she painted a mitochondria on one of her canvases.

"It gives energy to the cell which gives energy to the tree," said Rodriguez. "I'm excited to see the final project. Faculty and students interacting is a good way to get away from studies and just relax; painting is relaxing."

Mary Lopez of the University's Athletic Training Department enjoyed making her domino to symbolize her Cuban culture. "We get to represent a little bit of everyone that works in the building.

I look forward to eating and relaxing outside by the mural—and to look for my piece," she said.

O'Reilly offered his art expertise to the participants as they worked rigorously on their paintings.

"I started at FIU in 1981. There were only four buildings, and the campus wasn't very large. I came back for their master of fine arts program in the late '90s. Almost my entire college life has been here at FIU, which makes me very privileged to be able to give back and be part of this project," said O'Reilly. "I even met my wife 25 years ago at [Deuxieme Maison] DM!"

Many chose to paint more than one canvas, which was highly encouraged.

"In the health care department, everyone takes care of everyone. Everyone comes together to help each other to form a big family," said Elizabeth Perez, a junior and psychology major. "It's nice how everyone is coming together from different departments to decorate the building and leave their little mark."

The finished product should be done as soon as possible, said O'Reilly.

"I am currently finishing the last layers of the piece. It will be there forever, you know, so anyone involved has been asked to make a leaf or cell as a contribution to the piece."



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Engie Rodriguez, nursing student paints a piece of the mural.

## MUSIC FEST

# Ultra electrified Miami



For more coverage on the Ultra music festival checkout [FIUSM.com/Life](http://FIUSM.com/Life)



PHOTOS BY VANESSA PAREDES/THE BEACON

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# SGA ELECTIONS

★★ 2012 ★★

CAMPAIGN WEEK • 3/28 - 4/4

WEDNESDAY 3/28 • KICKOFF  
GC PIT • 12 NOON

THURSDAY 3/29 • MEET & GREET  
LAKEVIEW NORTH LOUNGE • 5PM-6PM

MONDAY 4/2 • SENATE DEBATE  
GC PIT • 11AM

MONDAY 4/2 • PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE  
GC PIT • 12 NOON

TUESDAY 4/3 - 4/4 • FIU ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 4/5 • ANNOUNCEMENT

SGA.FIU.EDU

## RADIATE REVIEWS

# Rossen excels as soloist

Daniel Rossen, better known as one of the front men for the darling indie band Grizzly Bear, has always been a very prolific musician.

From his work as a guitarist with Grizzly Bear, to his side project Department of Eagles, to countless bootlegs and collaborations with other musicians (such as Chris Taylor's "CANT" album released last year), there is always plenty of material from him that both delights fans, but also provides some insight as to how Grizzly Bear's sound might evolve in their next record.

"Silent Hour/Golden Mile" is his first production released as a solo artist, and it provides some of the best pop songs I have listened to so far this year. From the simple structure and rhythm presented in "Up On High," to much more complex yet appealing songs like "Golden Mile," Rossen presents a brief yet very dense

look into the next phase of his sound, and provides a very exciting prospect of what his future could be both as a solo artist and part of the Grizzly Bear collective.

Solo projects often branch out as an alternative for the artist to show their "own vision," and in the case of lesser bands, it often serves as a precursor to the dismantling of the group, yet Rossen often utilizes his new sounds as the lab for new ways to contribute for the next Grizzly Bear project.

Whether it is home recordings that eventually turn into proper GB songs, or new melodic approaches and sharper lyrics, all of the band members, in general, tend to maintain proper side projects that help them further their common cause.

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## CLASS DISMISSED

# Prayer makes its way into the pep rally

On March 23, State Bill 98 was quietly signed into law by our very own Gov. Rick Scott, which will allow students to give “inspirational messages” during school assemblies as of July 1.

This includes leading classmates in prayer. Teachers, however, are still not allowed to do so.

As a Christian, I should be excited about this. I should be glad that students finally have a safe forum to share their beliefs with their peers en masse.

Admittedly, I am cautiously optimistic at best.

This law could indeed be great for students who wish to proselytize and serve as a great step forward for religious freedom and expression. However, I

cannot ignore the risk this may pose for students that don't share the religious beliefs of the majority.

To be more specific, I am not confident that a student who wants to share a passage from the Quran or the Bhagavad Gita will be as welcome as their peer who wants to share a passage from 1 Corinthians.

As for non-believers, this law poses a threat to their rights too. Our First Amendment doesn't just give all of us freedom to practice any religion; it also gives us freedom from practicing religion. Therefore, these students may also become marginalized, even targeted for their lack of faith.

At the very least, they will be forced into a highly uncomfortable position should the overwhelming majority of their peers bow their heads in prayer during a required school assembly.

Granted, if any student - or teacher, for that matter - doesn't want to take part in an assembly where spiritual content is included, they reserve the right to simply walk out.

However, in my experience, it isn't that easy. In high school, I was subjected to a mandatory “surprise assembly” in which there was religious content that I didn't agree with at the time.

In theory, I could have simply walked out.

In reality, I was, ironically enough, seated in the front row. Meanwhile, security guards who had a history of not even permitting bathroom breaks during similar student gatherings flanked the doors of the auditorium, thus making a clean exit

highly unlikely, if not impossible.

Later in class, even my teacher expressed her displeasure, stating that had she known about what the assembly entailed, she would have abstained from attending while still allowing interested students to go.

“**If this law is going to be of any benefit, schools must honor all sides by allowing freedom for both the devout and the devoid.**”

We would have appreciated it if we were given a choice to stay behind and remove ourselves from this uncomfortable situation.

Likewise, if a student is to deliver a religiously-charged message under the protection of this law, then students and teachers should be notified beforehand so students can choose to attend rather than being blind-sided as we were.

I am all for freedom of religion and religious expression. In fact, I encourage it. However, if this law is going to be of any benefit, schools must honor all sides by allowing freedom for both the devout and the devoid.

Just as these students now have a right to share their message, other students should maintain their right to not listen. In theory, this law is right in lines with our principles; now, let's see if these principles are either upheld or challenged in practice.

“Class Dismissed” is a weekly column critiquing education in America. Email [jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com](mailto:jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com)

## THE BEACON | Editorial

# The problem with pizza

There is no such thing as a free lunch, especially if it's during election time here at FIU.

The “free pizza” that the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus “provides” students, if and only if they vote, is paid for by all students, through A&S fees, regardless of whether they vote or not.

Not only is this unfair because students are paying for food they will never eat, unless they chose to vote, it borders bribery and it only happens at BBC, meaning students at the Modesto Maidique Campus miss out on the opportunity.

*The Beacon* does not dispute the effectiveness of enticing college students to do a myriad of things by promising pizza—especially in an uncontested election.

However, it is problematic that for some students, the driving impetus to vote stems from the mediocre pizza they are salivating over as they pass by the Financial Aid office.

In a perfect university, students would want to vote because they want to be actively involved in student government. *The Beacon* recognizes this is not the reality; however, holding pizza hostage in exchange for votes is definitely not the answer.

If the rebuttal to this argument is that the pizza encourages students to vote, that only strengthens our concerns - students need to be engaged because of issues and collective interest, not because they are hungry.

We respect SGA for attempting to make politics fun. Perhaps they could have regular “free” pizza parties that center on debates and student concerns prior to election day.

*The Beacon* proposes two ideas to remedy this disparity. One, stop serving pizza. Two, provide pizza for all on election day, regardless if the student votes or not. The latter solution is a fair alternative to the current system.

Another point to make about the problem with promising pizza to students who vote is that it cultivates a cavalier attitude towards voting.

Students who do not know the candidates and their platforms can't possibly become familiar with their policies in the few minutes after receiving their pizza and before submitting their vote.

*The Beacon* loves pizza. We especially love pizza we have paid for, we just don't like it topped with politics.

## RESPONSE TO LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Student Government needs to focus on responsibilities

To the Student Body,

On March 23, 2012, FIU Student Media published a letter on behalf of SGC-MMC President Patrick O'Keefe responding to Samir Patel.

This letter seeks to clarify many of the allegations made in the O'Keefe letter.

It goes without saying that transparency is the cornerstone of good governance. Without transparency, the Student Body cannot know how its resources are being utilized by SGA.

Thus proper implementation of regulations regarding transparency are crucial and, of course, mandatory. Though it appears as if the SGC-MMC has forgotten about the crucial and mandatory part.

The letter written on behalf of O'Keefe is overflowing with political grand-standing and

outright lies.

In the letter, the Student Body is told that the current Administration's persecution attempts against the Coalition of Students for Reform and its members is nothing more than an attempt at greater transparency.

So without evidence, sans a few sarcastic remarks from a Facebook post, the O'Keefe administration filed its baseless writ. The sole purpose of the writ was for political gain.

That act greatly compromised the integrity of SGA and is an appalling use of our government's resources and time.

As a testament to the ludicrous nature of the grievance filed against Samir Patel and Carlos Rodriguez, during the Supreme Court hearing the Attorney General uttered statements such as “CSO [Council for Student

Organizations] governs SGA, I think...”

This shows a shocking lack of knowledge of how our SGA is structured and a disrespectful lack of preparation to discuss the issues at hand.

Statements showing the complete ignorance of SGA structure were not the only outlandish things stated.

President O'Keefe went on to lie to the court, stating how he had requested minutes from CSR.

If this indeed had happened, O'Keefe, his administration, and those advising them would have clearly seen that the secretive meetings they alleged took place, had never occurred.

Furthermore, in their attempt to discredit CSR, they point out how they do not know

how the finances and membership of the organization work.

Again, had they asked, they could have seen how CSR does not have finances, operating on a budget of \$0.

As to our membership, it is clearly displayed on the very same website they used to file the case that membership is open to all FIU students.

Had O'Keefe and his administration bothered to actually ask questions about CSR, perhaps they would not have written the writ, unless of course it was done so for political gain, which is the CSR's contention.

-William-Jose Velez, Coalition of Students for Reform President

To read the rest of this article, visit [www.fiusm.com](http://www.fiusm.com)



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## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to [neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com](mailto:neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# 2012 SGC-BBC candidates all run unopposed

**NADRA MABROUK**  
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It's election season once again at the Biscayne Bay Campus and students can be ready to receive slices of pizza in exchange for their vote in an across the board, uncontested election.

Campaigning is set to commence today and will run until the opening of voting polls.

Elections for the 2012-2013 Student Government Council at BBC will be occurring on April 3 to 4 with voting polls opening from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Academic One in front of the Financial Aid office.

Students may vote in person or from any computer through my.fiu.edu, or through the Student Government Association's website at sga.fiu.edu under the "Get Involved" tab.

Although there have been two petitions filed through the SGC-BBC Supreme Court pertaining to certain candidates eligibility to run for office, all positions in the 2012 election are uncontested.

A total of 12 senate seats are left vacant, including an Arts & Science, School of Education, Honors College, Hospitality Management, Journalism

and Mass Communication, Nursing and Health Science, House, Broward Pines Center, Graduate, and three Lower Division seats.

All but one candidate, Ertha Jean-Francois, will be running as incumbents, with current SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate Pablo Haspel and current SGC-BBC Senator at Large Oluwatobi Adekoya making the jump from the legislative branch into the executive as president and vice president, respectively.

This is the second year in a row that the SGC-BBC presidential ticket will be uncontested.

According to Rafael Zapata, Assistant Director of Campus Life and SGA advisor, mass emails will be sent out to the student body urging those eligible to apply for the senator positions still left vacant.

Students may apply starting May 7, the first week of the Summer A term.

According to Zapata, some of the issues that the SGC-BBC will deal with in the 2012-2013 school year will be the plan for Bay Vista Housing in terms of renovating or creating a new building and the expansion that both campuses are undergoing.

| 2012 CANDIDATES                        |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>President</b>                       | <b>Vice President</b>                             | <b>Honors College Senator</b>              |
| Pablo Haspel                           | Oluwatobi Adekoya                                 | Vacant                                     |
| <b>Arts and Science Senator*</b>       | <b>Journalism and Mass Communication Senator*</b> | <b>Nursing and Health Sciences Senator</b> |
| Desir Nonhomme                         | Kevin Houston                                     | Vacant                                     |
| Ertha Jean-Francois                    | <b>Hospitality Mgmt. Senator*</b>                 | <b>Housing Senator</b>                     |
|  | Xue Yan   | Vacant                                     |
| <b>Business Administration Senator</b> | <b>Senator at Large Senator</b>                   | <b>Broward Pines Center Senator</b>        |
| Ami Nakagawa                           | Olivia Dehaarte                                   | Vacant                                     |
|  | Oluwatamilore Odimayo                             | <b>Graduate Senator</b>                    |
| <b>Lower Division Senator*</b>         | Abel Ramos Taype                                  | Vacant                                     |
| Christopher Morisset                   | <b>Education Senator</b>                          |  |
|  | Vacant  |  |

\*Vacant positions remain

In addition, the new green fee initiative, a one dollar per credit hour fee that would be used towards renewable energy and environmental initiatives on campus, will also be a factor in the upcoming academic year's agenda.

Election results will be announced on April 5.

## HEALTH

# CAPS to host series of events over the week

**DELIAMARY RIVERA**  
Contributing Writer  
bbc@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus Counseling and Psychological Services will hold a Mental Awareness week from March 26-30.

The CAPS Body Image lecture will occur in Bay Vista Housing today from 5 p.m. followed by a CAPS emotional health lecture on March 30 at 8 p.m. The lectures hope to aid students in better understanding mental health issues.

"We want to encourage people to identify when they need to seek help and how they can on campus," said Dr. Xuan Stevens, University Psychologist.

These lectures are meant to alter cliché thoughts of the general public regarding mental health and make them become conscious of the fact that all may experience difficulties while living. Among the topics will be anxiety, depression and self-esteem.

"The lectures were very successful last year and this year we will be incor-

porating very positive aspects," Stevens said. "The goal of this lecture is to help students identify and select strategies to deal with emotional problems."

The first lecture will focus on body image satisfaction with discussions on body esteem as well as male body image.

"A lecture on body image would help me understand that a perfect body does not exist while still helping me expand my knowledge for personal gain and getting my ideal image in a more effective way," sophomore Allyssa Cardona said.

The residents at Bay Vista, the resident assistant coordinators and CAPS staff will coordinate together for both discussions. This is the second year they will take place in Bay Vista.

"Body Image is everything these days to young people," sophomore Paolo Ramos said. "We were born in an age of digital enhancement which has made a lot of us have unrealistic expectations on what we should look like. I think that being reminded that it is so much more than that is always a good thing."

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