Plane used to flee from Cuba donated as part of art exhibit

EVELYN DIAZ
Staff Writer

In 1999, a Cuban family fled to the United States on a vintage Antonov-2 Colt biplane, landing safely in Key West. Cuban American artist Xavier Cortada donated that Antonov-2 Colt biplane to FIU.

Cortada painted a representation of freedom on half of the biplane and purposely left the other half as it was. The biplane is because of the large number of Cuban students and faculty at FIU.

Cortada hopes that Cuban students look at the plane and reflect on their history and non Cuban students look at their plane and learn something.

"I created this exhibit in order for my parents, grandparents and all other Cuban exiles to not fade from memory," Cortada said on his Web site.

A painting of a key represents the unlocking of freedom, while a painting of a white dove represents a sign of hope. A painting of a lightened candle represents the meaning of truth, according to Cortada.

"Art and conception are the same thing, it’s not about making things pretty, it’s about making them real," Cortada said.

Part of the plane’s exhibit are 46 pieces of luggage that surround the plane. Each piece is numbered in sequence from 1959 to 2004, which are the years that the Cuban community had been under rule by Fidel Castro.

"The individual accounts of a peoples’ journey to freedom can never be forgotten. Carrying their voices to future generations may prevent this tragedy from ever happening again," Cortada said on his Web site.

CORTADA, page 4

FIU STUDENT MEDIA

Radiate FM, The Beacon launch new Web site for FIU community

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. News Director

Beginning Jan. 14, The Beacon newspaper, in cooperation with the Radiate FM student radio station, will launch FIUSM.com, a Web site dedicated to the two branches of FIU’s student media.

The launch will coincide with a translator station being raised at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"The tower will have a radius of about 10 to 15 miles, which increases our audience into North Miami and South Broward," said Pablo Penton, the station’s general manager.

FIUSM.com will also allow Radiate FM listeners to track what the station is playing.

"We’d like to have plaiists available so that listeners can go online and see what we played at any time during the day. It is something that listeners have really wanted and always asked us about," Penton said.

For The Beacon, the new Web site will allow...
Balancing Responsibilities

Parenting still comes first for students with double duties

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

Atypical day for Simone Bailey, 26, starts at 6:30 a.m. and doesn’t end “till midnight or later.”

The senior, majoring in anthropology, wake up to prepare breakfast for her two children Abijah, 6, and Ani-Hall, 4, before dropping them off at school.

Then it’s off to Young Women’s Christian Association, where Bailey works as a massage therapist for a few hours before heading to class.

In the late afternoon Bailey picks up her children before heading home.

Once home, Bailey prepares dinner and helps her children with their homework. Her work day is not quite over, though, and she has to take her son to his basketball game before heading to class.

Family Time: Simone Bailey, a senior majoring in anthropology, left works on her classwork while her children Abijah (right) and Ani-Hall (center) look on.

“With education becoming a priority and the kids, I became flexible and allows me to work while her children Abijah (right) and Ani-Hall (center) look on. Bailey’s job as massage therapist gives her the flexibility she needs to juggle the many tasks.”

Gonzalez said. “The natural inclination is to go back to school and get his degree in information technology.

But Gonzalez regrets not going to college right after high school.

“I feel truly torn especially when the kids want you to be home to play with them, but you still need to do what’s best for the family in the long run,” Gonzalez said. “The natural inclination is to go home and play with the young ones. It’s not easy. It’s not easy at all.”

Gonzalez often misses out on family functions, and family time in general, to catch up on his readings and homework.

“Putting in a full day’s work and then going to school at night, it’s tough. On the weekends, instead of spending time with the family, like you would like to, you have to spend time on school assignments,” Gonzalez said.

The Children’s Creative Learning Center (CCLC) at FIU offers parents the option to keep their younger children close while they attend classes.

Located adjacent to the Graham Center, the CCLC serves children ages three to six who are toilet trained. The cost of using the center varies depending on the amount in grants awarded from year-to-year, but prior-year information is given to amount in grants awarded to full-time degree seeking students and children followed by part-time degree seeking students.

For more information on the CCLC and its registration fee, visit the CCLC Web site at www.fiu.edu/~children.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 7</td>
<td>House 9a.m.-5p.m. WUC 253, Center for Leadership and Service Volunteer Fair 11a.m.-1p.m. GC, Dance Marathon “So You think you can dance” auditions Noon -2p.m. GC Pit, SPC Comedy Show Spring Kick Off! 8p.m. GC Ballrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 8</td>
<td>Ask Me Tables, 8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC, UP MPAS Open House 9 a.m.-5 p.m. GC 216, BBC MPAS Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 9</td>
<td>Ask Me Tables, 8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC, SGC-UP General Meeting 4 p.m. GC 150, SGC- BBC-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 10</td>
<td>Ask Me Tables, 8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC, Week of Welcome Involvement Fair 11 a.m.-2 p.m. GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 11</td>
<td>GSA Gradskeller 6 p.m. Gracies Grill, Anything Goes Anime General Meeting 8 p.m. Midnight GC 140, FIU Women’s Basketball vs Troy 5:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 12</td>
<td>FIU Men’s Basketball vs Western Kentucky 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 13</td>
<td>FIU Women’s Basketball vs. Western Kentucky 3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 14</td>
<td>Last Day to complete Late Registration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFUSED ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER?
LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?
RADIATE FM’S COREY ANDERSON WILL BE ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ON JAN. 8 AND 10 BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND NOON.
SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO CBACH1988@AOL.COM FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING ANY DEPARTMENT.

BRINGING INDEPENDENT 
AND UNDERGROUND
MUSIC TO YOU

OLD HIP-HOP MONDAYS
ELECTRONIC TUESDAYS
METAL AND 80S WEDNESDAYS
CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE ROCK THURSDAYS
DANCE FRIDAYS
STREET HIP-HOP SATURDAYS
WORLD SUNDAYS

COMING SOON TO NORTH MIAMI & SOUTH BROWARD 96.9
InformaCast improves University communication

EMERGENCY, page 1

and ensure the safety of everyone on campus specifically during emergencies,” said Vice President of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education Rosa Jones in a December press release from Media Relations.

Cyrille said that the University Technology Services department, which installed the emergency phones, is performing field surveys on the installed phones.

“We are always looking to improve safety,” Cyrille said.

Phase three of the safety initiative will begin as soon as additional funds are available, but Cyrille said that the time frame of the final phase’s completion is to be announced. The final phase is the installation of large indoor speakers that can be used to alert people of possible danger.

In December, three large outdoor emergency speakers were installed outside GC, DM and PC. But Cyrille said that those speakers were funded by a previous grant and safety initiative not directly involved with the current plan.

The University currently uses the InformaCast system which allows the university to send audio streams or text messages to Internet phones, speakers and other paging systems.

It alerts students, faculty and staff during emergencies through e-mail, electronic signs at the entrances of the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, and local news outlets.

Flying art will hang from roof of Deuxième Maison

CORTADA, page 1

The vessel arrived disassembled to FIU on Dec. 22. The plane will be stored at the Campus Support Complex.

Madaline Baro, an assistant director from Media Relations, commented that the plane will eventually be hung for everyone’s viewing pleasure from the roof of the Deuxième Maison building.

Cortada is known for his philanthropic endeavors involving the Cuban community.

He received the prestigious Millennium International Volunteer Award from the U.S. Department of State and USA Today in 2000. In February of 2000 Cortada was invited to meet Pope John Paul II in Rome.

For more information visit Cortada’s Web site at www.cubanmonumenttofreedom.com.

Students get their news faster with new Web site

WEB SITE, page 1

reporters and readers to respond to breaking news quicker.

“The new Web site is a way of following the direction the world is taking when it comes to getting info. It isn’t 100 percent about the information, but also interacting with it. Whether it is discussing it with your peers or just getting it faster. It is making it our newspaper more interactive,” said Rick Martinez, an online editor for FIU Student Media.

The new site will also allow readers to view back issues of the paper.

“More people get their news online than from the print edition, and especially at a commuter school where students are going in for class and leaving for work,” said Joel Marino, an online reporter for The South Florida Sun Sentinel’s online edition and former editor-in-chief of The Beacon from 2006-2007.

“This will help make The Beacon more professional,” said Marino. “This is a frontier, and it is the cutting edge. Other college newspapers are doing this, it is about time FIU did it as well.”

Testing: Installer Frank Zambrana tests one of the new emergency phones located in Primera Casa.
Public Relations department hires chair from within

Ahles’ family firm comes first, Figueredo steps in as chair

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Asst. News Director

Catherine Ahles, the Advertising and Public Relations department chair, is flying high.

“Four years ago my husband and I started a family business, an aircraft dealership with four people and its grown to 45 [employees],” said Ahles in a telephone interview.

“We now need full time advertising and public relations so I’m going back to what I’ve been trained to do.”

Ahles joins Premier Aircraft Sales’ Fort Lauderdale branch, helping the dealership represent Mooney and Diamond airplane manufacture and its Web site’s design. She also affected enrollment in the Integrated Communications: Advertising and Public Relations program.

“She really helped diversify the Advertising and Public Relations department by bringing in people from different experiences, from health care to marketing,” said David Mooney, SJMC’s marketing coordinator.

Ahles handpicked some professors join FIU, including Fernand Figueredo, Elizabeth Marsh and Lynn Farber. Ahles worked with the SJMC dean in placing an employee recognition program that honors faculty and worked to increase graduate assistant enrollment to help faculty with their research.

“One of the accomplishments I’m most proud of is the full time faculty we have now,” said Ahles.

“I say that because a successful ad program depends on the quality of faculty and students makes it work. I have no doubt we have the highest qualified faculty in the U.S.”

Ahles also helped implement new certificate programs in tourism and marketing communications for undergraduates, and public relations management for graduate work. This fall, Ahles worked with Kimberly Harrison in the English Department in developing an undergraduate certificate in writing.

Despite her dedication as department chair, it’s the classroom that Ahles will miss most.

“It’s just sad to not be in the classroom everyday. I worked at a community college in Michigan, and have also consulted with numerous colleges in the field so I’ve had a chance to look at various student bodies out there. Our students are very unique, they’re more motivated than typical college students. Many have full time and part time jobs to pay for school,” Ahles said.

In ahles’ stead, Figueredo, associate professor for the SIMC, will ascend as interim department chair as of Jan. 2.

“I’m going to hopefully serve the needs of our faculty, at the same time serve the needs of our students,” Figueredo said. “If I do that, our department and school will benefit.”

Figueredo has held positions such as vice-president of corporate communications for both AOL Latin America and Lucent Technologies as well as consulting work for AOL Latin America, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and the City of Miami International Council.

Figueredo recently served as a managing partner for the Latin American division at Porter-Novelli, an international public relations firm whose clients include the center for disease control and Procet & Gamble.

“I believe it’s important to provide students with international to the department of Advertising and Public Relations,” Figueredo said. “Part of my interest is to find ways to increase the international focus of our curriculum and course offerings.”

Figueredo hopes to increase student internship opportunities, expand the Berlin study abroad program and create new programs in Spain and Argentina. An SIMC Hispanic institute is also on Figueredo’s agenda.

“We live in a global community. Our students need to be able to function in a multinational, multicultural environment,” Figueredo said.

Ahles is confident Figueredo’s tenure will enhance the APR department.

“I have no doubt he’ll bring great things to the department. I’m very excited for the future under his leadership,” Ahles said.

Class brings new life to a 1950s New York

“New York in the Fifties: Beats and a New Culture” is a three-credit course taught by FIU creative writing professor and FIU-in-Residence Dan Wakefield.

“Students will benefit by learning how the seeds of change that were planted in New York in the 1950s ushered in the creativity and turmoil of the 1960s and shaped the course of our culture in literature, music, art and society,” Wakefield said.

Science of natural disasters taught during new class

MONIQUE MATTICE
Contributing Writer

FIU is offering a new course to help students understand the science and reporting behind natural disasters throughout the world, such as hurricanes that ripped through parts of Central America in 2007.

Journalists need to understand the science behind these disasters and why they occur, according to Hugh Gladwin, associate professor in the department of sociology and anthropology.

Gladwin is teaching a special topics course during the spring of 2008 to help FIU journalism students understand the causes behind natural disasters.

A contributor to co-editor of the 1997 book Hurricane Andrew: Ethnicity, Gender and the Sociology of Disasters, Gladwin has also researched the perceptuals of Gulf Coast residents in evacuations for hurricanes Ivan and Katrina.

“I thought it would be good to teach a course on hurricanes in the media. The students will learn a fair amount of science and weather, but the focus is going to be on reporting,” Gladwin said.

“Climate Change, Hurricanes, and the Media” is designed to show students the science behind the changes of the environment due to global warming, Gladwin said.

“The real goal of this course isn’t to teach everything there is to know about hurricanes or climate change, but to teach someone how you, as a reporter, would understand the scientific issues and report on it,” Gladwin said.

The first half of the course will be dedicated to research, science and some reporting; the reporting section of the course will take place after the midterm, when students will receive given short writing assignments, said Gladwin. The course is open to all majors.

One of the required texts for the class, Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics, and the Battle Over Global Warming,” written by journalist Chris Mooney, is set to take the conflict among scientists concerning global warming and hurricanes head on. Mooney may also be a guest speaker in the class.

A second required book, Mike Davis’ Planet of Slums focuses on how city populations continue to grow. The book suggests that most of the world’s population will soon live in cities. However, most of these people will suffer from poverty. In order to understand the consequences of global warming, Davis takes a look at where human populations are most vulnerable and most explosive, according to Gladwin.

“We have to look at the most horrible [but] conceivable things that can happen, then look at how climate change affects that,” Gladwin said. “These people are moving into cities where they can’t support themselves except through industry that is going to require energy. These huge cities in the slums are the biggest problem.

“If China or India decided, well, all we can do is burn tons of coal, it’s going to exacerbate the global warming process.”

WSVN-7 Web Producer and former FIU student Hans Morgenstern believes this class can give journalism students the tools they need to ask the right questions and distinguish between propaganda and the facts as they report on such issues.

“They those training to become journalists need to understand the differences between myths, propaganda and scientific theories and research,” Morgenstern said in an e-mail interview with The Beacon.

“There’s plenty of that mixing in with the umbrella theory of global warming. It should take an entire course to help students of journalism discern what’s propaganda coming out of an agenda-interested politician and the facts of scientific fact and research, including that which has yet to be proven.”
Health Center highlights dangers of cervical cancer

Catherine Kaiman
BBC Life! Editor

With the recent introduction of a vaccine to protect against the human papillomavirus, this year’s Cervical Cancer Awareness Month holds special meaning for the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Health Center and Wellness Center.

The event will take place on Jan. 10 in Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“This will be mostly a table event with free giveaways and information pertaining to cervical cancer,” said Dona Walcott, senior health educator of University Health Services, in a telephone interview with The Beacon.

The Health Center will also sponsor a limited number of free pap smears, a procedure which examines cells collected from the cervix and the lower and narrow end of the uterus.

Students must make an appointment to receive one of the 20 free vouchers.

“It is very important for [women] to know that human papillomavirus and genital warts can be screened for, and that it is critical to follow up because severe changes in the cervix can spread to other parts and can lead to cancers,” said Elvira Velez, director of Health Administration for University Health Services, in a telephone interview with The Beacon.

Besides services such as pap smears and screenings for genital warts and viruses, the Health Center also offers the HPV vaccine, Gardasil.

Gardasil is the only vaccine that may guard against diseases caused by HPV Types 6, 11, 16 and 18.

There are about 15 types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer; the HPV vaccine protects against 70 percent of them, according to Web site www.gardasil.com.

Velez says that one out of five FIU student pap smears are abnormal, which can be indicative of genital viruses, cervical cancer and severe changes, such as HPV, in the cervix that can spread to the uterus.

“If we look at the national number of 3,700 women who die a year from cervical cancer, women should have an awareness about the vaccine and pap smears,” said Yolanda Santisteban, a nurse practitioner for the BBC Health Center for the last 10 years.

The event will also feature free makeup consultations and hand massages.

“[Students] can expect information, hands-on tools and displays of the tests that are used for HPV screenings,” said Velez. “We also want to nurture women, talk to them and have complimentary hand massages and possibly a Henna artist.”

Walcott emphasized the importance of awareness.

“Cervical cancer can affect anyone, mom, sister, cousin, anyone. That is why we are promoting the HPV vaccine heavily at this year’s event,” she said.

Cervical cancer can affect anyone, mom, sister, cousin, anyone. That is why we are promoting the HPV vaccine heavily at this year’s event, she said.

Students wanted a new pass to get to school, and now they can buy one!

• Pass is good for 31 consecutive days of unlimited rides starting the first day it is used.

• Sold at Broward County Libraries and the Central Bus Terminal in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

• Must show current student identification card when purchasing pass.

We want to hear from you. Visit our web site at broward.org/bct and fill out the student transit survey to register for a special promotion!
Big numbers mean big changes for Dems

CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. Life! Editor

As Barack Obama claims victory in the nation’s first presidential primary and the candidates soldier on to New Hampshire for the next contest, it may be easy to forget what happened in Iowa.

Before we move on to the next state, let’s take a moment to reflect on the events of Jan. 3. Something historic happened in Iowa that cannot be overlooked: over 230,000 voters turned out to vote for Democratic candidates. That is more than 100,000 more participants on the Democratic side than in 2004 and double the Republican turn out of this year. Nearly six in 10 Democratic caucus-goers were first timers.

Why did the Democrats draw twice as many voters to the polls as the Republicans? Clearly, there is greater excitement surrounding the Democratic field, with three very qualified candidates claiming 97 percent of the vote in Iowa. Though Obama won, all three of the Democratic front-runners were able to draw tens of thousands of voters, each with messages that echo a different strength of the Democratic party.

In third place was Sen. Hillary Clinton, who won roughly 29 percent of the vote, running not only on her own accomplishments within the U.S. Senate but also on the strength of the Clinton legacy.

While she may have lost Iowa, her stature as a strong candidate reflects an indisputable truth: this country was more prosperous when a Democrat was in the White House. Her campaign’s relative success draws in large part from memories of a better time when our nation was at peace, its economy boomed and America had a president who was able to speak articulately.

Second place finisher and former Sena- to John Edwards, who also won about 30 percent, campaigned on a different but equally powerful message. Invoking the spirit of great Democrats Franklin Roosevelt and Robert Kennedy, Edwards promised to take on big business on behalf of the middle class and the poor.

Though he lost, it is such compassion and courage to stand up against the powerful that has historically distinguished the Democratic Party and resulted in some of its greatest accomplishments, from Pell Grants to Social Security. The winner with 38 percent of the vote, Sen. Barack Obama, was able to draw first time caucus-goers in record numbers. Forty-one percent of first timers voted for him, as did 57 percent of people under 30, who came out in bigger numbers than in 2004. Obama called upon voters to believe that they could change the country and help end the petty politics of fear and division dominating Washington.

Democrats know the consequences of letting the politics of division triumph. When people focus on divisive issues like gay marriage rather than looking at the big picture, Democrats lose.

It was such petty divisions and fear-mongering that sank John Kerry in 2004, and if Democrats are to win in 2008, they must unite the country around the more important issues like healthcare and the economy.

Regardless of who goes on to win the nomination, be it Obama, Clinton or Edwards, the people of Iowa sent a powerful message to the rest of America. With a record turnout of over 230,000, people are excited about the choices presented by the Democratic Party. It is the Democratic Party, with the strength of all its powerful voices, that will deliver that change.

JUAN CARLOS ROBAINA
Special to the Beacon

The people of the Hawkeye state left their homes Thursday night for their latest turn to shine in front of the nation. Braving the cold weather for the 7 p.m. central starting time, about 116,000 Iowan caucus-goers arrived at schools, living rooms and meeting halls all across the state to cast their ballot for their Republican candidate of choice.

Mike Huckabee rode a wave of newfound support to secure a victory in Iowa, nine percentage points higher than his nearest rival. His victory in the state not only propelled his campaign to legitimate contender status but also delivered an upset to Mitt Romney’s campaign, a blow believed to be fatal.

Governor Romney’s campaign was hinged on a dangerous assumption. Victories in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two states to hold presidential caucuses, meant important momentum needed before arriving in South Carolina. Winning these first two states could have secured a knock-out blow on Super Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Huckabee’s wide victory over Romney in Iowa, especially considering that he was outspent there 15 to one, puts a huge damper on Romney’s plans. The biggest strike to Romney’s campaign may actually come from someone who finished below him.

Despite spending little money in Iowa and focusing more on New Hampshire, John McCain turned in a 13 percent showing—a statistical dead heat with Fred Thompson for third place. While most would say 13 percent is nothing to be proud of, this should be considered an amazing feat when regarding McCain’s limited effort there. He even performed better than Rudy Giuliani, who clocked at in four percent after limited campaigning.

New Hampshire now sits on deck waiting for the calendar to hit Jan. 8. Polls as of Jan. 4 show McCain leading New Hampshire, though they also show Giuliani making a late charge up the ranks. If the polls still hold for McCain, his comeback into national player status would be complete as he would likely take New Hamp- shire and the momentum going into key state races toward the end of January.

What is also troubling for Huckabee is the number of evangelicals that supported him in Iowa. Eight in ten Huckabee voters identified themselves as born again or evangelical Christians, while two thirds of those same supporters stated that a candi- date sharing their religious beliefs was very important. While six in ten Iowa voters identified themselves as evangelicals, that percentage simply will not hold in the rest of the nation. Huckabee must connect to voters outside of his base in order to keep his momentum.

Overall, the night held no big surprises. Giuliani’s dangerous bet of Florida or bust led to his lackluster showing in Iowa, but his campaign was prepared for this result. Huckabee and McCain seem to be the only candidates willing to try and ride momen- tum through January. South Carolina will be an extremely important state for Republican hopefuls (again), as voters in Michigan and Florida will be paying attention to how viable the candidacies of Huckabee and McCain appear there. Two big wins in the early three states should prove for a lead for either of the two if they can manage it.

Time will tell who the winner is. All that can be said with certainty now is that it is a tough race and everything can change on any given Tuesday.

JUAN C. Robaina currently serves as the president of the FIU College Republicans

CAMPUS TALK

What is your reaction to the results of the Iowa caucus?

Alex Ruiz
“It was very surprising since those two [Obama and Huckabee] weren’t really the leaders in the caucus, or at any point and time.”

David Bush
“It was extraordinarily unexpected and excitingly scintillating. It made me want to go buy a T-shirt.”

Regine Azemard
“I hope the people will chose the right person, and I think [Obama’s] the right person for the job.”
Site offers users 12,000 new ways to interact

CHRIS CABRAL
Asst. Life! Editor

Do you have an acquaintance who annoys the hell out of you, and you’d tell them so if only you could do this anonymously? Have you wondered if you were a “Sex bomb... or da bomb”? Are you a devout Christian fluent in Cantonese? If so, odds are, Facebook has an application for you.

Ranging from fun computer games to absurd personality tests, Facebook offers its users more than 12,000 different types of amusements to help people waste their valuable time.

Of course, these applications should not be mistaken as anything more than forgettable distractions. Some of the applications perform invaluable services that bring people together and help them know themselves.

Take, for example, applications with personality tests. Among the great questions facing every mun, woman and child on the face of the planet, is not one of faith or politics, but rather, something far more mysterious and important. “Are you a Gangsta or a Wanksta?” Only the brilliant creator of the Facebook personality test, who goes by the name M.O.E., is sagacious enough to answer this question once and for all.

Yet, the social utility of the site’s applications does not end there. Thanks to Facebook, you can answer all those questions you secretly have about yourself. Like, “Are you stupid?”, “How fat are you?”, “Are YOU sexy?”, and even “Are you a dancing star or a Karaoke idol?” Facebook tells them so if only you could do this without revealing your identity. For this purpose, a Facebook user can add the “honesty box” application to their Facebook profile.

Through this gimmick, people can finally shed their pleasant facades and tell the truth to other people, for once in their life. The messages are color-coded by gender, so if you get a crush message you would at least know if the person is the right sex for you. There is an application for almost everybody on Facebook. Religious people from Asia can add an application that posts scriptural verses in Mandarin on their profile, while lonely people can add the “hold me” application, which will allow their friends to “virtually” hold them, so they can virtually feel better.

Finally, if achieving a heightened level of self-awareness, or being voted “most likely to burn in hell” isn’t enough entertainment for you, then the more demanding Facebook enthusiast can add one of more than 1,300 game applications to their profile. A Facebook user can play classic games such as Tetris, Snake, and Pac-Man, or user generated games such as “Zombies,” where a Facebook user can become a “zombie” and “infect” their friends. Sounds like fun!

In the end, the purpose of Facebook is to help people interact with others online, and that’s what these applications are about. Whether you’re a “stupid karaoke idol” or a “fat and sexy gangsta,” Facebook has the power to bring all of us together at the table of brotherhood.

As flesh eating zombies, and in this crazy world, brotherhood is truly a beautiful thing.
Engineer your life.

The College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University is South Florida’s premier engineering education resource. FIU is ranked as a Research University in the High Research Activity category of the Carnegie Foundation’s prestigious classification system. Located in Miami, a world-class city and global marketplace thriving in its cultural diversity, the College offers a full range of baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degree programs. On-line programs are also offered.

Contact us today!

Undergraduate Students:
Stephanie.Strange@fiu.edu, or 305-348-1635

Graduate Students:
Grad_eng@fiu.edu, or 305-348-3526

www.eng.fiu.edu

DEGREES IN ENGINEERING, COMPUTING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental and Urban Systems
- Environmental Engineering
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Telecommunications and Networking
- Construction Management
- Engineering/Technology Management

Florida International University

College of ENGINEERING and COMPUTING
Asst. News Director

If you look through the upcoming movie listings, you might find yourself disappointed at the lack of quality movies this month. Historically, January has been a slow month for movies as studios try to push their blockbusters and award hopefuls into the end of the year.

However, that doesn’t mean there won’t be some diamonds in the rough this month. These are a few of the most anticipated films of the month.

**IN THE NAME OF THE KING (JAN. 11)**

Already well known in the action movie genre for his work in films such as “The Transporter” and “Crank,” Jason Statham is hoping to continue his string of action heavy hits with the video game adaptation “In The Name Of The King: A Dungeon Siege Tale” based on the computer game Dungeon Siege. Statham plays the role of a farmer whose life is turned upside down when his son is killed and his wife is kidnapped. Also starring Ray Liotta, Burt Reynolds, and Ron Perlman, this fantasy film looks to offer much of the same features of Statham’s previous films: cheap thrills and lots of action and fight scenes.

**27 DRESSES (JAN. 18)**

In direct contrast to the action of “In The Name Of The King,” “27 Dresses” is a romantic comedy from the writer of “The Devil Wears Prada.” The film stars Katherine Heigl as a woman who has been a bridesmaid 27 times, but who has never considered the prospect of marriage herself. Things change when her younger sister becomes engaged to the man of her dreams and asks her to be a bridesmaid once again.

**CLOVERFIELD (JAN. 18)**

Continuing in the grand tradition of films like “Godzilla,” “King Kong” and “Jurassic Park,” writer/director J.J. Abrams – the creator of the television show “Lost” – gives us “Cloverfield,” a movie about a large creature of mysterious origin wreaking havoc on New York City.

While not much is known about the exact details of the film, it is known that the film takes place in New York City as five friends are throwing another friend a going away party.

During the party, which they are filming with a handheld camcorder, the monster suddenly attacks the city, throwing it into chaos.

Fans of Abrams’ “Lost” will find many of the surprise twists and unexpected endings that his show has become popular for. This, plus the secrecy surrounding its production, has led to “Cloverfield” being one of the most anticipated films of 2008.

**FANBOYS (JAN. 18)**

One part “Road Trip” and one part Kevin Smith movie, “Fanboys” is the story of a group of Star Wars obsessed friends who plot to break into director George Lucas’ Skywalker Ranch in order to allow their sick friend the opportunity to watch “Star Wars: The Phantom Menace” prior to its release.

Featuring a cast that looks as though they could be straight out of a “Star Wars” convention and a story that is every bit as ridiculous as its premise entails, “Fanboys” looks to be one of the funniest movies of the month.

**RAMBO (JAN. 25)**

After improbably resurrecting his career and franchise character, it wouldn’t be a surprise to see “Rambo” make a big impact at the box office.
The day after Christmas has always had some kind of significance for me. It’s the birthday of one of my closest friends. It’s a gift return and shopping nightmare for retail workers, a day that is just as crazy as Black Friday.

It’s also Boxing Day, celebrated by the United Kingdom and Canada as well as St. Stephen’s Day, commemorating Christianity’s first martyr.

This year, however, December 26 became something even more to me: The morning I learned my older brother was dead.

It was 9 a.m. when I woke up to a call from one of my brother’s closest friends. He told me that my brother was in a terrible accident.

I rushed over to my father’s house to see friends and family standing out in the lawn. My dad broke the news. In the back of my head I already knew.

My brother was driving back up to Naples with his Belgian Shepherd, Queen, on Alligator Alley after having dinner with us on Christmas Day.

He was 32-years-old. I can never count how many times my father always told me and my brother to always wear a seatbelt in the car.

All the late nights I spent picking him up after playing poker, I found myself stressing to him the same thing. I thought he had finally taken it to heart. I was wrong.

It’s hard to think about my life in the same way now that my brother is gone...

No more discussions about topics such as poker or the decline of video games in the car. No more scolding his hyperactive dog as it nearly bites me.

It’s a shame that few of my friends ever actually met him and wondered how we turned out so different despite growing up as brothers and seeing the similarities.

Denny wasn’t always the greatest brother in the world. He and my parents were never on the best of terms, but we still managed.

He never finished high school but lived for the moment, going through many different jobs and staying with friends. Months would go by without him, but he would always appear, somehow, without fail.

He was doing well with life and was having ideas of playing professional poker. That can’t happen anymore.

Death is always hard. Whether it’s sudden or not, we feel the effects on an almost daily basis.

A news headline, a phone call, a disaster taking many lives or an isolated incident taking only one.

Death is a very real part of life that many of us still take for granted, even in this day and age of heightened alert in the face of terror.

For most of us, we never truly realize it until we brush near it, or a loved one faces it. I’ve had to relearn that lesson twice this year.

With 2008 just starting, we should look back on what has passed and who has left us and, at the same time, we should look forward to who we will meet and what will happen in our lives.

Good or bad, memorable or not, each day is a gift that reminds us how precious life is.

Brother’s death inspires new outlook

With the passing of my older brother, Deniel Luis Garcia, my life has changed in so many ways. It’s hard to think about my life in the same way as it used to be.

I can’t help but wonder how different our lives would be if he hadn’t died. It’s hard to think about what could have been...

But I know that this is just one of the many lessons I’ve had to learn in the past year.

We should look back on what has passed and who has left us and, at the same time, we should look forward to who we will meet and what will happen in our lives.

Good or bad, memorable or not, each day is a gift that reminds us how precious life is.

The day after Christmas has always had some kind of significance for me. It’s the birthday of one of my closest friends.

It’s a gift return and shopping nightmare for retail workers, a day that is just as crazy as Black Friday.

It’s also Boxing Day, celebrated by the United Kingdom and Canada as well as St. Stephen’s Day, commemorating Christianity’s first martyr.

This year, however, December 26 became something even more to me: The morning I learned my older brother was dead.

It was 9 a.m. when I woke up to a call from one of my brother’s closest friends. He told me that my brother was in a terrible accident.

I rushed over to my father’s house to see friends and family standing out in the lawn. My dad broke the news. In the back of my head I already knew.

My brother was driving back up to Naples with his Belgian Shepherd, Queen, on Alligator Alley after having dinner with us on Christmas Day.

He was 32-years-old. I can never count how many times my father always told me and my brother to always wear a seatbelt in the car.

All the late nights I spent picking him up after playing poker, I found myself stressing to him the same thing. I thought he had finally taken it to heart. I was wrong.

It’s hard to think about my life in the same way now that my brother is gone...

No more discussions about topics such as poker or the decline of video games in the car. No more scolding his hyperactive dog as it nearly bites me.

It’s a shame that few of my friends ever actually met him and wondered how we turned out so different despite growing up as brothers and seeing the similarities.

Denny wasn’t always the greatest brother in the world. He and my parents were never on the best of terms, but we still managed.

He never finished high school but lived for the moment, going through many different jobs and staying with friends. Months would go by without him, but he would always appear, somehow, without fail.

He was doing well with life and was having ideas of playing professional poker. That can’t happen anymore.

Death is always hard. Whether it’s sudden or not, we feel the effects on an almost daily basis.

A news headline, a phone call, a disaster taking many lives or an isolated incident taking only one.

Death is a very real part of life that many of us still take for granted, even in this day and age of heightened alert in the face of terror.

For most of us, we never truly realize it until we brush near it, or a loved one faces it. I’ve had to relearn that lesson twice this year.

With 2008 just starting, we should look back on what has passed and who has left us and, at the same time, we should look forward to who we will meet and what will happen in our lives.

Good or bad, memorable or not, each day is a gift that reminds us how precious life is.
Many people may have already heard of Alien Hominid, the two dimensional side-scrolling action/adventure game by developer The Behemoth. Since its 2004 release on the Nintendo GameCube and Sony’s Playstation 2, it has received many awards including the Innovation In Visual Arts and Audience Awards at the Independent Games Festival.

But what many may not know is that Alien Hominid started as a free flash game on the Adobe flash Website Newgrounds.com. The original flash version can still be found online for free at many popular flash game Web sites.

The game focuses on a nameless little yellow alien whose spaceship is shot down to Earth by FBI agents. In order to escape, he must fight his way back to his ship. Playing as the alien character, you can run, jump, duck and shoot your way through the mobs of agents. If you get hit just once, however, it will cost you a life.

Occasionally you will run into helicopters and vans full of agents or a robot mini-boss set out to destroy you.

Though the controls are very simple and revolve mostly around the arrow pad, most of the controls are intuitive; you’ll find the challenge in the game comes mostly from the level of dexterity needed to keep up with the scores of angry agents.

Although you can find Alien Hominid online at most flash game Web sites, Newgrounds, its original home, also has a few spin-off games and short films inspired by the game such as Alien Hominid Christmas and Alien Hominid At My House. There’s also an Alien Hominid tribute by the original creators behind Newgrounds and The Behemoth. The free flash version of the game has only one level but getting through it will provide enough of a challenge to even the seasoned gamer.

Although versions of Alien Hominid have since been released on Microsoft’s XBox, mobile phones, Nintendo’s Game Boy Advance and the XBox Live Arcade, most are just lengthened segments of the original flash game with better graphics and additional bosses.

Alien Hominid received a lot of attention in the gaming world upon its full-length release for its unique art style and sense of humor, both of which support the game’s very simplistic gameplay in a way that is both innovative and refreshing.

The Behemoth is currently working on a second title which is set to release later this year. Until then, we can keep ourselves occupied with Alien Hominid for free, online.

Alien Hominid
Little alien has big sights

Geometry Wars: Galaxies
DS game packs a punch

It started out as a small mini game hidden within Project Gotham Racing 2 on the now defunct Xbox.

Years later, Geometry Wars would become an online phenomenon offered through Xbox Live on Microsoft’s second console, the Xbox 360. The latest reincarnation of this game, Geometry Wars: Galaxies, extends its addicting reach to the portable realm on the Nintendo DS. The premise of the game is a simple throwback to arcade classics like Asteroids and Robotron. You pilot a small ship in a confined space and shoot down seemingly never-ending waves of enemies.

As your score and point multiplier increase so do your firepower and enemy’s attacks. A crowded screen illustrates the chaos created by numerous assaults, and because of this, your vessel is left confined with little maneuverability and only limited use of screen-clearing bombs is allowed.

Although the premise is reminiscent of older classics, Galaxies adds a few new elements to the mix.

Now divided up into different solar systems with each planet serving as a stage, the game’s playing fields host a variety of hazards along with new enemy types and medal rankings.

Geometry Wars: Galaxies
DS game packs a punch

Also, currency can be collected as you destroy enemies for purchasing new drone types to assist your ship and unlock more stages.

The DS manages to handle the dual-stick controls of the original well, keeping the game’s pick-up-and-play feel intact. In terms of visuals, Geometry Wars’ graphics are similar to the vector line-drawn games of old such as Atari’s Tempest.

While not as vivid and smooth as the 360’s Geometry Wars – slight slowdown may occur amidst the chaos on screen – the DS handles the style and performance of the original with good results. The music is fitting to the old school look, with tracks sounding out of a club mix CD.

With its ancient yet familiar style of yesteryear coupled with addictive gameplay and maddening challenge, Geometry Wars: Galaxies is a perfect fit for Nintendo’s portable avenue to appeal to gamers of any kind.

Introducing Our New M.S. in Information Technology Degree Program

Information Technology is the wave of the future. Now you can increase your earning potential by obtaining a master’s degree in information technology at Nova Southeastern University’s Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

Choose one of five concentrations:

– Software Development
– Information System Security
– Educational Technology
– Information Security Management
– Information Technology Management

About Us:

– Convenient online and on-campus formats
– Cutting-edge faculty and curriculum
– Designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance by the U.S. government
– M.S. and Ph.D. programs offered in computer science, educational technology, information security, information systems, and information technology

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS COC).
**Road to national title one less traveled**

RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP WIRE

Remember back when South Florida was the talk of college football? Yeah, that didn’t last very long.

Boston College was a nice story...for a couple of weeks.

Kansas was everybody’s favorite underdog until Missouri took that title from the Jayhawks. The Tigers were a big deal for about a week. In the end, despite all the yapping about parity and upsets and level playing fields, the national title game will feature two regular visitors to the BCS VIP room: Ohio State and LSU.

Like any good trip, the best part of the 2007 season was the journey itself. From the beginning, we should’ve known this was going to be a wild ride.

How could Appalachian State beating Michigan 34-32 in the Big House not be a sign the college football gods were planning to have some fun at the expense of the sport’s upper class?

By the time the season was over, Appalachian State over Michigan on the first Saturday of September wasn’t even the clear-cut winner of upset of the year.

Not after October began with 41-point underdog Stanford beating superpower Southern California, 24-23. Suddenly, USF was ranked higher than USC. USF, a program born in a trailer park during the Clinton administration, reached No. 2 in the rankings. But soon the Bulls went bust. By then the No. 2 ranking was getting passed around like the spout at a kegger.

When the regular season was over, eight teams had been ranked second in The Associated Press Top 25. Seven of those teams lost as No. 2. The one team that escaped the curse of No. 2? LSU, which started the season with national championship expectations and ranked behind only No. 1 USC.

Problems for the Tigers came when they got to No. 1. LSU hadn’t been No. 1 in the AP poll since 1959 when it moved from No. 2 to the top spot in the final week of September.

Those good times lasted two weeks in Baton Rouge, La. On Oct. 13, Kentucky and star quarterback Andre Woodson beat the Tigers 43-37 in triple overtime. It was the first time since the 2003 season the No. 1 team lost before the bowls. A few hours after the Tigers were taken out by the Wildcats in Lexington, Ky., No. 2 California lost 31-28 at home to Oregon State and for the first time in 11 seasons the top two teams had lost in the same weekend.

That uncommon occurrence would become a trend. It happened two more times. The new No. 1 almost by default was Ohio State.

Having said goodbye to November rolled around, though, and the Buckeyes had a second consecutive BCS national championship game appearance in their sights. All they needed to do was beat Illinois at home. This time it was Illinois spoiling the best laid plans.

So, with three weeks left in the regular season and only one more chance to impress poll voters, the Buckeyes chances of earning a spot in the national championship game were bleak. At least they could still go to the Rose Bowl.

With Ohio State seemingly out of the picture, LSU got a second chance at being No. 1. The Tigers had started the season playing scary good, blowing out opponents, most notably a 48-7 thumping of Virginia Tech.

Other contenders would fall first. Oregon and Oklahoma couldn’t overcome injuries to their quarterbacks and lost games to unranked foes. That set up a huge game in a longevity rivalry between two schools.

On the day before the third-ranked Tigers faced the second-ranked Jayhawks in the 116th and most important game in the heated rivalry, LSU lost again as No. 1, again in triple overtime.

This time Darren McFadden and Arkansas topped the Tigers, 50-48. LSU became the first team to lose twice in the same season as No. 1 since Notre Dame in 1990.

The final BCS computations favored Ohio State and... welcome back from the dead, LSU. Perhaps we’ll never know for sure which is the best college football team in the country this season.

The wacky road trip that was the 2007 college football season has reached its final destination and all those unlikely contenders that made it so much fun are nowhere to be found.

---

**Classifieds**

**For Rent**

Movie Extras. New opportunities for upcoming productions. All looks needed no experience required for cast calls. Call 877-218-6224

Undercover Shoppers Earn up to $150 per day. Per under cover Shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Exp. Not RE. Call 800-722-4791

Sitters Wanted. $10+ per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

---

**SUN BELT MEN’S BASKETBALL STANDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
<th>CONF</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>11-3</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>.786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>10-4</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>.714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>7-6</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>.538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>.308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>.266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida International</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>.300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All records up to date as of Jan. 4*

---

**SUN BELT WOMEN’S BASKETBALL STANDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
<th>CONF</th>
<th>PCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>9-3</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>7-7</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Alabama</td>
<td>11-3</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>.333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida International</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>.308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All records up to date as of Jan. 4*

---

**Classifieds**

**For Rent**

Movie Extras. New opportunities for upcoming productions. All looks needed no experience required for cast calls. Call 877-218-6224

Undercover Shoppers Earn up to $150 per day. Per under cover Shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Exp. Not RE. Call 800-722-4791

Sitters Wanted. $10+ per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

---

**Are you unable to fall asleep before midnight? Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning? You may suffer from Delayed Phase Sleep Syndrome**

If you have had this problem for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.

You may qualify if you:

1. are 18 years or older
2. are in good general health

Study participants will receive study-related examinations & investigational medications at no cost. Study participants will also be compensated up to $2,000 for time and travel.

For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757
We’re looking for part-time Associates, and Full-Time Managers in Training to make their mark in our fast paced, high energy store environment. Come join the coolest people from all different backgrounds in a business that gives just as much as it asks for.

www.abercrombie.com/diversity
Golden Panthers face Troy with injured players

Rebounding duo absent against undersized conference opponent

DARREN COLOTTIE
Staff Writer

Early in the season, the Golden Panthers lost two of their best players: junior forward Marquita Adley and 6-foot-2 sophomore forward Elisa Carey. Not only were they two of the team’s best scores, but they were arguably the best rebounders on the roster.

Now, The Golden Panthers (4-9) will take on the University of Troy (8-6) on Jan 9 at the Pharmed Arena with their two key hurt players missing. It will be the Panthers third conference game this season and the first at home.

The only good news concerning their injuries is that they happened early in the season, and they should both be allowed to red-shirt this year. With the absence of Adley and Carey, the team has looked to 6-foot-2 senior Jasmine Jenkins, who up until this season had seen minimal playing time.

So far Jenkins has done an admirable job stepping into the starting line-up for the first time in her career and already recorded a double-double and new career highs in both scoring and rebounding. FIU does have more size it can play thanks to 6-foot-4 freshmen Maja Krajacic and 6-foot-1 Liene Jekabsone. Depending on the match-ups either could see significant playing time, despite being somewhat inexperienced.

In glimpses early this season good things have been seen from both players as Jekabsone had 9 rebounds against UM and Krajacic nearly had a double-double against the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) with 10 points and 8 rebounds.

Size has been an issue in some of Golden Panthers’ losses to bigger teams like Eastern Michigan and Georgia. However, Troy is a smaller team with few 6-footers and their tallest player is 6-foot-2.

In match-ups against smaller opponents such as Lynn University, Hofstra and The University of Miami, the Golden Panthers have taken advantage of the height discrepancy and won. Due to their lack of a strong center, they have taken advantage of the height discrepancy and won.

The most notable of those losses was the 92-49 stomping at the hands of Troy early in the season and that has consistently thus far this season and that has contributed to Hicks’ lack of productivity.

LOSING CONTROL: Junior guard Iva Ciglar attempts to set up the offense against Lynn University.

As the Golden Panthers set to face University of Troy Trojans (6-6) Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena, the presence of center Russell Hicks coupled with the team’s perimeter defense and offense will dictate whether the team snaps its losing spell.

After beginning the season 2-0, the Golden Panthers have gone 1-9 including six losses by more than double digits.

The most notable of those losses was the 92-49 stomping at the hands of Kentucky on Dec. 31.

The Golden Panthers began to struggle when Hicks’ offensive production dropped off, and he was barely attempting any shots.

Hicks got back on track scoring 20 points twice; however, now the team’s defense is not stopping anyone.

Opponents have lit up the Golden Panthers defense from three-point range. Kentucky shot 31-of-54 from three-point range, and Robert Morris shot 12-of-17 from behind the arc.

Troy plays a small speedy lineup with none of the starting five standing more than 6-foot-8. They do not have a true center and three play forwards and two guards every game.

The Trojans main scoring threats are three guards including sophomore Brandon Hazard. He is shooting 44 percent from three-point range including a 7-of-10 performance against Jacksonville.

Hazard will most likely pose the most problems for the Golden Panthers from the outside, but O’Darien Basset and Justin Jonus are the best overall scorers.

Basset is leading the team in scoring with 18.7 points per game. He causes havoc on the offensive side, but is a defensive liability. Jonus is second on the team with 13.6 points per game.

The Golden Panthers’ guards will need to bully the smaller lighter Troy guards in order to slow them down and keep them from shooting well from the outside.

Hicks is a seven-footer but his defense is not his strongest suit. His height does not make up for his lack of lateral speed. He will need his teammates to keep their opponents in front of them and not force him to try to block them.

Conversely, the Golden Panthers’ guards will need to produce offensively in order to compliment Hicks.

He is facing one of the smaller lineups this season. It is imperative that he establishes his offensive game early in order to set up the FIU guards.

If Hicks does not have an impressive game, then the rest of the team’s shooting will falter.

Junior forward Alex Galindo has not performed consistently thus far this season and that has contributed to Hicks’ lack of productivity.

Galindo should be able to drive to the basket as he is almost as tall as Troy’s tallest player.

Having two players controlling the paint on offense will pose a huge problem for Troy’s defense. This is the same defense that allowed 131 points to Paul Quinn College, but the Trojans still won that game.

Therefore, it would not be wise for the Golden Panthers get involved in a shootout.

The team’s best chance to win is to dominate the paint against the smaller Troy roster while playing a decent perimeter defense.
Throughout the swirling coaching climate in the FIU athletic department, basketball has been able to maintain consistent leadership despite drastic changes elsewhere.

Men's basketball coach Sergio Rosco has now been at the helm of the men's program for five years while women's basketball coach Cindy Russo has been guiding the women for 29 years.

With new coaches in football, baseball and both soccer teams, great expectations were leveled upon the two basketball squads to stand at the forefront of what FIU Athletics have to offer. It should suffice to say that those expectations haven't quite been met. With new coaches in football, baseball and both soccer teams, great expectations were leveled upon the two basketball squads to stand at the forefront of what FIU Athletics have to offer. It should suffice to say that those expectations haven't quite been met.

Nonetheless, he is still shooting 48 percent from the field and will need to continue to attack the basket to reverse the team's recent misfortunes. On the women's side of the court, senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson is putting up a strong 18.1 points per game, but just like the men's team, efficiency is the problem as it is being done on 37 percent shooting. Nobody with over ten shots on the season is shooting over 50 percent, and the team desperately needs Jasmine Jenkins to be a force down low on the defensive end. Junior guard Iva Ciglar should also be mentioned, putting up double digits in scoring at 10.1 points per game and adding four rebounds per game. Both teams are in trouble, there is no disputing that. FIU fans can take solace in the fact that both teams have a strong amount of potential and can absolutely turn things around and revive the team's tournament hopes and fans' hopes.

The men's team has what is becoming an established force down low in Hicks and Galindo's talent has not left him. Nsangou is extremely athletic and is as good a scorer as anyone when he is on his game and senior guard Chris Fuller is not only veteran leadership but an excellent lock-down defender who can hit the open 3-pointer.

TOUGH TIMES: Freshman guard Russell Tremayne looks down in frustration as the Golden Panthers have not won a game in nearly a month. The men's record is 3-9 while the women's squad has started 4-9.