



SOMALIA

Somalia asks for aid for drought-hit area

Somalia's government is appealing for international aid for the country's drought-hit population after rains failed several seasons in a row.



LIBYA

Libyan woman gets death threats

A Libyan woman who says she is the person who burst had been gang raped by Moammar Gadhafi's troops told a CNN that she is out of custody but is receiving threats from regime loyalists.



SYRIA

Ban on face veil in schools reversed

Syria closed the country's only casino Wednesday and reversed a decision that bans teachers from wearing the Islamic veil — moves seen an attempt to reach out to conservative Muslims.

Model United Nations team places fourth in conference

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Representing the Republic of India, 24 FIU students joined over 3,000 participants from across the country in this year's Harvard National Model United Nations conference.

The University placed fourth nationally and seventh internationally at the HNMUN conference in March. Held at the historic Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 11 FIU MUN delegates received individual recognitions.

FIU MUN delegates participated in rigorous parliamentary debate, fierce diplomatic negotiations and preparation of draft resolutions, reports and directives.

The 57th annual conference, hosted

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TAKE THEM OFF



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON



MARTIN CAMACHO/THE BEACON

The International Rescue Committee at FIU participated in TOMS fourth annual One Day Without Shoes event on April 5. Students were asked to go barefoot for a day to raise awareness about the risk of disease children in developing countries face when they cannot afford shoes. Students walked through the GC lawn and continued around campus holding signs and chanting, while encouraging other students to take off their shoes and join. The event is a nationwide effort sponsored by the shoe company TOMS. TOMS is responsible for the ONE for ONE campaign which donates a pair of TOMS for every pair purchased.

Engineering students to participate in competition

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

For the first time in the University's history, mechanical engineering students will be representing FIU at the international Shell Eco-marathon competition.

On April 14, Bryam Quinceno, Ryan Sampath, Stephanie George and Pablo Salamea will travel to Houston, Texas to showcase a single-person vehicle, which the team has been working on as part of its senior design project

Founded in 1939, the competi-

tion seeks to acknowledge a team that has designed, built and tested the most fuel-efficient vehicle possible. The idea to join the competition sparked from an email that Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Sabri Tosunoglu sent out to recruit interest in the competi-

tion. Students agreed to take on the challenge.

"We needed a senior design project, but most importantly, we wanted to have the opportunity to have a chance to represent FIU at an international level. Also, the competition is about fuel-efficiency and that

is really important to our mechanical engineering careers," said Salamea.

From then on, Dr. Tosunoglu has guided them through the entire process.

According to the team, the main

MARATHON, page 2

Theater ends semester productions with Twelfth Night

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

The fine line between love, loss and laughter takes center stage in the University Theater Department's final production of the spring semester, Twelfth Night, directed by Associate Professor Wayne E. Robinson, Jr.

Besides entertaining the masses, the play will also serve as one last hurrah for the graduating class. "This is my last play," said Sarai Heria, 22, a senior, BFA Theater major. "Most of the senior class is in it so it's been pretty special."

Heria, who will play Viola, says the journey to becoming Viola has been an emotional one. "I was thrilled to be cast as Viola because I normally wouldn't get a role like this, but having lost my own brother back in December to a car accident I've been able to get a deeper understanding of what the character is going through."

Heria hopes the audience will see Viola as a person and not a literary character.

"I hope people get a feel of the world and understand the humanity of the play," said Heria. "It has a lot of human truth to it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE THEATER DEPARTMENT

The production of Twelfth Night starts Thursday April 7 until Saturday April 10. It will also run again on April 14 until April 17.

For Michael Mena, 22, a senior, BFA Theater Performance major, the process of becoming his character, Sir Toby Belch, was amusing.

"I used a lot of Charlie Chaplin and the Three Stooges to get into my role," said Mena. "He loves to pull pranks and I wanted to find that kind of humor to make sure there was a laugh

once in a while."

For Mena, the casting process was the most fun he's had in a callback.

"I didn't know I had the part until the callback but I was excited," said Mena. "One, it was Shakespeare and two, it's a great part."

The casting process, which began with

presenting a part of a Shakespeare play in initial auditions and later used short scenes of the actual play in callbacks, serves double duty as a teaching process for the director.

"When I cast within the department, the process changes because I know the students," said Robinson. "I use it as part of the learning process to show students what the process is like."

Being cast in the play can also be a nerve wrecking but worthwhile experience for those involved. "The process is so daunting because there are so many people but Wayne [Robinson] gives a lot of directions for what he wants," said Mariette Gallor, 20, a junior BFA Theater major.

Cast as Curio, Gallor looked to magical things to get into character.

"Wayne [Robinson] wanted the characters to be kind of magical and set the plot going so I thought about what was magical to me and thought of music," said Gallor. "I listened to a lot of Coco Rosie and the Flaming Lips."

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MUN team members receive awards, place new records

CONFERENCE, page 1

by the Harvard International Relations Council, pushed the FIU MUN delegates to participate in parliamentary debate, diplomatic negotiations, and arrange draft resolutions, reports, and directives

The HNMUN gives students an opportunity to practice for the National Model United Nations Conference held in New York City each spring.

This year's team managed to set new records for FIU, such as having two first-year members receive the award for best delegate. Also for the first time, six members received recognition for Outstanding Delegates.

"The HNMUN conference is very competitive. For first year delegates it can be a bit overwhelming at first. [We are]

constantly giving speeches, making motions and working to create innovative solutions to current existing international issues," said Ioanna Sanchez, who received an honorable mention in 2010 and an Outstanding Delegate award this year.

At this year's conference, the University's team represented the Republic of India and discussed issues concerning the UN Human Rights Council, World Health Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, among others.

"I strongly believe that the resolutions passed at Model UN conferences would work if they were applied to the world today," said Hayden Simms, who received an honorable mention at the conference.

Among the program's goals are for students to practice public speaking, negotiating and policy writing.

"In Model UN you lose your fear of public speaking and are soon able to speak in front of anywhere from 30 students to 300. You'll be able to engage any audience. Your writing and research skill also improve," said Sanchez, a member of the group since 2009.

The Model UN program at the university is run by the Jack Gordon Institute of Public Policy, within the School of International and Public Affairs, and is offered as a course each spring semester. It is also supported by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Student Government Association.

"My experience in the Model UN program has undoubtedly expanded my grasp of international relations, politics and the overall process of diplomacy," said Simms, a senior delegate. "My ability to do effective research and engage large bodies

of people has improved drastically."

"I have to say the skills you learn in Model UN are useful and can be applied to any major. I have gained skills that have helped me become a better presenter and writer," said Sanchez, an international business major.

The team's next challenge involves participating in the National Model UN Conference in New York City, to be held April 19 at the Marriott Marquis and the United Nations General Assembly Hall, for which they are preparing.

"The team has dedicated every Saturday anywhere from 9am to 4pm, and sometimes 7pm or later to participate in simulations as practice," said Sanchez. "We are a family; we learn together, work together, spend time together and help each other inside and outside of Model UN."

Financial budget issues arise for project, traveling costs

MARATHON, page 1

component of the vehicle is the chassis, which supports the entire weight of the car and the driver. It is aerospace grade so that the car can be very strong but very light, as well.

"When it comes to fuel-efficiency, weight is the biggest factor. We decided to build a shell for the car so that it provides more aerodynamics capabilities for the vehicle. The power system we are using is a breathless motor, which means there is no contact between the parts and the motors," said Quinceno.

The team also eliminated the transmissions so that friction is reduced.

Although the team members were greatly motivated, they faced a major problem. They did not have enough funding for the expenses of the project.

"At the beginning, the

great thing about the project was that Shinde, our graduate advisor, had offered to pay for everything, since we were going to do the work and it was his idea to enter the competition. However, that ended up not being true," said Quinceno.

Quinceno explained that Shinde had offered to provide the team with \$7,000. When the team finalized its budget, including materials and traveling expenses, the total was less than expected. Another obstacle occurred when Shinde could not pay the \$6,000, and was only able to contribute \$1,500.

"That is when we decided to write a proposal. So far, we have gotten money from the Student Government Association and Shell. We have also gotten discounts on some of the car parts. Finally, the rest of the money is coming from our own pockets. Money was definitely our biggest limited resource," said Quinceno.

The team believes their greatest difficulty was to compare the assimilation model to their vehicle. It was also very difficult to build the fiberglass shell and the designing process was also a challenge.

"It was it was tricky to decide how to start, what approach to take, what to have in mind, and how to actually make it look like," said Sampath.

Although the team faced difficulties, they remained optimistic.

"At the beginning, I didn't even know if we were going to graduate because the senior design project seemed so surreal and impossible. A lot of work was required, and we had a limited amount of time. However, we were confident and determined. And now, we are near the finish line, and it all fits into place," said Quinceno.

"I am excited because I am going to be the driver.

It's difficult to explain all the emotions I feel, but I know it will be an unforgettable experience," shared Salamea.

Sampath feels that his last semester at FIU has been extremely worthwhile because of this project.

"Even though this is not my senior year, the group recruited me, and I cannot be any more excited about that. Helping them out during my junior year has been an amazing learning experience. I now feel ready to succeed during my senior project next

semester," said George.

The team has worked on the project for two consecutive semesters. Now, they feel ready for the big day.

"We want to win but we know it is FIU's first time competing, whereas other schools have attended the competition numerous times. However, we are very hopeful that our efforts pay off, and we feel confident that we have done a great job," said Salemea.

Once the team is done with the competition, it has

two options available for the vehicle's future. The team hopes the car can be donated to FIU, so that other undergraduate students can use it as part of their senior design projects. However, Shinde has said that he wants the car for himself.

"FIU and other companies have provided a lot of funds for the vehicle, and we, FIU students, have worked diligently on the construction of the car. We would rather give the car to FIU," concludes Quinceno.

THE BEACON

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BASEBALL

Fitzpatrick earns victory over Bethune-Cookman

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers came home for a short two game series starting Tuesday April 5 against Bethune-Cookman. The Golden Panthers would rally back from three runs down to beat the Wildcats 7-3. FIU (18-12, 4-5 SBC) gave the start to Kyle Fitzpatrick.

PITCHING DUEL

Fitzpatrick would throw a pitching duel going seven innings only allowing three runs on five hits. BCU's infield would halt any offense from FIU in the bottom of the third.

"I threw pretty well early on and Sean came over told me to find my spots and let the ball drop, after that I got my slider going," Fitzpatrick added, "Its always good to get closer to that 40 win mark."

BCU second basemen Alejandro Sanchez would snatch Iosmel Leon out at second to then throw to first get Bermudez out for the double play that would end the hope for the Golden Panthers in the third inning.

The Wildcats would break the scoreboard later on in the top of the fourth inning. After throwing three strikeouts Fitzpatrick would put himself in a hole by walking the BCU leadoff hitter, Paul Biocic. After one out, Peter O'Brien would fire a single deep into left field to bring Biocic home for the first run of the game. Although Sean Allen would have a quick meeting on the

mound, BCU struck again hitting a single down the right field line.

After reaching first, Emmanuel Castro stole second placing two runners in scoring position. After a long fight with Fitzpatrick, Matt Wright would fling a base hit down the right field line for a RBI double to bring in two runs for BCU.

Fitzpatrick would regain his form against the Wildcats by earning his fifth strikeout in the top of the fifth.

RALLY BACK

Leading the way for the rally, Yoandy Barroso would hit a triple to put himself in scoring position. BCU starter Rayan Gonzalez would hit Iosmel Leon to put him on first. After the hit by a pitch, Pablo Bermudez would drive a base hit deep down the right field line to bring Barroso home for FIU's first score of the game.

Bermudez reached all the way to second as T.J. Shantz flew out to left center field, but Leon would eventually score to cut the deficit to one run. Jeremy Patton would swing a deep ball into gap in left field which led to Bermudez coming home to tie the game at three.

Gonzalez was taken off the mound for BCU after pitching four and two-thirds innings giving up three runs and six hits, but earning two errors. FIU took advantage when BCU summoned sophomore Jordan Dailey to finish the game for the Wildcats.

Dailey wasn't able find the strike zone at first, as Yoandy Barroso would reach base after being



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Kyle Fitzpatrick [above] struck out seven batters in seven innings on his way to his fourth win of the season.

walked.

With Barroso at second, T.J. Shantz singled to right field only to get picked off by the BCU catcher at second. However, Barroso would score in time to break the tie and give the Golden Panthers the one-run advantage. FIU would stop any opportunity for BCU's offense to rally back with an inning-ending double play.

Martinez singled through the right side. Jabari Henry would continue the FIU offensive by hitting a single into a right field gap to take Martinez

all the way to third putting the insurance run in scoring position.

The Golden Panthers would summon Garrett Wittels off the bench to pinch-hit for David Vazquez in the bottom of the eighth inning. In his only at-bat, Wittels blasted a three-run homerun past the right field wall. With Wittels' homer, FIU would jump ahead 7-3 over the Wildcats. "He's been getting better all year not only on offense but on defense and we were looking for insurance runs, it was big play, no doubt about it," Turtle Thomas said.

Bryam Garcia sealed the deal for FIU, closing the game in the ninth.

Garcia this season has a 1.32 ERA, striking out 21 batters.

Turtle Thomas wasn't very happy throughout the game but was pleased with the result.

"I was angry for the first five innings, but Kyle is a great player and he's mature enough to overcome adversity," Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Alabama to return to conference play for a three-game series against Troy on April 8.

TENNIS

After difficult home loss, team hopes to rebound

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women's tennis team is coming off a tough home loss, their first of the season, to a highly ranked opponent in the Southern Methodist Mustangs, ranked No. 36 in the nation according to the latest polls.

After the disappointing home loss, the Golden Panthers experienced a dip in the national rankings, dropping seven spots down to No. 69 in the nation.

LOOKING FORWARD

Despite the tough loss, the Golden Panthers are looking to rebound and build some confidence as they head into the Sun Belt Conference tournament. Before that can happen though, the Golden Panthers will have to get through the University of Center Florida on April 16.

Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au is looking for her seniors to have a major contribution.

"From here on out, the older

upperclassmen can teach the younger ones," Applebaum-Dall'au said.

Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley will have to play key roles in that match for the team to be successful against UCF. Brito, who ranks as the No. 57 player in the nation, had won nine matches in a row before Sunday's loss to Marta Lesniak, the No. 9 player in the nation.

Spenceley had also won nine matches in a row before suffering a loss to Aleks Malyarchikova. Coach Applebaum-Dall'au is still happy with how her seniors have played all season, regardless of how the last match turned out.

"I would consider Liset and Maria to be fantastic seniors," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "They are embracing being a senior and they are really enjoying it. That is really important."

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS

It has not just been seniors who are playing key roles for the FIU Golden Panthers. Players such as Lisa Johnson and Chris-

tine Seredni have also picked up points for the team that have clinched many of the matches. Of the nine matches the Golden Panthers won in a row, the two have accounted for more than half of the match clinching points for the team.

Freshman Guilietta Boha has come into the team and gone under the radar. After a rocky start to her career, Boha has settled in and won eight of her last 10 matches of the season. She was also the only person to pick up a point for the team in their loss to the SMU mustangs last Sunday.

SENIOR DAY

The next match will be the final time that Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley will step on the court for a home match at FIU. The duo will try to end their college careers on a high note when they face off against the UCF Golden Knights next Saturday. The match could be a catalyst for the team's success heading into the tournament, which begins April 20.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Christine Seredni [above] has helped FIU clinch a number of matches.

Shakespeare play comes to the modern era



LINDA LEE/BEACON FILE PHOTOS

The Ruby Sunrise (left) and Pride and Prejudice (right) kicked off the theater's spring productions, with Twelfth Night premiering on April 7.

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The language has also proven to be one of the more difficult challenges for those in the cast of Twelfth Night.

"I took a lot of time with the language and getting the rhythm of everything," said Roxanne Almaguer, 22, a Junior, BFA Acting Major. "Being cast was very last minute and I play the character of Antoinette, a tough girl, and I auditioned when I got back from the gym so I wasn't girly at all, but rehearsals have been incredible, you learn something new every day but I'm always open to it."

Twelfth Night will also feature original music composed by Nathalie Nodarse, 22, a Senior, BFA Theater major, who will bring life to Feste the Fool, as well as many other students.

"He [Feste] says the greatest and wittiest things but he also serves as a commentary about the characters and life and humanity in general," said Nodarse. "Twelfth Night though has a lot of song lyrics but the melody hasn't survived and we had the freedom to bring our own influence to the songs and mix popular melodies with the lyrics."

"It's the closest Shakespeare has come to writing a musical," said Robinson.

And while the actors led the audience in song on stage, backstage Tatiana Pandiani, 21, a junior, BFA Theater major, works hard to make sure everything runs smoothly.

"It's rewarding and pays off but it's a lot of work," said Pandiani. "I combine all the elements and make sure they all come together to form the best show possible."

Pandini's responsibilities also include going through rehearsal with the entire cast and making sure their cues are on time, as well as coordinating the ideas of the crew, actors, and designers, among others to help fulfill the vision of the director.

"I want to make Shakespeare accessible to the audience and make them feel it has something to do with them," said Robinson. "We're going to use contemporary clothes and melodies to make sure the audience enjoys themselves and sees that Shakespeare can be fun and isn't as dull as everyone thinks."

Robinson, who has directed over 20 plays such as The Lie of the Mind and Pericles said, "This kind of play shows that what Shakespeare wrote about is something that is still relevant and the humor and feelings found in cross dressing

and gender confusion are still funny but terrifying to people."

Robinson also desires that everyone involved in the play will see the kind of work involved but will embrace the theater and discover a newfound love and understanding for it.

"It's an enormous amount of work, but it serves its purpose: the community gets a show and the students gain from the experience."

"I give the audience permission not to feel stupid because the actors also had trouble reading the language when they first began, but if the play is bad, that's on us. We want them to see Shakespeare in a different light sure but mostly, we want them to laugh," Robinson said.

Twelfth Night will run from Apr. 7 to 17, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students.

REEL TO REEL: SPC FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES

Tron series displays campy stories but awesome effects

I faced a particular predicament before reviewing *Tron: Legacy*. Mainly, that I hadn't seen the first film since I was

ten years old when it aired on the Disney Channel. It only seemed fair that in order to review the second film in the franchise, I'd have to brave the original one first.

TRON (1982)

Any reviewer would be doing you a disservice by not addressing the obvious: this Reagan-era piece of sci-fi is not, and should not, be remembered for its plot (we'll get to that later). It is remembered as a turning point in the visual effects revolution of the 1980s that is still impacting cinema today.

Ever "ahhh-ed" while watching a giant tidal wave headed for New York? Thank *Tron*. (Then blame Roland Emmerich and Michael Bay for abusing these effects).

This is the kind of film where a group of twenty-somethings agrees to break into a major corporation's

Master Command Program after a two minute conversation and without any thought toward the consequences.

Pre-*Lebowski* Jeff Bridges plays the lead, Flynn, an arrogant, handsome video game programmer, who spends his nights coding and managing an arcade. He's the kind of guy who'll take off his t-shirt in front of his ex-girlfriend and her boyfriend only to put on an identical one in a different color. I guess to prove a point?

Flynn, robbed of several games he developed by former boss, Ed Dillinger (David Warner), tries to break into the computers at ENCOM, his former workplace, to get proof.

Meanwhile, the Master Command Program is slowly becoming a sentient being, assimilating millions of programs into its memory while developing a will to rebel against humans (read: Skynet syndrome). Flynn enrages the system and is somehow beamed into the computer program.

This sequence, in which a laser breaks down Flynn on the molecular level and introduces him into the computer world, is itself the greatest

visual effect since Douglas Trumbull's work on *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Eventually, the film becomes an allegory of Roman barbarism as the MCP demands Flynn, along with dozens of other programs, be forced to fight in gladiator-esque games against each other and commanded to renounce their "users," who the programs believe created them.

Did you ever see *Spartacus*? This is *Spartacus*, but with less loin cloths and less character development. But more lightcycle races. And ultimate Frisbee. Except if you lose, you disintegrate. Those scenes are part of our collective cultural conscience.

Stay for that.

TRON: LEGACY (2010)

See everything I wrote about the first film? Now paste that here.

Flynn gets trapped in the system. Again. Except this time his stay isn't over night. Try 20 years. That's one hell of a video game.

Flynn's son Sam, (Garrett Hedlund), orphaned and left with his grandparents, grows up but is soon summoned

into the system for mysterious purposes that are really not that mysterious if you've seen the first film. Sam has spent the past two decades either brooding or thrill seeking.

Hedlund has the acting skills of a cabbage, but that's stating the obvious. Olivia Wilde performs "that" role in the film: shut up, put on the tight suit and look pretty. She does this very well.

However, it is the look of this film that'll keep you from suffering an aneurism. *Tron: Legacy* demonstrates the same level of visual ambition that its predecessor demonstrated almost 30 years ago.

The grid of old has been transformed into the ultimate post-PC vision, full of the deep blacks and blues and oranges that have defined the visual palate of action films for the past decade.

An equal achievement, besides creating the grid, was the work done to recreate the face of Bridges circa 1989 and seamlessly add it into the new film. Bridges reprises his role as Flynn and also performs as Clu, a program created by Flynn to manage the grid but is eventually corrupted, seeking too much

power. Clu retains the likeness of a younger Bridges.

Expect more allegories about oppression and totalitarian states. And more lightcycle chases. Those are awesome!

What this film doesn't have that makes the first film fun to watch, however, is that sense of optimism for a new technological age. It makes

the original film campy but forgivable.

The first film, despite its groundbreaking effects, is a relic of its time. I find that this could be the case some thirty years from now when we look back on *Tron: Legacy*.

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on films. Look for it every Friday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Student portal desperate for user-friendly revisions

Normally, when I criticize something technological at the University I do so with my harsh and unfor- giving wit in hand. But bees are better caught with honey so I will try to be nice. The school's student portal, myFIU, is so unpleasant it's



JORGE VALENS

like...no, no Jorge; control yourself. Today I had to log onto myFIU to check some of my final exam days among other things, and I have to say that the best way to describe the experience was unpleasant.

The pages and the menus are all buried or named in the least friendly way possible. The welcome screen is an assortment of different boxes, each with its own purpose. First you have the "Enterprise Menu" box that houses the site's main navigation. Here you can choose to go to "Campus Solutions Self

Service." The average user would only see this link, however the little arrow next to it opens up to reveal most of the system's navigation. Look, where normally I would go on and on, ranting about how tricky the site is and how it took me 15 minutes to figure out how to vote for Student Government elections, I think it's best to focus on what myFIU should be.

Wait, Jorge doesn't want to rant? Shocking, I know. Power through the surprise and sadness and follow me on this journey won't you? With the tools available to even the most modest of developers, a website that is not user-friendly is simply unacceptable.

I think when a student, be they a seasoned super senior or a brand new freshman, logs on to their student portal it should be simple, clutter-free, and easy to navigate. Right now, that's not the case.

Just because the University basically chose to make myFIU the primary way for

students to interact with the services they need doesn't mean that the bare minimum should be applied.

Students should want to use this system. They should want to make it their homepage.

It should have a really prominent search function that would allow a student to search the web and maybe internal FIU stuff like the course catalog and faculty directory.

Also, the user interface should be more refined; make the titles easier, streamline the amount of options and label them something that students can easily understand.

The site should not only be simple to navigate but it should be browser and device neutral. Currently, the myFIU system works best on Internet Explorer and Firefox, leaving Chrome and Safari users out.

Personally, I have found the website to work best on Firefox 4 over IE but I shouldn't have to download another browser to use it. The

myFIU portal should work regardless of whether I am on Chrome or Firefox, iPhone or Android, Mac or PC.

The future of myFIU should be to utilize solid development tools like HTML 5 to build an online system that functions more like an application than a website. Moreover, the University should look to build reliable and feature-rich native applications for popular mobile device operating systems like iOS and Android.

Like I mentioned earlier, just because students have to use this system doesn't mean that the University should get by with the bare minimum.

They should build this platform as if they have to sell it to students; treating it like any other mainstream consumer web project.

I should want to use this site, but for now I use it because I have to.

Fistfuls of Tech! is a weekly column on all things technology.

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COMIC RELIEF



BLANCA MORALES/THE BEACON

Senior Sabrina Tirfagnehu (left) and Nicia Mejia (right) laugh at comedian Ron G's parody of President Barack Obama on April 4 in GC Ballrooms.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APR. 8

TWELFTH NIGHT

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15 for general admission; \$12 for seniors and FIU faculty/staff; and \$10 for FIU students and members of the FIU Alumni Association.
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center's Black Box Theater

HATHA YOGA

WHEN: 1:30-2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Behind the organic garden

BIKE-IN MOVIE

Ride your bike to the FIU Nature Preserve and partake in sunset yoga. Afterwards enjoy a relaxing movie.
WHEN: 9-11 p.m.
WHERE: MMC FIU Nature Preserve

CONJUNTO PROGRESO WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTURO SANDOVAL

WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Bayfront Park

DAVID SEDARIS

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$42 to \$57
WHERE: Parker Playhouse

SAVE509 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

WHEN: All Day
WHERE: FIU South

SATURDAY, APR. 9

TWELFTH NIGHT

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15 for general admission; \$12 for seniors and FIU faculty/staff; and \$10 for FIU students and members of the FIU Alumni Association.
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center's Black Box Theater

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT BISCAYNE BAY: "OPERA ARIAS AND ENSEMBLES"

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$30 for reserve seating
WHERE: BBC Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre

MIAMI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE FIU WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: See MISO website to purchase tickets
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

RACE TO THE RESCUE 5K WALK/RUN

WHEN: 8-11 a.m.
WHERE: Miami-Dade Fairgrounds
PARKING LOT: Off SW 117th Ave b/t SW 8th St and 40th St District

MIAMI YULE BALL 2011

WHEN: 7-11:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

SUNDAY, APR. 10

TWELFTH NIGHT

WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15 for general admission; \$12 for seniors and FIU faculty/staff; and \$10 for FIU students and members of the FIU Alumni Association.
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center's Black Box Theater

TROPICAL BRUNCH IN THE REDLAND

WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15-\$40
WHERE: Schnebly Redland's Winery

SAVE509 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

WHEN: All Day
WHERE: FIU South

SIGMA STUDY SESSIONS

A place for students to come and complete their work or study for any upcoming tests, quizzes, etc.
WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Graham Center, in front of Bustelo and Burger King

HEART OF A CHEF

WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10-\$50
WHERE: Miami Science Museum

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

School of computer science uses inadequate methods

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Computer science is a broad and financially promising career field, yet many students majoring in Computer Science and Information Technology may find that what they learn does not adequately prepare them for a career.

It is easy for many people to be passionate about computers and technology, which makes choosing a major in that field a relatively easy choice. However, the University's School of Computing is not providing the education that many students were undoubtedly looking for.

It is a difficult situation for a student who may believe they know enough to attend higher level computing courses, just to become lost when new material arises. It is not uncommon for many computing classes to lose one third to one half of students by the drop date.

Many classes in the School of Computer Science and Information Technology rely on information from prerequisite courses. As an information technology major, many

of my own class periods have been spent explaining to the professor that some students may know some concepts and others may not due to differences in the quality of the prerequisite course. Although the course content should be the same, there are inconsistencies in what is taught from professor to professor in the same course.

Different teaching styles between professors only exaggerate the differences in learning between students. The course schedule can be delayed for the professor who must now review for some students, if they are lucky enough to have a professor who would do such a thing.

Numerous professors use Power Point presentations to supplement their teachings in class. Although this is a common method, it cannot be the only strategy a professor uses. Power Point presentations are a good method for teaching concept-based lessons and are also good for allowing students to take notes in class, but they lack effectiveness when used to teach things that must be practiced, such as programming languages like Java and Visual Basic.

When teaching operating systems,

programming languages and more complicated aspects of computing, it becomes more beneficial for the professors to use a more hands-on approach. It is much easier

During several IT courses, I have felt I would be better off trying to learn the material on my own because of a professor's difficult teaching style or methods.

for students to see the intricacies of more technical programs and processes when an experienced user shows live demonstrations. Most students, such as the majority of Professor Juan Martinez's Intermediate

Java Programming course, believe that Power Point presentations are simply a sub-par teaching method, especially when used to teach difficult technical concepts.

During several IT courses, I have felt that I would be better off trying to learn the material on my own because of a professor's difficult teaching style or methods. Many aspects of the Computer Science and Information Technology curriculum are too complex to simply gloss over with Power Points and handouts, and it can become very stressful when a student feels that they must learn something completely by themselves and then apply it to an assignment.

Although most professors surely mean well and answer questions during class and office hours, they are not always available. But, when it comes down to it, nothing can replace a student's drive to open a book and learn the material. Professors should put forth the extra effort to provide the best teaching methods relative to the content.

It is difficult to feel prepared for a career in a field that one may be passionate about, but may not be getting the best education in at the University.

American news cycle needs an upgrade

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Our national media outlets have lost their collective minds. One only has to look at the travesty that is CNN's 24 hour news coverage to see what I mean.

Last week, I tuned in to the illustrious news mogul and watched, shocked, as the reporter directed the viewer's attention to one of the computer screens in the news room, whereupon the camera zoomed in to the computer screen so those of us at home could watch a YouTube video.

It seems there is just not 24 hours' worth of news. Cutting these stations down to a few hours a day would force companies like CNN to report on things that are important instead of filling air-time with drivel.

Unfortunately, when there is a global event occurring which deserves up-to-the-minute news coverage, I have repeatedly found I cannot trust my own country's news outlets. Too often in lieu of stories that educate me as to the state of the world or even my own city, I am forced to sit through the results of the latest reality show or "World's Ugliest Dog Competition".

If a station is going to show news 24 hours a day, I understand that some of it has to be inane, but when important things are happening, I expect 24 hours' worth of news on that. Instead, I am often forced to head over to BBC World News for my information.

One of the major selling points of this new

I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up-to-the-minute news coverage... but the fact remains that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible

generation of communication is its quickness. Social media and worldwide Internet access have allowed us to connect globally as well as locally.

I can chat in real time with someone half a world away without racking up massive phone charges. This ease of access to the world has fundamentally changed the way we as humans communicate, but it has also changed our expectations of the media.

Because of these changes, we now expect up-to-the-minute updates on things that might have a global impact. With how invested we as a country are in the Middle East, economically if nothing else, I was inordinately upset that I had to turn to the British in order to receive news on the ongoing political turmoil.

When the revolution began occurring in Libya, CNN, arguably one of the biggest sources for televised news in the country, was barely reporting on it. A search of the articles published to CNN.com on Feb. 16, one of the first days of the Libyan Revolution, reveals

that there were three articles on the uprising. Even CNN's "breaking news" Twitter feed was unhelpful, posting links to a whopping two articles on the ongoing uprising over the course of the day.

CNN picked up the slack in the following days, but I cannot forget that first day as I frantically scrolled through Twitter feeds and the official sites looking for any news and coming up empty.

I know that it might seem a little over the top to expect up to the minute news coverage half a world away, but the fact remains that we have the technology. We can expect it because it is completely possible.

As Charlie Sheen had his meltdown, there was a constant stream of information coming down the pipelines. It is not too much to ask that things which deserve national attention come at the instant pace I know these services can deliver.

If I want to watch YouTube videos, I have an Internet connection of my own, thank you very much CNN.

PERSPECTIVES

Who received your vote for SGC-MMC President? Why?



"I voted for Alina and Kevin because they plan on lowering tuition."

Vanessa Casanueva, Freshman, Criminal Justice



"I voted for the O'Keefe team because I feel that they represent the interests of the University the most and they will bring diversity and new ideals to the University."

-Mnar Muhareb, Senior, Political Science



"I voted for Alina Gonzelez because I heard that she is going to lower tuition."

-Diedward Dominguez, Sophomore, Modern Languages



"I voted for Patrick. He basically wants to do the best for everyone."

-Julien Desjardeins, Senior, Civil Engineering

-Compiled by Neda Ghomeshi

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for size, grammar, and clarity. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



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CUBA

Cuba claims ex-Reuters boss helped CIA

State-television accused a former bureau chief for the Reuters international news agency of arranging a meeting on a between an undercover Cuban agent and a U.S. diplomat claimed to be a CIA operative.



HAITI

Haiti's pop-star president knows politics

Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly has turned out to be a serious, skilled and successful candidate. He captured nearly 68 percent of the vote, defeating opposition leader and former first lady Mirlande Manigat.



PUERTO RICO

Toddler dies after being left in hot car

A 21-month-old toddler was left for hours in a car seat while his apparently distracted gynecologist mother worked at the medical office in the town of Barceloneta. He was found unresponsive in the back seat.

Demand, numbers theme of townhall meeting

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

University President Mark Rosenberg has grand expectations for the Biscayne Bay Campus within the next 10 years.

During a town hall meeting which took place on April 6, Rosenberg said he expects BBC will grow by 5,000 students, faculty will be hired, and the schools of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Journalism and Mass Communication will double in size.

Yet Rosenberg also made clear in order for the campus to receive improvements on issues such as housing and facilities' hours of operations, BBC must prove there is enough demand for it.

The discussion of this predicament, along with other topics, led to an open dialogue which lasted half an hour past the meeting's scheduled end.

Shana Kaplan, comptroller for the BBC's Student Government Council, posed one of the first questions.

"With the talk of the student body growing here, what are you doing to make sure that growth does happen here? Because there's talk of not having improvements until the student bodies are here, but what is happening to ensure that that growth is happening?" Kaplan asked.

Rosenberg responded that his vision is to work with philanthro-



ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA/THE BEACON

pists due to the dwindling budget, but said he will speak of the specifics at a meeting which will take place at BBC on April 14.

Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president, tried to get a more clear answer.

"I'm going to put you a little bit on the spot here," Halpin began. "A lot of us want to know what's going to be done now in terms of planning and where the vision is, where it's going and what is being currently done to improve upon a lot of the aspects of

our campus."

When Halpin asked what the plan for improving housing is, Rosenberg called to the microphone Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs.

"When the question is asked: what comes first, the students or the investments? For housing, it has to be a parallel kind of process," Jones said.

Jones explained it must be ensured the "mortgage" will be paid.

"Now, we have 270 beds at [Bay Vista Housing.] We have 80 percent



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Left: Dean of Hospitality and Tourism Management Mike Hampton (right) discussing food options on campus along with Associate Vice President of Business Services Jeffrey Krablin (left) and University President Mark Rosenberg (on stage) at the Town Hall Meeting on April 6 in the Wolfe University Center Theatre.

Top: Chief Financial Officer Ken Jessell (left) talking to Max Barraza, a junior finance major (right) on the lack of security cameras around campus.

occupancy at this point, the highest we've had in years," Jones said.

Jones then said last week 620 beds were approved at the Modesto Maidique Campus, because they were able to demonstrate demand; MMC housing is at 100 percent and there is a waiting list for students.

Chrisin "CiCi" Battle, SGC-BBC president, stood to present the opposite of Jones' argument.

"The fact we've reached 80 percent of folks in the housing building with this current quality is

amazing," Battle said. "Talking to other students, if [BBC] had amazing housing, then do you know how many people would live here just because of the location?"

The campus must be provided with something sustainable to attract students, Battle said.

"I guarantee you, if you all would build housing with 600 beds, we would get them full, but we need classes!" Battle said.

Because of the many voiced-concerns, Rosenberg was pleased after the meeting.

"My expectations were exceeded here because we got excellent questions, the students stuck with it for the full two and half hours, and they dug in. I like that," Rosenberg said to Student Media after the meeting.

Rosenberg pointed out he had to push students to clarify their exact issues in order to understand them.

"That's why I asked the international student for two priorities, and that's why I said what exactly are the numbers for the Rec center," Rosenberg said. "I mean let's be as specific as possible. That's the only way we can generate results."

Jones was not deterred either.

"The questions were right on as some of the issues that are most important to us on this campus," Jones said. "Everybody here wants to make the campus a better campus, address the issues, and I'm sure soon you're going to see some progress."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Student detachment also to blame for lack of candidates

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Staff Writer

Campaigning for elections was hard to miss for students at the University, at least at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. At the Biscayne Bay Campus, on the other hand, both the literal and metaphorical signs of a campaign being in progress were few and far between.

Scattered throughout BBC on April 5, the first official day of SGA elections, were signs announcing Chevrolet representatives were on campus allowing students to check out and test out different Chevy makes, but more specifically the Volt. Only two banners could be found announcing SGA polls were open, along with a board set up in front of the bookstore identifying the candidates with the positions that they are running for.

The SGA info-banners were the only election related publicity that were readily visible throughout the campus. At MMC it is nearly impossible to not run into posters, signs, or flyers advocating either Patrick O'Keefe and Sanjeev Udhani or Alina Gonzalez and Kevin Gonzalez

the presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively.

Angela Adams, SGA elections commissioner for BBC, explains that in terms of publicizing the most recent election. As per a July 23, 2009 Memorandum from the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC titled "Posting Guidelines for Promotional Flyers," SGA was limited due to campus rules regulating the posting of flyers and signs to designated area.

To work around the limited posting areas, a student listserv of BBC students was used to send out election information.

However, it could be argued that there was no need for such promotion at BBC.

For the multiple SGC-BBC positions up for election, all of them had candidates that were either running unopposed or the seats were slated to remain vacant due to no candidate emerging from their respective college or school.

"The Student Government Association is committed to making your issues our concerns in order to serve your needs," reads the SGA website.

However there are students, like Santiago Luna, who simply don't care to see their needs met.

Luna, a sophomore international relations major, had no reservations when critiquing BBC. But when asked what his main issue with the campus was, Luna said, "there is a complete disconnect between the students and campus life."

To put the student detachment in perspective, Luna described an encounter he had, on a Friday earlier in the semester, with an Abercrombie and Fitch recruiters who came in search of prospective employees but were met with a deserted campus.

This detachment comes as no surprise to any student who has taken classes at BBC.

When describing a typical day at BBC, Thalia Chan, a junior hospitality major, shares a similar routine to the majority of BBC students.

"I'm not here often," Chan said. "I'm usually only here for classes, so when I get [to BBC] I go from my car, straight to class and then back."

SGA is faced with the challenge of catching the attention of students who primarily commute to a campus that holds only a handful of classes for the University's colleges.

"They need to get more visual. I

don't see them around campus at all," answered Tashana Lewis, a junior public relations major, a week before elections commenced.

Despite the lack of visibility, there's also an issue of students being able to participate in elections, both as candidates and as voters.

Not all students are able to actively get involved due to their responsibilities outside of the classroom. Whether it's due to the size of the work load associated with class, either a part-time or full-time job, or a combination of the two, not all students are able to get actively involved with campus life.

"Honestly, between classes and work I'm not really able to [get involved]. Before I transferred I was very much into being aware of what was going on campus, who was running and stuff. But since I started, I just haven't been able to," said Jessica Valdez, a junior advertisement major.

Yet there is still a good portion of students who feel the same as Christian Farah, a sophomore business student.

"I know there are SGA elections, but I'm not voting because I'm not engaged in school stuff," Farrah said.