STONE OF HOPE: The keynote speaker for the 2009 MLK Commemorative breakfast, Julianne Malveaux (left), president of Bennett College for Women, meets Trustee Al Dotson (right).

Dream still alive 45 years later

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The 18th Annual Commemorative Breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. took place on the morning of Jan. 16.

The event’s theme was “Stone of Hope” and “How a stone of hope from segregation’s mountain of despair” was the primary message of the event where students, faculty and members of the community gathered to commemorate a man known for his fundamental role in the American civil rights movement.

“Dr. King symbolizes the civil rights movement. He left us a legacy that we have not yet attained, but he certainly laid out the fundamentals for what social and economic justice is,” said Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women.

Malveaux, the keynote speaker, delivered a message of hope and faith in the midst of a recession, speaking about the activist work the students, faculty and members of the community gathered to commemorate a man known for his fundamental role in the American civil rights movement.

“If we don’t educate students now, who will run America in the next 20 years?” Malveaux asked. “Anyone who has a brain and wants to perform ought to have that opportunity. We can’t lock young people out.”

She called for a more experiential role in the American civil rights movement.

“Dr. King symbolizes the civil rights movement. He left us a legacy that we have not yet attained, but he certainly laid out the fundamentals for what social and economic justice is,” said Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College for Women.

Malveaux, the keynote speaker, delivered a message of hope and faith in the midst of a recession, speaking about the activist work the students, faculty and members of the community gathered to commemorate a man known for his fundamental role in the American civil rights movement.

“If we don’t educate students now, who will run America in the next 20 years?” Malveaux asked. “Anyone who has a brain and wants to perform ought to have that opportunity. We can’t lock young people out.”

She called for a more experiential role in the American civil rights movement.
The University College Democrats welcomed Demo- crat B.H. Chizzar to the meeting to speak about the 2008 national elections, local governments, and the current economic crisis. Chizzar, the chairman of the Miami-Dade Democratic Party, wrapped off the evening by thanking students for voting in the 2008 presidential election. At the meeting, held Jan. 15, Chizzar praised the Democratic Party’s huge success in the national 2008 elections. However, he could not praise the fact that the party failed in most of the Florida elections.

“It doesn’t feel like a blue state,” Chizzar said. Florida went to Obama in the election, but the majority of Florida’s governments and government officials went to Republicans. Chizzar believes that citizens should not lose their energy for the Democratic Party after Obama won the presidential election. “Local parties need you,” Chizzar said. He encouraged students to take part in the Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee. At the end of the meeting, he handed out membership applications to all students. Chizzar also handed out absentee ballot request forms.

“Democrats need to get in the habit of filling out absentee ballots instead of waiting in lines at the polls,” Chizzar said. “Republicans have a lead over the Democrats in absentee ballots.”

Chairman Chizzar continued by stating that if anyone fills out an absentee ballot and turns it in, they will receive the mail-in ballot 21 to 28 days prior to the election. According to him, voting in local elections is just the starting point in which people can get involved in their local government.

Chizzar stated that he was impressed with how Miami-Dade public school teachers, children and parents were coming together to raise the government against budget cuts.

“At the end of the night, it all comes down to taking some action,” Chizzar said.

Currently, the DEC is working on getting signatures on a petition to make it easier for employees to unorganize. He also mentioned that legislators will listen to a group of college students who write letters or rally for lesser budget cuts.

“Chizzar did an excellent job and got me really excited for local politics,” said Savannah Alvater, a member of College Democrats.

“I thought it was fantastic,” said co-President of College Democrats Christopher Cabral. “It was a great opportunity for students to meet one of the most important figures in local Demo- cratic Party politics.”

At 29, B.H. Chizzar is the youngest chairman of any political party in the county.
Campus Recreation makes splash with pool reopening

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

After a two-year wait, the University community will finally have access to the new Bay Campus Recreation Aquatics Complex.

“I think it is an exciting milestone for the University,” said Mara Molina, a Recreation Center front desk assistant. “First, the new cafeteria opened and now the pool, which had been out of commission for a while.”

To celebrate the completion of the new complex, an open house and reopening ceremony will take place Jan. 22 in the Aquatics Complex. The Open House will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Re-Opening ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m.

According to a press release written by Christina Reddick, BBC aquatics coordinator and Rebecca Dinur, outreach coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost, the Open House will include free food, prizes and entertainment and will be open to the public.

The new Aquatics Complex will consist of an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a separate diving well. The renovations include a new deck surface, updated diving blocks, landscaping, new paint and furniture.

“The beauty of it, after the renovation, adds a great feature to the campus,” said Reddick. “There was a strong desire from the students to have an aquatic facility.”

According to Reddick, the Student Government Association was heavily involved in supporting the renovation of the pool when it first closed down. SGC-BBC funded the improvements to the Aquatics Complex.

“It was originally a $6 million project,” said Elias Bardawil, director of Campus Recreation. “But it was done with around $800,000.”

According to Bardawil, they did not expect the renovation of the 25-year-old facility to take two years.

“It was a process to really deliberate on how to get the job done right,” he said. “The pool was closed down to repair leaks within the pipes.

There was no major infrastructure funding over the years. When you have a facility that is run every day, all year, since 1984, eventually something is going to happen,” Bardawil said. “From the leak, it allowed us to proceed to renovate the entire facility.”

The Aquatics Complex will host different recreational swimming activities, such as aqua aerobics and scuba diving, as well as swimming classes and lifeguard training courses, all of which will be free to students, according to Bardawil. Those outside the University community use the Aquatics Complex by paying a $5 fee for a day pass.

The complex will also feature full web access, lounge furniture and an audio system. “It will be a relaxing place, a major Panther point on campus,” Bardawil said. It will also be available to campus clubs and organizations.

“We already have bookings for events,” Bardawil said. “It will really highlight what a fantastic place this is.”

Michelle Souza, the assistant director for Panther Power, which is responsible for increasing campus pride, confirmed the future usage of the Aquatics Complex.

“We will use it for things like pep rallies and other pool events,” she said. “It just gives more possibilities for what we can do on campus.”

The Aquatics Complex will be open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It’s just a nice calming place,” Reddick said. “You can come out and swim, you can use it for a workout, you can relax or you can just socialize.”

For more information, call (305) 919-5767.

GOODIES: Andrea Reynosa and Evensky “EJ” Joseph as assemble free, day gym passes for the pool inauguration.

Barbara Quijano
Staff Writer

Jan. 7 marked the first meeting of the new year for the SGC-BBC members, though vacant seats still filled the room due to open council positions.

But one thing still remains: the SGC-BBC goals set forth last year are overflowing into this year’s agenda.

“Along with [Vice President] Kenasha Paul and the council, we have been able to voice various concerns dealing with parking, classes, services, budget cuts and others,” said Ana Maria Silva, president of SGC-BBC. “We understand there are many more things to accomplish. Our goal is to work to the best of our abilities this semester.”

Project other: the renovation of the bathrooms in AC 1 and AC 2; the installation of stronger lights and the intern program, which is still running smoothly, according to Paul.

More recycling bins will be available on campus due to a partnership between David Fonseca, legislative committee member of Environmental Affairs and World Waste Services, Inc., a corporation responsible for waste and recycling debris removal.

The council stays busy by focusing on academic issues, improving library policies, executing a beautification project and launching an SGA marketing campaign.

“We try to do the best we can for the year, but we all have our limitations,” Paul said.

Open council positions include executive assistant, director of legislative affairs and student union board chairs. Senator positions include Education, Honors College, General Undergraduate, Lower Division, Graduate and Hospitality Management.

The council is working to establish its Web site as part of its marketing campaign. A library enhancement committee was established last semester by retired senator at large Michelle Souza. This committee is working to extend the check-out dates for books, as well as creating more reserved study rooms for all students.

“My any of our goals are continuous,” said Paul. “We want them to be running at any time, but it’s then responding, or having the resources available, that slows us down, both on the part of administration and SGA.”

Annual breakfast honors Cuban journalist, poet

DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Speakers and performances on campus will honor one of the fathers of the Cuban Revolution.

The José Martí Club, along with the Science Club, will be hosting the Eighth Annual José Martí Scholarship Breakfast in recognition of José Martí and his accomplishments. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, eight days before Martí’s birthday, in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater and Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center.

Martí spent 24 years in the late 1800s fighting for Cuba’s freedom from Spain. He also wrote articles and poems to inspire people to resist an oppressive regime and helped organize the Cuban Revolution of 1895. Martí was killed during the first battle of the revolution.

The breakfast, held each year to commemorate his legacy, started as a vehicle for funding scholarships for University students, according to the club’s Web site.

“We will be serving food such as Spanish and American coffee, croissants and pastries, among other Cuban foods,” said Anaibel Gonzalez-Gil, a senior chemistry major and José Martí Club president. Other foods being served include pastelitos and Caribbean fruit, such as watermelon, pineapple and cantaloupe.

Students from David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center will be performing at the breakfast.

“We are doing this because we want to support the entire FIU campus and because we have a bond with the school,” said Bernard L. Osborn, the principal of the school.

Ernesto Travieso, a Cuban Catholic priest at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, will deliver an invocational prayer before the breakfast. The event will also feature guest speaker Dr. Eduardo Lalo, professor of Spanish and Hispanic literature at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn.

Lolo has written several books about Martí, such as Martí y la Literatura Infantil. In addition to the Science Club, students and the Office of the Vice Provost are also funding their support by donating funds to the José Martí Club for the breakfast.

Other funding sources include bake sales and donations from the community.

“We encourage everyone to come out to this event and learn more about José Martí and his contribution to the Hispanic culture,” said Karen Prieto, a sophomore biology major and José Martí Club treasurer.

Barbara Quijano
Staff Writer

Annual breakfast honors Cuban journalist, poet

DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Speakers and performances on campus will honor one of the fathers of the Cuban Revolution.

The José Martí Club, along with the Science Club, will be hosting the Eighth Annual José Martí Scholarship Breakfast in recognition of José Martí and his accomplishments. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, eight days before Martí’s birthday, in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater and Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center.

Martí spent 24 years in the late 1800s fighting for Cuba’s freedom from Spain. He also wrote articles and poems to inspire people to resist an oppressive regime and helped organize the Cuban Revolution of 1895. Martí was killed during the first battle of the revolution.

The breakfast, held each year to commemorate his legacy, started as a vehicle for funding scholarships for University students, according to the club’s Web site.

“We will be serving food such as Spanish and American coffee, croissants and pastries, among other Cuban foods,” said Anaibel Gonzalez-Gil, a senior chemistry major and José Martí Club president. Other foods being served include pastelitos and Caribbean fruit, such as watermelon, pineapple and cantaloupe.

Students from David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center will be performing at the breakfast.

“We are doing this because we want to support the entire FIU campus and because we have a bond with the school,” said Bernard L. Osborn, the principal of the school.

Ernesto Travieso, a Cuban Catholic priest at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, will deliver an invocational prayer before the breakfast. The event will also feature guest speaker Dr. Eduardo Lalo, professor of Spanish and Hispanic literature at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn.

Lolo has written several books about Martí, such as Martí y la Literatura Infantil. In addition to the Science Club, students and the Office of the Vice Provost are also funding their support by donating funds to the José Martí Club for the breakfast.

Other funding sources include bake sales and donations from the community.

“We encourage everyone to come out to this event and learn more about José Martí and his contribution to the Hispanic culture,” said Karen Prieto, a sophomore biology major and José Martí Club treasurer.
Funding for search firm could be used for other, more beneficial purposes

KATY HUDDLESTON
Contributing Writer

All we wanted to do as kids was play outside. You’d meet up with your neighborhood friends and spend all day running around and riding bikes until your parents forced you inside for either sustenance or sleep. It scares me now, merely to drive around and witness the lack of children outside, knowing that they are just behind the walls of their houses – plugged into electronics.

According to statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation, kids and teens eight to 18 years old, spend nearly four hours per day watching television. This is in contrast to advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recommends that children under two not watch any television and those older than two watch no more than one to two hours a day of quality programming.

The large number of children glued to the screen can be explained by a scenario that I witness all too often working as a hostess: a couple and three-year-old having a “family” dinner at a restaurant. Yet, the child is mesmerized into silence by the portable DVD player on the table. Put more bluntly: it keeps them distracted.

To a parent, it sounds too good to be true that something will keep baby young enough for them to regain their sanity, but it comes at a cost. Beyond the obvious side effects caused by excessive time spent watching television – like childhood obesity epidemic in America and the overexposure of children to violence and advertisements – there are numerous other consequences. The AAP states, “The first two years of life are considered a critical time for brain development.” When in front of the TV set, kids are also being disconnected from their friends and families and conditioned into learning various media and commercial conventions, in terms of gender roles and stereotypes.

What’s worse is that today’s children have so much more than just television to be entertained by. Now there is a whole world of different types of social networking Websites, video game systems and cell phone technology that is drawing them further away from reality.

With less than 25 percent of children getting 30 minutes per day of exercise and the decreasing number of schools requiring physical education, the state of the matter seems to be worsening.

It’s time for parents to demand changes in the school system, as well as take part in their own changes at home. A television is not a sufficient baby sitter for a child who is absorbing everything that goes on around them, especially with the type of brain-numbing content pervading the channels.

Madden.
**LIFE! Will you come?**

Dance all night in the name of charity, children

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

"When I say DM, you say 'for the kids!'"

"DM!"

For the kids!

This is what you typically hear at events when students speak about Dance Marathon. Running on its 12th year, Dance Marathon is a 25-hour philanthropic event in which participants stand on their feet, pleading their dedication to saving the lives of children.

Next week, DM is kicking off the week with a series of events to help raise funds for the Children’s Miracle Network, in regards to the committee’s goal of raising $125,000 by Jan. 31.

On Tuesday at noon, morale captains will be "talking in" to Graham Center with the Chick-Fil-A cow, promoting their Spirit Night event taking place at the Chick-Fil-A in Doral from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will go toward the CMN.

Morale captains are in charge of creating the spirit to keep dancers going for the 24-hour pledge period, as well as performing the line dance that is shown to participants throughout the event. Participants interested in becoming dancers for DM will have the opportunity to register for the event at the tables in Graham Center.

At the restaurant, the committee has booked a disk jockey who will be playing last year’s line dance to continue to raise funds to meet the $125,000 goal.

There will also be raffles and prizes for those who choose to participate.

Students who auditioned and made it to the final round of "So You Think You Can Dance?" will be performing one of the final four teams on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the GC Ballroom. The winner will get a sponsored trip and will be at the event.

"Super DM-do" will take place Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Graham Center pit.

At this event, students can play a variety of Nintendo games based on the theme for this year. Prices are $1 for one game, $4 for two games and $6 for an unlimited number of games.

On Jan. 26, the DM committee will be sharing the pit with one of their sponsors, Student Alumni Association, to continue promoting the event.

All of the money raised at this year’s events will benefit the local CMN hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital.

Registered dancers and dancer teams can accumulate spirit points that count toward winning the Miracle Cup. Teams can obtain these points by dancing, hosting fund-raising events and showing support at different DM events hosted throughout the year.

The team with the most points at the end of the event, individuals are also encouraged for going above and beyond in keeping dancers up all night – to help out either. You can just go to Dance Marathon, which will be taking place at the Recreation Center at University Avenue. The proceeds from DM will go to Miami Children’s Hospital. You can donate money, there or just hang out and help.

Besides these events, there will be a table set up where you can purchase luminaries to acknowledge them at the relay and you will acknowledge the luminaries lap. You can walk the survivor lap. This is for someone who has had, fought or passed away from cancer, someone who has had, fought or passed away from cancer, you can purchase luminaries to acknowledge them at the relay and you will acknowledge the luminaries lap.

Even if you’re not Greek, there are so many opportunities to get out there and do some good for your community and other causes.

**Opportunities for charity work abound on campus**

We’re all getting into Spring’s full swing and this is the time of year that charity events around campus are thriving. With Dance Marathon and Relay for Life coming up, the Greeks on campus tend to stand out since most of them have philanthropic events of their own.

Even if you’re not Greek, there are so many opportunities to get out there and do some good for your community and other causes.

**THURSDAY • JANUARY 22**

**WHAT:** Wake Up & Spin
**WHERE:** 7:00-8:00 a.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center, Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2951

**WHAT:** Flow: Triangulation Student Art Show
**WHERE:** 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC Piano Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Guitar Hero Competition
**WHERE:** 4:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Kendall Branch Library
**CONTACT:** 305-279-0520

**WHAT:** Film Club Meeting
**WHERE:** 5:00-6:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC 340
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** College Demands
**WHERE:** 6:00-7:10 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC 245
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Women’s Basketball, FIU vs. North Texas
**WHERE:** 6:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** FIU Arena
**CONTACT:** 1-844-FIU-GAME

**WHAT:** Body Combat
**WHERE:** 6:00-7:45 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center, Gold & Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** South Beach Comedy Festival
**WHERE:** 7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Colony Theatre
**CONTACT:** (305) 908-7448

**WHAT:** Justice Core
**WHERE:** 8:00-9:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center Gold & Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Support Super
**WHERE:** 8:30-9:15 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center, Gold Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Truth for Life Meeting
**WHERE:** 9:00-10:00 a.m.
**WHERE:** GC 343
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Ultimate Care
**WHERE:** 11:00-12:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC Arena
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Orange Dreams: Jungle Fantasy
**WHERE:** 7:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** FIU Arena
**CONTACT:** 1-844-FIU-GAME

**WHAT:** Truth for Life Meeting
**WHERE:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC 343
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Truth for Life Meeting
**WHERE:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC 343
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Panther Promotions Meeting
**WHERE:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC 343
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Truth for Life Meeting
**WHERE:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC Arena
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Wake Up & Spin
**WHERE:** 7:00-8:00 a.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center, Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2951

**WHAT:** Truth for Life Meeting
**WHERE:** 9:00-10:00 a.m.
**WHERE:** GC 343
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Ultimate Core
**WHERE:** 11:00-12:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC Arena
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** Orange Dreams: Jungle Fantasy
**WHERE:** 7:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** FIU Arena
**CONTACT:** 1-844-FIU-GAME

**WHAT:** Body Combat
**WHERE:** 6:00-7:45 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center, Gold & Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** South Beach Comedy Festival
**WHERE:** 7:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Colony Theatre
**CONTACT:** (305) 908-7448

**WHAT:** Ultimate Core
**WHERE:** 8:00-9:30 p.m.
**WHERE:** Rec Center Gold & Blue Fitness Room
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2297

**WHAT:** So You Think You Can Dance? Finals
**WHERE:** 8:00 p.m.
**WHERE:** GC Ballroom
**CONTACT:** (305) 348-2149

Compiled by Mariana Oliva
Losing weight is tough, especially for a Hispanic woman like myself who just can’t seem to let go of her arroz con frijoles. Since I embarked on a weight loss journey, I’ve only lost one pound. And that was two weeks ago.

On the other hand, my boyfriend Charlie has already lost 7 pounds. Now, you can only imagine my frustration when he tells me this and my jeans still fit snug.

Granted, no one can exercise for me or monitor the kinds of food I eat, but a little free help from an organization specializing in weight loss might definitely give me the push I so desperately need.

The Hispanic Obesity Prevention and Education Program promotes increased physical activity, healthy nutrition and appropriate food portion sizes among people living in Florida through its Web site: www.hopeflorida.org. The program is not limited to Hispanics.

Here’s how it works. You fill out an evaluation with personal information such as your height, weight and date of birth. Then you input how many times per day or week you consume cereals and starchy vegetables, fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy products, meat and proteins, fats and sugars and water. Last, you input how much time you spend working out. The evaluation results will include your body mass index, a detailed evaluation of your food consumption, and the recommended amount of calories you must consume per day.

My results screamed, “Overweight!” And according to my personal information, physical activity and goals, my meal plan recommended 1,200 calories per day, not the almost 2,000 I was consuming including afternoon and midnight snacks.

Once you know where you stand in terms of nutrition, you have the option to begin the MyDiet program. This, my fellow losers, is the best part. With MyDiet you can create a nutrition plan based on what you want to eat. Trust me, the options are delicious. Foods range from smoothies to curry-style tuna and tomato soup with whole wheat bread.

The plan gives a detailed description on how to prepare each meal and includes nutrition facts for them. It also gives you substitute options in case you prefer fish over pork.

The exercise plan allows you to design your own routine with your select activities and frequency of exercise. What’s best is that the plan comes with exercise videos created by personal trainers.

Your personal plan allows you to track your progress week by week.

The answer is in you. Today as I worked on this column, my co-worker Gio flaunted a Samoas Girl Scouts cookie in my face. And let me tell you, I was really tempted to snatch the coconut-covered treat from his grip. But I didn’t. I immediately remembered my goal: lose 30 pounds before graduation.

Will I do it? Yes. Check your Pulse for health, wellness and fitness every Wednesday. E-mail Eddith at eddith.sevilla@fi usm.com.
Team steps it up in second half

WOMEN’S, page 8

The senior guard said the game is a win is a win, despite how it appears

A win is a win, despite how it appears

JULIAN, page 8

Belt Conference standings, to get a home game in the opening round of the conference tournament.

And just at the right time too.

With FIU trending up, even as unprepossessing as it may have been, it’s a good sign for the Golden Panthers that they have been able to win close contests, as it shows all of that cliché stuff: heart, determination, mettle, etc. and that FIU has lots of it.

Coach Rouco told me earlier this season that this is the best character group he’s had during his tenure group.

Contextualizing that with the last few weeks for FIU, it appears that coach Rouco made the right call, looking at this team as one that really fit together.

Now it becomes an issue of something the Golden Panthers appear to have become quite adept at: finishing.

Over the next month and a half, I’m not so sure that FIU will become “Best in Show” in the Sun Belt, but becoming a consistent winner for the duration of the season is well within the grasp of the Golden Panthers.

The team, still missing 7-footer Russell Hicks and Florida State transfer Josue Soto, is loaded with character.

And after all, didn’t mom tell you how much more important what’s on the inside is than what’s on the outside?
SWEEPING WEEKEND

Golden Panthers squeak by another conference foe

SERGIO BONILLA
Assoc. Sports Director

Before forward/center Freddy Asprilla began playing against Sun Belt Conference teams in late December, he said he was not concerned about the conference big men he would face.

“The Sun Belt doesn’t have many big men,” Asprilla said on Dec. 30 during the women’s East Carolina game.

Against the University of Denver Pioneers (7-11, 2-5 Sun Belt), the freshman from Villaviciosa, Colombia outweighed their heaviest player by 65 pounds, and showed little concern on his way to a 20-point game.

The Golden Panthers (8-12, 3-4) defeated the Pioneers 59-57 on Jan. 17 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

In addition to the mismatch Asprilla created, the team made 27-of-38 free throws, including two game-winning free throws by guard Michael Dominguez.

During the last five minutes of the game, the Golden Panthers trailed 57-51, but they slowly inched their way closer by going inside to Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers closed out the game on a 7-0 run.

The team won its third win in four games as Puerto Rican native Alex Galinde played in his sixth game of the season, despite nearly aggravating his ankle against Florida Atlantic University on Jan. 15.

With the Golden Panthers in the thick of conference play, the team has benefited from having Galindo and Asprilla on the floor together.

Early on in the game, the duo combined for 22 of the team’s 29 first half points. Asprilla knocked down 4-of-5 free throws despite shooting 43 percent from the charity stripe coming into the game.

The team vanished its 29-25 lead six minutes into the second half. Forward Nate Rohnert from the Pioneers lit up the Golden Panthers with 17 points on 7-of-12 shooting, but FIU’s defense would come back strong and the free throws would come down.

“Good teams find a way to win and we didn’t roll over when we were down five late in the game and we made shots,” said head coach Sergio Rouco, according to fxiusports.com. “I’m very, very happy for my guys.”

The Golden Panthers shot 71 percent from the free throw line. The team was shooting 62 percent from the line entering the game.

“FIU did the things they needed to do and that was reflected on the scoreboard,” Pioneers head coach Joe Scott said, according to denverpioneers.com.

Big Man on Campus: Freshman forward Freddy Asprilla led FIU with 20 points in their third win in four games.

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS: Freshman forward Freddy Asprilla led FIU with 20 points in their third win in four games.

Six-game losing streak over

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Finally, after a six-game losing streak, the women’s basketball team was able to pick up their second Sun Belt Conference win of the season.

A back and forth game ended with a Golden Panthers’ (4-14, 2-5 Sun Belt) 55-52 decision over the Denver Pioneers (9-8, 4-3) on Jan. 17 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Guard Monika Bosilj led all scorers with 19 points.

Senior forward Andie Mason led the Denver Pioneers with 15 points, while forward Brianna Culberson came off the bench and put up 13 points.

The inside play of Carey and forward Jasmine Jenkins disrupted the Pioneers.

The forwards combined for 16 rebounds and five blocks.

“FIU played a great game down the stretch and their posts did a great job of asserting their presence in the paint and making it difficult for us to get to the basket,” said Denver head coach Erik Johnson.

The Golden Panthers took on a 5-0 run at the beginning of the game with a jumper from Bosilj and a three-pointer by guard Ashley Trangott.

The teams exchanged the lead throughout the first half until Pioneers guard Jenny Vaughn hit a three-pointer to put her team up eight points, 29-21, with just 11 seconds to play in the half.

For the Golden Panthers, point guard Michelle Gonzalez wasn’t able to respond as she missed a three-pointer just before the teams headed to the locker room.

The Pioneers shot 11-of-19 in the first half and 4-of-6 from behind the arc while the Golden Panthers shot just 9-of-29 from the field and 3-of-8 from the three-point line.

“During the half, coach told us that even though we’re down, we need to come together and that’s pretty or ugly, it’s all about getting the win

There’s winning and then there’s winning ugly — and I’m sure as far as men’s basketball head coach Sergio Rouco is concerned, there’s no difference.

Consider the last 85 minutes FIU has played in its last three victories: a two-point win against conference heavyweight Western Kentucky; escaping a road struggle with a Florida Atlantic University team missing its best post player, and getting an off-night from its top scorer and a home win over a team severely outmanned in the front court, in which FIU led for just 43 seconds in the second half.

No biggie though — the Golden Panthers have won three of their past four games.

They now will have a home date with the North Texas Mean Green, which is just as important as the one against Denver.

North Texas is a team near the same level of the conference standings (UNT 3-3, FIU 3-4) with whom FIU is fighting, among others packed tightly among the middle of the Sun Belt standings.