

**NATIONAL HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA**

**GETTING PHYSICAL**

Pre-medical society serves community

**NADIA KIJANKA**

Contributing Writer

Jessica Browne, a health sciences major, was looking for a club that would give students who are interested in health a chance to make a difference.

The senior eventually teamed up with other students and faculty to establish an FIU Health Occupations Students of America organization, which she is now president of.

Professors Barbara Anderson and Carol Pyle became the faculty advisors and a full committee of students soon followed.

According to Browne, the best thing about FIU’s HOSA is that it is open to all students.

The club’s members include pre-medicine, pre-occupational therapy and pre-dentistry students, as well as others who are not entering the health field.

“HOSA allows everyone to get together and see what it is like to work in the field and make contacts. Health care is all about team effort. You need to learn that taking care of a patient is a collaborative effort and that’s what HOSA is all about,” Browne said.

Sophomore Eddy Mora, a biology major, remembers when he first got involved in HOSA.

“I found out about FIU HOSA one day in Fall 2006 while walking through the Graham Center. There was a table there and I stopped and asked about it, since there was a HOSA club in my high school,” Mora said.

I remember I got two roses, and that made my day. Since then I’ve met a lot of interesting, fun and caring people both in the club and out of the club.”

This year, the National HOSA decided to focus on fund raising for Autism Speaks, the nation’s leading non-profit organization devoted to autism research and education.

FIU’s HOSA raised roughly $400 for the organization.

“We fund raise for autism because it has been the focus of the National HOSA for the past two years.”

We spread awareness for autism because most people don’t understand it,” Browne said.

It needs to be addressed in our society in order for us to help autistic people.”

Senior Melissa Burgos, a health science major, said she enjoyed fund raising for Autism Speaks, during National HOSA Week Nov. 5 through Nov. 9.

“It was great to be a part of a project that made a difference for many autistic children,” Burgos said.

FIU’s HOSA has also teamed up with other organizations such as the Autism Speaks, during National HOSA Week Nov. 5 through Nov. 9.

“People and organizations can receive text messages with emergency notifications originating from the University or the University levels,” Cyrille said.

Students would have to opt-in to the messaging system through PantherSoft to receive the messages.

“The important thing is that students can update their information at any time on PantherSoft and will be reminded at the beginning of the semester to update their information,” Cyrille said.
Students need to get involved, regardless of whether they’re Democrat or Republican. It’s important for students to be active while in college.

“No student should have to walk down the hallways with their head down, because that’s not what happened to me,” Robiana said. “The views of the College Republicans do not necessarily align with the national politics. It varies based on the issue, because all politics is local.”

The College Republicans believe that there might be a problem with radical individualism.

“The whole communal spirit of democracy doesn’t work if people are saying that what happens to you doesn’t matter, what happens to me is more important,” Robiana said.

The FIU College Republicans meet every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Primera Classroom 424. For more information on the group e-mail collegegerepublicans@fiu.edu or visit www.fiu.edu/~soc.
Music business class releases CD

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The Music Management class taught by Professor Osawaldo Rossi will release the class-produced album “Secrets of Sound,” on Nov. 30.

Rossi, who is the director of legal and business affairs for EMI Televisa Music has produced three albums so far in his classes.

“While I was putting together my syllabus, I asked myself, ‘what kind of approach would I appreciate if I were a student longing to work in the music industry?’ I figured — this would give the students real insight on what goes behind producing, marketing and promoting an album,” Rossi said.

The event will include several performances by locals artists: Artificial, a hip-hop fusion band which, according to Rossi, allows each student to contribute and illustrates the diversity of his class, while providing a mixture of sounds for everyone.

The album is a multi-artist, multi-genre compilation album, according to Rossi, allows each student to contribute and illustrates the diversity of his class, while providing a mixture of sounds for everyone.

“Since I live in Broward, I go to FIU HOSA, and the executive board elections for the upcoming semester Nov. 28.

The new president of the club will be Christy Ribao, a Health Sciences major and pre-med student since Browne is graduating this semester.

“I hope to continue the success that HOSA has had so far by putting more emphasis on community service and giving our members the opportunity to meet and work with health care professionals in the area,” Ribao said.

For more information about FIU’s chapter of HOSA, visit www.FIUHOSA.org.
Achieving to the green standard

Task force strives to incorporate eco-friendly measures in buildings

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Former Vice Provost Raul Moncarz remembers the Biscayne Bay Campus in 1972 when watching crabs cross the street was an everyday occurrence. There were less buildings, less cars and less pollution," Moncarz said.

The campus consisted of the Hospitality Management Building, formerly the Trade Center, trailers that are near the Library.

Within the last few years, BBC has witnessed even more changes including the HM Building’s renovations, construction of the Marine Sciences building and the new cafeteria and trailers that are near the Library.

According to David Fonseca, BBC’s Student Government Council’s Environmental Correspondent, “you really can’t see the building, it’s there.”

Of course, new construction is going to affect the wildlife at the campus. Every type of construction is going to affect the wildlife - you’re taking up their space," Fonseca said.

Squirrels can be seen scrounging the garbage cans, which means that something is eating away at their natural food source.

Florida International University President Modesto A. Maidique signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment on May 25, where he pledged to achieve "climate neutrality," or a zero greenhouse gas footprint at FIU.

To adhere to his ACUPCC pledge, Maidique has created an environmental committee, the President’s Climate Commitment Task Force.

According to Charles Scurr, committee chair, the task force is in charge of "creating institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan" laid out to achieve climate neutrality according to the pledge’s rules.

“The commitment includes a set of guidelines,” Scurr wrote in an e-mail. “This includes a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions, actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum, and a target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.”

The commitment also calls for other measures, including achieving a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver Standard and a “green” building rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council for building construction. Other changes include the implementation of Energy Star certified products and the generation of at least 15 percent of the electricity produced by FIU’s structures from renewable sources.

Fonseca said SGC-BBC is trying to ensure the LEED Silver Standard.

Changes can be seen in the new buildings that come equipped with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs and water-efficient showerheads in the student residence buildings.

The Beacon – 3 November 29, 2007

Alumna gets to publish work into a novel

WILMA HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Florida International University Alumna Lynn K. Bonasia’s first novel, Some Assembly Required, will be published in June 2008.

Set in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the story details how a former writer of instruction manuals and a recovering alcoholic try to assemble new furniture instead of growing crabs cross the street was an everyday occurrence. There were less buildings, less cars and less pollution," Moncarz said.

Bonasia graduated from FIU in 2003 with a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing but had already begun the book in 2002 during a novel writing class. Originally titled Washashores, Bonasia continued working on it as her MFA thesis project.

“The unfinished manuscript collected dust for a couple of years while I continued school. I have discipline in writing, but there are always distractions such as the email icon, clients needing ads, my kid, phone calls, and a cat that likes to rest her head on my escape button. The piece, then incomplete, was a finalist in the James Jones First Novel Fellowship competition in 2003. Bonasia said that to her some bad writing days, writers’ block is not a choice. A full-time mother to 16 year old son John and wife of 19 years to Jeff, Bonasia tries to write in the morning when her ideas are fresher and commits at least four hours before she takes a break to walk her dog.

“By the last semester, I knew that you don’t have the luxury of having writer’s block,” Bonasia said. “The only hard time I have is when I step away from a project for too long, and then it takes me some time to get back into it.”

Bonasia, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts, said journalism taught her how to write what good fiction does; it changes desires, and difficulties. That’s the magic that keeps writers going. Bonasia said.

“The best part of writing is when providing criticism to others,” Bonasia said during the final changes, “By the last semester, I knew that that you get to learn a little about a lot of different things,” Bonasia said.

Cindy Chineley, one of Bonasia’s undergraduate creative writing professors, described her as highly motivated, well-read, and generous when providing criticism to others.

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**University Apartments**

*poorly maintained, unclean*

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As I checked-in to my dorm in the University Park Apartments earlier this semester, the scene I came across met my expectations most adequately: the tile floor was noticeably old, scratched here and there in hundreds of places and seemingly filthy beyond any standard method of cleaning.

The stove-top was splattered with the burnt flakes of unknown meals from countless other tenants and missing one of the heat coils. A rather large piece of the ceiling had been casually left to blend in with the grime of the floor. None of this surprised me.

This is my second semester living in one of the University Park apartments. As such, my firsthand knowledge of the overall living conditions of UPA – when compared to the other newer and, apparently, more important residence halls in campus – has prepared me for my experiences with my dorm, and the housing department.

To be fair it should be noted that any experience is in part what one makes of it.

Despite the state of the apartments, living on campus, specifically UPA, is not a miserable experience.

There is a fairly vibrant life and cleanliness of our dorms. The age of the apartments is at fault for the state. The neglect has not been addressed, possibly due to the construction of newer, more profitable dorms.

The sheer squallor and broken down state of certain rooms still permeates even after the resident and roommates have taken it upon themselves to clean their dorm after moving in.

These efforts are often in vain since the check-out policy, a policy that exists to hold tenants accountable for any damages that might have occurred throughout their stay, is loosely enforced, if at all.

This results in stubborn spots of grime on the floor, large patches of mildew near the central air vents (which seems like a health hazard) and the notorious shower tubs, which will have you considering a second shower soon after your first.

Clearly it is the residents’ duty to maintain their dorms, but it is not their duty to clean the filth of previou residents – especially right after check-in.

By placing the responsibility of cleaning the dorms solely on students, Housing cunningly avoids having to take any responsibility for the state of the rooms they offer.

If the check-in policy were strictly enforced, students would have to take note of problems as soon as they checked in and could then complain about the state of their rooms. These students would therefore have to record the condition of their rooms upon arrival and how these issues were never resolved, thereby making Housing responsible.

As residents of UPA, most of us understand that you get what you pay for.

We don’t hold unrealistic expectations of what the apartments should be like, but we deserve equality and fairness in policy when it comes to, if nothing else, the simple functionality and cleanliness of our dorms.

We don’t pay at least $2,000 to be repulsed by what is to be our own living space for the entire semester.

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**HOSPITALITY**

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We have discovered that the cut-and-dried versions of our upbringing...
Japanese Fashion becomes popular in U.S.

ELSY COLEMAN Staff Writer

In the back of the December 2007 issue of Shojo Beat magazine, a publication featuring Japanese comics, or Manga, was an ad for a clothing brand called Baby, The Stars Shine Bright. The ad features the brand’s upcoming line of “western size” clothing. Baby is one of Japan’s major brand-name producers of “Lolita clothing,” a style inspired by Victorian-era attire. Baby is one of various Lolita clothing brands currently opening their lines to international markets.

In addition, Gothic & Lolita Bible, a popular Lolita fashion magazine in Japan, will soon be translated and distributed to American audiences courtesy of the English-language manga-distributing company, Tokyopop.

“Lolita’s got three things many other street styles don’t have,” said Michelle Holtkamp, a junior and president of the Japan Club, “one, it’s cute; two, versatility; and three, celebrity support. The cute part’s self-explanatory. You can just look at a lolita outfit and feel just a little bit more bubbly inside because of its cuteness.”

The growing popularity of the style in America is also in correlation with the rise in popularity of Japanese animation, or Anime, and manga in the west. Many of these mediums, particularly those aimed at a female demographic, feature characters who wear clothing inspired by the trend.

Along with the rise of anime and manga, singer Gwen Stefani is also noted as a major influence for bringing western attention to Japanese styles. The former lead vocalist of No Doubt released her own music video “Sax” in 2003. L.A.M.B. stands for “Love. Angel. Music. Baby.”

Both the name of Stefani’s first solo album and the nicknames of her signature Japanese backup dancers, also known collectively as The Harajuku Girls. In 2005, Stefani launched Harajuku Lovers, a more mainstream-oriented line with products made and priced for the average Japanese Fashion, page 8

OLIVIA CAMAYD Staff Writer

A decade ago when the word “croc” came up in conversation, most would immediately think of a crocodile, or Steve Irwin, depending on the accent used. In 2007, this is not the case. Now the word “croc” likely triggers the disturbing image of sunflower yellow, plastic clogs. So when did this transition happen and why would anyone ever resort to wearing such unappealing shoes?

One reason could be their unmistakable comfort. Many students and retailers seem to stand by the claim that the shoe’s comfort level surpasses its unattractive appearance. David Polanco, a vendor at a Miami Nordstrom, calls them “the ugliest, most comfortable shoes on the planet. I would not be caught dead wearing them in public, but they’re the only shoes I wear at home.”

Lyndy “Duke” Johnson founded Crocs, Inc. in 2002 in Boulder, Colorado. The original model, the Croc Beach, was first sold that same year in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. During the subsequent years, Crocs have increased in popularity due in large part to word of mouth advertising about their impressive comfort (Jennifer Alsever “What a Croc!” fastcompany.com). In 2007, Crocs’ revenue has increased a staggering 130% since last year. According to an October 31st press release from www.crocs.com/company/ press, the company made a total of $256.3 million this year compared to last year’s $111.3 million.

The shoes come in a variety of colors ranging from neutral black and gray to blindingly bright orange and lime green. In 2006, Crocs, Inc. further increased their variety by buying a company called Jibbitz, which allows their costumers to personalize their Crocs with an assortment of charms and embellishments.

Crocs, Inc. owns several shoe companies that meet their customers’ needs. For those customers who are more fashion conscious, YOU by Crocs is a more style conscious line. Its website (youbycrocs.com), claims it is the “intersection of fashion and Soleful comfort.”

Most FIU students who spoke to The Beacon showed an aversion toward the shoe. “They look comfortable, but disappointed me. I tried them on and [they were] unfashionable. I wouldn’t spend money on them”, says Derek Pacheco, a junior at FIU.

Other students, like Amanda Hechavarria, have given the shoes a try only to find that they were less comfortable than advertised. “There are small bumps on the bottom of the shoes and an unpleasant breeze passes through your toes,” Hechavarria said.

Crocs not only face harsh criticism from students, but in the outside world as well. Hating Crocs has become as much of a trend as wearing them. Some have gone as far as making websites, such as ihatecrocs.blogspot.com, specifically to discuss the flaws of the shoes. This resistance against the Croc trend extends into the mainstream media. Megan O’Rourke of Slate went as far as calling the shoes “exquisitely ugly” in her article “The Croc Epidemic” and John Stewart from the popular faux news program “The Daily Show” has shown extraordinary distaste for the shoes.

The war against Crocs was further fueled this past September, when news of a young boy named Rory’s nearly had his toenail ripped off after his shoe got caught in an elevator (crocsaccidents.blogspot.com). Rory was not the first to suffer physical injury as a result of wearing Crocs. Earlier this year Crocs are] the ugliest, most comfortable shoes on the planet. I would not be caught dead wearing them in public, but they’re the only shoes I wear at home.

In spite of the growing trend of disliking Crocs, the shoes’ owners bravely stand by their purchases, countering with websites such as littlerubbershoes.com and boasting both the comfort and medical benefits of Crocs.

Despite facing bad publicity and public distaste, Crocs continue to grow in popularity not only in the United States, but globally as well. They are currently being sold in 90 countries worldwide at a stunning rate of 60 million pairs a year. Local sales associates at department stores like Nordstrom and Macy’s have been baffled by the amount of Crocs sold. Millicent, a salesperson at Macy’s says, “Crocs sell like hot bread. It’s like giving them away.”

This seems to be a clear message: whether you love them, or love to hate them, Crocs aren’t going away anytime soon.
Free t-shirts are a staple of campus life. They provide a way to show pride for the University, represent which events you have attended, what organizations you are involved with and provide an alternative to doing laundry or buying new clothes.

Campus organizations often garner attention about their causes and attract attention to their events by spending money on t-shirts to promote events beforehand and to hand out at activities. Alejandra Maruri, president of the Student Alumni Association, said that even though shirts can be “pricey,” they are worth it.

“T-shirts turn students into human billboards for these clubs. Sometimes we get sponsors, so the cost of the shirts is not out of our pocket,” said Maruri. For some students, however, free t-shirts are not about the threads themselves, but the sense of accomplishment of receiving one.

“Everyone wants a shirt at events, and when it’s you that ends up grabbing it out of the air, you feel like you won,” said Niko Votipka, a freshman majoring in biomedical engineering.

There are many opportunities year-round to find some free clothing. “Panthers Unleashed” shirts were a common sight during Homecoming where the Homecoming Council gave out the shirts at sponsored events, last Friday, the Career Services office was passing out free FIU Football shirts which read “Give ‘Em The Paw 2007” to students passing through Graham Center all day during Homecoming Court voting.

If you simply cannot seem to get lucky with scoring free shirts or simply want to expand your collection, the FIU Bookstore has a wide selection of FIU gear that can be used to show your Golden Panther Pride, ranging from the very reasonably priced to the “more overpriced than a University of Miami education” category.
Asian styles pushed by pop star Stefani

HIGH RISK, HIGH REWARD?

HIV contaminated organs raise questions

Earlier this month a horrible story came out of Chicago. Four patients got infected with HIV and the virus for hepatitis C from an organ donor.

The recipients of those organs were infected with HIV two weeks ago, according to medical officials reported by Associated Press; the transplants took place in January, but the recipients were not tested for HIV until recently.

A c c o r d i n g t o MedicalNewsToday.com the organ donor had been tested by an ELISA test before the transplant, which is a fast HIV test that screens for antibodies. The results came out negative.

A second test was completed and after the infections were discovered and the result came out negative too.

The most likely reason the test came out negative is because the donor had acquired the infection in the last three weeks before reference to ganguro gyaru, according to AP.

If a person gets infected with HIV, it takes 22 days from time of exposure to be detected by the standard HIV test (ELISA).

A n o t h e r important issue is that the donor was identified in a high-risk status, which was confirmed on a questionnaire before the transplant.

“Newly aware of that from the beginning,” said Dave Bosch of the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donation, the regional organ procurement agency that handled the donor organs in article from the Reuters news agency.

According to Bosch, 9 percent of the 22,000 organ transplants in the United States involve high-risk organs.

Statistics reflect that the risk of getting any disease from transplanted organs is less than 0.01 percent, according to Tammer.

“The transplant system is safe,” according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to AP, behaviors that may make a potential donor’s organs “high risk” include having unprotected sex, having sex for money or drugs, and intravenous use of recreational drugs, within the past five years prior to organ donation.

Three main ethical questions arise from all these facts.

Isn’t there another test more accurate than the ELISA test? And why were the recipients not tested for HIV after the transplant?

To start, there is another type of test that is more accurate known as NAT, which is a slower test that looks at the genetic material of the HIV or hepatitis C pathogen, and can therefore detect the presence of a virus shortly after infection, before the body has had time to produce enough antibodies to show up in the test antibody, according to MedicalNewsToday.com.

The problem is that this test takes longer than the ELISA test, and since time is essential they apply the ELISA test.

According to an article in the Chicago Tribune titled “Organ Patients spread of HIV probed,” an organ can be stored only for a short time, as little as four hours in the case of hearts and lungs, experts said.

The availability is another concern. If you pass, maybe you don’t get another organ, according to Caplan, University of Pennsylvania medical ethicist.

Another question remains: why weren’t the recipients tested after the procedure? According to Dr. Matthew Kuehnert, director of blood, organ and tissue safety with the federal Center for Disease Control, none of the affected hospitals –Rush University Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the University of Chicago Medical Center- appeared to have followed CDC guidelines for testing at-risk patients after a transplant.

Gift of Hope in a statement on their website www.giftofhope.org, affirms that a review of the case verified that they performed standard tests for HIV and HCV in accordance with the appropriate guidelines as required by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) and the CDC.

As for the recipients friends and family? According to the Chicago Tribune, it’s too soon to say whether the organ recipients passed on the infections to anyone else.

Is there a transplant system that is 100 percent secure that can someday be implemented?

“I predict it will happen. We’re just not there today. I hope it won’t be too long… maybe a year or two,” said James Burdick, head of the division of transplantation at the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

ALL DRESSED UP: The Japan Club wore different Gothic Lolita styles to educate members on Japanese fashion

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### Raw quarterbacks lead teams in final game

**MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 12**

Into the season, also disrupted the Golden Panthers in the paint when the led the Bulls with two blocks and grabbed six rebounds. The preseason candidate for the John R. Wooden Award was one of the main reasons the Golden Panthers hadn't found a rhythm in the post.

FIU coach Sergio Rouco thought his team did not play hard enough.

"They were soft," he said. "They hadn't been soft now, but we weren't a team of a magnitude yet. I thought we could have played harder around the basket, but we didn't, and they took advantage of us."

Starting center Russell Hicks, who came into the game leading the team in scoring at 17 points per game, never found an offensive rhythm. He finished with 11 points on 5-for-13 shooting.

"I couldn't finish," Hicks said. "I know that in the first half I couldn't even finish my close range shots.

Rouco believes Hicks could have been more aggressive.

"We tried to get him the ball early and he couldn't catch it," Rouco said. "He wasn't as intense the first half as he was the second half, but he's our center he has to catch the ball and be a presence offensive. I thought he had times offensively where he could have dunked the ball and he didn't, so he has to play stronger.

As a result of the Bulls' sturdy defense, the Golden Panthers were forced to shoot a season-high 24 3-point field goals, while only making eight of them.

Junior guard Kenneth White contributed to the Golden Panthers' poor shooting night, going 1-for-7 from 3-point range and made only six field goals in 21 attempts for the game.

"It was his day; he was open," Rouco said of White. "I thought out of the shots he took, a few were forced, but he missed a lot of shots around the basket and he's a guy we need to be offensive minded for us to win."

The Golden Panthers, who had times offensively where he could have dunked the ball and he didn't, so he has to play stronger.

**COMMENTS, page 12**

Hicks did not score his first basket of the game until 3:39 left in the first half.

There were two factors resulted in Hicks becoming obsolete. From the opening tip to the end of the first buzzer, the Golden Panthers relied heavily on outside shooting. In the beginning, it was working well for the offense as they made three consecutive 3-pointers.

But as the game went on, the team began to shoot less intense shots and did not allow Hicks to touch the ball enough.

Secondly, the Bulls defense blocked passing lanes and forced other players to shoot the ball instead of Hicks. As a result, junior guard Kenari White shot the ball 21 times as opposed to Hicks' 13 shots that were mainly tipped balls and not plays designed for him.

Once Hicks was not a factor, the Bulls took advantage of a stagnant offense to sustain their advantage on the Golden Panthers.

Two stars on team make or break the team's season

#### Commentary

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Secondly, the Bulls defense blocked passing lanes and forced other players to shoot the ball instead of Hicks. As a result, junior guard Kenari White shot the ball 21 times as opposed to Hicks' 13 shots that were mainly tipped balls and not plays designed for him.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL USF 77, FIU 69

FIRST DEFEAT

Team unable to stop Bulls’ inside game

With 5:38 left in the game, University of South Florida center Kentrell Gransberry got in position inside the paint and scored once again before clapping his hands confidently and jogging to his huddle after another FIU timeout.

For the Golden Panthers (1-5, 0-4), that play was a microcosm of the teams’ 77-69 loss to the USF Bulls (4-3) Nov. 26 at the Pharmed Arena.

Gransberry, a second team All-Big East selection last season, led the Bulls with 21 points on 8-for-13 shooting from the field, and was a force on both sides of the ball.

“He’s amazing, we just have to get him the ball and he does what he needs to,” USF forward Orane Chin said.

Indeed, Gransberry was the center of attention for the Golden Panthers defense, often draw double teams en route to getting to the line 10 times to lead his team.

The Golden Panthers went 7-13 at the line for the game as the Bulls capitalized throughout the game on their way to an 18-for-29 night at the stripe. Gransberry, the top returning rebounder in the nation coming into the game, finished with 12 points and a career-high 16 rebounds.

“Iva Ciglar. “You can’t blame it on the defense [because] you [can] have a good day or bad day on offense, but you always have to have a good day on defense and that is definitely what we did not have today.”

The Golden Panthers then went on to beat Illinois, who had lost to South Carolina, 91-58. This meant they did not have today.”

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The Golden Panthers will be the 77-69 loss on Nov. 26 at Pharmed Arena.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers falter in FIU Thanksgiving Classic

Darren Collette, Staff Writer

The Pharmed Arena played host to the FIU Thanksgiving Classic Nov. 23 and 25. The Golden Panthers (1-4), University of Providence Friars (4-2), University of South Carolina Gamecocks (4-2) and the University of Illinois Fighting Illini (5-1) participated in the tournament.

The Golden Panthers got off to a promising start against Providence. They entered halftime with a 33-24 lead that would be short lived. Despite having a 14-point lead in the second half, a 15-0 run by Providence brought the lead up to 14 points in the second half. FIU lost after a 15-0 Providence run.

The Golden Panthers ended up losing the game 71-60. Providence, led by sophomore guard Kendria Holmes, scored a game-high 19 points.

Junior forward Marquita Adley led FIU in both scoring and rebounding with 12 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for the second consecutive game.

“Tough game. It was the defense. It was definitely the defense,” said junior guard Tiana Houshian.

Indeed, the Bulls’ defense was effective, limiting the Golden Panthers to an 8-point lead at halftime. They entered halftime with a 33-24 lead, but South Carolina responded with a 15-0 run to take a 38-34 lead.

“I can’t blame it on the offense [because] you [can] have a good day or bad day on offense, but you always have to have a good day on defense and that is definitely what we did not have today.”

In the second half, senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scored 23 of her career-high 32 points and helped keep FIU within striking range, but South Carolina responded with a 15-point lead.

In the consolation game, Ferguson, South Carolina freshman guard Jordan Jones, Providence sophomore forward Emily Courrèges, Illinois junior forward Chelsea Gordon and Smith.

Golden Panthers coach Cindy Russo was pleased to face tough competition at this juncture of the season.

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“This loses are bad, but they’re good because we learn with every loss and by the time we get in our conference, we’ll be ready to compete and beat the teams in our conference,” said Ferguson.

In the championship game, Illinois edged out Providence by one point to win 60-59.

The all-tournament team consisted of Ferguson, South Carolina freshmen guard Jordan Jones, Providence sophomore forward Emily Courrèges, Illinois junior forward Chelsea Gordon and Smith.

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