Students help lobby for funds

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ Contributing Writer

Philip Hamilton will be traveling to Tallahassee with 20 other students March 7 and 8, to lobby for FIU funding next to University administrators. “Legislators like hearing from the University [administrators], but they’d much rather hear from students … Students get to give their personal experiences and tell why these issues are important to them and not just the University,” Hamilton said.

They will be leaving by bus March 7 at 7 a.m. and will be returning the next day at midnight.

Among the main causes FIU will be lobbying for this year include enrollment growth, money for the College of Medicine and for building renovations. FIU will also be asking for money for a tracking program to help students have an easier time tracking their degree requirements.

“Legislators have currently about 38,000 students taking courses at FIU. Most are expected to pursue careers in South Florida. The SGA budget allots money for the FIU Spring Break,” Sauls said. This year, $5,500 was allocated in the 2006-2007 budget for the travel expenses.

Steve Sauls is among the administrators who will also be traveling to Tallahassee for the sessions. Sauls is the vice president for Governmental Relations, the principal liaison between the University and federal, state and local government offices and legislative bodies.

“I think it is an opportunity for students to have their voices heard. It’s important for students to talk to legislators face to face,” Sauls said.

Yet this year’s administrators will not only be lobbying to expand undergraduate and graduate student programs.

“It’s not just about lobbying to get new programs, but also about the quality of the programs,” Sauls said. “In fact, one of this year’s main issues is improving FIU’s graduate program.”

The Board of Trustees will be meeting March 7 with legislators and discussing funding that will help expand FIU’s administration and students will participate by meeting March 8 with various members of the legislature and with the governor of Florida.

“Since we are a public university, the bulk of funding comes from the state of Florida. One of the biggest things the legislature does every year is make decisions on funding,” Sauls said.

The legislature isn’t always in session; this year’s legislature’s formal session commences March 7, and will continue for the next 60 days.

“Legislating is currently not easy, and FIU will be competing for funds against other interests and institutions at the
campuses. Aramark will be building the interior of the new cafeteria, on the first floor between Academic I and the Wolfe University Center. The facility will include a kitchen area and create space for three or four vendors to serve their food.

Stobs Brothers is the construction company in charge of the new building as a whole; it will house the new cafeteria as well as the recreation center and should be completed by May of this year, according to Greg Olson, senior director of Student Affairs at BBC.

“That’s where we are in terms of the

CRISTELA GUERRA

Managing Editor

Aramark, the company that handles student dining services at FIU, and a faculty committee are putting final touches on the new dining facility at the Biscayne Bay Campus set to finish construction at the end of Spring semester.

Now the question many housing students are asking: what’s for dinner?

Rebecca Fasold, sophomore, said that having a tracking program at Bay Vista housing doesn’t feel she’s asking for much: she just wants what University Park has.

“I feel that [University Park] has taken everything. We want a Breezeway Cafe like they do. I want one-price for all-you-can-eat, the pizza, the pasta, the make-your-own pancakes with the salad bar, fruit bar, all of that,” Joseph said.

It seems she might get her wish. Two student forums were held March 1 and at BBC in the cafeteria and in the housing community room in order to find student’s preferences of food and food venues. The committee behind the task force was present to poll housing students on what they want out of their eating experience.

This was one of various future surveys and forums to be held in order to get the overall opinion FIU students have on the new facility, particularly because so many go back and forth between both

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

Production Manager

Unless it’s behind the safety of a four to six inch thick sheet of glass, most people try to steer clear of any encounter with a shark. But for Mike Heithaus, professor in the biological sciences department, having a protective barrier can be a little impersonal.

On a remote corner of Western Australia, in a place called Shark Bay, Heithaus leads researchers from across North America in the Shark Bay Ecosystem Research Project, a project created to understand the role that fear plays in the development of marine communities, specifically the fear of sharks.

“One of the easiest ways to explain it would be that we look at the community consequences or the ecological consequences of fear,” Heithaus said.

Heithaus said humans aren’t the only ones mortified of a shark attack. According to Heithaus, marine wildlife plan their lives around the fear of living. How and why they do this, and its effect on the ecology of the bay, is exactly what Heithaus and his colleagues intend to find out.

“When we think about predators we usually think about a body count,” Heithaus said. “We think about how many prey they kill and that is how they control communities. It turns out they can also affect prey by scaring them.”

Heithaus’ research suggests that fear is a greater determinant in the behavior of sea life than the availability of food is sometimes. Shark Bay marine animals such as sea turtles, dugongs — a down-under cousin of the manatee — and rays, which are the standard fare for the resident tiger sharks, will move out of areas just to be safe.

Even lower on the food chain, yet another category of marine life — which have been destroyed, in part, by overfishing — may have functioned at one point.

The research provides scientists with clues about how other marine habitats — which have been destroyed, in part, by overfishing — may have functioned at one point.

It also serves as a warning to those interested in restoring the diminishing population of sea turtles and manatees in South Florida, according to Heithaus.

But Heithaus isn’t just making underwater appearances. His research and research methods have earned him a spot on the small-screen.

Since it debuted in 2003, Heithaus has been the host of the National Geographic

Making a splash: Mike Heithaus, a biology professor at the Biscayne Bay Campus, attaches a "Crittercam" to a sea turtle in Shark Bay, in Western Australia. The underwater camera is used to collect data on the daily lives of sea animals.

Heithaus, page 2
University Jewish community has new home

Jewish students and staff at FIU will now have a place to call home at the new Chabad Jewish Student Center.

The house has been named the “Tah氰inic Chabad House” in honor of Moshe Tabacinic, a Bal Harbour philanthropist who contributed funds for the house.

The house, located at 10031 S.W. 15th Terrace in Miami, will be dedicated at 11 a.m. March 11.

According to the release, only eight universities in the state of Florida have Chabad student centers.

For more information, visit www.ChabadFIU.com.

FIU team only U.S. group to head to China for housing project

A group from FIU will represent the United States in Beijing, China as the only American university invited to take part in the “Future House Community” project.

Part of the project’s goal is to help China’s energy and environmental concerns. According to University officials, it will include 10 houses from eight countries.

Each country will design and build a house that reflects its own technological capabilities and design preferences. Among the other participating countries are Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Sweden.

The official construction opening ceremony will be held March 16.

Yong Tao, an FIU professor of mechanical and material engineering, and Yimin Zhu, another FIU professor of construction management, will direct both the design and construction of the Future House U.S.A. Project.

FIU was invited to participate after its team won first place in Energy Balance at the 2005 National Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C.

Construction of the FIU house will begin in early 2007 and is scheduled for completion by 2008.

–Compiled by Betsy Martinez

Professor hosts own animal TV show

HEITHAUS, page 1

show “Crittercam.”

The Crittercam is a device that is worn by wild animals and serves the purpose of recording important information such as the animal’s whereabouts, acceleration, temperature and environmental data. It was first developed by marine biologist and filmmaker Greg Marshall and then later adapted as a pet project by the National Geographic Society.

What separates the Crittercam from other similar devices, however, is that it is the first of its kind to feature an on-board video camera making it possible for researchers to walk or swim in the footsteps of wild animals.

Lately, Heithaus has taken a more advisory role in the project making trips to the site only to get new graduate students started and to get new legs of the project underway.

New local projects are making it difficult for Heithaus to spend time in Shark Bay.

“I’d love to spend eight or nine months down there, but I just can’t anymore. So it’s up to my students to really carry on the bulk of the field work,” Heithaus said.

With the scent of freshly laid carpet still perfuming the air of his new office in the Marine Science building at the Biscayne Bay Campus, Heithaus is a far cry away from the hot, salty environs of Western Australia, yet his sun washed hair and the enthusiasm in his voice are telltale signs of his dedication to his work. The research will continue under his close supervision and he plans to see it through.

“Really, my philosophy is that as long as you have good questions being asked it doesn’t matter where you work or what species you’re working with,” Heithaus said.
The forum brought many pallets to the table. Students requested a wider variety of food selections. Among those requested were Caribbean food, Asian cuisine, sushi and just a good home-cooked meal that isn’t too costly.

Townsend moderated the meeting emphasizing students to tell her what they wanted to see as they walked into the new facility. Students in turn were given the opportunity to give representatives of Aramark, as well as the committee, new ideas on how they might serve the needs of those on campus. She admits she was surprised at the amount of students that cook on campus for themselves, though many feel they don’t have much of a choice.

Jonathan Alexander Smith’s, a freshman who lives on campus said there isn’t much to be said as far as good meal options on campus go.

“I want more variety at BBC. There’s only like four different places you can get food from. There’s Subway, the grill, and the pizza [place]. After that, there’s nothing else,” he said.

Jonathan Garcia, a consultant within the Office of Business Services and Dining said it works to have freshmen on a meal plan in their first year away from home.

“It’s proven that meal plans are very beneficial for freshmen on their own in college,” he said. “There are a wide variety of food selections. Among those requested were Caribbean food, Asian cuisine, sushi and just a good home-cooked meal that isn’t too costly.”

This is a success, we hope to make this into a yearly event,” Harris said.

For more information on the center, visit their site at www.kovens.fiu.edu, or contact their front desk at 305-919-5000.

"We are [hoping] to cater to all matters of brides, from student to business woman," Gerring said. "Not only do we have indoor weddings, we can also have them outdoors on the balcony, overlooking the bay."

The prominently arranged displays, provided by the center’s design companies, The Party Fashion Company and Brides Bay, also were large drawings, creating lines that wrapped around the room. This led to much socializing and talk amongst the couples.

Harris looked at the exiting couples with a slight smile on her face.

"If this is a success, we hope to do this again," Harris said.

"We are [hoping] to cater to all matters of brides, from student to business woman," Gerring said. "Not only do we have indoor weddings, we can also have them outdoors on the balcony, overlooking the bay."

The displays on the tables nearby the entrance drew much attention, drawing each bride to the linen napkins folded into blossoms and large centerpieces with assorted foliage as they walked by.

The buffet and open bar, set up for the couples to sample some of Thierry’s dishes, were also large drawings, creating lines that wrapped around the room. This led to much socializing and talk amongst the couples.

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The recent death of former senator and vice presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton calls attention to a divisive force that is far more prevalent than ever: mental illness.

Eagleton, an accomplished senator from Missouri, became a symbol of the stigma associated with mental illness when he was abruptly dropped from the Democratic presidential ticket in 1972 after it was revealed that he had received treatment for depression, including shock therapy.

George McGovern, who had selected him to be the vice presidential candidate on the way to a massive defeat in the general election, later told the New York Times: “If I had it to do over again, I’d have kept him. I didn’t know anything about mental illness. Nobody did.”

That prevailing ignorance continues to be a problem. Mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, about 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older — about one in four adults — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.

That includes everything from depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder and ADHD to schizophrenia and dementia.

Mental illness is evidently a problem that gravy needs to be addressed.

Many individuals incur open discrimination and antagonism for their psychological impediments. We live in a society that reacts harshly to deviance in any form, let alone behavior that shatters what we value as “normal” and “sane.” There is a thin line between pathology and normality, and it changes from person to person.

Every person who has criticized the mentally ill, for whatever reason, has some culpability for perpetuating this invisible plague. The shame of having such a “disease” and being so abnormal essentially renders many unable to seek help for their difficulties, or to even acknowledge the presence of some problem.

Another major hurdle that prevents any sort of progress from being made in curbing the prevalence of mental illness is the sheer cost of mental health services.

This problem needs to be adequately attended to by insurance companies, many of which fail to cover mental health treatment at all.

It is appalling that people who desperately need this service cannot get access to it because of cost and insurance constraints.

This can be remedied by some reform on the part of insurance companies, and perhaps some effort on behalf of major employers can give their employees access to psychological services.

Another startling trend is the growing reliance on prescription medications as a means by which to quickly rectify any pronounced mental problem. In a society that increasingly values time, it is understandable that it has come to this, as people are always looking for a quick and easy fix. This is not at all the solution.

Psychotherapy, while more time consuming, is the right way to treat these sorts of conditions. It enables the individual to enact change on their own, and guide them towards more suitable and productive behaviors. Taking a pill merely alters your brain chemistry temporarily, while not actually “curing” the underlying problem.

Treatments aside, one of the most tragic examples of the consequences for those afflicted with severe psychological disorders are left untreated, is vagrancy or homelessness.

As much as one-third of the homeless population in the United States — that's 200,000 people — are afflicted with major psychological disorders, typically schizophrenia and manic-depressive disorder.

This is a harsh reminder why attention needs to be called to increase access to mental health treatment.

New advances are surely modernizing the field of psychology, which is still a very young science.

However, the burden of curtailing this growing epidemic lies with us.

It is up to the American people to demand and enact change.

The Board of Governors, the policy-making body that oversees Florida’s public universities, has approved FIU’s $98 million legislative budget request. Meanwhile, Gov. Charlie Crist has submitted his own budget proposal, which is much lower.

The Florida Legislature will consider both budgets during its sessions, which run from March to May, to determine how much the University will actually get.

With the exception of some disclaimer wording, The Beacon endorses FIU’s budget request, along with the spending priorities it enumerates.

With so many big-budget pet projects going up at FIU lately – the stadium expansion and the colleges of law and medicine — it’s encouraging to see that FIU’s priorities in its capital outlay budget include two much-needed classroom buildings.

It’s a shame, though, that one of them is for graduate students. We understand the importance of making FIU a leader in graduate research and education. But there’s no point in reaching for that without first ensuring that the University has a sturdy underpinning to its capital outlay budget.

It’s somewhat worrisome that FIU is only asking for $5 million for the College of Medicine. This money is expected to pay for teacher salaries, administrative expenses, equipment and technology. That’s all necessary, but it’s only a tiny portion of the money the college needs.

It remains unclear where FIU plans on getting the $64 million it needs to actually build the medical college’s buildings. Only $24 million of that amount is accounted for as of yet. Those funds will come from Public Education Capital Outlay money and federal grants, and will be used to build the molecular science building.

The college’s main building, though, will cost $40 million, and FIU still has high hopes that it will somehow get that money through private donations and matching grants. Since University President Modesto A. Maidique famously lost the $20 million donation FIU had been offered by former trustee Herbert Wertheim — along with its corresponding $20 million in state matching grants — no new private donors have surfaced.

The big question is what FIU plans to do if no such donor shows up with a $20 million donation. Where will the University get that money? Would it still construction of the College of Medicine? It’s frightening that FIU is banking on a phantom donor for the financing of the college’s main building.

Finally, it’s also disturbing that FIU is requesting $31.7 million for enrollment growth to fund 1,899 FTEs. We understand that it isn’t necessarily in the University’s hands to cap enrollment growth. The bottom line is that Florida only has 11 universities to accommodate about 300,000 students.

In a perfect world, the state would open a handful of new universities to help absorb Florida’s incoming university population. But as long as there are such few institutions for so many students, universities will keep ballooning in size — and probably stretching themselves thinner and thinner.

As it is, FIU’s administrative and support infrastructure is understaffed and overwhelmed; it’s unable to provide its students with adequate customer service. The thought of adding 2,000 or so additional students to the lines at the cashier, the registrar and the financial aid office — not to mention the parking garages and food courts at University Park — is terrifying.

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MASTERFUL MOVES: At Dance Marathon 2007, a philanthropy event March 3 and 4 at Pharmed Arena, Morale Captain Alejandra Maruri (top) led dancers for 25 hours while participants rocked out to the music (bottom left). Others enjoyed the bouncehouse (bottom middle) and left notes in paper bags for marathon goers (bottom right). The event raised more than $85,000 dollars for Miami Children’s Hospital.
More TV advertisers, networks opting for viewer-created content

THURSDAY • MARCH 8

WHAT: MySpace Madness Party
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $12.84

WHAT: Mana
WHERE: American Airlines Arena (601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami)
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $30 - $100

WHAT: Revolutions
WHERE: Ft. Lauderdale
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHAT: The Early November
WHERE: Ft. Lauderdale
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHAT: MySpace Madness Party
WHERE: Ft. Lauderdale
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHAT: Revolutions
WHERE: Ft. Lauderdale
WHEN: 5 p.m.

FRIDAY • MARCH 9

WHAT: SPC Films “Happy Feet”
WHERE: 7 p.m. & 10 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Charlie Murphy
WHERE: 8:40 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $32.10

WHAT: The Early November
WHERE: 6 p.m.
WHAT: Charlie Murphy
WHERE: 8:30 p.m.
WHAT: Charlie Murphy
WHERE: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $32.10

WHAT: ZZ Top
WHERE: 6 p.m.
WHERE: Centennial Park (Edwards Drive, Ft Myers)
HOW MUCH: $23.50

WHAT: Miami Heat vs. Minnesota Timberwolves
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: American Airlines Arena (601 Biscayne Blvd)
HOW MUCH: $23.50

WHAT: Jacquie Murphy
WHERE: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $30 - $100

WHAT: MySpace Madness Party
WHERE: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $32.10

WHAT: MySpace Madness Party
WHERE: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $32.10

WHAT: Charlie Murphy
WHERE: 7:45 p.m., 10 p.m., 11:59 p.m.
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182)
HOW MUCH: $32.10

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Golden Panthers’ potent offense fuels series win

ROBERTO CARTAGENA
Contributing Writer

The FIU baseball team (9-6) started off the series well, winning the first two games against the Wagner Seahawks (1-2) at University Park Stadium March 2-4, behind solid starting pitching and a potent offense. The series ended with coach Danny Price questioning the leadership on his team.

“We have to find it somewhere,” Price said, after the loss in the series finale. “It could be a freshman, senior, whoever, but somebody has to step up and become a leader.”

Despite the loss, the Golden Panthers still won their third consecutive series with three injured pitchers.

Price expects outﬁelder Chris Dunn, inﬁelder the bases loaded.

That was the first of nine runs scored by the Golden Panthers in the fourth. Freshman Corey Poliziano pitched ﬁve strong innings and allowed one earned run on ﬁve hits for the win. Although the Seahawks scored ﬁve runs in the ninth, it wasn’t enough to match the 19 runs recorded by the Golden Panthers.

Bryan Pullin scored ﬁve career-high runs this game.

FIU 19, WAGNER 11

It was anyone’s game heading into the bottom of the fourth and the Seahawks ahead 2-1. First baseman John Petika led the inning off with a double and eventually scored when pitcher Joe Testa issued a walk to right ﬁelder Dephil Mason with the bases loaded.

First baseman Jake Thomas led off with a walk, advancing Petika to third. Thomas moved to second on a ﬂoat ball to left ﬁelder Dephil Mason. Price decided to replace Bautista, who, prior to Sunday’s game, had not played in the series.

He smashed the ﬁrst pitch he saw to deep center ﬁeld for a three-run home run. His ﬁrst home run of the year gave the Golden Panthers a 4-1 lead.

However, the bullpen gave up four runs in the ninth and the Golden Panthers could not recover. Pullin continued to swing the bat well going 4-for-6 with an RBI. Outﬁelder James McGowan’s 14-game hit streak to start the season was ﬁnally snapped in this game.

PRO DAY, page 8

my 40 [yard dash time] to see if I could play the next level. I think I ran alright,” Boudie said.

His counterpart on defense, Bostic III, took a different approach to the draft, electing to work out at the University of Miami with their strength and condition coach, Andrew Swasey. Bostic III is hoping that scouts will overlook his team’s record and base their draft day decisions on his workouts and game tape.

“I missed two opportunities, I didn’t get invited to no bowl game, no combine and I was ﬁrst team all-conference,” Bostic III said.

Although he didn’t have quite the season he imagined, Padrick surprised scouts with his athleticism and speed as he posted the fastest 40-yard dash time among those who participated. Some of his teammates said they wouldn’t be surprised if Padrick made an NFL team as a quarterback or another position.

“I’m not really sure, I’ve been a quarterback all my life and I’m hoping for something like that,” Padrick said.

All who participated in Pro Day will have their questions answered when the NFL Draft takes place April 28.

Turning the Corner, page 2

Bautista, to return from injury and we’re working, but I think my fastball had a little too much movement,” Ramos said.

WAGNER 10, FIU 9

Prior to the ﬁnal game of the series, catcher Luis Bautista, assured Coach Price of his availability to play.

“I got your back if you need me,” Bautista said.

It was a tied game, 1-1, heading to the top of the seventh inning when the Seahawks scored ﬁve runs and managed to drive starter Chris Allen out of the game. The Golden Panthers responded in the bottom of the inning after Seahawk’s ﬁrst baseman Dan Moray dropped a foul ball that would have ended the inning.

The Golden Panthers scored three consecutive times before the Seahawks went to their bullpen for the fourth time in the inning.

For the second consecutive game, Price called a catcher off his bench to pinch-hit. This time it was Bautista, who, prior to Sunday’s game, had not played in the series.

The Beacon – March 8, 2007www.beaconnewspaper.com

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FIU 14, WAGNER 2

Despite Mirabel’s success, Price opted to replace Mirabel for Cody Jacobs in the sixth inning. As a replacement, Jacobs crushed one over left ﬁelder for a two-run homer, making Price look like a genius. Price decided to protect his players due to the comfortable advantage the Golden Panthers had against the Seahawks.

“We wanted to keep Mirabel fresh because he just recently came off an injury and we had a nice lead,” Price said.

Startor Jorge Ramos gave the Golden Panthers a 7-6 lead.

“After his last game, I thought he could be a freshman, senior, whatever, but somebody has to step up and become a leader.”

“While winning the series would have been nice, winning the series was the most important,” Price said. “We have a lot of work to do and we can’t get too far ahead of ourselves.”

The Golden Panthers finished the series 7-6, but the team is looking ahead to another game against Rutgers (7 p.m.) at University Park Stadium April 28.
NFL scouts search for new talent

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Scouts from 24 of the 32 teams in the NFL flocked to the FIU Football Stadium for the second annual Pro Day on March 2 to evaluate nine former Golden Panther football players to participate in drills.

Among those who participated were NFL combine invitees defensive end Antwan Barnes and wide receiver Chandler Williams; linebackers Alexander Bostic III, Keyonvis Bouie and James Black; defensive backs Zach Davis and Chris Smith; tight end Samuel Smith and quarterback Josh Padrick.

Heading into the combine, Barnes didn’t have much hype and was relatively unknown, until scouts saw his workout.

"I think I opened some eyes, too, because NFL people had me projected as a 4.5 or 4.6," Williams said. "I knew I was faster than that. I don’t know if people knew I could run routes like that. I would say I helped myself again today."

Also catching the eye of scouts was Bouie, who led the Golden Panthers with 119 tackles last season and holds the University record for career tackles with 299.

"I thought he’s shown his play-making ability in highlight reels, Bouie has said. "He has been working day and night at FIU to impress scouts."

"I think a lot of people were looking at the combine by posting the second lowest time in position in the 60-yard shuttle, while being clocked at 4.42 seconds in the 40-yard dash. As last season’s leading receiver in catches (67) and yards (664), Williams has been fielding punt and kick returns to help raise his draft stock. Last season, he averaged 21.5 yards on kick returns."

Women’s basketball sent packing by Louisiana-Lafayette

ANDREW JULIAN
Contributing Writer

After advancing to the Sun Belt conference tournament quarterfinals with a win at home against the Troy Trojans, the Golden Panthers’ basketball well early in the game. But after that, we were able to turn it up a notch."

That was the only 3-pointer of the game for Colbert who finished with 13 points and seven assists.

The Golden Panthers were able to pull to within six with just over two minutes remaining in the first half at 16-15 on a Jeanenne Colbert 3-pointer.

"We started out a little slow. We came out of the box a little sluggish," Ragin’ Cajuns coach J. Kelly Hall said. "FIU rebounded and we got away from it and I thought we got into trouble and we just couldn’t stay in the game for 40 minutes," Russo said.

"I think a lot of people were looking at the shooting percentage really hurt us tonight," coach Cindy Russo said.

Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, who led the Golden Panthers in scoring at 15.7 points per game, was limited to eight points on 2-of-15 shooting, while others in scoring at 15.7 points per game, was limited to eight points on 2-of-15 shooting, while senior center Lasma Jekabson, averaging 14.2 per game, was held to just two points on only five shots.

Coming into the game as the third leading rebounder in the Sun Belt at 9.6 per game, Jekabson’s shot was the only 3-ponter from the free throw line. Coming into the game fresh off a win against Troy in which they shot 44 percent from the field, the Golden Panthers’ cold shooting night doomed them.

The Golden Panthers were able to pull to within six with just over two minutes remaining in the first half on a jump shot by sophomore guard Iva Ciglar.

"The Ragin’ Cajuns closed the half up by eight, and opened the second half on a 16-3 run over the first 7:25 that buried the Golden Panthers into a 29-point deficit," Kelly Hall said. "We started out a little slow. We came out of the box a little sluggish," Ragin’ Cajuns coach J. Kelly Hall said. "FIU rebounded and we got away from it and I thought we got into trouble and we just couldn’t stay in the game for 40 minutes," Russo said.