CASH FOR CULTURE

Wolfsonian receives $500K grant

PAUL O’SWATH
Asst News Director

Almost one year after being awarded a $500,000 monetary award from the Funding Arts Network, the Wolfsonian-FIU has been given a three-year $500,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“The Mellon grant will enable us to significantly augment the museum’s integration with the academic programs of the University,” said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian-FIU, “at a pressing time.”

As a result from this grant, the museum will establish a teaching gallery at University Park campus in participation with the Pei Fond Art Museum. Additionally, the grant will enable the museum to provide money to faculty members so that they are better able to fuse objects from the Wolfsonian collections into their teaching.

The Mellon grant will also help the museum enhance its staff capacity to undertake its goals.

“The museum will hire a full-time Mellon coordinator of academic programs,” states the press release.

“We need to work with the academic community,” Leff said. “And this can’t be done without the great work of the faculty.”

The Mellon Foundation, which makes grants in six core program areas— including museum and art conservation— has played a crucial role in building up the continuing foundation of art museums on university campuses throughout the nation.

Grants from the foundation have been given to six universities— including Princeton, Harvard, Dartmouth and the University of Chicago.

“This is one of the most prestigious grants one can receive,” Leff said. “This is something that we have been working on for a number of years. It is a very big deal for us.”

Each awarded grant has encouraged colleges and universities by supporting their collections for advanced research and teaching. In order to receive this grant, a university museum must be invited to get its based on work with faculty and students.

“This is the work of the museum and the faculty that is being recognized. It is a collected success,” Leff said.

University keeps up its green mission

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

A customer service project was developed in a joint effort between Student Media and Student Government Association in order to address students’ concerns regarding the University’s services.

The two entities worked together in developing questions that were addressed to the heads of various departments in the University. Eight departments were chosen and this joint project will be published on FIUSM.com every Tuesday and printed in The Beacon every Wednesday.

Bill Foster, executive director of Parking and Transportation, answered students’ concerns regarding the department.

Q. How is your office working toward securing more parking spaces for students?

We are in the process of designing a new parking garage that will be located along 8th Street, next to the Red Garage. This will add approximately 1,500 new student parking spaces.

Q. Can you give us an update on the new parking garages that are planned to be built on campus?

Parking Garage Five, the new garage, will have more than 2,000 total parking spaces and is expected to be completed by the beginning of the 2010 Fall semester. We are also working on ways to improve access to campus that will not involve having to drive here. We need to provide students and staff options, like our Greenville carpool program, rather than driving one car for one person. It helps the environment and the University does not have the land and funds to continue to solve the access issue with more garages.

Q. What is the most common complaint your office receives?

The primary complaint we receive is that there is not enough parking. Unfortunately, convenient parking spaces can be scarce at peak times. As the University has grown, though, we have been fortunate to keep up with an adequate supply of parking spaces. Even during the peak times, there are actually plenty of spots in the Panther Garage, Lot Five and the gravel overflow lot on the northeast corner of campus. While we will be adding some convenient spaces to our inventory, we continue to explore ways to make more convenient spaces available, like carpooling or vanpooling.

Q. How have you used past recommendations from students to improve your processes?

Q&A, page 2
**News Flash**

**Tri-Rail use increasing in S. Fla.**

**OLGA VELEZ Staff Writer**

For the first time in Tri-Rail’s 20-year history, it has carried more than four million passengers in a single calendar year.

Not only has the system broken a record for a single calendar year, it has also doubled the amount of people using the commuter rail system since 2005.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority announced Jan. 5 that Tri-Rail carried a total of 4,303,509 passengers in 2008. This is a 22.9 percent increase from 2007, when Tri-Rail only had a total of 3,501,704 passengers.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, Tri-Rail also showed the largest percentage growth of any system in the country in 2006. Tri-Rail is still among the nation’s leaders for ridership growth in the commuter rail sector.

“These statistics show that the trend of double digit growth that we have experienced over the past three years is continuing,” said SFTA Executive Director Joe Giulietti. “Even with the dramatic reduction in the price of fuel, ridership continues to grow at a record pace.”

**Public transportation decreases the amount of time spent going from one place to another.**

Joe Giulietti, executive director South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

**... Public transportation decreases the amount of time spent going from one place to another.**

Karim Vallee. “I also think that since the start of the recession, it has become increasingly important to save money. I prefer using Tri-Rail to taking a bus because it takes longer to wait for a bus than it does to wait for a train.”

Giulietti also noted that the amount of people using Tri-Rail is increasing despite the fact that gas prices have gone down significantly in the past 12 months.

“I don’t think people would change transportation because of gas prices as they have decreased recently,” said Antonio Jorge, professoremeritus of political economics.

“Traffic has become very congested in the South Florida area. It takes a lot of time to drive from one area to another. Public transportation decreases the amount of time spent going from one place to another.”

**New garage to add 1,500 slots**

An Ohio distributor is recalling one of its brands of peanut butter after finding it has been contaminated with salmonella bacteria. King Nut Company said that the bacteria were found in an open five pound container of King Nut brand creamy peanut butter. The national salmonella outbreak has sickened almost 400 people in 42 states.

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*Compiled by保利 O’ Swooth and Charlie Grei*
Found: authentic, affordable, a la carte, Mexican dishes

This week I celebrate my 24th birthday. It’s bittersweet, isn’t it? On the one hand, I get to party with my best friends, eat good food, drink and have a great time. On the other, I’m now 24. To college students, that’s basically one foot in the grave.

But what can I do? The waters of St. Augustine’s Fountain of Youth taste like death and I’m too young for Botox. So here’s to 24.

Now, I’m just concerned about dinner.

I’m going to eat at one of my favorite restaurants, Jalisco’s Mexican Restaurant (18146 Collins Ave, Sunny Isles Beach). And just like turning 24, eating at Jalisco’s is a bittersweet experience.

Recently under new management, this south of the border joint doesn’t just offer Tex-Mex, but rather shines by making authentic Mexican dishes.

The best part is that the food is cheap and the menu is a la carte — you order piece by piece, instead of having some pre-fabricated numbered meal, like at McDonald’s. A la carte ordering is perfect for the college student. I hate going to a restaurant where I’m told that the only taco combo available comes with three tacos for almost $10, with rice and beans that you hardly ever eat. Here you can order what you want, mix and match, and eat heartily for those $10.

At Jalisco’s, you are in charge of your gastronomic destiny. My favorite: include the $3 al carbon steak tacos, consisting of homemade flour or corn tortillas, filled with marinated flanken steak and sauteed onions, topped with cilantro and served with some crema — the Mexican version of sour cream only thinner and with a tangy aftertaste — and some of the house salsas, like the mind-blowing green nopalitos.

They also serve the Californian, a gigantic $5 burrito served wet — meaning it is served on a plate with spoonfuls of different condiments, garnished with a lime wedge, and stuffed with your choice of grilled meat, as well as all the trimmings.

But none of these dishes compare to what I feel is Jalisco’s strongest menu item, la soapa azteca, an authentic Mexican soup made with a smoky, thick and spicy tomato broth. Inside the soup you will find tortilla strips, stringy cheese, spiced pork meatballs, cromos and chunks of avocado.

The trick to making this soup a foodgasm is simply — order the avocado on the side. The combination of the smoldering soup in your mouth with a hearty chunk of cold avocado is euphoric; on the palate the different temperatures of the food cause them to explode. The rich fatty pork flavors come out, the chipotle undertone and excess heat cause your nose to run, the smoky tomato broth makes your taste buds dance and the strings of cheese hanging from your mouth after each bite make you feel euphoric; on the palate the different temperatures of the food cause them to explode. The rich fatty pork flavors come out, the chipotle undertone and excess heat cause your nose to run, the smoky tomato broth makes your taste buds dance and the strings of cheese hanging from your mouth after each bite make you feel.

However, I did say “bittersweet.” Despite the efforts by the new management, Jalisco’s is not without faults. Little things like the loud Spanish music playing over the speakers or the fact that rarely do your whole party’s dishes come out together or appetizers make it to the table before entrees. Here they practice the serve-it-hot, rather than the serve-it-organized, method. I guess it’s a good thing, but when your whole party is starving and someone gets their Mexican tamale by themselves before anyone else is served, there is a chance that some hunger-induced violence will occur.

The service is also annoyingly Euro style. Your table can be cleared of all dishes and your party can be sitting in awkward silence, but your bill will not arrive unless you physically flag your waiter down and ask for it.

Jalisco’s is affordable and student friendly, serving authentic dishes alongside American staples like fajitas and nachos, in a casual atmosphere complete with paper menu placemats and sombrero wall banners streaming from the ceilings. I overlook all the other parts of Jalisco’s because the food is just so foodgasmic. It’s under new management so I will give them time to work out the kinks.

And did I mention the everyday special of Jalisco’s because the food is just so foodgasmic. It’s under new management so I will give them time to work out the kinks.

It’s not the way to your college-student hearts, I wish I could give them a $10 bill, but I don’t. But none of these dishes compare to what I feel is Jalisco’s strongest menu item, la soapa azteca, an authentic Mexican soup made with a smoky, thick and spicy tomato broth. Inside the soup you will find tortilla strips, stringy cheese, spiced pork meatballs, cromos and chunks of avocado.

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Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any question, comments or foodgasm ideas to bianca.wojas@fi usm.com.
In recent years, I've had to make many decisions about friendships. Choosing who to associate with is probably one of the things that has some of the most bearing on your life. Sometimes friends do things that you do not approve of and others simply just drift away, but you are always left asking the same question: Is this friendship worth saving?

Normally, I err on the side of friendship. Losing a friend is a very painful thing, especially when you and said friend have had some very good times together. But I recently found a very good reason to knock some friends off my list, and it is a reason almost all college students can agree is a worthy one: free food.

Burger King recently created a Facebook application entitled “Whopper Sacrifice.” Once you install this application on your profile, you pick 10 of your friends to remove from your Facebook friends list. Once you complete the removal of 10 friends, the application displays a free Whopper coupon redeemable at participating locations.

Burger King, perpetual creator of advertising schemes including The Subservient Chicken and Whopper Virgins, is perhaps trying to send us a message here by giving us a reason to do something that we’ve been meaning to do all along: clearing out the people that we never talk to (or in some cases never heard of) from our friends list.

Or maybe they are just poking fun at our reliance on social networking (I’ve been distracted by my own Facebook three times since I started writing this column). Either way, it is a poignant message delivered electronically to a plugged-in generation.

I don’t talk to all of my Facebook friends as any of you, but I decided to try out the “Whopper Sacrifice” application for three primary reasons: First and foremost, it was out of curiosity. Secondly, it would give me something to write about and last and certainly not least, it would be pretty neat to have a free Whopper – they are pretty good.

The process was much more intense than I had imagined. You don’t simply delete your friends; they are literally sacrificed. Once you choose who to delete, one by one their profile pictures appear on your wall. The only sector that will be affected when the application sets them on fire and you watch as the photo of your dearly departed ends up in a pile of virtual ashes.

Yes, your ex-friend is notified of the fact that you sacrificed them: A note is also automatically posted to your own wall, notifying others of the fact that your friendships are feeble and that they had better watch their backs. You cannot hide your action, like you do when you sneakily add someone that you really do not like and then remove them two days later while hoping that they do not notice.

The first couple of choices were pretty easy: a couple of my “friends” were really people that I had only actually met once or twice at some sort of event or through a casual acquaintance. Or maybe we had a class together that I never showed up to, something like that. Regardless, three friends were immediately incinerated from my list without thought or regret.

But then it got more difficult. Sure, some of these people I haven’t talked to in a year, but I used to see them all the time. I’d hate for them to get offended when they found out what I’d done. Plus, what if I ever need to get in contact with them?

It was then that I realized that I am actually friends with two of my friends’ dogs. No need for pets: two more victims.

After that, though, I realized that maybe ending friendships for a tender, juicy, flame-broiled beef patty with your choice of toppings simply wasn’t worth it. Friendships have lasting qualities, but a Whopper gets digested.

The Burger King in Graham Center operated by Aramark hates taking coupons anyway.

Economy in urgent need of rescue by federal government

In a speech delivered at George Mason University last Thursday, Jan. 8, President-elect Barack Obama painted a bleak picture of the future of the United States if his proposed $800 billion stimulus package was not quickly passed by Congress.

“For every day we wait, or point fingers or drag our feet, more Americans will lose their jobs; more families will lose their savings. More dreams will be deferred and denied … and our nation will sink deeper into a crisis that, at some point, we may not be able to reverse,” Obama said.

There is no doubt in my mind that government intervention is necessary to get the United States out of the recession. The credit crunch and the collapse of the stock market means that households are trying to consume less and save more. In order for them to be able to do that, another sector of the economy must spend more and save less.

Corporations are not going to be able to carry this burden because they are cutting costs in hopes of preventing bankruptcy, while demand can’t come from the rest of the world because many other countries are also in a recession. The only sector that will be able to pull this country out of the economic recession is the federal government.

The unemployment rate is now around 7 percent nationally and is projected to approach 9 percent by the end of this year. The U.S. Department of Labor said Jan. 8 that the total number of people receiving benefits rose to 4.6 million: the most since 1982. If something is not done soon to increase employment, the unemployment rate will reach double digits.

According to The Economist, the package would also include business and individual tax cuts and for those who pay little to no taxes. That would include a $500 credit per worker or $1,000 credit per household.

“It would also include substantial funds for public works spending, additional Medicaid funds, as well as other aid for states and money to broaden the availability of unemployment insurance and provide health benefits to the unemployed,” Obama said.

“The majority of the stimulus package needs to go toward education, technology and infrastructure,” said Andre Smith, an assistant professor of law at FIU.

“The development of alternative energy needs to be a part of the investment. This would stop job losses and set up the country for a better future. Not everyone will be able to find work in these fields, which is why we also need to provide health benefits to the unemployed.”

The most important investment needs to go toward education, technology and infrastructure through innovative means that households can take advantage of and will cost the government nothing!”

The stimulus package needs to go toward education, technology and infrastructure

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SKIN CANVAS
Tattoo Expo inks, pierces Miami

MONICA PUERTO
Staff Writer

My best friend’s mother used to tell me that tattoos are “permanent reminders of temporary insanity.” I never really understood why people go to such great lengths and stand the pain of the process of getting a tattoo—something so permanent. It was not until I covered the Miami Tattoo Expo that I learned the passion that vibrates through each person’s tattoo.

Some people get tattoos in memory of a loved one that passed away, or to commemorate a meaningful thing that happened in their life. “People get tattoos to set themselves apart; it is their own individual marking,” said Kenny Dick, a tattoo artist at the Miami Tattoo Expo, this past weekend.

The Miami Tattoo Expo, formerly known as the Gold Coast Expo, gathered hundreds of people this year: an artist trying to gain exposure, a customer hoping to find the most unique tattoo by the most talented artist, or a vendor selling supplies to boost the growth of the tattoo world. Standard Events, a promotion company of live entertainment, was the biggest sponsor of the event and has always had an affiliation with music and tattoo environments. The company has hosted previous events like the expo. According to Julie Fobert, each event outweighs its venue, which is why it has been moved from Fort Lauderdale to Miami. The Miami Beach Convention Center’s Hall D was filled with about 60 booths.

Chico’s Marked For Life and one of the event sponsors, had nine booths. “This is the biggest event that has ever hit Florida. To get a booth here you have to be invited or have enough money and connections to acquire one,” Cortez said.

Another important sponsor of the exposition was KingPin Tattoo Supply. Its multiple booths were covered with supplies such as tattoo ink, anesthetics, printing supplies and ultrasonic cleaning units. It is the biggest international supplier/printing press for the tattoo industry.

One of the invited and well-known artists present was Horiyu, who came all the way from Tokyo with his fellow artist Nora Hue. Tattoo artists in Japan are admired and respected, regarded with the same veneration as doctors, according to Hue.

“People do not shop for a specific tattoo in Japan, they shop for the specific artist,” Hue said.

The tattoo contests were the main attraction, motivating artists to create the best and most unique tattoo to win the Tattoo of the Day award. The artists needed customers to come to their booths and get a tattoo for them to be eligible for the contest, so artists lured customers with discounts and gift certificates.

For many artists, this was their first time in Miami, and it was very interesting to them to see the differences between local work and the work of international artists.

Drino, an avid customer of Tattoo and Co., covered with tattoos from head to toe, was an example of having tattoos influenced by many cultures. “I drew inspiration from the prime patterns of culture and elements from space, it is very galactic,” said Drino, whose forehead and chin were outlined with symbols drawn from Egyptian and Aztec influence.

Damien Bart, the son of Bruce Bart, a local legend from Bruce Bart’s Tattoos, has been tattooing since he was 18 and has seen the trends of the tattoo world fluctuate. “People now want larger tattoos and are also mimicking celebrities such as basketball stars. It’s all a mainstream of acceptance,” Bart said.

Tattoos are a display of a person’s personality on the outside. That’s why artists take such pride in their work and customers search to the ends of the earth for the right tattoo and spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars to print their story on their bodies.

The next event will be held again in Miami in 2010.
Vice presidents not supporting characters in political sitcoms

By the end of this month, the inauguration of America’s 44th president will take place. While much attention has been paid to the historic election of the United States’ first black president, little attention has been paid to America’s 47th vice white president, Joe Biden.

Having broken no barriers whatsoever, Biden, like many of his predecessors, is often treated as an afterthought.

The third wheel of American political presidencies is often given little responsibility and forgotten, left to live in the obscuring shadow of the president, like a runner-up in a popular sitcom.

Some vice presidents, however, are not content with merely blending in with the scenery and becoming backseat drivers of their presidents’ administrations, often with great success.

In honor of the not-all-that-historic election of Joseph Robi- nette Biden, let’s take a look back at some of the people whose names would surely live forever in infamy, if only someone bothered to remember them.

**SPIRO AGNEW**

Spiro Agnew has been called the worst vice president ever, but that may be what makes him so damn interesting.

Serving under Richard Nixon before being accused of tax evasion shortly before Nixon himself, Agnew was quite the colorful character.

He and his speechwriting staff had a knack for alliteration, often referring to political enemies as “name-calling, nothing-at-all Nazis.”

While this was considered a harsh comment at the time, in fairness, his opponents did matter a lot. And they were, of course, total nobodies (OK, I don’t know what these words mean exactly).

Maybe not choice-of-angels-singing-down-from-the-heavens good, but definitely holy-apparition-on-tongue good.

It’s you, dear Steve, that keeps Apple’s consumers coming back for more. You and the vision only you can deliver with the right amounts of smartness and showmanship that keep us, your devoted Apple fanbase, loyal to the company and waiting with bated breath for that one more thing you know we really don’t need but will devour without questioning its nutritional value because you said so.

And with www.apple.com, explaining that a hormonal imbalance is to blame for your absence — without even signing off “your friend Steve,” you even a 30 second video memo from you would’ve helped liven and honor the company’s last hurrah at www.apple.com.

Even though you posted a letter on www.apple.com explaining that a hormonal imbalance is to blame for your absence — without even signing off “your friend Steve,” you even a 30 second video memo from you would’ve helped liven and honor the company’s last hurrah at www.apple.com.

I guess what I’m saying is this all feels a little weak sauce. Apple’s last minute exit, announced on Dec. 16 at www.apple.com and www.macrumors.com. A little hopeful that we might see the second coming of Apple’s product announcements.

I have faith in you, Steve.

**DAN QUAYLE**

Unlike Spiro Agnew, Dan Quayle hasn’t been found guilty of anything except sounding foolish. As vice president for the elder Bush from 1989 to 1993, he often said embarrassing remarks, about accepting bribes ... and getting indicted ... come to think of it, he had a lot of annoying habits.

On the bright side, his numerous flaws almost make Richard Nixon look decent by comparison — Almost.

There have been many other vice presidents memorable for their many fascinating failures, but unfortunately there’s not enough space in this column to reminiscé about them all (sorry, John Nance Garner).

Yet when one looks back on all the people who have occupied the second string of the executive branch, one can’t help but wonder why vice presidents don’t have a monument of their own.

Perhaps one day, like the presi- dents whose likenesses are carved onto Mount Rushmore, the faces of Agnew, Burr, Quayle and others will also be etched onto the side of a majestic mountain.

So not as much of a testament to their greatness, but rather as a reminder that there is nothing more dangerous than a politician with too much time on his hands.

AARON BURR

There are a lot of fun things to say about Aaron Burr, but none of them are as fascinating as this: Aaron Burr once killed a guy. Not just any guy, but the guy on the $10 bill: Alexander Hamilton.

It was because Hamilton owed Burr 10 bucks (not actually his, of course).

Unlike other vice presidents, Burr shot his victim on purpose, in a duel no less.

It was a relatively simple dispute. Apparently, Hamilton was, as they said in those days, ‘talkin’ smoke’ about Burr and Burr was all like, ‘No, you didn’t!’ Then he shot him.

It’s more complicated than that and involves a long history of political rivalry, but say what you want about him, he was being honest. Once Vice President, Joe Biden, they don’t go around killing people in duels (as far as I know).

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Check in on the state of Cabralities every other Wednesday, Email Chris at chris.cabral@fi usm.com.

**PULSE**

Testing for HIV offers peace of mind

I’m negative. When the coun- selor said I didn’t have HIV, I was more than relieved: I was breathing;

I walked out of the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center last Tuesday feeling completely free. The sun was brighter and the sky was a nicer shade of blue than it had been before I walked in. Life couldn’t be better.

It’s a second note, it was better.

Why? Because Charlie, my boyfriend, was walking out with me. He tested negative too.

But before that day, life was not as pretty.

I had spent hours, days and even months wondering if I had ever contracted the human immu- nodeficiency virus that may lead to AIDS. Needless to say, when I thought about it, fear would consume me.

I’ve never shared a needle with anyone, but I’ve had unprotected sex — the risk is real.

Having sex with someone whose history of sex partners and/or drug use is unknown to you or if you or your partner have had many sex partners, then you have more of a chance of being infected with HIV, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

A negative test of “may be” prevented me from getting tested.

But the more time I spent at the line, the more worried I became.

During the health fairs, a school assignment for which I interviewed a husband who was HIV positive and his wife who was negative, HIV and AIDS were everywhere.

It’s like the universe was telling you to get tested, said the HIV counselor who administered the test.

I suppose it was.

The night before I got tested, I was watching TV and suddenly, there on my screen, was the couple I had interviewed a few semesters ago at a Broward County HIV AIDS Community Service Awards.

The couple’s story all over again, I began to get worried. I spoke with my boyfriend and the next day I found myself nervously walking toward the BBC Wellness Center with Charlie.

The counselor called me in first. By this point, my palms were sweaty. I sat down and said a little prayer, a last cry for mercy.

While we talked she handed me an oral swab with a label that said to that of a preg- nancy test and showed me how to do with it. I stuck it in my mouth and swept it to my gum line as possible. If the test was positive, the swab draws antibodies from the gum line.

I inserted the swab into a fluid and we continued talking. Slowly but surely, a red line began to appear on the window.

“Oh my God! I have HIV,” I thought as I looked away. My heart beating fast, the counselor continued talking and I remember her saying was “journalsm school.”

I suddenly felt dizzy. I looked back at her and caught her staring at the line. She didn’t say a word. I wanted to cry.

We continued our conversation and finally she said, “OK, you’re good. The result shows you’re negative.”

Huh?

I looked at the strip and asked about the red line. She said it meant the test was working prop- erly. Had another line appeared below that one, then I would’ve tested positive.

I breathed a sigh of relief. Later on, when my boyfriend walked out of the counselor’s office and gave me the thumbs up, I knew it was a new beginning for both of us.

Knowing, whether you test negative or positive, is better than not knowing.

And if you don’t know your status, perhaps this is the universe’s way of telling you to test.

Check your Pulse for health, wellness and fitness every Wednesday. Email Edith at edith.sevilla@fi usm.com.
Additions of Asprilla and Dominguez have impact

JULIAN, page 8

made this team.
Mostly because the Golden Panthers were already better than they were last season.
The names of the additions, Asprilla and Dominguez, and the names of those who have stepped up, Guseca and Taylor, have been the catalysts for a start that produced more than expected when the starting lineup crumbled to the injured list.
But it’s Galindo who changes this team from one that treaded water to one that may have the opportunity to swim with the big fish in the Sun Belt, deep into the spring.
Lost in the injury shuffle had been that FIU was playing with no seniors. Lost in the injury shuffle was that Michael Dominguez, who had a ridiculous start to the season, cooled off significantly as the season pressed into December.
Found for FIU, upon the return of Galindo has been the offense, which has produced three 20-point efforts in the four games, and has the shooting percentage at 44 percent, compared 39.8 percent for the season, including the better offensive scoring string.
Of course, stats never tell the whole story and there are leadership intangibles that experience brings that Alex totes back into the lineup. It will be the confluence of the things both palpable and impalpable that will determine the remainder of the season for the team.

Galindo has best game since injury with 19 points

MEN’S, page 8

a genius ain’t I?,” Rouco said. “He’s very drive the basketball and show some stuff under him,” Rouco said. “Tonight, he could do the shot,” Green said.

Demetrius Green knocked down a game defining three-pointer to give the Blue Raiders a 65-62 lead. The Sun Belt Conference leaders held on to win the game after allowing the Golden Panthers to come back and lead the game 56-55 with roughly five minutes remaining.

Nigel is the one who made that play. He made a move and got me the ball. I just had to make the shot,” Green said.

Green scored 14 points in the game and Nigel Johnson complemented him with 15 points of his own.

“I knew I had to penetrate and kick it out [for a three-pointer]. I saw Demetrius wide open and I have confidence that he’ll make it,” Johnson said.

The Golden Panthers (13-1, 2-1 Sun Belt) couldn’t handle the pressure from the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders’ (13-3, 5-0) defense as FIU committed 24 turnovers and produced its lowest scoring output of the season.
The Blue Raiders defeated the Golden Panthers 68-35 on Jan. 11 in the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. This marked the Golden Panthers’ fifth consecutive loss.
The Blue Raiders were able to force 19 turnovers in the first half and gain 25 points off the costly mistakes. Sophomore guard Michelle Gonzalez, the team’s main ball handler, was responsible for 13 of the turnovers and knocked down just four points in 40 minutes.
Middle Tennessee was also able to hold the Golden Panthers’ leading scorer, junior guard Monika Bosilj, scoreless for the night.
“I knew coming into this game I was going to have to be alert defensively and coach challenged me to not even let her [Bosilj] catch the ball because if that happened she would be hard to guard. The team did a really good job of helping me out, so it was really a good team effort on her,” said Blue Raiders forward Emily Queen, according to goblueraiders.com.
Alysha Clark was one of four Blue Raiders with double-digit scoring and led all scorers with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Queen followed suit with 14 points and 11 boards.
Senior forward Jasmine Jenkins and junior guard Ashley Trangott led the Golden Panthers in total points with eight each. Jenkins also led in the rebounding department with nine.

TOUGH NIGHT: Elisa Carey had eight rebounds but was limited due to foul trouble. FIU has lost five straight games.

Middle Tennessee was able to control the rims early on, especially after the game’s first three-pointer was made by Brandi Brown at the 11:33 mark, as the Blue Raiders took a 13-4 lead in the first 9:45 minutes of the game.
Jenkins cut the Blue Raiders’ lead to 14 after a jumper with 38 seconds left in the first half, but Jackie Pickett responded with a quick three-pointer to make the lead 35-18 as the teams headed to the locker room.
The Blue Raiders started the second half with a 19-3 run to make the score 54-21 with 12:14 minutes left. FIU never became much of a threat for the remainder of the game.
With the Blue Raiders leading, 40-34 from inside the paint, 25-8 of turnovers and 21-6 on second chance points.

The Golden Panthers connected 13-of-38 from the field, just over 34 percent, not much less than the Blue Raiders’ 36.5 field goal percentage. However, the Blue Raiders defense proved to be the difference in this conference game.
“Our primary ball handler is Michelle Gonzalez and we wanted to keep the ball in her hands at all times but it’s very difficult,” said assistant coach Joanne Aluka-White in response to the MTSU defense and FIU turnovers, according to goblueraiders.com. “They trap and show a lot of help and our girls got rattled by that in the first half.”
The team will try to snap their losing streak against conference rival at Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 14.

Team endures season’s worst loss; FAU is next

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

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Swimming team earns second-place finish

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

Danielle Sneir was watching the clock anxiously as Kansas swimmer Carrah Haley touched the wall.

Sneir had won by less than a second. The sophomore swimmer from FIU was just 10-of-17 from the field and lose the game.

“I was still relatively sore so for a few minutes, the team was watching the game and held a double-digit lead at the half.

“I am disappointed that we came out in a hill. This is two years in a row that we were really fast, but I think we held our own,” Sneir said.

“We did well considering those other teams were really fast, but I need to work on our time,” Sneir said.

“Every lap, every set, every finish at practice and outside of practice. The little thing counts from what you do five weeks before conference, every little thing counts.

“Carrah Haley touched the wall. That was one of the highlights of this past weekend’s swim meet where the Golden Panthers came in second after swimming against Cabrini College and Kansas on Jan.

“DARN GOOD”

Asprilla continued his stretch of good games with a career-high 28 points on 11-of-16 shooting. The freshman big man earned praise from his coach in the loss.

“He’s pretty darn good. I’m not all about Alex, but it really all about Alex

Often times it’s said that the real season doesn’t start until the playoffs, or in the case of college basketball, the real meat of the schedule lies in the conference portion; after all, it is the conference champion that plays in the big dance.

Andrea Galindo and Alex Asprilla. The Blue Raiders raced to a 19-5 lead early in the game and held a double-digit lead at the half.

“I am disappointed that we came out in a hill. This is two years in a row that we came in here and gave them a big lead,” said head coach Sergio Rouco, according to fiauports.com. “You can’t shoot 49 percent from the field and lose the basketball game.

“It was a good learning experience for us and it pushes us. There’s still a lot we need to work on and this meet allowed us to see what we needed to work on.”

Other highlights from the meeting were Regina Mayer, Kate-lynn Stevens and Erin Pavlick who finished in first, second and third in the women’s 400-yard individual medley, and the two women’s 400-yard free relay which finished first and second.

Swimming team earns second-place finish

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Freddy Asprilla and Alex Galindo combined for 47 points, but the rest of the Golden Panthers scored just 16 points and in turn

The Golden Panthers scored a season-high 81 points in their last game on Jan. 8 against Western Kentucky University, but were

anemic offensively outside of Galindo and Asprilla. The Blue Raiders raced to a 19-5 lead early in the game and held a double-digit lead at the half.

“I am disappointed that we came out in a hill. This is two years in a row that we came in here and gave them a big lead,” said head coach Sergio Rouco, according to fiauports.com. “You can’t shoot 49 percent from the field and lose the basketball game.

“We did well considering those other teams were really fast, but I think we held our own,” Sneir said.

“I was still relatively sore so for not being fully rested and being able to post a time like that gives me a lot of confidence for conference,” Mayer said.

The Golden Panthers will now shift their focus to conference championships which will take place Feb. 11-18 in Nashville, Tenn.

“When you get down to the last five weeks before conference, every little thing counts from what you do at practice and outside of practice. Every lap, every set, every finish makes a difference because it really prepares you for conference,” said coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia.

The swim team’s next match will be against Florida Gulf Coast College on Jan. 24 at 11 a.m.

The team is hoping it will be able to swim at its home pool at the Ray Vista Aquatic Center located on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The pool has been closed since 2007. If it is not ready in time, the team will swim its next meet at the Miami Shores Aquatic Center.

Charlie Grau can be reached at charlie.grau@fiusm.com.

Golden Panthers fail to complete road comeback

It’s not all about Alex, but it really all about Alex

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FALLING SHORT: The Golden Panthers’ rally fell short at MTSU on Jan. 10. Freshman Freddy Asprilla had a career-high 28 points.