Audit reveals protected data at risk in College of Medicine

ALYSSA ELSO  Contributing Writer

The Office of Internal Audit’s 2012-2013 report of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine reveals flaws within the Information Systems Security Controls, which has set the college’s protected data at risk of inappropriate disclosure.

According to the administrative controls section of the audit, which is responsible for managing the conduct of personnel in relation to the protection of data and the maintenance of security measures to protect sensitive data, the College of Medicine’s Department of Human Resources recruitment and termination process was in need of improvement.

In fall 2009, the College of Medicine’s Information Technology Department consisted of five staff members. In 2011-2012, with an approved budget of over $1 million, the staff grew to nine employees.

Human Resources, in the recruitment process, must ensure that background checks are performed on all candidates when they meet the necessary skills listed to perform job duties and take prudent action in regards to employee termination.

During the termination process, Human Resources failed to expediently disable account access and file employee separation checklists within a timely manner of the employee’s effective termination date.

Of the 22 terminated employees, 12 had separation checklists, a form used as a guide for actions to be taken once an employee quits or is terminated. Ten were created after 12 days of termination and two were created after 28 and 75 days, respectively, of their effective employment termination dates.

Many of these checklists also failed to reflect whether items such as ID cards and computer equipment were collected from terminated employees.

After termination, the disabling of user accounts, handled by University Technology Services, should have also been completed within a timely manner, yet six of the 22 former employees were still enabled in the system’s active directory at the time of the audit.

Human Resources Director for the College of Medicine Ana Poveda and Office of Internal Audit Director Allen Vann were forced to wait for the rain to stop before heading out of the Graham Center for class.

The audit of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine Information Systems Security Controls was completed in October 2012 and included information gathered from June 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

As a newly established college, the audit was created to determine whether established internal security controls and procedures over protected data were effective, adhered to and following with University policies, rules and regulations.

The report found that IT controls were in need of improvement to reduce the risk of data breaches and increase the confidentiality of sensitive data. Of the 42 activities tested, 25 needed improvement to effectively function.

To improve the function of these systems and decrease the risk of unauthorized disclosure of protected data, the Office of Internal Audit recommended that security awareness training be established, provided to staff members and periodically evaluated to ensure that it is effective and up to date.

In response to findings and recommendations reported in the audit, management responded with a plan of action to improve IT controls.

According to the audit, Human Resources completed a background check on the director of IT in August 2012. In June 2011, they created one standardized separation of employment checklist. They have been working to ensure that employees’ access are disabled within a regular schedule as well as creating various security training programs that are available to staff and will continue to work to improve the protection of sensitive data.

news@fiusm.com

Law school applications at a 30-year low nationally

VICTORIA RONDEROS  Contributing Writer

This year, according to the Law School Admissions Council, law school applications have hit a 30-year low. In 2004, there were 100,000 applications, however, this year, the LSAC predicts that there will be about 54,000 applications to law schools in the country.

The University of Oregon, Stanford, Northeastern, the University of Southern California and the University of Akron have already responded to this call; they have changed their curriculums in ways to make students more interested in law school, such as creating more hands-on programs, allowing students to take the Bar exam two years after law school, instead of the conventional three, licensing technicians, freezing tuition costs and admitting more students they wouldn’t usually accept.

FIU’s College of Law is no stranger to this regression. According to the FIU Law Viewbook and fact sheets provided by the College of Law, in 2010, the University had admitted about 19.68 percent of their applicants, in 2012, they accepted about 22.15 percent. In 2010, in-state tuition for day students was $14,203.

In 2012, the tuition became $18,463.

There is an abundance of lawyers who work in the corporate world, and a demand for lawyers for those outside the corporate and wealthy world, who usually need more legal advice and help than corporations, but can’t afford to pay them.

These tend to be the poor, the low-income, and sometimes middle-class people and families.

“The lawyers aren’t evenly distributed. If you’re wealthy, or if you’re a business or a corporation, you can easily pay for legal help, but if you’re somebody who’s middle-class or low-income or poor, you often don’t have access to a lawyer,” said Peggy Maisel, a law professor and the director of the Clinical Program of the College of Law.

Maisel’s program helps those in need. Those who cannot afford lawyers usually seek legal advice and representation with law clinics, which are located in many law schools.

Clinics have become a relatively new part of the legal curricula in the United States, creating hands-on training for students, which benefits students, the public and law firms seeking new employees with experience.

Law students and professors run them and they provide free legal advice and representation to those in need.

“Students want to be able to make a living and students have different things that they want to do, but my experience is that, most law students coming into law school really want to help people, so through the clinics and the legal shop they’re doing, they’re learning a tremendous amount, but they’re also really helping. They’re representing people who wouldn’t otherwise be represented, which I think an awful lot of law students really want to be doing,” said Maisel.
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WORLD NEWS

Meteor explodes over Russia; about 1,100 injured

A meteor streaked across the sky and exploded over the Russian Ural Mountains with the power of an atomic bomb Friday, its sonic blasts shattering countless windows and injuring about 1,100 people.

The spectacle deeply frightened many Russians, with some elderly women declaring that the world was coming to an end. Many of the injured were cut by flying glass as they flocked to windows, cursing what had produced such a blinding flash of light.

The meteor — estimated to be about 10 tons — entered the Earth's atmosphere at a hypersonic speed of at least 54,000 kph (33,000 mph) and shattered into pieces about 30-50 kilometers (18-32 miles) above the ground, the Russian Academy of Sciences said in a statement.

Gays in Belarus face reprisals for activism

Police in Belarus are going after gays, raiding their clubs and locking up clubbers overnight, and summoning gay activists for questioning. One activist accuses police of beating him during questioning, while others say they were interrogated about their sex lives. The leader of a gay rights organization was stripped of his passport just ahead of a planned trip to the United States.

That is the government's response to a decision by gay activists across the country to try in January to legally register their rights organization, GayBelarus. It marked a more resolute mobilization, GayBelarus. It marked a more resolute
demand for gay rights and equal protection.

Photos of Hugo Chavez shown after 2-month absence

The world got its first glimpse of Hugo Chavez since he underwent a fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba more than two months ago, with photos released Friday showing the Venezuelan leader alongside his daughters in Havana.

Along with images of the puffy-faced Chavez came a government explanation for why no one came a government explanation for why no one

saw him during his convalescence. Chavez, 58, has undergone seven cancer surgeries since January to legally register their rights organization, GayBelarus. It marked a more resolute

demand for gay rights and equal protection.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 63 in the article titled “New generator of players set to open baseball season” On page 6, the story incorrectly writes that the FIU baseball team was 32-36 in 2012, but they were 32-26.

Also, The LeBron James photo on page 7 incorrectly attributes Cuban Diaz with The Beacon. He is an Associated Press photographer.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call 305-548-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Fla. fugitive caught after 26 years on lam

A banker and attorney on the run for 26 years after his conviction in a major South Florida marijuana smuggling case has been captured in Mexico.

The U.S. Marshals Service reported Thursday that 61-year-old Manuel Lopez-Castro was arrested this week in Cancun, Mexico, and is back in Miami to face justice. Lopez-Castro fled in 1986 rather than show up at a Florida prison to begin serving a 27-year sentence for marijuana smuggling and other convictions.

Authorities say Lopez-Castro was captured after officers including Mexican Federal Police did a staged traffic stop.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.
In light of the recent school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut—and other shootings in Colorado, Arizona and Texas there have been changes initiated in gun laws. Although the National Rifle Association has been fighting for the purchasing of firearms and ammunition.

Other issues have prevailed.

There are those who vehemently oppose such legislation and would do anything to curb the passage of such laws.

According to Diane Alessi, environmental health graduate student, disagrees with the concept. “The problem with gun control will not be solved by giving teachers access to guns.”

According to Diallo, stricter laws and background checks are needed before any real change can take place.

Diallo is not the only one who shares this perspective. According to a recent poll by the Connecticut Education Association, of 400 teachers, only 3 percent of educators favored arming teachers with guns, while 85 percent opposed. Within the same study, 96 percent of educators favored extensive criminal and mental health background checks for all gun purchases.

This debate prompts one to ask—what kind of country have we become when we are even considering arming teachers with guns for the protection of pupils?

Just a generation ago, the only mention of guns in schools was for police to escort and protect students of different ethnicities on school grounds. Now, must teachers be stressed with this additional responsibility? Simply arming instructors with guns will not address the crux of the problem.

Training teachers in ammunition (gun) use is not a solution to the problem at hand,” said Martha Baranovich, professor in the College of Education. “There are plenty of teachers that already have training and know how to properly use guns.”

According to Baranovich, there needs to be a collective, thoughtful discussion on how to address all the many issues that are present in our society that led up to the massacre of children. This is not a simple question and does not have a simple answer.

“Let’s increase the background checks, counseling to students, etc. along with banning assault weapons,” said Associate Professor Janvier Gasana in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work.

In addition to the stricter gun laws alluded to before, it starts with the children at home. What is the underlying cause of these children becoming violent? Does it stem from violent media exposure? Playing violent video games? Do these children have behavioral problems or come from violent/broken homes? Perhaps proper counseling would suffice.

What is certain is that arming teachers will not solve the problem. We cannot combat violence with violence. It must begin with compassion.
Frost raising money to conserve a sculpture

ALFREDO APARICIO  
Staff Writer

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is launching a S.O.S campaign to save “Journey’s End, 1985” a sculpture by Basel, that’s when we took the initiative to fix it. We were growing along the slope of the mountain. This phenomenon is known as species migration. “This doesn’t mean that a tree has picked up and moved” Feeley said. “But the next generation of trees is growing higher and higher on the mountain.” How long these trees will be able to sustain this behavior before either falling victim to the increase in temperature or no longer having the ability to acclimate all depends on a point called the timberline. What we’ve found is that the timberline, that point where the trees stop growing, might be the key to all of this. If it stays where it is right now, then we predict losing some of species,” said Feeley. “If, on the other hand, that barrier moves with the warming, then species can actually spread out. And, in some cases, species can actually benefit under climate change.” Feeley credits his interest in environmental studies from a longstanding love of the outdoors. “Even before going to college I was really interested in nature,” he said. “And even more than that nature just being outside.” While studying abroad in Costa Rica as an undergraduate, Feeley fell in love with the field due to the pure beauty of the tropical ecology. “I was looking at it not so much as we were going to save the world, but it was going to be an enjoyable experience.” But soon Feeley found that he couldn’t ignore deforestation and climate change had eliminated the concept of a pristine rain forest, which caused his focus to working to reverse these effects. While the natural beauty of the rainforest is what drew Feeley into this study, he stresses that the devastation being caused by climate change has far further reaching effects. “We’re losing lots of species. We’re seeing increasing food scarcity, we’re seeing all kinds of problems playing out.” The rainforest also provides several valuable ecosystem services “The forest purifies and filters water, acts as an air purifier and creates it’s own weather,” he said. Feeley stressed that the loss of these services particularly the effects on weather can have global effects. He warned, “You’re foolhardy to think that we don’t need to care about weather in other places because it is all connected.” Feeley admits that many of these threats have already been set in motion and that it would take drastic steps to incur change but he provided some solutions to the climate change problem. “We need to lower our individual carbon footprint. Which means driving less, being less consumers and eating lower on the food chain, so eating less meat or no meat.” But ultimately, to really improve the world’s climate situation, a large-scale group effort is required. “We need to get people as individuals to lower our community footprint. We need to push the administration to make [FIU] a greener university and we need to vote for people that will make it a greener community.” –daniel.aria@fiusm.com

Professor studies climate change on Amazon rainforest

DANIÉL URÍA  
Staff Writer

The Amazon rainforest, a place imagined to be lush, wet and full of vegetation, is beginning to dry out.

Kenneth Feeley, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, is involved in studying how the vegetation and forests are acclimating due to climate change. Feeley has worked as an assistant professor at the University since 2009, but apart from his work at FIU, he has also participated in extensive research of vegetation in the Amazon.

“All of my research is focused on trying to understand the effects that humans have on tropical forests,” he said.

Feeley and his team have spent time periodically tracking changes in trees near the slope of the Andes Mountains in Peru. “We set up plots in the forest where we measure everything we can about the forest. We measure how big the trees are, what species they are and where they occur,” he said.

Through this process, Feeley has found that climate change is in fact affecting the vegetation in the area. “We found some results that trees are growing slower than they used to. In some species, individual [trees] are dying faster than they used to,” he said.

However, Feeley explained that one of the most interesting developments was where the trees were growing along the slope of the mountain. This phenomenon is known as species migration. “This doesn’t mean that a tree has picked up and moved” Feeley said. “But the next generation of trees is growing higher and higher on the mountain.” How long these trees will be able to sustain this behavior before either falling victim to the increase in temperature or no longer having the ability to acclimate all depends on a point called the timberline.

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But soon Feeley found that he couldn’t ignore deforestation and climate change had eliminated the concept of a pristine rain forest, which caused his focus to working to reverse these effects. While the natural beauty of the rainforest is what drew Feeley into this study, he stresses that the devastation being caused by climate change has far further reaching effects. “We’re losing lots of species. We’re seeing increasing food scarcity, we’re seeing all kinds of problems playing out.” The rainforest also provides several valuable ecosystem services “The forest purifies and filters water, acts as an air purifier and creates it’s own weather,” he said. Feeley stressed that the loss of these services particularly the effects on weather can have global effects. He warned, “You’re foolhardy to think that we don’t need to care about weather in other places because it is all connected.”

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Land Art/Earth Art class introduces yarn bombing

JACQUELINE ROSADO
Contributing Writer

Graffiti art doesn’t always come out of a spray can. This year, graffiti art is coming to the Biscayne Bay campus – in the form of yarn.

According to Associate Professor Pip Brant, yarn bombing is a type of temporary graffiti that started in 2004 – temporary meaning that it’s not permanent or destructive because it can be removed from the land or object it is covering.

People started crocheting with yarn and wrapping it with objects to symbolize repairing. Brant explained that there is a comfort quality in the material of yarn that makes yarn bombing a metaphor of comfort.

Andrea Wolverton, a senior and physics major, has been yarn bombing for over two years and is contributing her work to the University through Brant’s Land Art/Earth Art class.

Brant’s Land Art/Earth Art class was introduced last year and started in spring 2013. It is not exclusively for art majors and Brant’s class consists of all kinds of majors.

Wolverton explained that land art is anything that interacts with or changes with the environment and the land; it’s “ecoventional.”

“Yarn bombing does that,” said Wolverton. “Our class goal is to make art sustainable, or make art that makes the earth sustainable for itself. It’s beneficial towards the environment,” said Brant.

When Brant told Wolverton that yarn bombing would be acceptable in her Land Art/Earth Art class, Wolverton enrolled in it, which led to Wolverton’s Yarn Bomb Kit Project.

Brant mentioned that all of her other students are involved in separate projects that involve yarn bombing because Wolverton taught the rest of the class how to crochet with a guest artist.

Wolverton’s latest yarn bombing project is covering the four guard poles at BBC in yarn.

Wolverton added that a project like this usually takes three to four months to complete because there are so many colors and patterns that need to be utilized.

“I’m working really fast to get it done [within this semester],” said Wolverton.

Wolverton recalled her first time yarn bombing in the University, voluntarily. It took place two years ago on the Modesto Maidique Campus, where she yarn bombed the Chemistry and Physics building with crocheted hearts on Valentine’s Day.

Wolverton was surprised and happy to see students walk off with the hearts and take them home, which encouraged Wolverton to continue yarn bombing.

“There is this excitement that comes with it and also anticipation because you want to see the looks on people’s faces when they pass by a public area that was unexpectedly yarn bombed,” said Wolverton. “I feel accomplished when I get it done and people get to see it. I enjoy it and I hope that the people that come across it enjoy it too.”

Brant adds that land art is fun and livens up the place. According to her, it makes you aware of the spaces surrounding an individual.

“Land art has a utilitarian purpose and sometimes you don’t notice it. Using crochet adds a little bit of awareness to objects that you don’t tend to notice before,” said Brant.

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Roommate Troubles

Dear Nick,

Conflicts with roommates can happen, especially when you are new to living away from home because college is a new environment. Effective communication strategies and interpersonal problem solving can improve outcomes for you and your roommate. Avoiding conflict builds resentment, so addressing the problem when it arises is the best approach. If you hold it in, chances are you will feel worse about the situation and when you confront the roommate they might have forgotten all about it. Begin by clarifying your thoughts and potentially making a list of items to discuss. I suggest inviting your roommate to the conversation when they have free time i.e.; not between classes. That way they are able to talk calmly and with sufficient time to address your concerns. Start off the conversation by emphasizing a positive aspect or element of the relationship. Confidently and respectfully state your concerns and explain how the problem makes you feel. Be sure to stay on topic and not deviate onto unrelated topics, this will help both of you stay clear. Close by emphasizing that you are excited for the opportunity to work through the problem, and most likely this obstacle can be an opportunity for growth for both of you. Learning effective communication skills can take time and effort but once you master them, you will reap the rewards for a lifetime.

Be Well,

Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

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SGA BUDGET HEARINGS & DELIBERATIONS

Deliberations at BBC: University Wide
Feb 19 / 2:00pm to 8:00pm / WUC 221

Hearings: MMC Campus Specific
Feb 20 / 9:00 to 5:00pm / Meeting in GC 241A

Tentative
Deliberations at MMC: University Wide
Feb 23 / 8:00am to 1:00pm / GC 1235

Deliberations: MMC Campus Specific
Feb 27 / 12:00pm to 6:00pm / GC 211A
**SAND VOLLEYBALL**

**KICKS OFF SEASON IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS**

**Contributing Writer**

**Daniel Brey**

With sand between their toes, a pair of sunglass lenses, and the first ever sand volleyball schedule now at hand, Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett and the team have their eyes set on what Buck-Crockett feels is the first serve of many to come for the optimistic future of sand volleyball.

“Our number one goal is to start a positive winning tradition here at FIU,” Buck-Crockett said. “The ultimate goal however, is to bring home a national championship.”

The inaugural season is set to begin on the road March 8 as Panthers take their talents to Los Angeles, Calif., in a duel against Grand Canyon University.

GCU, also digging into their first year of sand volleyball competition, is led by GCU indoor volleyball legend Head Coach Kris Naber.

“I am not familiar with the career Naber has had, however, I do hold a great deal of respect for all coaches in their first year of competition,” Buck-Crockett said. “Along with our program, these first year teams will surely help the [sand volleyball] game.”

On March 9, the Panthers will travel west to the white beaches of Malibu, Calif. to battle defending champs, Pepperdine, Sand Volleyball National Champion, Pepperdine University, in what can only be described as a David versus Goliat match.

Pepperdine currently holds five players that stand six feet or taller, which is double that of FIU’s roster.

The question of whether the Panthers will be able to compete with Pepperdine is not a concern for Buck-Crockett.

“I feel we will be able to match-up with Pepperdine,” Buck-Crockett said. “We have some very athletic players who can cover a lot of ground which will make up the lack of height,” she said.

The road will not get any easier for FIU when they go against last year’s national runner-up, Long Beach State, on March 13.

“We want to play against the top teams,” Buck-Crockett said. “What better way of knowing where we are as a team than to compete with schools like Pepperdine, Long Beach State and Hawaii.”

FIU will continue their west coast trip when they travel to the Aloha State on March 15 to take on Hawaii.

On March 16, the Panthers will get a taste of tournament play when they face Hawaii, along with Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific, in the Hawaii tournament.

With just four full days of rest leading up to the tournament, fatigue will not play a factor for the Panthers, according to Buck-Crockett.

“Our training staff has done a marvelous job of keeping the team in shape,” Buck-Crockett said. “I do not think fatigue will play a factor in our performance during that stretch of the season.”

After the tournament, FIU will travel back to Miami to host Webber International University in what will be the first sand volleyball match ever played at FIU.

The match will be played on March 23 at 9 a.m. on the sand volleyball courts, located between the Panther Parking Garage and the tennis courts at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The Panthers will host the first annual Surf and Turf Tournament featuring some of the nation’s top teams such as Pepperdine, Tulane, Florida Atlantic, and Georgia State starting March 29 through March 31 on the sand volleyball courts.

All games played on March 30, however, will take place at a location yet to be determined.

The Panthers play their final home game on April 6 at 6 a.m. against Florida Gulf Coast, and will then travel to Siesta Key, Fla. to compete in the 2013 Fiesta on Siesta Key Tournament held from April 13-14.

A scrimmage against Stetson on April 27 will mark the final chapter in the historic inaugural season for FIU unless they qualify to compete at the 2013 AVCA Collegiate Sand Volleyball Championships in Gulf Shores, Ala., which begins on May 3.

Before the inaugural season kicks off however, Coach Buck-Crockett and the sand volleyball team will host the first ever Blue & Gold Intrasquad Tournament on March 1 at 9 a.m. at the sand volleyball courts.

The tournament will feature the top five duo teams that will compete in the season opener at GCU, and a post-game autograph session.

-Daniel Brey
Free of injuries, Panthers cruising to the finish line

**Ruben Palacios**  
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team is back on cruise control after a two-game losing streak.

After consecutive conference losses to Middle Tennessee State University and University of Louisiana at Monroe that dropped them to 13-9 and 7-6 in the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers find themselves on a three-game win streak and have improved to 16-9 (10-6 SBC).

After a home victory against rival Florida Atlantic University on Feb. 6, the Panthers hit the road and traveled to the University of North Texas and faced off against a familiar conference foe. FIU lost to North Texas in mid-January, but this time FIU got the best of the Mean Green and pulled out a 72-63 victory on Feb. 9.

The Panthers then traveled to Troy, Ala., where they picked up their third consecutive win with a 56-39 victory against the Trojans. The Panthers put on possibly their best defensive performance of the season in the win. Troy entered the contest averaging more than 72 points per game, but on this night FIU held them to nearly 80 percent.

“We are doing a really good job on the boards,” Head Coach Cindy Russo said. “And we are holding teams to a very low percentage and we have started to play really nice defense.”

**Back in One Piece**

It is not a coincidence that the Panthers’ win streak started when seniors Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore returned to the squad after missing a number of games because of injury.

“I was concerned with getting my team back healthy,” Russo said. “And now we got our troops back.”

Mansare, a preseason Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection, has shot 45 percent from the field since her return to the team and has provided help on the front line that became awfully thin when she and Ashmore went down.

Ashmore has been playing superbly since her return. In her three games back, Ashmore shot an astounding 66 percent from the field and has snatched an average of seven rebounds per game. Ashmore also led the team in blocks in all three games since her return.

**LONELY AT THE TOP**

Junior Jerica Coley still remains the leading scorer in the nation as of Feb. 15. The All-American candidate is averaging 25.4 points per game, a mark that sits two points per game higher than her closest competitor.

Coley is on quite a hot streak, even by her standards. She has scored in double-figures in 23 consecutive games and in 81 of 91 career contests. Through the first 25 games of the season, Coley registered at least 20 points on 16 occasions.

Coley’s scoring is reaching monumental levels within the FIU ranks. With a 23 point performance against Troy on Feb. 14, it put her career point total at 1,931, a mark that ranks third all-time at FIU. Coley’s career scoring average of 21.2 points per game ranks second of all-time at FIU.

“It’s always good when you have Jerica Coley on your side,” Russo said. “She can win you some games.”

Coley is responsible for over more than 41 percent of FIU’s total offense this season, and is responsible for over 34 percent of FIU’s total points over her entire tenure at FIU.

The team has only three games left in the season and the next will be the last home game on Feb. 21 against the University of Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Staff Writer

Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton tried to show discipline as a hitter Friday, choosing a diplomatic description of the franchise’s latest dismantling.

“Irate fans have used even more colorful adjectives, and shortly after the Marlins’ blockbuster trade last November that culminated their purge of players, Stanton tweeted he was angry about it.”

He declined to say whether he would be willing to sign a long-term contract with the Marlins.

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“We are doing a really good job on the boards,” Head Coach Cindy Russo said. “And we are holding teams to a very low percentage and we have started to play really nice defense.”

**Back in One Piece**

It is not a coincidence that the Panthers’ win streak started when seniors Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore returned to the squad after missing a number of games because of injury.

“I was concerned with getting my team back healthy,” Russo said. “And now we got our troops back.”

Mansare, a preseason Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection, has shot 45 percent from the field since her return to the team and has provided help on the front line that became awfully thin when she and Ashmore went down.

Ashmore has been playing superbly since her return. In her three games back, Ashmore shot an astounding 66 percent from the field and has snatched an average of seven rebounds per game. Ashmore also led the team in blocks in all three games since her return.

**LONELY AT THE TOP**

Junior Jerica Coley still remains the leading scorer in the nation as of Feb. 15. The All-American candidate is averaging 25.4 points per game, a mark that sits two points per game higher than her closest competitor.

Coley is on quite a hot streak, even by her standards. She has scored in double-figures in 23 consecutive games and in 81 of 91 career contests. Through the first 25 games of the season, Coley registered at least 20 points on 16 occasions.

Coley’s scoring is reaching monumental levels within the FIU ranks. With a 23 point performance against Troy on Feb. 14, it put her career point total at 1,931, a mark that ranks third all-time at FIU. Coley’s career scoring average of 21.2 points per game ranks second of all-time at FIU.

“It’s always good when you have Jerica Coley on your side,” Russo said. “She can win you some games.”

Coley is responsible for over more than 41 percent of FIU’s total offense this season, and is responsible for over 34 percent of FIU’s total points over her entire tenure at FIU.

The team has only three games left in the season and the next will be the last home game on Feb. 21 against the University of Little Rock, Arkansas.
Organization targets shrinking economy, youth unemployment

NYESHA GARLAND

Students are feeling the sting of a nonexistence income and the desperation that comes with looking for alternative means of living.

Jobs for college students, like sophomore business major Jorge Vazquez, are sporadic. Vazquez believes that it is unfair that young people have to compete with more experienced applicants.

“I believe that the job market has been stabilizing, not really getting better nor worse,” he says.

Generation Opportunity, a non-partisan organization, announced in early February that youth employment for 18-29 year olds for January increased to 13.1 percent, compared to 11.5 percent in December 2012 and the current national average – 7.9 percent.

This does not include the 1.7 million youth who have dropped out of the workforce, because of frustration and lack of work, making it a 16.2 percent, according to Generation Opportunity.

The study also shows that the youth unemployment rate for 18-29 year old African-Americans for January 2013 was 22.1 percent, 13 percent for Hispanics and 11.6 percent for women.

As a result, a large number of young people are not able to apply skills from their education to a job, leaving the age group on the outside, looking in.

According to The Palm Beach Post, “Employers added 157,000 jobs last month, and hiring turned out to be healthier than previously thought at the end of 2012 just as the economy faced the threat of the “fiscal cliff.”

However, hectic schedules and closures make it incredibly difficult for students to snag a job, when older job seekers do not necessarily face that issue.

As a result, young people are in still competition for jobs, internships and entry level jobs. And temporary, summer jobs are even harder to come by.

“My generation is suffering disproportionately,” director of national and state policy at Generation Opportunity, David Glocker, said in a press release.

“But by most accounts, the crew did as much as they could, using the local community as many as four strangers.

Brandi Dornett, of Sweepy, Texas, said people were angry and irritable at times, and there was tension. But it never got out of hand.

“We were bartering. Can I have your cereal for this? I can have your drink for that?” she said. “We had one lady, she was begging for cigarettes for diapers. There were no diapers on the boat. There was no formula on the boat.”

The ship left Galveston, Texas, on Feb. 17 for a four-day jaunt to Cozumel, Mexico. An engine-room fire early Sunday paralyzed ship, leaving it adrift in the Gulf of Mexico.

“Lifted up our souls and gave us hope that we would get back.”

Because many passengers were sleeping on the outside deck, Dwayne Chapman of Lake Charles, La., used his pocket knife to cut decorative rope to make tents out of bed sheets.

At 2:45 a.m., the cleanup seemed daunting. Passengers described water-logged carpet, sewage seeping through the walls, overflowing toilets and a stench so bad people choked when they tried to endure it.

But by most accounts, the crew did as much as they could, using disinfectant and picking up plastic bags of feces after toilets stopped working.

David Glocker, of Jacksonville, Fla., praised the crew’s efforts to help passengers and recognized the conditions for them were worse than for most passengers because their quarters were on the lowest part of the ship.

“The conditions down there were terrible. They all had to wear masks,” he said. “They worked their butts off trying to get us food.”

Dornett praised a voice over the ship’s public address system that she knew as “Jen.”

“If I’m going to be honest, I was just talking and she said, ‘I know, folks, it just really sucks.’ So she was just letting go. She wouldn’t try to keep that happy spirit, but yet sometimes you could hear tension in her.”