Students plead for financial aid

ALONSO MONTANO
Staff Writer

As a result of economic hard times and a constant increase in enrollment numbers, students at the University will have to meet different, more difficult requirements to qualify for financial aid. “The requirements went up a little bit, so we have seen a little reduction in the numbers of students who are eligible because the test scores went up,” said Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid at the University. However, current students receiving financial aid should not be affected by the changes in criteria for scholarship awards. “As long as they meet renewal criteria for their scholarship, as long as they do well while they are here, they are going to continue to keep it,” said Valines.

The real effects of the higher test scores and overall tougher requirements will be reflected in the number of incoming freshmen who receive any form of financial aid. “Next fall is going to be the bomb,” said Valines in reference to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. “Students who graduate from high school in 2014 have a much higher test score requirement and we expect there could be as many as 80 percent of our Bright Futures kids who would’ve gotten it [that] aren’t going to get it next fall,” said Valines.

Admissions ‘doesn’t have time’ to check social media

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

Students and their social media profiles once again are topics of discussion when it comes to university admissions. A Kaplan Test Prep survey found that the amount of college admissions officers who have reportedly searched applicants on Google or Facebook has increased.

According to the 2012 survey, 27 percent of officers reported that they had used Google to discover more about their applicants, 26 percent claimed they had used Facebook. This year, 29 percent have used Google and 31 percent have used Facebook.

Luisa Havens, vice president of Enrollment Services, declined an interview due to her eventful schedule. However, an admissions clerk advised Student Media that the Admissions Office does not have the time to check applicants’ social media profiles. Salvador Dajer, junior finance student, was once a dual enrollment student from Ronald W. Reagan Doral Senior High School. When he applied to the University, he did not consider the possibility of his social media profile being checked.

“I did not cross my mind back then, though it doesn’t surprise me now,” said Dajer.

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SEE FINANCES, PAGE 2

Giving Thanks

GIVING THANKS

Stockers AstroScience Center celebrates grand opening

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Star parties, solar viewings, a live music evening and various guest lectures were among the many events students and faculty members enjoyed in celebration of the Stocker AstroScience Center grand opening.

“I just wanted to allow students to participate because the ribbon-cutting is sort of an administrator event,” said James Webb, a professor in the Department of Physics who initiated the project.

The ribbon-cutting, Nov. 12, was followed by a week-long series of events.

“I have been working on this for about 20 years, so when the dean’s office suggested we have a ribbon-cutting ceremony I said ‘great, but it’s not going to end there, we’re going to have a whole week of events’,” said Webb.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the week of events began with a tour of the center and a lecture by John Mather, a Nobel laureate who also works as senior astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Mather’s research focuses on infrared astronomy and cosmology. “John Mather spoke opening day about the history of the universe, as well as the new James Webb Space Telescope, which is an infrared telescope,” said Jennifer Medina, sophomore physics major and Astronomy Club member. “It was an amazing experience to hear him talk about the research he had done.”

Among others guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Carl Stocker, a retired physics professor who provided the main donation to help build the observatory and whom the observatory is named after.

The rest of the week featured fingertip guitar

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Niecy’s basketball grounds the Falcons in home opener

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

The Panthers christened their new Lime Court at the US Century Bank Arena with a win over first time opponent and United States Collegiate Athletic Association Division II member, Florida College, 85-39.

Four Panthers reached double figures, which have become the norm for the team so far this season.

Redshirt senior forward Rakeem Buckles led the Panthers once again with 18 points and 8 rebounds. Buckles’ outing became his fifth straight game with double-digit figures.

Buckles has seemed to surpass the Miami native, he’s doing what he should be doing.

“I feel I should be doing this,” Buckles said. “I’m 23-years-old and this is my fifth year in college. I have lofty goals for myself and I’m happy where I’m playing but it was expected, let me say that.”

Sophomore forward Jerome Frink finished with 13 points and four rebounds. While senior forward Tymell Murphy ended his night with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez also hit the double figures mark with a season high 12 points of his own. Aerial drummers and a new cabana brought the fans to the arena, as well as some distractions for the players. A 10-0 run early in the game for Panthers kept the Falcons at bay, before reality hit and the Falcons avoided the early shutout.

The Falcons seemed to also fall trap to the new Lime Court and festivities going on, as both teams showed early season rust, accounting for a combined 31 turnovers, 15 from the Panthers.

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SEE SCIENCE, PAGE 2

SEE SCIENCE, PAGE 2

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7
Future remains dim for Bright Futures Scholarship applicants

**FINANCES, PAGE 1**

About two years ago, the Florida Legislature decided to raise the bar for scholarships offered by the state; incoming freshmen bring in Bright Futures to just 35 percent of them,” said Valines. Even though the amount of awards received by students will go down, the University’s numbers are not low in all categories of financial aid. In fact, when it comes to loans and debts, the University’s numbers are better than average. According to Valines, only about 50 percent of current students use loans, which is well below the 66 percent national average.

“Half of our students graduate without any debt. For the other half that graduates with debt, the average debt is about $17,000,” said Valines. “The Project on Student Debt states that the national average debt right after graduation is $26,600. Some students, however, believe the University could be doing more to help not only future panthers, but current students as well. “I think there’s a lot of people that are receiving financial aid that aren’t,” said Melissa Cruz, a junior psychology major. “[The University] needs to continue to make it one of their priorities.”

James Hall, a junior majoring in international relations, had a similar point of view. “I think that it shouldn’t be necessary for students to pay ridiculous amounts of money to go to school when they are just trying to pursue a career,” said Hall. “The school should be doing something to facilitate tuition and help students out financially.”

They need to focus on making it a little easier for people who are studying and making an effort,” added Cruz.

More admissions officers checking Google and Facebook profiles

**MEDIA, PAGE 1**

“As new technologies develop, social culture must also evolve and adapt. Your Facebook page is a window into your values, your interests, how you carry yourself and how you manage your relationships with others,” said Dajer. “I believe you should always be conscious of your behavior on Facebook, whether you’re connected among family [or] potential employers.”

The Kaplan survey found that there has been a decrease in the discovery of negative content by admissions officers. In 2012, 35 percent reported discovering content that would negatively affect the application of students. This year, the number is at 30 percent. Dajer mentioned concerns on whether or not such a practice can be dangerous.

“I personally believe this issue can lead to an invasion of privacy. Biased employers or university admission workers may discriminate based on attributes not disclosed within applications,” said Dajer.

Students share turkey and stories

**LGBTQA, PAGE 8**

“The talent show was the idea of my organization, which we really liked because it allows students another opportunity to show their individuality and express themselves through art,” said Santoli. “It’s a beautiful thing and an important idea we like to reinforce constantly: celebrating individuality and embracing what makes each of us unique instead of feeling ashamed by it and trying to hide it.”

According to Serrano, the LGBTQA Initiative at FIU has partnered up with Pridelines Youth Services that cater to 14- to 24-year-old individuals and raise awareness about different issues in the LGBTQA community, such as the risk of having unprotected sex.

This organization also provides HIV testing and organizes many events to bring young individuals together and give them the opportunity to have group talks and play activities that simply sharing time with each other.

“I think it shows the LGBT students on campus that there is an environment for them to come and not have to feel judged or discriminated against for who they are,” said Serrano. “There is an opportunity for growth for every single staff and student on campus.”

The Beacon poll will be in WUC 155 and MMMC’s poll will be in GC 210. Students are encouraged to bring one canned food item to donate to Miami homeless shelters, and to RSVP and sign up for their class. 

“It’s a good self awareness experience for LGBTQA students to realize that they aren’t alone,” said Natalie Reyes, junior psychology major.

Students share turkey and stories
JENNA KEAFUVER
Staff Writer

I just recently read an article by blogger Matt Forney called “The Case Against Female Self-Esteem.” I have never read anything so misogynistic in my life. I’ve also never laughed so hard... and then been so angry, and just back and forth, over and over again. The article starts, “I’m just gonna come out and say it: I love insecure women.” I was torn between the desire to keep reading and, what would have probably been the smarter option, to just put my phone down and go to bed. But, of course, I kept reading.

The article continues on to say: “The idea that women should have self-esteem or need it, beyond a low base-line to ensure they don’t commit suicide or become psycho stalkers, is one of the most diabolical social engineering experiments of the modern era. A woman with excessive confidence is like a man with a vagina. It’s an attribute that is at best superfluous and at worst prevents women from fulfilling their natural biological and social functions.”

Of course women should just feel awful about themselves because you think they should! Women having self-esteem is definitely the worst thing to happen since women getting the right to vote. Let’s just put them back in corsets and tell them they aren’t allowed to show their ankles. We can’t allow them to have “excessive confidence.” That’s unnatural.

And, yeah, if women feel good about themselves they won’t want to have babies or cook anymore. Obviously men must have to be given the job of figuring out how to impregnate themselves or the world will cease to exist.

“For order for America to right itself, there needs to be a mask on society. No female self-esteem.”

There’s no such thing as human trafficking, but no, crushing female self-confidence is so much more important.

And seeing as, according to Forney, we don’t want self-confidence, we (the “average urban slum machines”) don’t want to feel good about ourselves; we just want to continue living in our Prozac-fueled haze. “The same goes for having a job. The vast majority of girls work useless fluff jobs: government bureaucrats, human resources and various other workmark positions that just exist to give them the illusion of independence. The jobs that keep the country running — tradersmen, miners, farmers, policemen, the military — are still overwhelm-

ingly dominated by men. If every girl was fired from her job tomorrow, elementary schools would have to shut down for a couple days, but otherwise life would go on as usual.”

Yeah, the future of our country would be without teachers, but, absolutely, the world must go on. And then a man, being perfect and amazing, would sweep in and save the day. And then he’d probably do a better job because women can’t do anything right. We just turn life into a silent movie where we get tied to train tracks and we need our prince charming to come in, armor gleaming. Darn, we can’t do anything right.

Sorry, Matt. Guess you’ll have to pick up after us yet again. Unless, of course, it’s in the kitchen where we belong. Then we’ll clean up after because that’s all we aspire to be.

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Where are all the classics?

GIOVANNI GARCIA
Staff Writer

Each semester starts and all the freshmen are given a SLS lecture to get started with college life. Every-
thing from choosing classes to understanding midterms, reports, strict due dates and assigned books. Some English lectures would recommend certain books to read for the class, but it turns out the book is an example of college life. Some assigned books can be very informative, but other books can be quite weird.

The one thing I remember thinking about what college was supposed to be was the books you were supposed to read. All of the classics like Homer, Shake-

peare, Mark Twain, etc., were the top names I remembered seeing college students reading when I was younger.

What happened to them? Sadly, most high schools will only briefly introduce these classics to their students. Even certain plays from Shakespeare are not used since it’s a repeating trend. Those who are very skilled at reading will happily grab these books on their spare time and get lost in their pages. A smaller percentage would read these books to take references for other projects or reports.

But the largest percent do not read any of the classics and some have no interest to read at all — mainly because some of these classics are harder to understand. When you listen to someone reading “Beowulf” in Old English, the reader sounds like they are speaking in tongues. I would be scared to try to read “Beowulf” in Anglo Saxon, but there are no classes to learn the language at all. The only students who are inclined to read the classics, or any intensive reading at all, are certain English majors.

With these weird SLS books, they try to catch the general crowd with the right mindset. Some students would try to read a book for how strange or bizarre it can be. Then there are those who get hooked into the book and would read every page. You must consider the students who read it just to pass the course, either getting into the college study habit or just because they have no other option but to take the class. As much as I would like to have tips to survive college, I would appreciate to just have that. Tips. Nothing extreme, something short, bulleted and — best of all — with diagrams. If I want to read some-
thing for a class, I’d prefer a classic than a new age mumbo jumbo story. There is a classic story for every-
thing and we can learn from the morals or outcomes of fictional char-
acters. Even though a percentage of people are losing interest in reading, I still prefer to have classics around in college classes.

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The mainstream media hungers for controversy. And we, media consumers, fuel the fire of this lust.

These cases prove that if we search for information from more than one source, a clearer picture of any particular event is formed. Simply put, look at different sides of an issue. Use more than one news source (it doesn’t have to be every single one in existence), especially if it is over something controversial. Do not let your view of someone be tamished by a one-sided article.

I sometimes forget to follow these maxims myself, but I believe they are important in this day and age where accuracy is sacrificed for the sake of controversy and egdiness.

Is Pastor Furtick a perfect person? No, certainly not. And I am certainly not trying to take a position on the controversy over the building of his new house. What I am getting at is that the desire the mainstream media has of damaging stories is not always a force of good, and to combat this, we must become more savvy information seekers.

Perhaps the search for truth can be a weapon in an age of slander.
Local fraternity teaming up to help kids read

ANIZA CASTILLO
Contributing Writer

A fraternity on campus is helping kids who can’t read well. The Iota Omicron chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity is teaming up with literacy awareness organization Reading is Fundamental for Theta Chi’s main philanthropy event this semester called Story Time Live!

According to rif.org, Reading is Fundamental is “the largest children’s literacy nonprofit in the United States. RIF prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children who need them most.”

The headquarters for Reading is Fundamental is located in Washington, D.C., but it does have an outreach program in Miami-Dade which helps out with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership. “We wanted to give back to something closer; that it hits home like more to FIU,” said Gabriel Jose Bonilla, senior psychology major, and the chapter’s philanthropy chair.

“We have kids that come in only speaking Spanish and they are in ESOL classes and kids that come from everywhere and they can’t speak English,” Bonilla explained.

Story Time Live! is a competition where groups of University students get together to compile stories for children. Students write the story from scratch, then the fraternity reads through them and makes sure they’re appropriate for elementary school.

The kids will read the story as the students act it out for them. The kids are going to judge which story they liked best and vote for their favorite. The winners of Story Time Live will be receiving 10 percent of what is collected the entire week through registration and donations, while the other 90 percent will go to Reading is Fundamental.

The Iota Omicron chapter chose Reading is Fundamental as its philanthropy because it believes reading really is fundamental. “Literacy is something that is very important and, I mean, we’re educated students — we’re college students — and there are a lot of organizations getting helped, but,” Bonilla started. “We have kids that come in only speak Spanish and they are in ESOL classes and kids that come from everywhere and they can’t speak English. They speak everything but English, and reading is definitely a gateway to not only learning but to anything….”

Theta Chi is doing a book drive throughout the week leading up to the main event, which will be donated to Reading is Fundamental and schools around Miami-Dade County.

The event is this Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the FIU stadium club. “A lot of kids look up to us and FIU as a beacon for Miami,” said Bonilla.

Columnist: Finally, the weather is becoming less harsh in Florida and you can feel the humidity dissipate as we come closer to Thanksgiving. This is my favorite time of the year, in which you are invited to more festivities than you can actually attend.

It is also a great time to get together with family and make new friends.

This time of the year is particular unique for winemakers, as harvest time officially ends. This is celebrated with the release of a peculiar wine called Beaujolais Nouveau, a light red-colored French wine that has only been fermented for a period of six to eight weeks and then it is bottled and released on the third Thursday of November of every year.

Brighter color as well fruitier flavors are perceived in this red wine due to its carbonic fermentation. Whole bunches are put into a sealed container where carbon dioxide is pumped in. The process differentiates from the regular yeast fermentation particular due to the non-skin contact with the juice during fermentation, which is done prior to crushing. It is a great wine to be paired with this season’s famous dishes such as turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

This wine should be consumed while it is young, as it does not hold aging very well due to its lightweight structure. It is also recommended to chill prior to serving.

Here are my suggestions of Beaujolais Nouveau to look forward on Nov. 21, and best of all, the average price per bottle is $12.

1) Georges Duboeuf Nouveau 2013, France.
2) Thiborn Nouveau 2013, France.
3) Signé Vignerons Château du Souzy Nouveau 2013, Beaujolais Villages - France.
6) Champagne Baron de Rothschild Brut Non-vintage, France. Average price: $100.

This unique wine has just been announced by the Rothschild family in the United States and so far has gotten amazing reviews.

It has a bright yellow-gold color, where bubbles can be seen for a long period of time in the glass — certainly an invitation to keep savoring this amazing beverage.

It is brut, meaning that there is almost no residual sugar left. Yeasty and creamy flavors with nuances of almond, apple and melon are lingering in your mouth for a long period of time, ideal for a pre and post party.

Cheers!
- Daniela Walter is a Teaching Assistant to professors Chip Cassidy and Bill Hebrank of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

Follow her on twitter @ dellawalter

Time to celebrate the fall: Beaujolais Nouveau is here!
“12 Years a Slave” captures audience’s attention

By Laura Caldera
Contributing Writer

As Fall Semester continues on the course to winter break and the next few years of our lives, we don’t usually stop to take notice of the new things that continuously spring around us.

One good example of just how unaware we can get when we move through the hustle and bustle of the FIU campus is the very fact that we’ve completely skipped over the brand new Russian Club — Kalinka — that has officially arrived earlier this semester.

“Our main aim is to introduce the students, the FIU Students, to Russian history, cinematography, music, food, traditions, etc.,” said the President of the club, Alibek Rakhimov, international relations senior.

“We wanted to unite the Russian-speaking students, or people of Russian descent,” said Gulnaz Kydyrmaeva, a senior Anthropology major and Vice President of Kalinka, “because there is a large Russian population here, but there was no club.”

Located primarily on the Main Campus, Kalinka wanted to create an environment where they, and others, could meet up and learn about the history of Russia, the culture and language.

Even for the times when you just want to sit back and watch a well-made Russian movie, with English subtitles of course, with a group of amazing individuals who share the same tastes as you do.

And it’s open to anyone; those who are Russians or of Russian descent and want to contribute to the growing community, those who are from Post Soviet States like the Ukraine and Lithuania, and those who are, well, just interested.

Rakhimov and Kydyrmaeva mentioned that they were both from the Post-Soviet state Kyrgyzstan which was once part of the Soviet Union but later declared its independence in the early ’90s.

Sissy Alfonso, an international relations and political science junior and Secretary to the Russian club, said that she was from Cuba.

Add the members that are already with Kalinka, a total of 24 members and counting, and you have a wonderful group of people coming together for one common interest.

“Our goal, by the end of this semester, is to go to the Russian coast, in Sunny Isles, Fla., and try to taste the Russian cuisine as well,” Rakhimov claimed.

When asked what the word “Kalinka” meant, Alfonso replied saying, “It’s a song, a Russian Dance song that is very famous.”

If you have any questions about the Russian club that were not answered in this article or are interested in joining the club, please do not hesitate to contact them through their Facebook page “Russian Club Kalinka FIU,” join them at OrgSync.com or to contact the president directly at arakh001@fiu.edu.

LIFE!

Privet: new club promotes Russian language

By Martell Harding
Columnist

Slavery. Much can be said about the cruel subservience, yet the dreadful details in a visual aspect have been scarce until now. Director Steve McQueen (known for his provocative film “Shame”) has taken it upon himself to illustrate the memoirs of Solomon Northup, a well-respected free black man of the 19th century, through his journey of survival. Persuaded with kind words and of the 19th century, through his journey of survival. Persuaded with kind words and friendship, he is eventually kidnapped by two seemingly harmless gentlemen and sold into slavery. This is not just a film about a black man nor is it a black film, this is American history.

The film opens showing a group of men standing idle, dreary and tired. These grave-looking slaves listen as they are being instructed on cutting cane. Immediately, you feel a sense of disdain and the feeling sticks with you throughout the film. This instruction repeats itself often but in the form of punishment. The opening scene feels like an insight of what’s to come. We will watch, we will learn and we will be uncomfortable doing so. McQueen’s attentions to detail create a world unimaginable yet disturbingly real.

Some may argue that another film about slavery is unnecessary; however, films such as “Roots” and “Amistad” aren’t enough to truly convey the events of subjugation. Never has the pain and suffering of slaves been detailed in mainstream film; often times physical and mental cruelty from slave masters are tamed to be deemed appropriate for all audiences. But this is a story of a man trying to emerge from a hell — “I don’t want to survive, I want to live.” Northup strikes at the root of freedom as he’s faced with brutality.

Although we are not strangers to stories of slavery, most have been unable to connect and that’s where the power of the film comes into play. Anyone can relate to Northup with ease, played by the astounding Chiwetel Ejiofor, as he literally gets dragged into what seems like a dark fantasy, a place no one would ever imagine to go. It’s very nightmare-like watching a man’s peaceful life quickly transition into a life of anguish, agony and torture. Ejiofor portrays every inch of a man with extreme bravery. Lupita Nyong’o’s powerful performance should also be mentioned; the new actress holds nothing back and touches us deep within our souls. No film of slaves has been aimed towards the heart of us all with such sympathy.

That said, the narrative never points an idle finger at anyone, it merely presents unspeakable truth. McQueen’s daring initiation on a subject that repeatedly gets tucked away under a bed of shame will leave you speechless. The film is not meant to shock you; it is meant to put you at the heart of Solomon Northup’s reality and nothing more.

“12 Years a Slave” will break you, leave you speechless and it will test your humanity by offering you, horrifying you and upsetting you, which slavery should. However, this film must be seen — I cannot emphasize this enough. “12 Years a Slave” is undoubtedly the most important film of the year.

by life@fiusm.com

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Chatter beginning on potential end of era

Cabanitas, air drummers and some men’s basketball

For a game against a college that I had never heard of in Florida College, the stands were pretty packed, even going up to the second layer. Florida College is in Temple Terrace, Fla, and they are a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association. Temple Terrace is just to the North East of Tampa.

The band played, there were some drummers hanging from the rafters playing sets in mid-air, and the cabanas that were set up and put in place of one side of the student section were filled with sponsors, VIPS and the like. Along with two sunset beach themed backdrops above the floor section and the cabanas it was a nice set up.

The Athletics department did bring back an old face though at halftime when former Panther and former National Basketball Association athlete Raja Bell was the honorary captain. Bell played for the Panthers from 1997 to 1999 after transferring from Boston University. He led the Panthers to a Sun-Belt Conference championship in his senior season.

Even on the media sideline I was watching the guys get boistered into the air with cogs to drum on drums above the older men drinking beer, socializing and not watching the game. As well as trying to figure out exactly why, when the basketball arena is almost a 30 minute drive to South Beach, not only the Lime Court is basically a beach mural but there are multiple pictures of beaches at sunset.

However, even though all these things were distracting, there was a pretty decent game of basketball played. The Panthers led the Falcons of FC by 10 at the half due to the play of redshirt seniors guard Raymond Taylor and forward Rakeem Buckles never looked back.

Both transfers to the team are playing in their first official seasons after transferring in to the Richard Pitino team last year. Buckles followed Pitino from the University of Louisville - who will be in Miami to play the Panthers in late December during the Winter Break - and Taylor from the Owls of Florida Atlantic University.

Again both players have some interesting storylines with them, such as Buckles hadn’t played since 2011 due to back-to-back ACL tears. As of Nov. 15 he was the leading scorer on the team with 95 points, 35 more than second leading scorer senior forward Tymell Murphy. Taylor is 6’6” and a starter for a Division I college basketball program, not you did not read that backwards, he is five feet six inches tall. That makes him not only the shortest on the team but when he is on the court with Buckles who is 6’7” and senior center Ivan Jurkovic who is seven feet tall, he is definitely playing with the big boys.

A team that is barely over .500 on the season with losses to Youngstown State University by two points and a near blowout by Eastern Kentucky University in the first game of the regular season by 22 points, does not have a win yet over a school that at least I have heard of before seeing them on the schedule - Kennesaw State University, Warren Wilson College and Florida College - and yes it is early in the season, but on the year when the team cannot go to the postseason, it will be interesting to see how they stay motivated throughout a season that lasts until March 6.

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Ruben Palacios, ruben.palacios@fiusm.com

Cindy Russo defines FIU women’s basketball as the best player she has ever coached. Russo is a senior and on the verge of graduating. Coley, by Russo’s account, is a senior and on the verge of graduation. Coley, by Russo’s account, is the best player she has ever coached. And looking down at the roster there are no players of Coley’s caliber, not even close.
Under the shadow of a phenom, Idom to return

ALEJANDRO SOLANA
Staff Writer

A new conference with better competition will prove to be a test for FIU, led by coach Cindy Russo in her 34th season at FIU, and the nations leading scorer in Division I women’s basketball last season, senior sensation Jerica Coley.

Leading up to the season, there has been plenty of chatter regarding FIU’s best player and beloved phenom, Coley, who was nicknamed “Holy Coley” and even has a website presenting information. However, it could be said that the 11 other members of the women’s basketball team have been lost in the spotlight of their teammate.

Junior guard Kamika Idom, Coley’s cousin, is one of those players.

Last year, Idom’s sophomore season was cut short due to a knee injury that sidelined her for almost half of the season. She returned back in time for the Sun Belt Conference championship, did not see the court nearly as much as she had before the injury, Idom was only able to play in 19 of the Panthers’ games, starting in five of them.

“My knee is doing great, it is coming along and I feel much better,” Idom said. “It was rough last season. Since it was my first injury, it was tough coming back from it.”

Although her sophomore season was cut short last year, Idom still averaged 4.6 points a game, fourth best for the Panthers while only playing 17 minutes a game. Her 17 minutes placed her sixth on the team for minutes.

Before the injury, Idom was almost always the first player off the bench for the Panthers filling in at the sixth-man role. Idom shot 1-of-6 from the field, the second highest field goal percentage on the team while also recording just one rebound a game and 20 total steals on the season.

When taken into account the limited minutes she saw throughout the season, stats like these could be are impressive by the 5-foot-9 guard out of St. Petersburg, Fla.

The junior player for different high schools in her hometown of St. Petersburg before beginning her collegiate career at FIU two seasons ago. During her last two seasons of high school, Idom averaged 16.7 points, 8.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists, 3.2 steals and 1.2 blocks at St. Petersburg High.

She was named a two-time MVP while at St. Petersburg High while being coached by her mother, Tamika Coley. The elder Coley is the All-time leading scorer in University of Central Florida women’s basketball history.

So far this season, FIU has only played in one regular season game when they faced off against in-state rival Florida Gulf Coast University. The Panthers fell short to the Eagles 75-55.

Idom did not make an appearance in the team’s first game as she is still sidelined due to her knee. Typically for any athlete, their first game back from a knee injury like hers can be difficult and extremely nerve wracking.

As for Idom though, she cannot wait for her chance to be back on the court.

“Nervous? No, not at all,” Idom said. “I cannot wait, I am excited more than anything I’ll be back better than ever.”

As for when she’ll be back?

“As the home game will definitely be on the court, no question,” Idom said.

FIU will look to bounce back from their rough first game as they begin a three-game road trip starting at UCF this Friday, Nov. 15.

The Panthers will then travel to Massachusetts to face off against Harvard and Boston College before returning home for the annual FIU Thanksgiving Classic at U.S. Century Bank Arena, where FIU will look to make their first appearance of the season.

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Kicking it

The Brazilian National Team visited FIU on Nov. 14 while preparing for a game against Honduras on Nov. 16, at SunLife Stadium.

Final game for three seniors against North Texas

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

The FIU volleyball team closed out their regular season this Sunday, Nov 17 against North Texas University. For three Panthers this was the last time they take to the Lime Court to play a collegiate volleyball game as these three players were Kimberly Smith, Jessica Mendoza and Cecie Spencer.

Unfortunately Spencer is out right now with a leg injury and was not be able to play for FIU against the Mean Green. This is quite a blow for the team considering Spencer was beginning to really play well after a recent move to outside hitter.

“Some has some emotions that will be going on, definitely an element of sadness to it all but you still want to finish strong and finish it the right way. Especially with Cecie out, she’s a senior and wont be able to play, so we want to win for her and play for her,” Smith said.

Smith has thrived as a leader for FIU this year, stepping up multiple times in clutch situations for the Panthers. As a captain, she has been steadfast in her positive attitude all year long and other players have flourished around her feeding off her energy.

She is amongst the Conference USA leaders in hitting percentage, kills, blocks, and points, the only Panther to do so. Both offensively and defensively, she has answered the call of responsibility and productivity needed from a team captain.

Jessica Mendoza was the other senior taking the court for the final time in the U.S Century Bank Arena with Smith and her leadership on the court this year has been well documented. Wrapping up her first and only volleyball season inside, she will join the beach volleyball squad for her senior year when she finishes with indoor.

“We feel stronger than we have ever been, the last three games have been the best we have played and it’s definitely an encouraging atmosphere. We know how to stay together and we can get comfortable just because we have a spot with a sweeping victory over the UTEP Miners, a win that keep North Texas in the driver’s seat for a potential bye in the first round of the Conference USA tournament. North Texas got 12 kills out of senior Courtney Windham on a .888 attack percentage, their third most accurate clip of the season, while freshman setter Amy Hanerd dished out 38 assists to a variety of Mean Green attackers. At 16-12 North Texas is among the top five teams in C-USA in hitting percentage, kills, service aces and represent a formidable test for the Panthers to close out their season.

FIU is coming off a tightly contested match with their South Florida rival, Florida Atlantic University. Even though they lost in five sets, junior Martyna Gluchowski led the way, recording 16 kills and two service aces, a welcomed sight for the Panthers after losing Spencer.

“We’re all pumped to be playing in the tournament and we have been working really hard lately so we know we are ready. We’re all very determined right now and if we play our best, no matter what the outcome is, we will have still have something to show for it,” junior Brittany Muller said.

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Student Government Association exploring fee for Maritime Science Technology Academy

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSH Staff Writer

Jaimie Choclote, a comic artist and mural painter, has illustrated scenery of the Amazon rainforest and indigenous tribes onto the walls of the Glenn Hubert Library as a part of the library's renovation project.

According to Serrano, this is an opportunity for the MAST students and University students to take college classes and to use University facilities.

“I hope that the MAST students wouldn’t feel like they were taking up tables to facilitate an entire school lunch rush for high school class,” said Periche. “They should eat at a different time, not the usual cafeteria for a 30-minute lunch break, leaving few seating options for University students like Rebecca Budhoo, a sophomore biology major. “They eat at a different location instead of the cafe, because there are already a lot of students there. They get the data,” she said. “It’s the responsibility of the MAST students to keep the University students from paying for Academy students in two years. Two and the Kovens Conference Center housing one thousand MAST Academy students in two years. FIU students appreciate the MAST program for the opportunities it brings the high schoolers; however, they disapprove of MAST students taking part in recreational activities and using other services paid out of college students’ pockets.

Moll said Miami-Dade Public Schools is paying for Academy students to take college classes and to use University facilities.

He said the purpose of the program is to incorporate the high schoolers into the mainstream of University life, and they are just as much college students as the ones who pay FIU tuition. “They are FIU students,” he said. “They are taking FIU classes.”

University students disagreed. “If they are using the services provided by the A&S fee, I don’t think it’s right,” said Valerita Andrea, junior psychology major. “I think the expense is good, but if they’re abusing it then that’s no bueno.”

She said it’s good that MAST students are able to utilize BBC and familiarize themselves with the University, but it becomes an issue when it’s at the expense of the University students’ tuition.

University students also complained that MAST students crowd the cafeteria during lunch time, taking up tables to facilitate an entire high school class.

The MAST students gather in the small BBC cafeteria from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for lunch, leaving few seating options for University students like Rebecca Budhoo, a sophomore biology major. “They eat at a different location instead of the café, because there are already a lot of students there,” said Budhoo. “Sometimes there’s not even a seat available.”

Wu and SGA Chief Justice Francheska Periche both said they didn’t know University students were bothered by the MAST students in the cafeteria.

Periche said the lunch rush for University students is at noon, therefore the MAST students shouldn’t affect others eating on campus. “To my knowledge, I haven’t seen any complaints about it,” said Periche. Wu said she will contact Business and Services to investigate the issue and find a possible solution.

“If they are using the services provided by the A&S fee, I don’t think it’s right.” Valerita Andrea Junior Psychology Major

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Artist with heart for environment paints Glenn Hubert Library mural

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSH Staff Writer

Jaimie Choclote, a comic artist and mural painter, has illustrated scenery of the Amazon rainforest and indigenous tribes onto the walls of the Glenn Hubert Library as a part of the library’s renovation project.

According to Serrano, this is a chance for the LGBTQA and the community together and remembering that students can be themselves without being judged. “LGBTQA students will have the opportunity of not having to worry about going back in the closet if their family is unaccepting,” said Serrano. Some students agree with Serrano, who thinks the dinner is a chance for the LGBTQA and University community to come together for the sake of a holiday.

Justin Santoli, sophomore in elementary education and the president of the Stonewall Pride Alliance, will perform a self-written poem about bullying – a theme familiar with LGBTQA students.

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LGBTQA community joins together in Thanksgiving potlucks

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSH Staff Writer

Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant from the LGBTQA Initiatives said the community’s Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner event, will allow students who are not accepted by their families to participate in a holiday dinner

where they don’t have to worry about going back in the closet. Together with the Stone-wall Pride Alliance, LGBTQA Training and Development Committee and GSA, the LGBTQA community will host its Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 20 at Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center and Nov. 26 at Modesto Maidique Campus’ Graham Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. “A lot of students don’t have the ability to be themselves within their families,” said Serrano. “This event will give them the chance and the space to be who they are.”

According to Serrano, this dinner has the purpose of getting the community together and remembering that students can be themselves without being judged. “LGBTQA students will have the opportunity of not having to worry about going back in the closet if their family is unaccepting,” said Serrano. Some students agree with Serrano, who thinks the dinner is a chance for the LGBTQA and University community to come together for the sake of a holiday.

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