New online requirement for incoming students

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Starting the summer of 2015, all incoming students will be required to take an online prevention workshop on sexual assault, relationship abuse and other emotional distress before enrolling at FIU.

“The program will be required for all incoming students, starting with those who enroll Summer 2015. It will be launched by the division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Victim Empowerment Program at FIU.”

“Because the workshop is required and everyone has to complete it, then all students will learn about the resources that are available to them on campus,” said Victoria Carney-Paine, health educator for the Victim Empowerment Program and FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. “This is one way that we’re hoping provides that extra prevention and awareness about these topics.”

The Victim Empowerment Program provides confidential assistance to FIU students, faculty, staff and University visitors who have been victimized through threatened or actual violence and helps them support the healing process.

The center takes part in outreach activities to educate the FIU community on the resources available to them, while also raising awareness on topics like sexual assault.

“When people are told that they shouldn’t talk about sexual assault, it’s like shining a blame on the victim. We’re saying it’s their fault and they did wrong — and that isn’t true,” said Carney-Paine. “If we don’t talk about it, we’re not going to learn how to prevent it and it’s never going to end.”

One of the programs that the center offers, other than its confidential services, is the Peer Education Program. The center interviews, trains and hires students to be ambassadors across the University. Those ambassadors then educate others on topics of sexual assault and mental health.

“The ambassadors are involved in lengthy training sessions and become very familiar with victimization issues,” Carney-Paine said. “When they’re ready, they go out and do presentations and help us raise awareness across our campuses.”

Zoe Laren, junior sociology major, has heard about the Peer Education Program and believes that it’s a great way to spread awareness on issues of mental health and sexual violence.

“I would love to be part of that one day because it’s making a huge difference. I’ve met some of those ambassadors in passing and they have brilliant ideas,” she said. “The way in which they captivate you and help you understand how to deal with these issues is inspiring.”

Ana Moran, senior majoring in special education, is especially fond of the new requirement for incoming students and

New partnership and facility to help student botanists

AULIA DORSON
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The University recently partnered with the National Tropical Botanical Garden to create the International Center for Tropical Botany, a non-profit educational addition to the University that will utilize FIU-NTBG expertise to study and preserve plant life here in South Florida.

As a symbol of commitment, NTBG donated land at The Kampong, a garden once home to renowned plant explorer David Fairchild and now one of NTBG’s tropical sensations, to the University for ICTB’s headquarters to be built on.

“It [the donation] was very much a statement from National Tropical that they are very serious about the partnership and that it is a long-term investment,” said Mike Batchelor, interim director at The Kampong and the University’s associate dean of research engagement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The University has long since been recognized for its world-class tropical botany team and NTBG realized the potential of the collaboration.

“We saw in FIU a partner who recognized the value of tropical studies, botany in particular, and was willing to

We saw in FIU a partner who recognized the value of tropical studies, botany in particular, and was willing to step up, really invest in that area and partner with us. I guess you might say that it was a match made in heaven,” said Charles Wichman, director and CEO of NTBG.

ICTB is a series of partnerships, FIU and NTBG being at the center, with botanical institutions across the globe, all dedicated to locating, identifying, studying and finding economic uses for tropical plant species.

“With an ever-growing need for both harnessing the potential of tropical plants to help people as well as conserve these species in nature, an FIU-NTBG partnership was

many institutions are shutting down their botany departments in favor of molecular studies, leaving a hole for FIU students to fill and excel in — given our ideal tropical location, and now the access that students have to NTBG staff and facilities, many of which are located in Hawaii and surrounding islands.”

“It’s an increased opportunity to work with some of the best botanists in the world. It’s an opportunity to study in the phenomenal facilities here at The Kampong. It really gives them [students] a platform for international experience,” said Maunder.

FIU-NTBG have recruited and hired Chris Baratolo, a world-renowned expert on rainforest botany, to be the director of ICTB. Once Baratolo is officially on board, FIU-NTBG will initiate the full design of the new headquarters and begin the permitting process, after which construction will begin.

Maunder anticipates this to be a two year process. The William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and the Bachelof Foundation have both generously donated 2.5 million to fund the construction of ICTB’s headquarters and get the ball rolling.

However, FIU-NTBG plans to get started right away.

“We don’t need to wait for a building for the center to take shape. It can already begin as an academic center, which will, in the meantime, be shared between people who have similar academic interests and are now aligning themselves with this center,” said Wichman.

For students interested in tropical botany, ICTB provides a unique opportunity to learn from the greatest botanists this country has to offer and to

University gears up for finals with Cram Jam

ADRIAN SUIAREZ AVILA
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“It’s that time of year again — finals week.

In preparation for one of the most stressful periods of the academic year, the University is extending library hours and gearing up to keep students well fed as they study for their final exams.

The week will kick off with a 24-hour study hall in the Graham Center in Modesto A. Maidique Campus, which will last from Monday, Dec. 8, to Thursday, Dec. 11.

Fresh Food Company will also open its doors at 10:30 p.m. to serve students a midnight breakfast on Dec. 8.

Massage sessions, along with time slots in which snacks, hot tea and aromatherapy

that will be offered, will be taking place throughout the week in the MMC and the Biscayne Bay Campus, with a special massage session being offered in the Engineering Center on Dec. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“What we really want to do with Cram Jam is give students a better experience during finals, when they’re really stressed out, when they’re not really concerned about their health or their well-being,” said Student Government Council at MMC President Alexis Calatayud.

Calatayud mentioned that the University aims to make various campus resources readily available for students during Cram Jam, which costs about $10,000.

“It’s important and it’s a tradition at FIU,” she said. “That’s why we do it.”
The Beacon – Friday, December 5, 2014

NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

Heavy cell phone usage leads to more stress.

BBC Managing Editor

community as a whole, she said.

Pennsylvania Republican Tim Murphy said he is reviewing the wide-reaching measure to see what it's actually making you more uptight and stressed out.

“Just so critical for parents to encourage and teach their children about how much time they should spend on their phones — don’t have so much of a personality outside their phones, are more prone to boredom and don’t have the social skills to entertain themselves with other activities.

Mental health bill seen as ripe for revival next year

The 113th Congress is almost certain to wrap up without action on comprehensive mental health legislation, but the sponsor of a bipartisan House bill is planning a “revive and revive” approach next year.

They spoke about the University’s sexual assault initiative into 2015

When 2014 begins, Ohio State University’s Wertheim Conservatory, room 130 at Modesto Maidique Campus, will be teaching the pilot run of the FIU Global First-Year Program in partnership with Shorelight Education.

Cleveland assured the senate that the number of students would always fall within the University’s capacity.

Cleveland said that the company funds the recruitment and program, and it claims 10-percent of each student’s tuition if they are successful in the program.

Questions for the Faculty Senate pour in as the University prepares for the pilot run of the FIU Global First-Year Program in partnership with Shorelight Education.

Shorelight will recruit international students on behalf of FIU in 36 global markets, said Basil Cleveland, executive vice president and co-founder of Shorelight Education.

At the same time, Shorelight will be recruiting for about six other universities, including the University of Central Florida.

Cleveland presented at the final senate meeting of the semester on Dec. 2, to explain how this 15-year partnership would expand the University’s international presence.

From now on, undergraduates international students who receive a certain score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language will be admitted through the FIU Global program: a six- or 12-month intensive English-speaking course and community in the residence halls of Modesto A. Maidique Campus during their first year at the University.

Students that receive a TOEFL score above a certain threshold can opt out of the program. The new TOEFL score requirements are yet to be determined but will be presented to the Faculty Senate in spring.

The program is supposed to help first-year international students have a smoother transition into the American university system and, in turn, improve second-year retention rates.

President Mark B. Rosenberg previously told Student Media that improving second-year retention rates was one of the critical metrics for FIU to improve in the Board of Governor’s Performance Funding Model.

Faculty were concerned with many details of this agreement. For example, journalism professor Neil Reisner wanted to know details of the contract and how Shorelight would be making a profit in the partnership.

Cleveland said that the company funds the recruitment and program, and it claims 10 percent of each student’s tuition if they are successful in the program.

Joan Baker, associate professor in the department of English, was concerned as to how the program will affect faculty, especially adjuncts that are not full-time employees.

With a new program that would require specific courses, Baker worried that faculty labor would be “exploited.”

The worst we could do is get more students than the capacity to teach and have a bad educational experience.

Basil Cleveland Executive Vice President & Co-Founder Shorelight Education

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NEWS

University furthers sexual assault initiative into 2015

SEX ASSAULT, PAGE 1

The Beacon – Friday, December 5, 2014

University furthers sexual assault initiative into 2015

SEX ASSAULT, PAGE 1

wishes it would have been installed sooner.

I feel like a lot of people are so clueless about sexual assault and about how easy this is for our generation,” said Moran. “The online workshop would do a phenomenal job of raising the general level of awareness for all these topics. People won’t be clueless anymore.”

There’s always been a concern over sex assault on campus, but Moran thinks that there is a renewed interest because of the pressure placed by the Obama administration this year.

“It’s always been important, but people are just talking about it now because it’s when Obama decided to talk about it,” she said.

The center also offers a 24-hour hotline for students and the general public. Those needing assistance can call (305) 548-3000.

Faculty senate discusses sex assault, FIU Global

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Raised hands shouldn’t raise tempers

SAMANTHA SMITH
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In recent years, I have noticed a discouraging and unhealthy habit that has formed in nearly every classroom I have attended. This is not about putting gum under your desks (which → come on → you should have stopped doing by now), but about asking questions.

Everyone has experienced it. A curious hand raised during class almost always elicits a roll of the eyes or a groan from someone in the room. Even I have caught myself mentally demonizing fellow students who ask professors about concepts I already understand, as if incomprehension were inherently evil.

When did it become a bad thing to clarify something you did not quite grasp?

Probably when your school system, friends or family made you feel stupid for not knowing something they did. A lot has stopped asking questions a long time ago to save themselves from embarrassment.

Contrary to popular belief, asking questions does not make you an idiot.

Of course, there are instances in which the main reason for confusion stems from a lack of attention being paid. Even if these are annoying, consider that one person asking for repetition or clarification is highly unlikely to derail an entire class period, let alone any statistically significant part of your day. In the grand scheme of things, no one is getting hurt.

Everyone has reasons for and against asking questions, but instead of demeaning or becoming exasperated with those who do not understand a concept, it would be a better practice to help them achieve a higher level of knowledge — not just in the classroom, but in all walks of life.

No one should have to pretend to know something for the sake of pride. The pursuit of knowledge is an everyday endeavor, and the best way to get answers is to ask for them.

There is an elementary school adage I had nearly forgotten about on this subject: “Listen to what people ask. You might find you had the same question.” Or, you might find, that someone else in the room might have social anxiety and are unable to ask for themselves. Please do not educate them or ask them, but do not do this for you do not understand something, and be patient with those who do the same.

From now on, I’m pledging not to think questions are bad. I just wish I had figured that out before I got to college.

Tis the season to go shopping: Black Friday

ALAN DI DIEGO
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After a great day of eating platefuls of food, drinking wine and spending quality time with friends and family, we should take a moment to reflect on how grateful we truly are. After all, that is the whole point of Thanksgiving: to slow down and be thankful.

Sadly, millions of Americans are not gratified with what they have and, in turn, want more — casting a dark cloud over Turkey Day, making it lose meaning with each passing year. This commercialistic shade is created by none other than the fruit of our labor: Black Friday.

Black Friday has become so embedded in American life that millions of people camp outside these stores for days in advance to ensure the best bargains aren’t taken by their friends and neighbors. Many of these offers come in very limited quantities, so if you’re not like Derek Dearmond of Fort Meyers, who began camping outside of Best Buy on Nov. 10, your opportunity to snag a good deal might not become a reality.

The question becomes clear. How have we, as a country, reached the point of establishing tents with food, water and pillows outside a store to buy things?

We’ve let ourselves become self-absorbed consumerist machines, priding ourselves on material possessions because we believe it adds value to who we are as people. If we don’t own the latest tablet, the newest computer or the coolest sneakers, we feel outworn and subordinate. Black Friday has accelerated this learned notion and simultaneously placed Thanksgiving in the backdrop.

It only gets worse. Companies love Black Friday, as expected. Last year alone, people spent more than $50 billion on Black Friday, and while this help to the economy is fine, we pay a price for it — many times the safety of others.

In 2008, a man was killed at a Wal-Mart in New York as a wild mob broke the doors off its inside. He was run over by over 200 unstoppable shoppers.

Since its beginning, Black Friday has seen multiple deaths and over 90 injuries.

What we need to do as a society and as a nation is stop giving into the madness that is Black Friday. Let’s not be mocked and criticized by other countries who see us as the country of irony, wherein one day we give thanks and the very other we resume indulgence and selfishness. Let’s refocus for the sake of pride. The pursuit of knowledge is an everyday endeavor, and the best way to get answers is to ask for them.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

FRANK & IRENE

At the Kissing Bridge...

I love you, Jenny.
I love you, Frank.

Hey!!

Hurry up! Tim and I have class in ten minutes and you’re wasting our valuable make out time.

I love you, Jenny.
I love you, Frank.

Send us your letters.

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Word Alive vocalist describes experience as a singer

Leslie Blanco
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Harboring an infectious smile, theatre student Juanita Olivo walks with a certain confidence and charisma. Pursuing a BFA in performance and with aspirations to act in Broadway, she wasn’t always so self-assured.

It took changing her major from dietetics and nutrition to international business, and then to hospitality before Olivio finally found her calling in theater and acting.

“I feel like I am a very normal student, and something happened to me that happened to a lot of people, where they come in not knowing what they’re going to do in the future. I actually changed my major three times before I decided to do this,” she said.

Her latest role was in Juanita’s Statue, written, performed and directed by Claudio Garcia Romero and directed by Michael Yawney. She played the lead female, also named Juanita, who disguises herself as a man to protect herself and in the process meets other people and helps them to discover the love that is within themselves. The play opened up this season on Friday, Nov. 7 and lasted two weekends before its close on Sunday, the 16.

“Juanita Statue is an elaborate role and I really had to work at making connections with other actors and developing her,” she said.

Being in theatre and acting itself has helped her to become more fearless, not just on stage, but in everyday life.

“With acting, you have to be open to criticisms and throw yourself into the part—the art can cure fear,” she said.

“With this profession, you get to experience a whole range of emotions that many people don’t show or experience that often. People repress a lot of things, and in shedding all of that you get to be raw and real.”

Juanita’s Statue isn’t the only role that this young theatre student has done. In the summer of 2013, she starred in Juanita’s Statue, or “Juanita’s Statue Isn’t the Most Beautiful,” which was in Downtown Miami at the Micro Theater, she played a lesbian at a sex shop. It was a scene between two women, in which one of the characters falls in love with the other, but it didn’t have a happy ending, but a more realistic ending.

“That one was fun,” she said.

“In portraying these characters and different emotions, I feel like I have so much access to my inner self that a lot of people don’t,” Olivo said.

The performance will probably take place in the spring, once auditions begin for upcoming shows.

Another one of her dreams is to do an internship in France, and perfect her studies in the French language.

“The fact that I can take my craft, take something that I love, and bring it to other cultures and other people...to me, that’s just so great,” she said.

In today’s society, not many people see acting as a secure job so there is a less-than-favorable reputation attached to pursuing a degree in theatre. Despite these uncertainties, Olivo is unfazed and determined as ever to pursue her passion.

“I feel very lucky because I grew up in a household of entrepreneurs. We have a different mentality. We take life by the horns. I have a very relaxed attitude towards my future, it’s like a certainty that I know things will work out in the end. I know I’m going to make it no matter what.”

Claudio Zelaya
Staff Writer
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The Word Alive played in the Culture Room of Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., on Nov. 18, and I had the pleasure of sitting down with vocalist Telle Smith on the day of the show.

Telle joined the band about six years ago, and it hasn’t slowed down since. The band is currently on a headlining tour in support of its latest release, “Real.” The album was released June 10 of this year and has garnered praise from old and new fans alike. With the addition of drumming sensation Luke Holland, The Word Alive was able to produce an album that shows how much it’s grown since its conception.

The Word Alive is Smith on vocals duties, Luke Holland on drums, Tony Pizzuti and Zach Hansen on guitar and Daniel Shapiro on bass. Support for the “Get Real Tour” is the seminal Miss Fortune.

“Terminal,” there’s a part where it drops and gets heavier than anything. That album shows a lot of aspects of all the albums leading up to “Real!”

Telle: “There’s been a couple things that carried over, but I think “Real” was the first time I tried that. Empire had “How to Build an Empire” and it goes into Deceiver that had “Hounds of Arabia” and into Life Cycles with “Dragon Spell.” Each of those songs were connected. I carried over lyrical themes from albums to album until “Real.” I wanted to write a completely different record and get a little more creative with getting my thoughts and ideas into a song.

How do you continue to challenge yourself when you go into writing a new song?

Telle: “When I go into recording an album I put in parts that I can do in the studio, but it’s very challenging to do in a live setting. Due to doing it that way, then when I play and I’m pushing myself live, then I’m improving. I do the same thing the album next we want to get and that’s a huge part. I pick up on little things from singers that I like. I’ve seen a lot of things about my voice just from the things I’ve been recording. Life Cycles was my least favorite album to record because we were separated for the most part and there was a lot of tension time whether we were recording or just hanging out. We didn’t know what direction we were heading. My favorite memory was when I flew to Indiana and I was hearing the songs starting to come together and the quality was getting better and better. ‘With “Real,” I loved every song and recording the album. Each day was my favorite. There’s more diversity in “Real” than anything. That album shows a lot of aspects of The Word Alive.”

What was the motivation for writing “The Runaway?”

Telle: “We actually wrote that with the legendary producer John Feldmann. There was a side of our band that we wanted to showcase. We’ve never really done songs like “Lighthouse” and “The Runaway,” so we went to Feldmann to record. I wish we wrote a couple more songs like that. As much as I love singing and screaming, I consider myself a singer. We only had two days and we wrote and recorded those songs, which is the fastest we’ve recorded anything.

It shows more talent when you sing more than you scream? Telle: “It’s harder. It’s more melodies and expression. It’s easier to scream because something is heavy. In our song “Terminal,” there’s a part where it drops and gets heavier and the natural reaction is to scream, but I was like, “I feel really bad about this.””

The Runaway was the opening song on an album with a single that normally wouldn’t have been. That was a conscious effort that I made to challenge myself to sing as much as I could even through the record is mostly heavy.

With two performances in, student says her eyes are set on Broadway

Leslie Blanco
Contributing Writer
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Harboring an infectious smile, theatre student Juanita Olivo walks with a certain confidence and charisma. Pursuing a BFA in performance and with aspirations to act in Broadway, she wasn’t always so self-assured.

It took changing her major from dietetics and nutrition to international business, and then to hospitality before Olivio finally found her calling in theater and acting.

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Juanita Olivo, a theatre student working towards her BFA in performance, has aspirations to one day act in Broadway.
As a 3-year-old in Miami, Aileen Quintana would rummage through the drawers in her mother’s bathroom, grab any cosmetics she could find and stealthily apply them to her father’s face while he slept on the couch.

“He would wake up in drag,” Quintana laughs. “That’s my earliest memory of makeup.”

That was over 20 years ago. Quintana’s obsession with painting faces has continued to grow, which is something that she says perplexed her Cuban parents.

“They didn’t understand it. They migrated from Cuba, where a life in art is not a really promising career,” Quintana said. Now, after 10 years of experience and featured work in Vogue and Elle magazine, both Quintana and her parents know art was her only option.

“I live my life as art— it’s completely conceptual,” she said. And as Quintana has grown, so has her concept. She has collaborated with big names such as YSL Cosmetics, Fendi and Betsey Johnson.

“My life runs further than makeup. I do way more. It started out as a platform for production and then creative direction,” Quintana said.

One of her favorite moments was working for Indian designer Manish Arora during Art Basel in Miami four years ago.

“I had to design 15 makeup looks. I went mad trying to figure it out but I did it,” she laughs. Quintana currently manages multiple art installations around the world that have a reflection on beauty and fashion.

“It’s cool how makeup opened up my world to so many more possibilities,” Quintana said. This past year, she has been working with Dwyane Wade’s personal stylist, Calyann Barnett, on the creative direction for his new collection of sneakers to be debuted this upcoming Art Basel in Miami.

“I stopped dreaming a long time ago. I feel like I am already living my dream.”

“I have epiphanies every day.”
Panthers look for strong home stretch

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Coming off a second place finish at the Mizou Invite hosted by the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., the Panthers will be working to improve on their (4-0) start. While students are home for winter break, the team has a busy schedule. The team will host a total of four events.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, they will face off against University of Missouri Engineers. The Ospreys have started off the season (0-3) but have been led by senior swimmer Maria Bernard and junior swimmer Amy Taylor. UNF Head Coach Ian Coffey will do all he can against the Panthers.

Next up, the Panthers will be hosting their own Invitational. On Saturday, Jan. 3, they will play host to the FIU Sprint Invite. A season ago, the Panthers finished in second place in this event. They hope to use the “home field advantage” to their favor.

A few days after competing in the FIU Sprint Invite, the Panthers will be hosting three teams in a mini tournament on Thursday, Jan. 8. Central Connecticut State University, Texas Christian University and Florida Atlantic University.

The Blue Devils of CCSU have started the season off at .500 with a 2-2 record. However, Blue Devil freshman swimmer Maddy Garber has just won Southeast Conference swimmer of the week. Garber will be looking to use that award as momentum for this event.

TCU comes into this event with a record of 2-1 and finishing in seventh place in the University of Texas Diving Invite. Senior New York Ali Anzrad has finished in first place in five of her races this season.

FAU will be coming into this event with a record of 1-1. Although they have not had many matches that count on their schedule, they have had good performances in the two events. This has given the Owls a lot of experience thus far in the season.

The Panthers will have to look out for FAU junior swimmer, Agnes Bacz. She won FAU Player of the Week after breaking two school records at the Georgia Tech Invitational last weekend.

Dolphins in playoff mix with win over Jets

TNS STAFF

Ryan Tannehill saved the Miami Dolphins’ season with a huge assist from Dion Sims and Miami’s resilient defense.

Tannehill directed the Dolphins to a scores a touchdown and a field goal on their final two true drives to rally Miami past the Jets 16-13 on Monday night, averting a year-wrecking embarrassment on national television.

The win improved the Dolphins to 7-5, and for the time being, slid them into the sixth seed in the AFC; they haven’t been to the playoffs since 2008. The Jets fell to 2-11-1. How did it happen?

Because the defense made the play it hadn’t all year.

And because Tannehill stepped up. He completed 5 of 8 passes for 68 yards in the fourth quarter. No two throws were bigger than the darts to Sims on the Dolphins’ late drive to set up Caleb Sturgis’ 26-yard, game-winning field goal.

Two tight passes of 18 and 17 yards on that decisive possession, the latter coming on third-and-7 with the Dolphins on the edge of Sturgis’ range.

Then it was up to the Miami’s defense, which blew late leads to the Packers, Lions and, most recently, Broncos.

Reshad Jones made sure history wouldn’t be repeated. He picked off Geno Smith’s final pass, an effort into double coverage that wasn’t remotely his fault.

Brian Trujillo/The Beacon

Senior guard/forward Kris Gulley picked up seven points on Tuesday, Dec. 2 in the game against Kennesaw State University. Gulley helped the team to come out with a 59-38 victory for their fifth win of the season. The Panthers’ next match is against University of Louisville Friday, Dec. 5.
Women's basketball struggles for first win

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The start of winter break for students means the end of finals and the end of an eternal fall semester. However, winter break for the women's basketball team means more basketball.

Fresh off the Thanksgiving Classic, the Panthers are set to play in-state rival University of Central Florida on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Knights have proved that they are a strong home team this season, opening the season with a 4-1 record at home and an overall record of 4-2. UCF's last loss came on the road against University of Massachusetts, which they kept up with for the most part but stumbled late in the second half.

After an 0-5 start to the season, FIU is looking for any spark to get them over the hump and earn them their first victory. They may take advantage of catching the Knights at the U.S. Century Bank Arena instead of away where UCF won their last game against University of North Florida 60-56.

With 37 bench points, this game showed UCF's competitors that their underclassmen are poised and capable of leading a rally to secure a victory for their team.

Following the rivalry game, the Panthers will go on the road to face Jacksonville University, Western Carolina University, and Wofford College in consecutive road games. The first game of the winter break road rally will be played at Jacksonville on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Jacksonville Dolphins have had a mediocre start at 2-4; nonetheless, University of Florida, who both boast a 5-1 record on the season.

On the other hand, Jacksonville's two wins thus far came against Bethune-Cookman University and Trinity Baptist College. A record was broken in their most recent game of the season against Trinity Baptist, as the Dolphins tallied their largest winning margin in school history with a 98-24 victory. They held their opponent, who now sits at 3-5, to only seven points in the first half.

FIU will then remain in Jacksonville to play Western Carolina (3-3) and Wofford (1-5) on back-to-back days. These games will be played as a part of UNF's Holiday Tournament and are also the Panthers’ best chance to get a win before the start of Conference USA play.

Wofford’s only win came in their home opener against Big South Conference rival Charleston Southern University. Since then, they have dropped three games against Jacksonville State University, Gardner Webb University and South Carolina State University.

Finally, the Panthers will make the drive back home, hopefully with a few wins under their belt, to host Auburn University on Monday, Dec. 29, and either Hampton University or Bowling Green State University on the following day. With the final buzzer of this game, FIU will conclude their play of non-conference opponents and will begin to face off against their much anticipated C-USA foes.

Over winter break and continued through the remainder of the season, the first of these conference games will be played against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University on Sunday, Jan. 4 and Middle Tennessee State University on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Panthers find juice in energetic win over Red Wings

TNS STAFF

The lights went out Tuesday morning at Joe Louis Arena.

They came back on for the Florida Panthers in the evening as they salvaged the second night of a back-to-back tour through the Midwest with a 4-3 victory against the Red Wings.

It took Detroit’s Pubic Lighting Department five hours to get the power back on following a widespread outage that darkened most of the downtown area.

The Panthers likewise found the juice that was missing the previous night when they looked lost in the dark in Columbus.

Goals by Jimmy Hayes, Sean Bergenheim and Aaron Ekblad provided the impetus and Roberto Luongo, back in goal after missing two games and part of another with a strained arm, stopped 36 shots.

Hayes set up Trocheck 27 seconds into the third period off a turnover deep in the Detroit zone for the goal that enabled the Panthers to seize control of a closely contested game.

Trocheck faked a backhand and slipped a forehand around Jimmy Howard for his second goal.

Ekblad applied the crusher with 12 minutes remaining with his second goal in two nights. The 18-year-old rookie, who grew up across the river in Windsor, Ontario, fired a slapper from the left point that brought a rain of boos from the home crowd.

The Red Wings showed some life when Pavel Datsyuk clanked in a rebound off the crossbar and left point for the goalie past the goalpost.

The Panthers were not planning a pregame workout after making the trip from Columbus following a dispassionate 2-1 loss Monday, but were in the building for a meeting.

After losing to a Blue Jackets team that had dropped 15 of their previous 17, the challenge on the second night of Florida’s second back-to-back set of the season was considerably more imposing with the hot Red Wings riding a four-game winning streak and six of their previous seven.

Panthers captain Willie Mitchell tangled with Johan Franzen in front of the Panthers net early in the opening period and drew a pair of minors for roughing and high sticking.

Mitchell was outspoken in his disgust for the way the team played the previous night, saying they lacked fire and played down to the level of the Blue Jackets.

He may have been trying to light a fire in his teammates, but the penalties put his team in an early hole.

The Red Wings took advantage of the power play as Tomas Tatar deflected Datsyuk’s shot past Luongo 6:47 into the game. Former Panther Stephen Weiss got an assist, his sixth point in six games this season since returning from a groin injury.

The Panthers showed the compulsion that was missing Monday and outshot the Red Wings 14-13 in the opening period. They had five shots on goal in the first three minutes and created some chances early, but Howard turned them away.

They got one past him at 15:11 on Hayes’ sixth goal. It came like most the big right wing scores as he drove to the net and pounced on the rebound of Vincent Trocheck’s shot. With Howard going down, Hayes lifted it over the goalie’s left shoulder. Dmitry Kulikov got the second assist.

“We didn’t have our legs and didn’t have our jump [at Columbus],” Gallant said. “It’s disappointing because it was a game that was right there for us. You think your team is going to turn the corner. But you talk to every coach and it’s the same thing, some nights you’re just not there.

The Panthers were without center Aleksander Barkov, who injured a hand blocking a shot Monday. There was some swelling but x-rays showed no fracture, Gallant said. Shawn Thornton returned to the lineup after missing Monday’s game with facial injuries and a slight groin strain.

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**Book stacks, midnight snacks: Panthers prepare for final exams**

**ZAINAB OSAZIN  Contributing Writer**

The student section at BankUnited Center, often half empty, was jam-packed with students in orange Santa hats an hour before tipoff Tuesday night. ESPN2 cameras were in the building. And there were lines at the ticket windows. This was not an ordinary early-December men’s basketball game at the University of Miami.

The undefeated 15th-ranked Hurricanes were playing the undefeated 24th-ranked Illini of the University of Illinois in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

No UM team has ever been ranked that high this early in the season. The Canes had already knocked off No. 13 Florida on the road, and this was another chance to make a statement on national television.

Miami kept its unbeaten streak alive with 12 first-half points by Burnett helped stretch the 6-0 lead to 37-34. UM coaches called a timeout, settled the team down. Miami scored nine of the next 11 points, including a driving layup and 3-pointer by Burnett to put the Canes up by 10 with 13 minutes to go.

But that lead evaporated in a hurry. Illinois scored five straight points to close the gap to two. Then, the Hurricanes took over and energized the building with a huge 3-pointer from freshman Omar Sherman, followed by back-to-back dunks from McClellan and Jekiri to put UM up 55-46 with under eight minutes to go.

Rodriguez made a clutch three to make it 60-48, and Leonte added another from long range to open it to 63-53 with five minutes to go. The Hurricanes hit most of their free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

Rodriguez knew the Canes were in for a tough battle. "It’s huge," he said before the game. "I see them as the same as us: underdogs trying to prove themselves. They’re trying to make a name for themselves just like we are. It’s going to be a battle for us, and a chess match for the coaches."

But he said they still have more to prove. "Yes, we have done something, but because it’s still early. Everything we’ve accomplished so far can go downhill if we don’t continue to do what we’ve been doing. Anything can happen. Can’t get ahead of ourselves."

**For-profit college used strippers as recruiters, feds say**

**TNS STAFF**

Some Florida for-profit colleges have used highly aggressive techniques to recruit students -- including non-stop phone calls, misleading promises and $500 rewards for referrals.

But according to a federal lawsuit, Miami-based FastTrain College added a new wrinkle: hiring strippers as “admissions representatives.”

The “exotic dancer” allegation comes from the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Florida’s attorney general, who this week both joined a pending whistle-blower lawsuit against FastTrain. A civil complaint filed by the two agencies say at least one FastTrain campus used strippers to attract students, though it did not identify the campus.

The college “purportedly hired attractive women and sometimes exotic dancers and encouraged them to dress provocatively while they recruited young men in neighborhoods to attend FastTrain,” the lawsuit states.

FastTrain closed shortly after being raided by the FBI in 2012. It had operated seven Florida campuses in Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Duval counties. The company’s CEO was Alejandro Amor of Coral Gables. Amor was criminally indicted in October, and faces pending charges of conspiracy and theft of government money.

Amor has denied wrongdoing. Neither Amor nor his attorney could be immediately reached for comment Wednesday.

Between 2009 and mid-2012, FastTrain received more than $35 million in Pell grants and other federal financial aid, the lawsuit states. The federal government now says that millions of that money was fraudulently obtained -- frequently by FastTrain falsifying high school diplomas for students who didn’t have one. Because those students did not graduate from high school, they should have never qualified for student aid in the first place, according to the suit.

Aside from the unconventional use of strippers, the federal lawsuit accuses FastTrain executives of falsifying documents, coaching students to lie on financial aid forms, and employing “a corporate strategy focused on increased admissions and profits above all else.”

To gain access to taxpayer dollars, FastTrain needed first-time students to attend classes for at least 30 days, according to the lawsuit. If students didn’t show, the federal government says FastTrain would falsify attendance records, or backdate the enrollment so the school could collect the money quicker.

The whistle-blower lawsuit was initially filed by Juan Pena, a former admissions employee at the Plantation campus and the Flagler campus, which operated at 5555 West Flager St. in Miami.

**Hurricanes high with win over Illinois**

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