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The Beacon, November 15, 2007

Florida International University

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Art show exhibits ‘card’ paintings

KEVIN SMITH  Staff Writer

Emphasizing on the artistic abilities of students, the Master’s Mystery Art Show (MMAS) has returned for its fourth year to Miami.

MMAS is an international event that began in 2003 that features thousands of original postcards created by artists, galleries, collectors and celebrities from around the globe, according to Venessa Monokian, an FIU graduate from the visual arts department who is helping develop the MMAS.

“The whole University gets involved, even Modesto Maidique submits cards,” said David King, a drawing professor.

The MMAS allows anyone to submit artwork drawn on a six by nine inch postcard. The cards will be sold for $50 and the night they are sold, the identity of the artist will be revealed.

“This creates an artistic ‘who done it’ guessing game which the public is free to participate in,” Monokian said.

Funds raised at the show help FIU’s Graduate Program and also raise awareness of MMAS, the only show of its kind hosted by a public university in South Florida.

The program’s proceeds help graduate students with traveling grants, scholarships and other financial assistance so that they can participate in art conferences held throughout the nation, according to Monokian.

“The Masters Mystery Art Show has allowed the graduate students of the program to hold numerous shows in the Miami Design District and to be a part of Art Miami 2007,” Monokian said.

According to Monokian, funds raised have also helped Bill Burke, director of MMAS, to create a regular three-day class schedule.

PATRICIA GONZALEZ  Contributing Writer

With the first semester of the Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule nearly at an end, some students are wishing it had never begun in the first place.

“I can’t believe that I have to drive all the way to FIU for a class that’s 50 minutes long,” said Melissa Dizon, a junior majoring in nursing. “I never had time to talk to my professor after the lecture because I have to run to my next class.”

Melissa Wright — also a junior majoring in nursing — agreed.

“Ten minutes between classes is not enough time,” Wright said. “I have to go out of the way from the trailer complex in University Park to the Graham Center. Anyone familiar with FIU knows that is not enough time.”

The consideration for a new schedule began as a result of a report released in Spring 2005.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the investigative arm of the Florida Legislature, conducted a study on how well Florida’s 11 State universities were utilizing their classroom space.

FIU came in last place with a classroom utilization rate of 42.5 percent in the OPPAGA report. As of 2005, the state average was 54 percent.

FIU appointed a Classroom Space Utilization Committee in Spring 2006, consisting of University faculty and staff, to come up with a solution to the classroom utilization problem.

“The committee was charged with bringing the classroom utilization rate to the state average, if not more,” said Corinne Webb, chair of the CSUC.

“We analyzed every aspect of the situation and decided to go further than just creating a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, schedule.”

The CSUC issued its official report April 6, 2006, which included recommendations to enhance instructional-state-of-the-art multi-media capabilities in classrooms, an annual class schedule as opposed to the current term-to-term schedule to help students plan and progress toward graduation in a timely manner and maximize classroom utilization to enable FIU to remain competitive for future building requests, known as PECO funding.

The CSUC report states that a total of 2,277 class meetings can be gained in FIU with the new schedule implementation.

“We applied the schedule to UP and (the Biscayne Bay Campus) to promote ease in the situation for the students and the faculty,” Webb said.

“We wanted to create a schedule that was standard in FIU.”

Webb stands firm by the committee’s decision to implement the MWF schedule.

She views it as a positive change for FIU.

“Looking at it from a holistic approach, I feel that it has created a sense of greater academic activity and connectedness,” Webb said. “It is obvious when you walk through the campus.”

To make the transition easier for students, FIU has already implemented changes such as asking vendors to adjust their schedules and negotiating a new inter-campus shuttle schedule, according to Webb.

Although the committee insists this is the only way to fix the classroom problems.
Professor assigns Havana’s reconstruction project to class

HOPEFUL FUTURE: This small scale model of Havana, Cuba is what FIU architecture students wish the city would look like.

Lecture to discuss regional fragility in Central America and its relationship to the U.S.


Mark Rosenberg, chancellor of the State University System of Florida, and former provost at FIU, will speak along with Luis Solis, a professor of history and political science at the University of Costa Rica. Together, they will discuss their new book, *The United States and Central America: Geopolitical Realities and Regional Fragility*. The event will be held at 7 p.m. in GC 210. For more information, call 305-348-2234, or mbarov@fiu.edu.

OBJECTIVES:

- To introduce students to the impact of the Cuban revolution on Cuban society.
- To discuss the economic and political effects of the Cuban revolution on the Caribbean region.
- To examine the impact of the Cuban revolution on the United States.

The event is hosted by The European Union Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33119. For more information, call 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ON THE CUBA FOCUS:

- The lecture will explore the history and current state of Cuban society.
- The lecture will examine the economic and political effects of the Cuban revolution on the Caribbean region.
- The lecture will discuss the impact of the Cuban revolution on the United States.

The event is hosted by The European Union Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33119. For more information, call 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Provide additional context about the speaker, their background, and the significance of their research.

The lecture is hosted by The European Union Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33119. For more information, call 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Expo helps fund student projects

The Master’s Mystery Art show will start Dec. 6 and run through Dec 7. The show opens at 7 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m. Dec. 6, and will close at 4:00 pm Dec. 7. All artwork will be sold throughout the hours of operation. The artwork will be displayed at the Ritz-Carlton on One Lincoln Road, South Beach.

“Miami is an international hub for art and art industry. The Master’s Mystery show gives graduate students a chance to see what the art world works first hand, as well as giving students a chance to see what kind of art collectors are looking for,” Kolasinski said. For more information on MMAS visit www.mastermystery.com.

Schedule satisfaction varies among professors, students

“50-minute block is too short to develop material in many disciplines,” Roy said. “The three-day schedule is also inefficient logistically, allowing many disciplines,” Roy said. “The three-day schedule is also inefficient logistically, allowing many disciplines,” Roy said.

Schedule satisfaction varies among professors, students

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Approval of the Agenda: Unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes of Oct. 23: Unanimous.

Chairperson’s Report: Bruce Hauptli

- Currently in the last few days of the University’s United Way campaign and is asking everyone to contribute “often and generously.”
- The Board of Trustees will have a policy meeting on Thursday to discuss academic policies and audits. The full board will meet on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.
- Items of interest at the BOT meeting will include the evaluation of University President Modesto A. Maidique and the state college tuition increase, among other things.
- Distributed information to faculty senators as soon as he got it regarding the new curriculum proposal by Provost Ronald Berkman that would contribute “often and generously.”
- The proposed solution for upgrading e-mails for students might consist of using Google Education Services for student e-mail services in January 2008.
- The proposed solution for upgrading e-mails for students might consist of using Google Education Services for student e-mail services in January 2008.
- After the Virginia Tech shootings last Spring, it was decided to implement the use of Inforcast as FIU’s emergency notification system, which will send voice and text notices to all telephones on campus. An emergency broadcast system will also be implemented in order to reach housing students in case of an emergency. Phones and loudspeakers will be installed in certain classrooms and open areas.
- The Division of Information Technology has launched an online service for students and employees to purchase computer software and other items at a discount, such as purchasing McAfee virus scanner for 99 cents.
- Faculty Senate Notes

You Need The Beacon!

Are you a journalism student in need of experience and clips in a real publication? Then, The Beacon is perfect for you! Sign up in GC 210 or WUC 124.

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Finding passion in writing

Writer transitions from student to staff

EDDITH SEVILLA
BBC Managing Editor

He may not be a Miami Herald columnist, but David Berry, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s marketing coordinator, has a flair for writing.

“The time that I started to feel that writing had power was at a turning point in my life,” said Berry, who graduated in the Fall of 2006. “[When I was in a car accident], I wrote about it and then I shared that story. People were moved by it. To have the capability of drawing an emotion from someone is a powerful thing.”

Berry, who has been working for SJMC since March, said he’s still transitioning from being a student to being staff.

“Professors expect a lot from you as a student, but that’s also at a time when it’s okay for you to mess up; you’re expected to,” Berry said. “Now have a much smaller margin for error. I feel like I’m still a student because I’m learning so much everyday.”

Catherine Ahles, chairperson for the advertising and public relations department and responsible for hiring Berry, said his skills appealed to SJMC staff.

“He’s one of the brightest, most talented grads of our [public relations] program,” Ahles said.

Berry oversees SJMC’s alumni publication, The Communicator, and copy writing of SJMC’s brochures, images, graphics and distribution.

He describes his event planning demanding, yet rewarding.

“It’s not one of the easiest parts of the job, but I can say my greatest reward for promotion had to be the turnout we had for our biggest event of the year, the Scripps Day Lectures,” Berry said.

Before becoming staff, Berry’s talents were already noticed by some professors.

“David was a student in one of my classes a few years ago,” said Lynne Farber, an assistant advertising and public relations professor. “His work was so good that I asked him if he was already in the profession.”

After her graduate level students were unable to write a bone marrow drive press release, Farber asked Berry, then an undergrad, to try. It was featured on FIU’s Web site, the Spanish news network Univision and NBC6.

Berry said his employment experience has been invaluable.

“Not only is tuition reimbursement one heck of a benefit, but the ongoing education you’ll get by working along side college professors is priceless,” Berry said.

BERRY

SPOT ME: Sophomores Fabien Paris, back, and Jonas Jenkins, on bench, work off their stress in the new BBC gym.
ELEVATOR WOES

Standard fixtures, noise levels leave residents vexed

NICOLLE GARBER  
Opinion Editor

I’m certain that Chewbacca and a velociraptor are engaged in a vicious battle in the left elevator of Lakeview North. Their painful cries and rusty, ear bleeding screeches, sounding all day and night, have convinced me of the epic battle raging on.

But all funny business aside, a building boasting state-of-the-art technology and an estimated $4,288 price tag a semester should not be having such problems.

Mary Myers, a sophomore who lives in Lakeview South and currently lives in Lakeview North, is all too familiar with malfunctioning elevators. “It sounds like a velociraptor,” Myers said.

We both hear the disturbing sound penetrate the halls and rooms.

The elevator noises would bother me as well as any other student if the walls in our dorms didn’t echo the cacophonous shrieking with resounding perfection.

The constant noise led to a questioning of the quality we receive: they are not the best. They have a budget cut and money should be spent on improving the soundproofing of the walls. They don’t seem to add up.

Still, the walls in our dorms didn’t seem to add up.

Likewise, Wassenaar was unable to elaborate on why the cost of dorming was so expensive nor why the quality of the walls did not reflect the price. As an executive, I understand why this information would be easily accessible to him; apparently it is not, and is seemingly confidential.

Hypothetically, at approximately $4,000 per person, about four people per suite and approximately 10 suites per floor, Lakeview generates a rough estimate of $16,000.

Multiply this number by six for six floors, and you arrive at a rough $96,000.

With so much money generated, I was concerned as to why the quality of standard fixtures is pitiful. Wassenaar was unable to comment on this as well.

He stated the building is made with cement and drywall and how it is like any other building with 500 or so residents.

I disagree. I am living in apartments and duplexes all of my life, the walls, even in the oldest buildings, never felt as thin as Lakeview’s dorms, and still were considerably cheaper.

Wassenaar did state, “All fees collected are dedicated to resident halls, with the best price [for housing costs] possible.”

I wonder who this ‘best price’ is for, the students? He never specified but from my experience this ‘best price’ is not the best.

About the elevator and safety, he commented, “It’s not a safety issue. It’s a hydraulic pump, not an elevator with cables.”

When I questioned why the price for housing is relatively expensive, and therefore an elevator problem should be non-existent, Wassenaar blamed the company that provides the elevator services, ThyssenKrupp.

“They are responsible. [It’s] apart of a new construction package. Lakeview has documented problems and repair request logs, and we have met with senior management to try and understand why these problems persist,” Wassenaar said.

‘Persist’ is the key word in that statement. Housing is not cheap but the perpetual problems of defective elevators after an entire year, and walls which seem to be created to echo and annoy residents, is unacceptable.

When asked about the elevator sounds, Joel Perez, service manager for ThyssenKrupp’s Miami company said it was a hot topic.

“The rails were just rough and needed to be grinded and sanded down. The rails were eating away at the guide shoe insert.”

As for the elevator possibly becoming stuck, he said, “It’ll just make noise but it won’t stop.”

As comforting as Perez’s words were, it is unacceptable to have these minor and highly irritating problems occur. As a dorm generating nearly $1 million, not spending the money to at least build walls with decent sound insulation, I find this troubling.

It is unfair to residents who take out hefty loans to attend school in a convenient manner.

We are the students and the students are what make a University; we are what makes FIU.

In that respect, the University should take our well-being to heart, and provide us with housing of a quality that is equal to the amount of money spent on it.
Students look for quiet places to nap

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

Going home for a short nap in between classes may not always be an option for commuter students when on campus, so some students have sought out places in the University Park campus to go and take naps throughout the day.

Linda De La Paz, chemistry major and commuter student, has been napping in between her classes this semester in order to help her function better and be able to catch up on her sleep during the day. “I started napping in school when I realized there weren’t enough hours in the day,” she said. “Classes started to get stressful and staying up until 2 a.m. becomes a regular, so to catch up on sleep I gotta nap.”

Some of the most common places for students to catch up on their sleep are:

THEIR CAR

Some students don’t like to be seen or have people walk around them while they sleep. Instead of taking a nap in one of the buildings, they prefer to use their cars where they can have some privacy.

Paz recalls an afternoon where she was seen by a public safety employee. He told her to roll down her windows while she napped so she wouldn’t suffocate in the car.

“Even though it was an awkward moment we chatted for one minute [about] the fact that so many FIU students sleep in their cars between classes,” she said.

GREEN LIBRARY

Various floors of the library are used by students to take naps. The back of the first floor of the library has seats that have been pushed together where students can take advantage of the space and lie down, using their sweaters as a pillow.

The second floor is equipped with cubicles that can provide people with a quick nap, and the fifth and seventh floors entice students with “Quiet Zones” and a view of the city. Students such as Jephren Perez enjoy sleeping in the seventh floor where it’s quiet and where the windows allow for sunlight.

“Most of the buildings on campus are usually just too cold to sleep comfortably,” he commented, thereby making the seventh floor a perfect spot for him to go and take a nap whenever he has a gap between work and class.

OUTSIDE DEUXIEME MAISON

The bench located outside DM near the cube is also a spot where some students take naps.

At one point, Angelica Gacayan, a sophomore in pre-nursing, found the bench where she enjoyed the serene atmosphere around her because it helped her forget about the stress from her school work. “I have a friend who suggested that we should have nap stations here on campus for people who want to take naps, especially for commuter students.”

PIANO ROOM

The piano room in the Graham Center houses a series of couches where some students can lie down and sleep while hearing others play the piano. Usually the room is quiet and crowded with students who are either sleeping or studying for exams.

“Now that it is chilly outside, the green swinging benches located outside GC near the water fountain are a variety of different students always there, relaxing from stressful days. “At any given time, there are different kinds of people playing anything from classical to modern music. It is soothing and puts me to sleep,” he said.

THE SWINGING BENCHES

With the recent weather change, students can enjoy sleeping in the green swinging benches located outside GC near the water fountain. Students such as freshman Ferran Coleman find the rocking motion pleasant and the sound of the fountain a good way to relax and feel peaceful.

“Now that it is chilly outside, the green swings top all the napping places on campus: even my dorm sometimes,” she said.

Although many students nap on campus, some have stopped because they prefer not to be seen by others.

Junior Rosalyn Delgado finds that the downside about napping in public is that “people watch you sleep and you never know if you are going to snore too loudly, drool, or even if a friend is going to wake you up by throwing themselves on you like someone once did to me.”
Students celebrate festival of lights

The Indian festival of lights has returned with Diwali 2007, hosted by FIU’s Indian Students Association.

“[Diwali] is actually a religious event but this Saturday is more of a celebration,” said Tejus Rao, the vice president of ISA. Diwali 2007 will take place Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Julius Littman Performing Arts Center on 17011 NE 19th Ave. Presale tickets cost $10 and $15 at the door.

“We wanted to make it as economical as possible for people to attend,” said Abhishek Sinha, the public relations chair for ISA.

Considered the Hindu New Year, according to Sinha, Diwali is a religious holiday traditionally observed by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains; and it takes its roots in the victory of good over evil within the soul. It is known as the festival of lights because of lamps that are lit and placed outside one’s home to signify the triumph of good.

The ISA has hosted a Diwali event since the early 1990s, according to Sinha. Essentially, the group removed the religious aspects of the holiday from their show and has viewed it as a time of simple celebration. The same is true in India where it is treated as a festival and celebrated regardless of a person’s faith.

“This is a time where everyone comes together,” Rao said.

This year, the celebration takes on a deeper meaning as India celebrates its 60th anniversary of freedom. Because of the special significance of this year, event organizers have tried to incorporate every aspect of India into the show.

During the show, attendees can expect a myriad of performances ranging from Bollywood dance numbers, a fashion show and a new hip hop segment.

The ISA expects around 900 people to attend their Diwali 2007 show. “We’ve been preparing for the show for the past three months,” Sinha said. “A lot of people auditioned. It was really hard to make the cuts.”

Besides the varying entertainment, attendees will be able to have a taste of real Indian cuisine if they arrive by 5:30 p.m. The Indian food will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and organizers encourage attendees to enjoy the food, as the show will not have an intermission.

“This is a big production,” Sinha said. “There are a lot of things and a lot of laughs. This show is about everything India has gone through.”

For those interested in learning more about Diwali and Diwali 2007 the ISA will be hosting a general meeting devoted to the subject Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 314. Tickets to Diwali 2007 will also be on sale during the meeting.

The fun won’t stop with Diwali 2007 as the ISA is also hosting an after party at Studio A on 60 NE 11th St. Admission to the after party is $10 a person. You must be 18 years old to enter and 21 to drink.

“You don’t have to be Indian or Hindu to enjoy the show,” Sinha said. “It’s a show everyone can enjoy.”

For more information on Diwali 2007 or the ISA visit www.fi u.edu/~fi uisa.
Club helps disadvantaged people in foreign countries

ELSA REINOSO
staff writer

“Flags” is a student organization at FIU that provides aid to communities at risk around the world by making presentations in class rooms around campus and asking for donations. Established in the fall of 2006, the club has 13 active members.

Yet due to the structure of the club, Flags could easily expand: “Flags is designed so that any student could make a big difference by giving just a little of their time and effort,” said Maria Alejandra Laque, the president and founder of this organization.

Even though the club demands little of its members, the groups President feels that those who join the group can make the world a better place.

“It is extremely important to remind our fellow students and citizens that the state of the world is not a lost case like the media is constantly telling us,” Laque said. “Our hands are not tied in the face of the multiple global crises that we witness.”

The idea of Flags originated when the club’s future founder left her home country to start a new life in a new land.

“The idea of creating this organization had been in my mind since I moved to the United States,” Laque said. “At that point I realized that just as I brought with me big dreams of communities in my home country and the determination not to leave my people behind, so did the millions of immigrants who come from many different nations to the United States following the same dream,” she said.

Flags provides its members with a way to fulfill their dreams of going beyond something greater than themselves. “I always wanted to do something like this, and I thought it would be a great way to start doing something that could become something really big in the future,” she said.

In the end, though the club’s fund raising process can be fulfilling to those who participate, “To me the most rewarding event is when we count the money that we have raised for that specific month,” Rendon said. “Every time we do it we are reminded that our effort, in the end, does count.”

The communities that we assist do not count on any material goods to give us back in exchange of our help, Laque said. “The only reward for our work, which is also the most precious one, is the personal satisfaction of making a difference.”

Flags’ final meeting of the semester will be in GC 1223 Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

FIU students have the chance to make history. With a history degree, there is no limit to what they can accomplish. History majors not only learn about past civilizations, they also acquire important analytical skills that can be helpful in many other professions,” said Dr. Jerry Rowan, associate chair of the history department.

FIU currently has 220 history undergraduate students and about 110 graduate students who are taught more than just history.

History students are trained to be critical readers, good writers, and astute analysts. They are taught how to see things in a broader context.

Those who study history analyze the past and learn how to put past situations into a present environment in order to gain a deeper understanding of the modern world.

According to FIU’s department of history website, these qualities and skills are fundamental for success in business activities, public and professional careers, teaching, and advanced studies.

History is a competitive discipline, but those who study history have many options. Those who decide to continue their education as graduate students, FIU has a masters program in history as well as doctoral program in Atlantic History. Both the masters and the doctoral programs require concentrations in African, European, Latin American and U.S. history.

“Those who want to be pure historians need a lot of experience. This can be earned teaching in both high-schools and colleges,” Rowan said. “Many undergraduates gain experience while working in museums.”

He further explained how the most historical becomes teachers at times acquires high positions in the administration of prestigious universities, but those who have a bachelor’s degree in history also have the option of applying to law school.

According to Rowan, most history majors become instructors however, there are many professions both in the private and public sectors that use the skills a historian acquires as an undergraduate. Many history majors are able to succeed in the field of law and the insurance industry.

As a lawyer, a historian researches public and private archives and record sources, they develop support material from historical evidence and apply oral history techniques for depositions.

In the public sector, those with a history degree can work in archives, national park services and the intelligence services.

Working as an intelligence service professional, a historian can use his or her skills to gather and analyze economic, political and social data and relate trends and precedents from the past to present and future events.

When working at a national park, a historian offers tours around the park while giving classes and information about the history of the park.

FIU’s Career Services Website has a job listing with many professions related to the field of history.

One of the positions available at the moment is Database Clerk. This particular clerical job focuses on the use of primary sources to create a database of important people, places, and events in Miami history.

The American Historical Association website also lists many other careers a historian may want to pursue. These include FBI agent, legislator, and United Nations employee.

Those who want to pursue a career working for the UN or the peace corps can get experience working voluntarily for NGO’s [Non-Governmental Organizations].” Rowan said.

The salary of a historian varies depending on their area of concentration, their experience, and the field in which they choose to work.

According to the Web site www.salary.com, a history professor in the Miami area starts at over $40,000 a year, but those who choose to go to law school can start working for as much as $75,000 a year.

“We don’t study history thinking about the money, we do it because we have a passion,” Rowan said. “Since the first time I took a history course I knew I wanted to become a historian, now I teach history.”

Degree decision is column that explores career options that various degrees offer. This will run every other week.

Culture Room
3045 N Federal Hwy
 Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33306
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
PRICE: $14.99

SatUday • November 18
WHAT: Symphonic Pops & Broadway
WHERE: Culture Shock Miami
111 N Frist Street Suite 628
Miami, Fl 33134
WHEN: 6 p.m.
PRICE: $5 with valid student i.d.

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 18
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WHEN: 8 p.m.
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Men's basketball team combines height and shooting

The men's first basketball game of the season was a close contest until late in the first half when FIU started to pull away from Florida Tech. Following a lay-up and subsequent foul shot from Kenneth Hicks, FIU gained its first double-figure lead of the night. The Golden Panthers would never look back from that lead and won the game, coach Sergio Rouco and the rest of inside moves. Rouco even referred to the teams foul shooting. Overall, FIU shot 50 percent for the game from the field and 38 percent from 3-point land.

The best thing about the game was really the teams star players living up to some of their hype. Galindo had a great season last year and was a preseason All Sun Belt second team selection this year.

He scored 15 points and pulled down four rebounds despite having that spotlight on him. Hicks came into the game as the 7-foot transfer student that has the skill to go on him. Hicks came into the game as the 7-foot center Russell Hicks, who is able to dominate the low-post and has an arsenal of inside moves. Against Florida Tech, all the role players played their roles well en route to a well-earned win. However, following the game, coach Sergio Rouco and the rest of the coaching staff were disappointed by the defensive effort and were worried that the players are only thinking about how many points they can score. "Kids in college judge games on how many points they score and if you have too many guys judging games by how many points they score its not going to be healthy for the team," Rouco said.

Michael James, Tremayne Russell, Erick Nsangou, Chris Fuller and Alex Galindo all hit a 3-pointers in the season opener Nov. 12. That’s six players who could be perimeter threats this season, especially with the added height on the roster.
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Free throw shooting key in late offensive surge

FIU up 56-52.

Then Ferguson went on a scoring spree and put up 12 points in the final four minutes. Seven of those points came from the foul line, where Ferguson finished the night a perfect 8-for-8. Those free throws would be the difference in a 70-62 Golden Panther win.

Following the game Ciglar was one of many upperclassmen on the team impressed with the way that Drake and the other freshmen did in their FIU debuts.

“I think the freshmen did an excellent job today,” Ciglar said. “They came out with swagger and confidence. I would like to mention Tabitha Drake; she did amazing. She went out there like she was doing it for 30 years.”

After the game, Drake was humble about having such an impact in her first career game. “I feel like it was a great accomplishment for us to actually come and win this game,” Drake said. “It was hard, but we pulled through and we did it.”

Drake was not the only player who made their FIU debut that night. Krajacic started, played nine minutes and recorded a rebound and a steal. Liene Jekabsonė played only four minutes. She scored on her only shot of the night on a nice low post move reminiscent of her big sister Lasma, who played for FIU last season.

Fanni Hutlassa played 23 minutes, which was the most that any of the freshmen played, and recorded seven points and four rebounds.

Coming up next for FIU will be the DePaul invitational in Chicago on Nov. 15 and 17.

New center powers team past first opponent

MEN’S BASKETBALL FIU 80, FLORIDA TECH 64

CHRIS MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

The men’s basketball team (1-0) began its season with a 80-66 victory over the Florida Tech Panthers (0-1) Nov. 12 at the Pharmed Arena.

The limelight for the night was focused on the regular season debut of 7-foot center Russell Hicks, a junior transfer out of Pepperdine University. Hicks delivered exactly what coach Sergio Rouco was looking for as an efficient inside presence who could keep up with the up-tempo basketball the team utilizes. He finished the night with 16 points on 7-of-9 shooting and seven rebounds.

Justin Sedlak of Florida Tech gave the Golden Panthers fits early on, reaching double digits in scoring within the first 10 minutes and repeatedly denying Hicks from making an impact on the game offensively.

A switch to zone defense and the solid play of Nikola Gacesa put an end to Sedlak’s effectiveness, only scoring nine more points the rest of the game.

As great as the newcomer’s play was, it was the seasoned veteran Chris Fuller who turned in a career night with nine points, nine assists, more than doubling his previous personal record, and four rebounds.

Meanwhile, Erick Nsangou was a force coming off the bench, finishing with 15 points, three rebounds and two assists.

“Nsangou is unbelievable for us,” said coach Sergio Rouco. “He should be starting in front of a few guys, but what he brings off the bench is unbelievable and we can’t change that.”

Kenneth “Red” White, a transfer out of Texas A&M University, also made his debut for FIU. White fouled out late in the game and was unable to find any sort of rhythm on offense, going 2-for-6 with six points. However, he delivered one of the highlights of the game with a drive to the basket that closed out the first half and gave FIU a double-digit lead heading into the locker room.

Rouco made sure all players had their chance to contribute, with all 10 that were suited up seeing playing time by the end of the first half.

Rouco made sure all players had their chance to contribute, with all 10 that were suited up seeing playing time by the end of the first half and nine putting points up on the board.

The victory continued FIU’s dominance in the head-to-head series against Florida Tech, extending its lead to 12-0 all-time. Perhaps more importantly, it put the Golden Panthers at 2-2 in season openers and 4-0 in home openers under the tenure of Rouco.

The team takes on Kennesaw State next Wed. Nov. 21 at the Pharmed Arena.

FIU Athletics/Courtesy Photo

TOO STRONG: Junior center Russell Hicks grabs one of seven rebounds as the Golden Panthers won 80-64 at home. Hicks led the team with 16 points.

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Guards lead squad to first victory of season

The women’s basketball team kicked off its season with a 70-62 win over Lynn University at the Pharmed Arena Nov. 10. Junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson led the team with 24 points and Iva Ciglar contributed with a 14-point, 10-assist double-double.

FIU started the game with Ciglar, Antonia Zeigler, Monika Bosilj, Elisa Carey and Maja Krajacic. The game didn’t start out well for the Golden Panthers, because from the opening tip-off the defense seemed confused and Lynn scored on a lay-up that put FIU down 2-0 only seconds into its first game of the season.

The slow start continued and FIU did not take the lead until 14 minutes into the game when a free-throw by Ferguson made the score 10-9. Following the game coach Cindy Russo was frustrated by the way her team played most of the game.

“If we get down early, it’s going to be a tough game,” she said. “They are totally out of sync. We are playing a new team right now. I don’t expect them to have a whole lot of chemistry. I think we are a work-in-progress all year long.”

The teams went into halftime tied at 31. Lynn University’s Jade Williams and FIU’s Ciglar lead the first half scorers with 12 points each.

The game was still close early in the second half as the teams continued to trade leads. FIU finally seemed to hit a rhythm coming off of a timeout down 39-35. The Golden Panthers then went on a 9-0 run that was capped off by a 3-point shot from freshman Fanni Hurlalla. However, Lynn rallied and the score would again be tied at 49 with 9:30 left in the game.

With the score so close and with three-fourths of the game already in the books, Russo sent in freshman Tabitha Drake into the game. Drake had only played for two minutes in the first half and had two fouls to show for it. Drake would score FIU’s next seven points making three shots on three attempts, one of which was a 3-pointer that put the ball out of reach.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: FIU 70, LYNN 62

Golden Panthers face last year’s mediocre opponent

With so many negatives and a small list of positives this season, the football team looks to even its all-time homecoming record to 3-3 with its first win of the season.

For a team that has lost 21 consecutive games, winning should be the goal worthy of noting.

The Golden Panthers (0-9, 0-4 Sun Belt) host the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns (2-8, 2-3) Nov. 17 at the Orange Bowl in their sixth homecoming in their short existence.

FIU is coming off a heart-breaking 27-24 last second loss to Arkansas State two weeks ago while the Ragin’ Cajuns are riding high after a surprise 34-24 victory last week over Middle Tennessee.

While FIU has had four lopsided losses this season, they have played their Sun Belt Conference opponents very closely. Their past homecoming games have been both close and lopsided.

The inaugural homecoming football game in 2002 saw the Golden Panthers lose 17-14 to Gardner-Webb University. FIU came out the second year and beat Holy Cross 34-23.

The 2004 game was a major disappointment as Georgia Southern trampled FIU 53-32. The following year was the team’s second victory as Georgia Southern trampled FIU 53-32. The following year was the team’s second victory.

This homecoming contest is definitely a realistic win if FIU can feed off the positives from its previous game.

PUSHING BACK: Junior defensive back Lionell Singleton returns a kick off against the Ragin’ Cajuns in last year’s homecoming game where FIU fell 17-7.

With its first win of the season.

For the team’s sake, it is imperative to focus solely on the game and ignore all the distracting hoopla. Knowing Cristobal, he will surely make sure that his troops have this mentality during the week and during the game itself.