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New online requirement for incoming students

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Starting the summer of 2015, all incoming students will be required to take an online prevention workshop on sexual assault, relationship abuse and other emotional distress before enrolling at FIU.

The program will be required for all incoming students, starting with those who enroll Summer 2015. It will be launched by the division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Victim Empowerment Program at FIU.

“Because the workshop is required and everyone has to complete it, then all students will learn about the resources that are available to them on campus,” said Victoria Carney-Paine, health educator for the Victim Empowerment Program and FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. “This is one way that we’re hoping provides that extra prevention and awareness about these topics.”

The Victim Empowerment Program

provides confidential assistance to FIU students, faculty, staff and University visitors who have been victimized through threatened or actual violence and helps them support the healing process.

The center takes part in outreach activities to educate the FIU community on the resources available to them, while also raising awareness on topics like sexual assault.

“When people are told that they shouldn’t talk about sexual assault, it’s like shaming and blaming the victim. We’re saying it’s their fault and they did wrong — and that isn’t true,” said Carney-Paine. “If we don’t talk about it, we’re not going to learn how to prevent it and it’s never going to end.”

One of the programs that the center offers, other than its confidential services, is the Peer Education Program. The center interviews, trains and hires students to be ambassadors across the University. Those ambassadors then educate others on topics of sexual assault and mental health.

“The ambassadors are involved in lengthy training sessions and become very familiar with victimization issues,” Carney-Paine

PIC WITH SAINT NICK



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Graham Center Student Assistant Elyssa Nassar takes a photo of student assistants Mikahalia Berkman and David Diaz, who was dressed as Santa, at a charity event benefiting United Way on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

said. “When they’re ready, they go out and do presentations and help us raise awareness across our campuses.”

Zoey Laren, junior sociology major, has heard about the Peer Education Program and believes that it’s a great way to spread awareness on issues of mental health and sexual violence.

“I would love to be part of that one day because it’s making a huge difference. I’ve

met some of those ambassadors in passing and they have brilliant ideas,” she said. “The way in which they captivate you and help you understand how to deal with these issues is inspiring.”

Ana Moran, senior majoring in special education, is especially fond of the new requirement for incoming students and

SEE SEX ASSAULT, PAGE 2

New partnership and facility to help student botanists

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The University recently partnered with the National Tropical Botanical Garden to create the International Center for Tropical Botany, a non-profit educational addition to the University that will utilize FIU-NTBG expertise to study and preserve plant life here in South Florida.

As a symbol of commitment, NTBG donated land at The Kampong, a garden once home to renowned plant explorer David Fairchild and now one of NTBG’s tropical sensations, to the University for ICTB’s headquarters to be built on.

“It [the donation] was very much a statement from National Tropical that they are very serious about the partnership and that it is a long-term investment,” said Mike Maunder, interim director at The Kampong and the University’s associate dean of research engagement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The University has long since been recognized for its world-class tropical botany team and NTBG realized the

potential of the collaboration.

“We saw in FIU a partner who recognized the value of tropical studies, botany in particular, and was willing to

an outstanding opportunity to advance both of these areas,” said Associate Dean Mike Heithaus.

According to Wichman,

“We saw in FIU a partner who recognized the value of tropical studies, botany in particular, and was willing to step up, really invest in that area and partner with us.

Charles Wichman
Director & CEO

National Tropical Botanical Garden

step up, really invest in that area and partner with us. I guess you might say that it was a match made in heaven,” said Charles Wichman, director and CEO of NTBG.

ICTB is a series of partnerships, FIU and NTBG being at the center, with botanical institutions across the globe, all dedicated to locating, identifying, studying and finding economic uses for tropical plant species.

“With an ever-growing need for both harnessing the potential of tropical plants to help people as well as conserve these species in nature, an FIU-NTBG partnership was

many institutions are shutting down their botany departments in favor of molecular studies, leaving a hole for FIU students to fill and excel in — given our ideal tropical location, and now the access that students have to NTBG staff and facilities, many of which are located in Hawaii and surrounding islands.

“It’s an increased opportunity to work with some of the best botanists in the world. It’s an opportunity to study in the phenomenal facilities here at The Kampong. It really gives them [students] a platform for international influence,” said Maunder.

FIU-NTBG have recruited

and hired Chris Baraloto, a world-renowned expert on rainforest botany, to be the director of ICTB. Once Baraloto is officially on board, FIU-NTBG will initiate the full design of the new headquarters and start the permitting process, after which construction will begin.

Maunder anticipates this to be a two year process. The William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and the Batchelor Foundation have both generously donated \$2.5 million to fund the construction of ICTB’s headquarters and get the ball rolling.

However, FIU-NTBG plans to get started right away.

“We don’t need to wait for a building for the center to take shape. It can already begin as an academic center, which will, in the meantime, be shared between people who have similar academic interests and are now aligning themselves with this center,” said Wichman.

For students interested in tropical botany, ICTB provides a unique opportunity to learn from the greatest botanists this country has to offer and to internationally transform the lives of people in need.

University gears up for finals with Cram Jam

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It’s that time of year again — final exams week.

In preparation for one of the most stressful periods of the academic year, the University is extending library hours and gearing up to keep students well fed as they study for their final exams.

The week will kick off with a 24-hour study hall in the Graham Center in Modesto A. Maidique Campus, which will last from Monday, Dec. 8, to Thursday, Dec. 11.

Fresh Food Company will also open its doors at 10:30 p.m. to serve students a midnight breakfast on Dec. 8.

Massage sessions, along with time slots in which snacks, hot tea and aromatherapy

that will be offered, will be taking place throughout the week in the MMC and the Biscayne Bay Campus, with a special massage session being offered in the Engineering Center on Dec. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“What we really want to do with Cram Jam is give students a better experience during finals, when they’re really stressed out, when they’re not really concerned about their health or their well being,” said Student Government Council at MMC President Alexis Calatayud.

Calatayud mentioned that the University aims to make various campus resources readily available for students during Cram Jam, which costs about \$10,000.

“It’s important and it’s a tradition at FIU,” she said. “That’s why we do it.”

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Heavy cell phone usage leads to uptight college students, Kent State study says

Frittering away hours on your smartphone playing games and using social media may seem like harmless fun. But a new Kent State University study suggests it’s actually making you more uptight and stressed out.

Kent State researchers studied the cellphone habits, personalities and daily leisure activities of more than 450 college students, concluding that many need to disconnect more frequently from their phones.

“It’s just so critical for parents to encourage and teach their kids to approach their free time a little more creatively,” said Andrew Lepp, co-author of the study and an associate professor in Kent State’s College of Education, Health and Human Services.

He and fellow Kent State researchers Jian Li and Jacob Barkley and graduate student Saba Salehi-Esfahani determined that heavy cellphone users — those using their phones about 10 hours a day — don’t have much of a personality outside their phones, are more prone to boredom and don’t have the social skills to entertain themselves with other activities.

Mental health bill seen as ripe for revival next year

The 113th Congress is almost certain to wrap up without action on comprehensive mental health legislation, but the sponsor of a bipartisan House bill is pledging to “revise and revive” his proposal next year.

Pennsylvania Republican Tim Murphy said he is reviewing the wide-reaching measure to see what needs to be clarified after getting feedback from lawmakers, families and professionals.

Although the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill in April, the measure stalled after it attracted pushback and Arizona Democrat Ron Barber introduced a competing bill with solely Democratic support. Murphy said his Oversight subcommittee, which hosted a number of events on mental health, understood the breadth of the issue, but that the challenge of communicating his message more broadly was apparent at the Health Subcommittee hearing.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, these people have no idea what we’re talking about,’” Murphy said. “This is really about helping families, helping patients, helping them change their lives.”

Laurel Stine, director of congressional affairs for the American Psychological Association, said one factor was that Murphy introduced his bill late in the first session, leaving only half of the 113th Congress for its review. The measure is also large in scope — falling under several committee jurisdictions — costs money (though a formal score hasn’t been released) and wasn’t fully embraced by the mental health community as a whole, she said.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Faculty senate discuss sex assault, FIU Global

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Questions for the Faculty Senate pour in as the University prepares for the pilot run of the FIU Global First-Year Program in partnership with Shorelight Education.

Shorelight will recruit international students on behalf of FIU in 36 global markets, said Basil Cleveland, executive vice president and co-founder of Shorelight Education. At the same time, Shorelight will be recruiting for about six other universities, including the University of Central Florida.

Cleveland presented at the final senate meeting of the semester on Dec. 2, to explain how this 15-year partnership would expand the University’s international presence.

From now on, undergraduate international students that receive a certain score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language will be admitted through the FIU Global program: a six- or 12-month intensive English-speaking course and community in the residence halls of Modesto A. Maidique Campus during their first year at the University.

Students that receive a TOEFL score above a certain threshold can opt out of the program. The new TOEFL score requirements are yet to be determined but will be presented to the Faculty Senate in spring.

The program is supposed to help first-year international students have a smoother transition into the American university system and, in turn, improve second-year retention rates.

President Mark B. Rosenberg previously told Student Media that improving second-year retention rates was one of the critical metrics for FIU to improve in the Board of Governor’s Performance Funding Model.

Faculty were concerned with many details of this agreement. For example, journalism professor Neil Reisner wanted to know details of the contract and how Shorelight would be making a

profit in the partnership.

Cleveland said that the company funds the recruitment and program, and it claims 10-percent of each student’s tuition if they are successful in the program.

Joan Baker, associate professor in the department of English, was concerned as to how the program will affect faculty, especially adjuncts that are not full-time employees.

With a new program that would require specific courses, Baker was worried that faculty labor would be “exploited.”

“The worst we could do is get more students than the capacity to teach and have a bad educational experience.”

Basil Cleveland
Executive Vice President & Co-Founder
Shorelight Education

Cleveland assured the senate that the number of students would always fall within the University’s capacity.

The first batch of students would start next fall semester for the pilot program. The goal is to bring between 50 and 100 students for the first year of the program, Cleveland said.

The number of students admitted into the program would eventually grow, depending on the University capacity.

“The worst we could do is get more students than the capacity to teach and have a bad educational experience,” Cleveland said.

Also at the meeting, the Title IX team at the University made a presentation. They spoke about the University’s

involvement with the national “It’s on us” campaign.

The teams is made up of the University’s general counsel, the title IX coordinator, student affairs, members of student conduct, victim empowerment and the police department.

For years, the University has included training pertaining to sex assault on campus in the freshman orientation program. With recent scandals on college campuses nationwide, the University will be giving more training sessions to comply with new Title IX requirements.

For one, there will be online training for faculty, said Shirlyon McWhorter, the University Title IX Coordinator.

Larry Lunsford, vice president of student affairs, said that all greek pledges recently received an hour-and-a-half sexual assault seminar.

Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director and deputy title IX coordinator, said that all student athletes also receive training.

Other efforts include alerting students about potential dangers, like the incidents with the cyclist roper earlier this semester.

“About 80 schools are under investigation due to Title IX violations,” McWhorter said. “FIU is not one of them.”

According to the 2013 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, there were five sexual assault cases reported on campus and in the study abroad program.

However, sexual assault is a daily concern for any university, because students can be assaulted on or off campus.

According to the Victim Empowerment, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted in college and only 13-percent of rape survivors report assault.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the Wertheim Conservatory, room 130 at MMC.

University furthers sexual assault initiative into 2015

SEX ASSAULT, PAGE 1

wishes it would have been installed sooner.

“I feel like a lot of people are so clueless about sexual assault and about how important this is for our generation,” said Moran. “The online workshop would do a phenomenal job of raising the general level of awareness for all these topics. People won’t be clueless anymore.”

There’s always been a concern over sex assault on college

campuses, but Moran thinks that there is a renewed interest because of the pressure placed by the Obama administration this year.

“It’s always been important, but people are just talking about it now because it’s when Obama decided to talk about it,” she said.

The center also offers a 24-hour hotline for students and the general public. Those needing assistance can call (305) 348-3000.

THE BEACON

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Raised hands shouldn't raise tempers

SAMANTHA SMITH
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In recent years, I have noticed a discouraging and unhealthy habit that has formed in nearly every classroom I have attended. This is not about putting gum under your desks (which — come on — you should have stopped doing by now), but about asking questions.

Everyone has experienced it. A curious hand raised during class almost always elicits a roll of the eyes or a groan from someone in the room. Even I have caught myself mentally demonizing fellow students who ask professors about concepts I already understand, as if incomprehension were inherently evil.

When did it become a bad thing to clarify something you did not quite grasp?

Probably when your school system, friends or family made you feel stupid for not knowing something they did. A lot of people stopped asking questions a long time ago to save themselves from embarrassment.

Contrary to popular belief, asking questions does not make you an idiot. Yes, there will be people who try to

make it seem as though you are of lesser intelligence for not knowing something, but those people can be described with four-letter words. Ask any belittler why it makes you dumb to try to understand something and,

“

Contrary to popular belief, asking questions does not make you an idiot.

”

overwhelmingly, you will find that it simply does not.

Of course, there are instances in which the main reason for confusion stems from a lack of attention being paid. Even if these are annoying, consider that one person asking for repetition or clarification is highly unlikely to derail an entire class period, let alone any statistically significant part of your day. In the grand scheme of

things, no one is getting hurt.

Everyone has their reasons for and against asking questions, but instead of demeaning or becoming exasperated with those who do not understand a concept, it would be a better practice to help them achieve a higher level of knowledge— not just in the classroom, but in all walks of life.

No one should have to pretend to know something for the sake of pride. The pursuit of knowledge is an everyday endeavor, and the best way to get answers is to ask for them.

There is an elementary school adage I had nearly forgotten about on this subject: “Listen to what people ask. You might find you had the same question.” Or, you might find, that someone else in the room might have social anxiety and are unable to ask for themselves.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions when you do not understand something, and be patient with those who do the same.

From now on, I’m pledging not to think questions are bad. I just wish I had figured that out before I got to college.

Tis the season to go shopping: Black Friday

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After a great day of eating platefuls of food, drinking wine and spending quality time with friends and family, we should take a moment to reflect on how grateful we truly are. After all, that is the whole point of Thanksgiving: to slow down and be thankful.

Sadly, millions of Americans are not gratified with what they have and, in turn, want more— casting a dark cloud over Turkey Day, making it lose meaning with each passing year. This commercialistic shade is created by none other than the zombie holiday that is Black Friday.

Every year, Black Friday’s value catapults significantly as more people raid department stores, discount stores and outlets, rummaging through mounds of flat screen televisions and iPads to find the best deals for the holiday season.

Who could blame them? When

companies like Wal-Mart are offering HP Touch Laptops for 60 percent off or 50-inch LED HD Televisions for 40

“

Black Friday has become so embedded in American life that millions of people camp outside these stores for days in advance to ensure the best bargains aren’t taken by their friends and neighbors.

”

percent off, it would be un-American of someone to not try to grab these deals, even if it means angering hoards of moms

and dads as you cut them off in line.

Black Friday has become so embedded in American life that millions of people camp outside these stores for days in advance to ensure the best bargains aren’t taken by their friends and neighbors. Many of these offers come in very limited quantities, so if you’re not like Derek Dearmond of Fort Meyers, who began camping outside of Best Buy on Nov. 10, your opportunity to snag a good deal might not become a reality.

The question becomes clear. How have we, as a country, reached the point of establishing tents with food, water and pillows outside a store to buy things?

We’ve let ourselves become self-absorbed consumerist machines, priding ourselves on material possessions because we believe it adds value to who we are as people. If we don’t own the latest tablet, the newest computer or the coolest sneakers, we feel outworn and subordinate. Black Friday has accelerated this learned notion and simultaneously placed Thanksgiving

in the backdrop.

It only gets worse. Companies love Black Friday, as expected. Last year alone, people spent more than \$50 billion on Black Friday, and while this help to the economy is fine, we pay a price for it— many times the safety of others.

In 2008, a man was killed at a Wal-Mart in New York as a wild mob broke the doors off its hinges to rush inside. He was run over by over 200 unstoppable shoppers.

Since its beginning, Black Friday has seen multiple deaths and over 90 injuries.

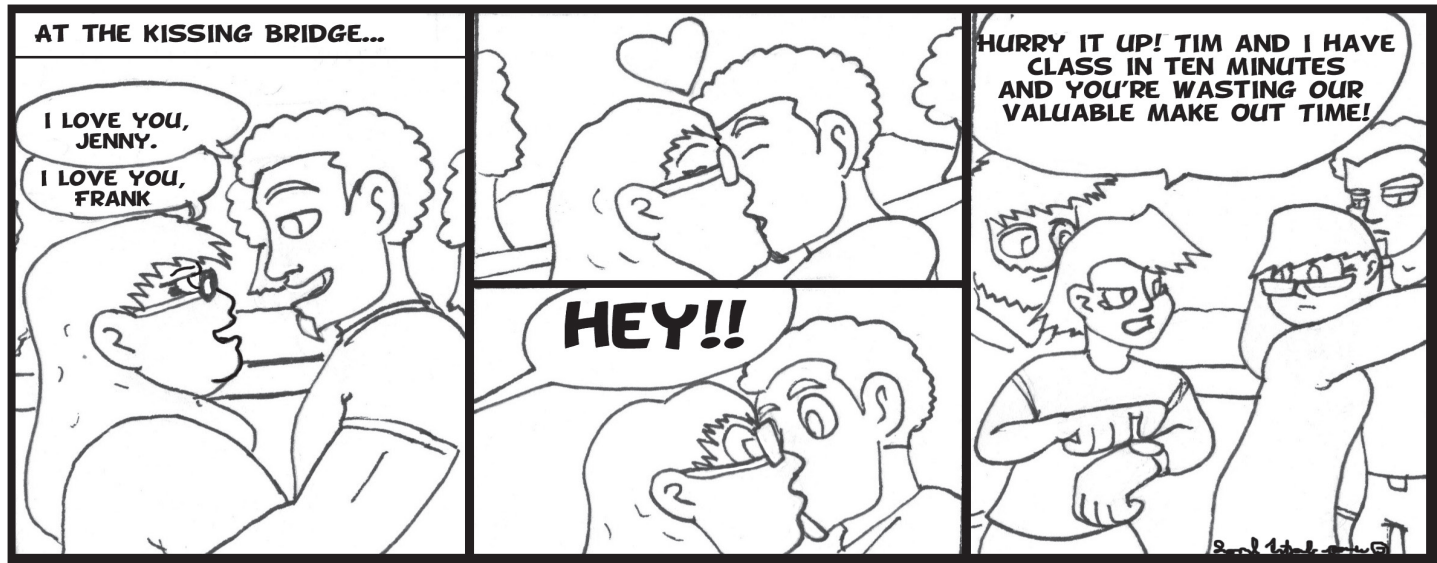
What we need to do as a society and as a nation is stop giving into the madness that is Black Friday. Let’s not be mocked and criticized by other countries who see us as the country of irony, wherein one day we give thanks and the very other we resume indulgence and selfishness. Let’s refocus and never forget about Thanksgiving, which is meant to be about friends and family, not iPhones and televisions.

Many of us students have part-time jobs, and we know what it feels like to work an 8-10 hour shift on Black Friday at 2 a.m., literally hours after you finished your dinner of turkey and mashed potatoes.

We, especially, should boycott Black Friday. Yes, this is a country where money talks and money matters, but as a young generation of students we have the power to change how things are run. We have that ability.

Next year, let’s remember this, and tell our friends in our classes, our professors in our lectures, our TAs in the math lab; Black Friday is not helping our society. It only takes one to tip the balance, so if we can influence millions of college students to influence other teenagers and adults across the country, we can make a difference.

FRANK & IRENE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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With two performances in, student says her eyes are set on Broadway

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Harboring an infectious smile, theatre student Juanita Olivo walks with a certain confidence and charisma. Pursuing a BFA in performance and with aspirations

to act in Broadway, she wasn't always so self-assured.

It took changing her major from dietetics and nutrition to international business, and then to hospitality before Olivio finally found her calling in theater and acting.

"I feel like I am a very normal

student, and something happened to me that happened to a lot of people, where they come in not knowing what they're going to study. I actually changed my major three times before I decided to do this," she said.

Her latest role was in Juanita's Statue, a play written by Anne-Garcia Romero and directed by Michael Yawney. She played the lead female, also named Juanita, who disguises herself as a man to protect herself and in the process meets other people and helps them to discover the love that is within themselves. The play opened up this season on Friday, Nov. 7 and lasted two weekends before its close on Sunday, the 16.

"Juanita Statue is an elaborate role and I really had to work at making connections with other actors and developing her," she said.

Being in theatre and acting itself has helped her to become more fearless, not just on stage, but in everyday life.

"With acting, you have to be open to criticisms and throw yourselves into the part-- just do it. Action cures fear," she said.

"With this profession, you get to experience a whole range of emotions that many people don't show or experience that often. People repress a lot of things, and in shedding all of that you get to be raw and real."

Juanita's Statue isn't the only role that this young theatre student has done. In the summer of 2013, she starred in

another play at FIU called The Bachelorette. The play centers on a few friends reuniting for a Bachelorette party, and they end up doing drugs and partying with hopes of making it to the wedding in one piece.

Just this past summer she had participated in two professional shows in Miami. They were small one acts, and she had to do each of them in a span of one week.

"In a span of one week I had to memorize, rehearse and perform for both shows. I feel like if I did all of that, I'm pretty much ready for anything," she said.

She portrayed a homeless woman in one of the shows at Artistic Vibe. In doing so, she was able to recognize the ignorance and stereotypes that are in our society, peeling all that back in playing a character with such a stigma attached to him or her.

"No matter how far your reality is from the person you are portraying, you can always find the nugget of truth, and a connection to the character which makes it more real. I come into it in a place without judging, you can never judge characters," she said.

In contrast, at her second gig, which was in Downtown Miami at the Micro Theater, she played a lesbian at a sex shop. It was a scene between two women, in which one of the characters falls in love with the other, but doesn't have a happy ending, but a more realistic ending.

"That one was fun," she said.

"In portraying these characters and different emotions, I feel like I have so much access to my inner self that a lot of people don't."

Olivo's next performance will probably take place in the spring, once auditions begin for upcoming shows.

When asked about what her near and future acting prospects are, her response was:

"The whole acting dream. You know, moving to L.A., et cetera. I just take it as it comes."

Another one of her dreams is to do a couple theater productions in France, and perfect her studies in the French language.

"The fact that I can take my craft, take something that I love, and bring it to other cultures and other people . . . To me, that's just so great," she said.

In today's society, not many people see acting as a secure job so there is a less-than-favorable reputation attached to pursuing a degree in theatre. Despite these uncertainties, Olivo is unfazed and determined as ever to pursue her passion.

"I feel very lucky because I grew up in a household of entrepreneurs. We have a different mentality. We take life by the horns. I have a very relaxed attitude towards my future, it's like a certainty that I know things will work out in the end. I know I'm going to make it no matter what."



LESLIE BLANCO/THE BEACON

Juanita Olivo, a theatre student working towards her BFA in performance, has aspirations to one day act in Broadway.

Word Alive vocalist describes experience as a singer

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The Word Alive played in the Culture Room of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on Nov. 19, and I had the pleasure of sitting down with vocalist Telle Smith on the day of the show.

Telle joined the band about six years ago, and it hasn't slowed down ever since. The band is currently on a headlining tour in support of its latest release, "Real." The album was released June 10 of this year and has garnered praise from old and new fans alike. With the addition of drumming sensation Luke Holland, The Word Alive was able to produce an album that shows how much it's grown since its conception.

The Word Alive is Smith on vocal duties, Luke Holland on drums, Tony Pizzuti and Zack Hansen on guitar and Daniel Shapiro on bass. Support for the "Get Real Tour" is The Color Morale, Our Last Night, The Dead Rabbits and Miss Fortune.

How's the experience of your headliner been so far?

Telle: It's been pretty awesome so far. Today, while it's cold for you guys, it's one of the warmest days on the tour so far. It will probably be the last decent day until the very last day, so we'll take it!

It's been six years with the band. What would you tell yourself six years ago?

Telle: I would've given myself all the advice on how to take care of my body. A lot of people don't realize that a lot of things you do on stage and off tour affect the person

that is on stage. At the same time, because of going through everything I have its enabled me to continue to write songs that are relevant to my life and help people. I'm still thankful for all the things that I didn't know and had to find out the hard way.

What have been the recurring themes of all the albums leading up to "Real?"

Telle: There's been a couple things that carried over, but I think "Real" was the first time I tried to end that. Empire had "How to Build an Empire" and it goes into Deceiver that had "Hounds of Anubis" and into Life Cycles with "Dragon Spell." Each of those songs were connected. I carried over lyrical themes from album to album until "Real." I wanted to write a completely different record and get a little more creative with getting my thoughts and ideas into a song.

How do you continue to challenge yourself when you go into writing a new song?

Telle: When I go into recording an album I put it in parts that I can do in the studio, but it's very challenging to do in a live setting. Due to doing it that way, then when I play and I'm pushing myself live, then I'm growing. I do the same thing the next album. I want to get better and that's a huge part. I pick up on little things from singers that I like. I've discovered a lot of things about my voice just from listening.

What would be your favorite memory from recording?

Telle: My favorite memory from Empire was just getting our first CD done. For "Deceiver," we just had a great time whether we were recording or just hanging out. "Life Cycles" was my least favorite album to record because we

were separated for the most part and there was a lot of tension at the time. We just lost two members and we really didn't know what direction we were headed. My favorite memory was when I flew to Indiana and I was hearing the songs starting to come together and the quality was getting better and better! With "Real," I loved every second of recording the album. Each day was my favorite. There's more diversity in "Real" than anything. That album shows a lot of aspects of The Word Alive.

What was the motivation for writing "The Runaway?"

Telle: We actually wrote that with the legendary producer John Feldmann. There was a side of our band that we wanted to showcase. We've never really done songs like "Lighthouse" and "The Runaway," so we went to Feldmann to record. I wish we wrote a couple more songs like that. As much as I love singing and screaming, I consider myself a singer. We only had two days and we wrote and recorded those songs, which is the fastest we've recorded anything.

It shows more talent when you sing more than you scream?

Telle: It's harder. It's more melodies and expression. It's easier to scream because something is heavy. In our song "Terminal," there's a part where it drops and gets heavier and the natural reaction is to scream, but I was like, "I feel like this is meant to be a singing part." There is a lot more singing on certain parts that normally wouldn't be. That was a conscious effort that I made to challenge myself to sing as much as I could even though the record is mostly heavy.

The Word Alive will end the year with this the Get Real Tour Dec. 13 in Arizona. The album "Real" is in stores!

JAM SESSION



DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

FIU school of music students Taylor Vega(far left), Kenneth Jimenez (left), Sam Savage(right) and Jerry Jerome(far right) perform at the FIU News Music Ensemble on Tuesday, Dec.2.

Miami artist extends her experience in makeup

COLUMNIST
REBEKAH KEIDA

As a 3-year-old in Miami, Aileen Quintana would rummage through the drawers in her mother’s bathroom, grab any cosmetics she could find and stealthily apply them to her father’s face while he slept on the couch.

“He would wake up in drag,” Quintana laughs. “That’s my earliest memory of makeup.”

That was over 20 years ago. Quintana’s obsession with painting faces has continued to grow, which is something that she says perplexed her Cuban parents.

“They didn’t understand

it. They migrated from Cuba, where a life in art is not a really promising career,” Quintana said.

Now, after 10 years of experience and featured work in Vogue and Elle magazine, both Quintana and her parents know art was her only option.

“I live my life as art— it’s completely conceptual,” she said.

And as Quintana has grown, so has her concept. She has collaborated with big names such as YSL Cosmetics, Fendi and Betsey Johnson.

“My life runs further than makeup. I do way more. It started out as a platform for production and then creative direction,” Quintana said.

One of her favorite moments was working for Indian designer Manish Arora during Art Basel in

Miami four years ago.

“I had to design 15 makeup looks. I went mad trying to figure it out but I did it,” she laughs.

Quintana currently manages multiple art installations around the world that have a reflection beauty and fashion.

“It’s cool how makeup opened up my world to so many more possibilities,” Quintana said.

This past year, she has been working with Dwyane Wade’s personal stylist, Calyann Barnett, on the creative direction for his new collection of sneakers to be debuted this upcoming Art Basel in Miami.

“I stopped dreaming a long time ago. I feel like I am already living my dream.”

“I have epiphanies every day.”



REBEKAH KEIDA/THE BEACON

Aileen adds final touches to a model before she walks the runway during Funkshion fashion week.

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SWIMMING

Panthers look for strong home stretch

STEFANO RIVERA
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Coming off a second place finish at the Mizzou Invite hosted by the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., the Panthers will be looking to improve on their (4-0) start.

While students are home for winter break, the team has a busy schedule. The team will host a total of four events.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, they will face off against University of North Florida. The Ospreys have started off the season (0-3), but have been led by senior swimmer Maria Bernard and junior swimmer Amy Taylor. UNF Head Coach Ian Coffey will do all he can against the Panthers.

Next up, the Panthers will be hosting their own Invitational. On Saturday, Jan. 3, they will play host to the FIU Sprint Invite. A season ago, the Panthers finished in second place in this event. They hope to use the “home field advantage” to their favor.

A few days after competing in the FIU Sprint Invite, the

Panthers will be hosting three teams in a mini tournament on Thursday, Jan. 8: Central Connecticut State University, Texas Christian University and Florida Atlantic University.

The Blue Devils of CCSU have started the season off at .500 with a 2-2 record. However, Blue Devil freshman swimmer Maddy Garber has just won Southeast Conference swimmer of the week. Garber will be looking to use that award as momentum for this event.

TCU comes into this event with a record of 2-1 and finishing in seventh place in the University of Texas Diving Invite. Senior swimmer Ali Bleasdel has finished in first place in five of her races this season.

FAU will be coming into this event with a record of 1-1. Although they have not had many matches that count on their record, they have been in three other events. This has given the Owls a lot of experience thus far in the season.

The Panthers will have to look out for FAU junior swimmer, Agnes Bucz. She won FAU Player of the Week after breaking two school records at the Georgia Tech Invitational last weekend

of Nov. 20.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Panthers will finish their winter break action with the FIU Relays. In the past, many teams have come to Miami to compete in this event. Just like the Mizzou Invite, this will be an important test for the Panthers to see how they are midseason.

After a strong performance at the Mizzou Invite, Panther freshman diver Rebecca Quesnel won her third Conference USA Swimmer of the Week award. The Panthers will need that same performance in these upcoming events.

The Panthers will be looking for performances from freshman swimmer Silvia Scalia as well. All season, Scalia has been helping her team by providing energy and youth.

By the end of this stretch of hosted events, the Panthers will have played an array of teams from different conferences.

If the Panthers continue what they have been doing all season, they can see themselves going to the C-USA championships in Knoxville, Tenn. This would be the most challenging event the team has competed in this year.

Dolphins in playoff mix with win over Jets

TNS STAFF

Ryan Tannehill saved the Miami Dolphins’ season with a huge assist from Dion Sims and Miami’s resilient defense.

Tannehill directed the Dolphins to scores a touchdown and a field goal on their final two true drives to rally Miami past the Jets 16-13 on Monday night, averting a year-wrecking embarrassment on national television.

The win improved the Dolphins to 7-5, and for the time being, slid them into the sixth seed in the AFC; they haven’t been to the playoffs since 2008. The Jets fell to 2-10 in the loss.

So how did it happen?

Because the defense made the play it hadn’t all year.

And because Tannehill stepped up. He completed 5 of 8 passes for 68 yards in the fourth quarter. No two throws were bigger than the darts to Sims on the Dolphins’ late drive to set up Caleb Sturgis’ 26-yard, game-winning field goal.

Sims caught passes of 18 and 17 yards on that decisive possession, the latter coming on third-and-7 with the Dolphins on the edge of Sturgis’ range.

Then it was up to the Miami’s defense, which blew late leads to the Packers, Lions and, most recently, Broncos.

Reshad Jones made sure history wouldn’t be repeated. He picked off Geno Smith’s final pass, an effort into double coverage to Jeff Cumberland that was deflected by Jelani Jenkins with 39 seconds left in the game.

“We were due to be in a game like this,” said Dolphins coach Joe Philbin. “You’re going to have to win some of those games in the NFL.”

The fact the Dolphins were even in the game was a testament to the Jets’ ability to foul things up. New York bulldozed Miami for 277 rushing yards and yet somehow lost.

And although Tannehill wasn’t great throughout, he was good enough when he needed to be. He finished 25 of 35 for 235 yards, and led the Dolphins to three second-half scores.

They needed every one.

A week after allowing 201 rushing yards

in Denver, the Dolphins’ run defense picked up right where it left off. On New York’s second drive, Chris Johnson shook free and shook nearly the entire Dolphins defense for a gain of 47.

Greg Salas then took an end-around 20 yards to the end zone, putting the Dolphins in an early 7-0 hole.

After a missed Sturgis field goal wide left from 43 yards the Jets went on the march again. They ended a fast-paced first quarter with 131 rushing yards the most gained by a team in the first quarter in any NFL game this season.

Nick Foles booted through a 40-yarder to again put the Dolphins down by two scores in the first half resurrecting a troubling trend from early in the season.

The only way the Dolphins could stop the Jets was when the Jets needed Smith to throw. He horribly overthrew Percy Harvin for a would-be touchdown, and Foles missed a long field goal on the ensuing play.

Sturgis did connect from 43 yards to put the Dolphins on the board before halftime.

Miami whittled into the lead more on the opening possession of the second half but should have had a touchdown instead of a 44-yard Sturgis field goal. Mike Wallace had a score in his grasp but couldn’t pull in a slightly off-target pass from Tannehill.

Compounding failures, Sturgis sent the ensuing kickoff out of bounds, giving the Jets a short field. They converted that gift into three points of their own; Folk’s 45-yard attempt bounced over the crossbar to stretch the lead back to seven.

Then, the game just got wacky.

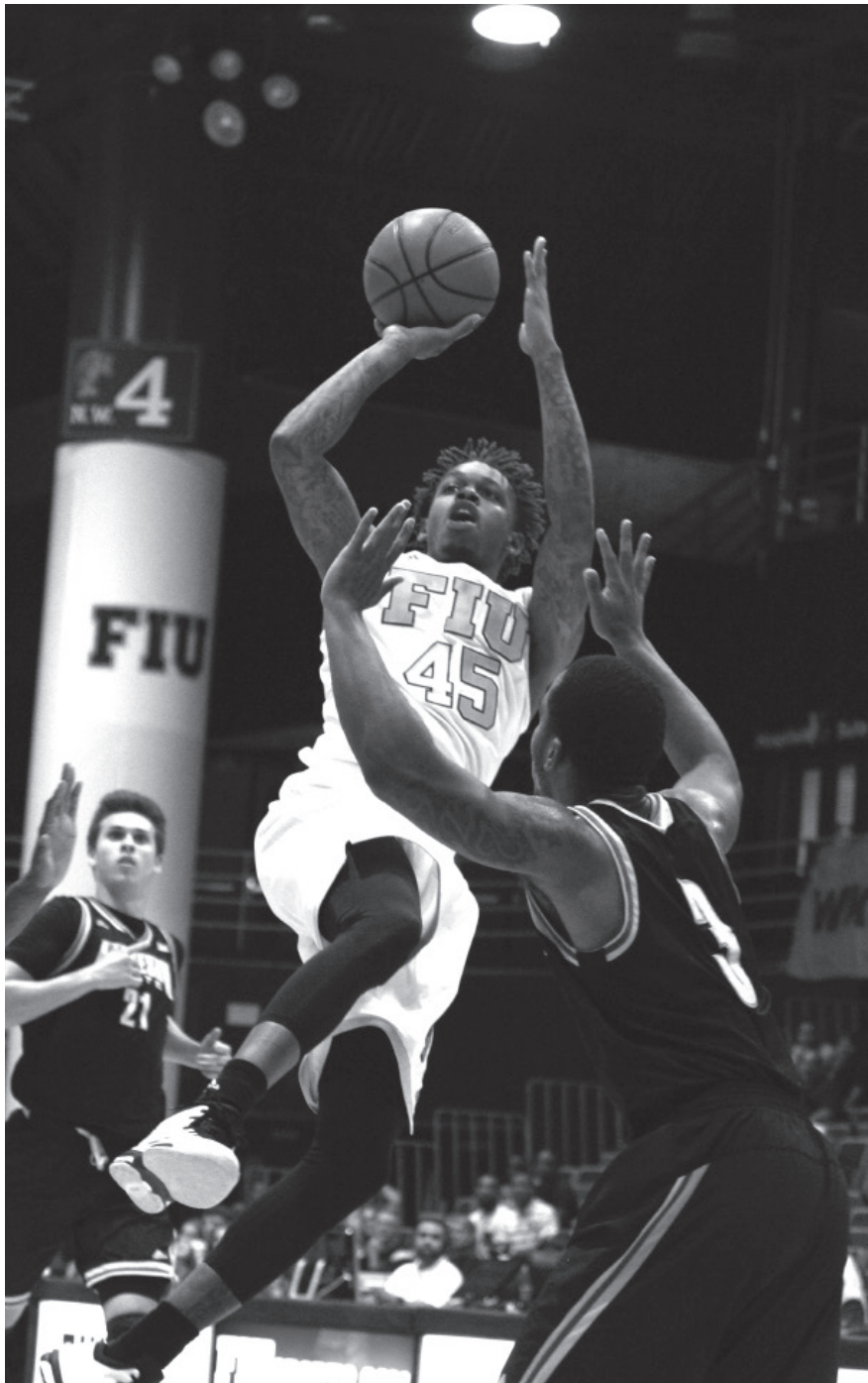
On consecutive plays, Dion Jordan deflected a punt and Tannehill threw a pick that wasn’t remotely his fault.

First, Jordan’s deflection of Ryan Quigley’s punt netted just six yards for the Jets. Then Tannehill, under heavy pressure, tried to dump off the pass to Lamar Miller. But Miller batted the low throw into the air, allowing Darrin Walls to intercept the pass and return it 25 yards.

The Jets should have gone up two scores. Cam Wake had other ideas. He dropped Smith in the backfield on third down, forcing New York to punt.

Another dynamic defensive play this

GULLEY GLIDES



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Senior gaurd/forward Kris Gulley picked up seven points on Tuesday, Dec. 2 in the game against Kennesaw State University. Gulley helped the team to come out with a 59-38 victory for their fifth win of the season. The Panther’s next match is against University of Louisville Friday, Dec. 5.

time Jones ended a drive near the Jets goal line gave the Dolphins great field position early in the fourth quarter

This time, they made it count. Tannehill found Jarvis Landry on a 25-yard crossing route, setting up a four-yard touchdown run

by Miller. And after all that came before it, the Dolphins were in a tie game with just over 10 minutes remaining.

“We might not be in the same mood right now if we didn’t make those plays,” Philbin added.

BASKETBALL

Women’s basketball struggles for first win

REBECCA CHARUR
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The start of winter break for students means the end of finals and the end of an eternal fall semester. However, winter break for the women’s basketball team means more basketball.

Fresh off the Thanksgiving Classic, the Panthers are set to play in-state rival University of Central Florida on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Knights have proved that they are a strong home team this season, opening the season with a 4-1 record at home and an overall record of 4-2. UCF’s last loss came on the road against University of Massachusetts, who they kept up with for the most part but stumbled late in the second half.

After an 0-5 start to the season, FIU is looking for any spark to get them over the hump and earn them their first victory. They may take advantage of catching the Knights at the U.S. Century Bank Arena instead of away where UCF won their last game against University of North Florida 60-56.

With 37 bench points, this game showed UCF’s competitors that their underclassmen are poised and capable of leading a rally to secure a victory for their team.

Following the rivalry game, the Panthers will go on the road to face Jacksonville University, Western Carolina University, and Wofford College in

consecutive road games. The first game of the winter break road rally will be played at Jacksonville on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Jacksonville Dolphins have had a mediocre start at 2-4; nonetheless,

University of Florida, who both boast a 5-1 record on the season.

On the other hand, Jacksonville’s two wins thus far came against Bethune-Cookman University and Trinity Baptist

their largest winning margin in school history with a 98-24 victory. They held their opponent, who now sits at 3-5, to only seven points in the first half.

FIU will then remain in Jacksonville to play Western Carolina (3-3) and Wofford (1-5) on back-to-back days. These games will be played as a part of UNF’s Holiday Tournament and are also the Panther’s best chance to get a win before the start of Conference USA play.

Wofford’s only win came in their home opener against Big South Conference rival Charleston Southern University. Since then, they have dropped three games against Jacksonville State University, Gardner-Webb University and South Carolina State University.

Finally, the Panthers will make the drive back home, hopefully with a few wins under their belt, to host Auburn University on Monday, Dec. 29, and either Hampton University or Bowling Green State University on the following day. With the final buzzer of this game, FIU will conclude their play of non-conference opponents and will begin to face off against their much anticipated C-USA foes.

Over winter break and continued through the remainder of the season, the first of these conference games will be played against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University on Sunday, Jan. 4 and Middle Tennessee State University on Thursday, Jan. 8.



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Junior guard Destini Feagin takes the ball to the hoop against Cleveland State University Sunday Nov. 23. The Panthers lost 65-73. Their next game is against University of Central Florida Sunday, Dec. 6.

the team is not to be judged on their record. Two of the losses came against strong teams in Syracuse University and

College. A record was broken in their most recent game of the season against Trinity Baptist, as the Dolphins tallied

Panthers find juice in energetic win over Red Wings

TNS STAFF

The lights went out Tuesday morning at Joe Louis Arena.

They came back on for the Florida Panthers in the evening as they salvaged the second night of a back-to-back tour through the Midwest with a 4-3 victory against the Red Wings.

It took Detroit’s Pubic Lighting Department five hours to get the power back on following a widespread outage that darkened most of the downtown area.

The Panthers likewise found the juice that was missing the previous night when they looked lost in the dark in Columbus.

Goals by Jimmy Hayes, Sean Bergenheim, Vincent Trocheck and Aaron Ekblad provided the impetus and Roberto Luongo, back in goal after missing two games and part of another with a strained arm, stopped 36 shots.

Hayes set up Trocheck 27 seconds into the third period off a turnover deep in the Detroit

zone for the goal that enabled the Panthers to seize control of a closely contested game. Trocheck faked a backhand and slipped a forehand around Jimmy Howard for his second goal.

Ekblad applied the crusher with 12 minutes remaining with his second goal in two nights. The 18-year-old rookie, who grew up across the river in Windsor, Ontario, fired a slapper from the left point that brought a rain of boos from the home crowd.

The Red Wings showed some life when Pavel Datsyuk clanked in a rebound off the crossbar over a fallen Luongo, and Gustav Nyquist added one in the final minute with the goal pulled. But the Panthers had enough energy in reserve to close out a much-needed win.

Bergenheim gave the Panthers their first lead on the trip midway through the second period (12:21 mark) on a nifty centering pass from Jussi Jokinen. Even though Bergenheim mishit the shot he had the net wide open with

Jimmy Howard drawn to the other side. The puck completed a slow-motion passage inside the right post before the Red Wings goalie could react.

The outage was part of a widespread blackout that left more than 100 downtown buildings in the dark. Power was restored to the arena just after 3 p.m. and the Panthers’ game against the Red Wings went off on schedule.

The Red Wings canceled their morning skate. The Panthers were not planning a pregame workout after making the trip from Columbus following a dispassionate 2-1 loss Monday, but were in the building for a meeting.

After losing to a Blue Jackets team that had dropped 15 of their previous 17, the challenge on the second night of Florida’s second back-to-back set of the season was considerably more imposing with the hot Red Wings riding a four-game winning streak and six of their previous seven.

Panthers captain Willie Mitchell tangled with Johan Franzen in front of the Panthers net early in the opening period and drew a pair of minors for roughing and high sticking.

Mitchell was outspoken in his disgust for the way the team played the previous night, saying they lacked fire and played down to the level of the Blue Jackets.

He may have been trying to light a fire in his teammates, but the penalties put his team in an early hole.

The Red Wings took advantage of the power play as Tomas Tatar deflected Datsyuk’s shot past Luongo 6:47 into the game. Former Panther Stephen Weiss got an assist, his sixth point in six games this season since returning from a groin injury.

The Panthers showed the compulsion that was missing Monday and outshot the Red Wings 14-13 in the opening period. They had five shots on goal in the first three minutes and created some chances early, but

Howard turned them away.

They got one past him at 15:11 on Hayes’ sixth goal. It came like most the big right wing scores as he drove to the net and pounced on the rebound of Vincent Trocheck’s shot. With Howard going down, Hayes lifted it over the goalie’s left shoulder. Dmitry Kulikov got the second assist.

“We didn’t have our legs and didn’t have our jump [at Columbus],” Gallant said. “It’s disappointing because it was a game that was right there for us. You think your team is going to turn the corner. But you talk to every coach and it’s the same thing, some nights you’re just not there.”

The Panthers were without center Aleksander Barkov, who injured a hand blocking a shot Monday. There was some swelling but x-rays showed no fracture, Gallant said. Shawn Thornton returned to the lineup after missing Monday’s game with facial injuries and a slight groin strain.

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Book stacks, midnight snacks: Panthers prepare for final exams

ZAINAB OSAZIN
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To help students recharge for final exams, Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Government Council and Campus Life are hosting a '90s themed midnight breakfast as part of Cram Jam.

According to Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator at BBC, Midnight Breakfast is done each finals week of fall and spring to show students they aren't alone and that the University encourages their studies.

The event will be held Monday, Dec. 8, at Panther Square. Doors open at 9 p.m. and festivities will run until 12 a.m.

"This year, [attendees of the event] are getting a flashback to the

'90s," said Bermeo. "It will be loads of fun and a chance for students to relax and unwind for a few hours."

The event will include karaoke, free food, massages, giveaways and a photo booth.

Bermeo said that there will be a "full" breakfast menu that includes eggs, bacon and pancakes. It's a free event and all students have to bring are their empty stomachs, he said.

To prepare for the event, a committee of various student affairs departments met regularly to put Cram Jam, the week of events, together. Represented in the committee are members from International Student and Scholarship Services, Multicultural Programs and Services, FIU Center for Leadership and Service, and Undergraduate Education.

The theme last time was

WINTER WONDERLAND



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Students watch a performance by Kazual, an acapella group, at the Winter Festival on Tuesday, Dec. 2, in Panther Square. Students enjoyed a holiday lunch, tree lighting and giveaways.

"Brazilian Breakfast Carnival" and according to Bermeo, several students showed up for the event. Nicole Cozzi, a graduate assistant, said the event included dancers, smoothies, food and giveaways.

"It's one of our traditional events at this campus and a great event,"

said Cozzi.

Tonie Jean, a freshman biology major, said the event will be a stress-reliever and that he plans to attend.

Maegan Joseph, a freshman chemistry major, said that her friend has attended a Midnight Breakfast

at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. According to Joseph, it supported her friend during test time, especially with the long hours she spent in the Green Library.

"She lived in the library and the breakfast was a great incentive to keep her studying," she said.

Hurricanes high with win over Illinois

TNS STAFF

The student section at BankUnited Center, often half-empty, was jam-packed with students in orange Santa hats an hour before tipoff Tuesday night. ESPN2 cameras were in the building. And there were lines at the ticket windows.

This was not an ordinary early-December men's basketball game at the University of Miami.

The undefeated 15th-ranked Hurricanes were playing the undefeated 24th-ranked Illini of the University of Illinois in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

No UM team has ever been ranked that high this early in the season. The Canes had already knocked off then-No. 7 Florida on the road, and this was another chance to make a statement on national television.

Miami kept its unbeaten streak alive with a 70-61 win over the Illini. The Hurricanes improved to 8-0. In the closing moments, many

of the 6,086 fans in attendance were chanting "A-C-C!" and "La-rra-na-ga!"

"We took a big step forward," UM coach Jim Larranaga said. "This was a very positive step for us to play another Top 25 team and get a W. That ends up giving us confidence when you play other Top 25-type teams."

Redshirt freshman Deandre Burnett, a Carol City High grad who spent last season injured, led the Canes with 19 points.

Manu Lecomte added 15. Sheldon McClellan had 14 points and nine rebounds. Point guard Angel Rodriguez finished with nine points. Tonye Jekiri, the Canes 7-foot center, dominated the paint at key moments and finished with nine rebounds.

Rayvonte Rice led Illini with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

A pair of early 3s by McClellan and Lecomte gave the Hurricanes a lead they never lost. And 12 first-half points by Burnett helped stretch the Miami advantage to 37-24 at halftime.

Coaches had challenged the Canes to clamp down on defense after allowing 54 second-half points in the previous game against South Alabama. They heard the message loud and clear.

The Illini entered the game averaging 90 points per game, tied for fifth-best in the nation. UM held them to 24 first-half points on 25 percent shooting. The Canes also dominated on the defensive boards, 22-14.

The Illini came out strong after intermission, opening the second half with a 10-0 run to close the gap to 37-34. UM coaches called a timeout, and settled the team down. Miami scored nine of the next 11 points, including a driving layup and 3-pointer by Burnett to put the Canes up by 10 with 13 minutes to go.

But that lead evaporated in a hurry. Illinois scored five straight points to close the gap to two. Then, the Hurricanes took over and energized the building with a huge 3-pointer from freshman Omar Sherman, followed by back-to-back dunks

from McClellan and Jekiri to put UM up 55-46 with under eight minutes to go.

Rodriguez made a clutch three to make it 60-48, and Lecomte added another from long range to open it to 63-53 with five minutes to go. The Hurricanes hit most of their free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

Rodriguez knew the Canes were in for a tough battle.

"It's huge," he said before the game. "I see them as the same as us: underdogs trying to prove themselves. They're trying to make a name for themselves just like we are. It's going to be a battle for us, and a chess match for the coaches."

But he said they still have more to prove.

"Yes, we have done something, but because it's still early. Everything we've accomplished so far can go downhill if we don't continue to do what we've been doing. Anything can happen. Can't get ahead of ourselves.

For-profit college used strippers as recruiters, feds say

TNS STAFF

Some Florida for-profit colleges have used highly aggressive techniques to recruit students -- including non-stop phone calls, misleading promises and \$500 rewards for referrals.

But according to a federal lawsuit, Miami-based FastTrain College added a new wrinkle: hiring strippers as "admissions representatives."

The "exotic dancer" allegation comes from the U.S Attorney's Office and Florida's attorney general, who this week both joined

a pending whistle-blower lawsuit against FastTrain. A civil complaint filed by the two agencies say at least one FastTrain campus used strippers to attract students, though it did not identify the campus.

The college "purposely hired attractive women and sometimes exotic dancers and encouraged them to dress provocatively while they recruited young men in neighborhoods to attend FastTrain," the lawsuit states.

FastTrain closed shortly after being raided by the FBI in 2012. It had operated seven Florida campuses in Miami-Dade,

Broward, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Duval counties. The company's CEO was Alejandro Amor of Coral Gables. Amor was criminally indicted in October, and faces pending charges of conspiracy and theft of government money.

Amor has denied wrongdoing. Neither Amor nor his attorney could be immediately reached for comment Wednesday.

Between 2009 and mid-2012, FastTrain received more than \$35 million in Pell grants and other federal financial aid, the lawsuit states. The federal government now says that millions of that money was

fraudulently obtained -- frequently by FastTrain falsifying high school diplomas for students who didn't have one. Because those students did not graduate from high school, they should have never qualified for student aid in the first place, according to the suit.

Aside from the unconventional use of strippers, the federal lawsuit accuses FastTrain executives of falsifying documents, coaching students to lie on financial aid forms, and employing "a corporate strategy focused on increased admissions and profits above all else."

To gain access to taxpayer dollars, FastTrain needed first-time students to attend classes for at least 30 days, according to the lawsuit. If students didn't show, the federal government says FastTrain would falsify attendance records, or backdate the enrollment so the school could collect the money quicker.

The whistle-blower lawsuit was initially filed by Juan Pena, a former admissions employee at the Plantation campus and the Flagler campus, which operated at 5555 West Flagler St. in Miami.