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Taking excess credit hours will lighten your wallet

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Undergraduate students at the University who have exceeded the common credit minimum of 120 to graduate casually refer to themselves as “super seniors.” Many don’t realize, however, that by attempting an excess amount of credits, the students may have to pay more in tuition.

In a recent Board of Trustees meeting held via conference call, Provost Douglas Wartzok reviewed the annual University Accountability Report, pointing out that 63 percent of students graduate with excess hours. Wartzok noted that the issue was something the board should “pay particular attention to.”

In 2009, the Florida Legislature implemented Section 1009.286 in the Florida statutes, establishing the Excess Credit Hour Surcharge -- an extra amount of money charged to students who attempted a certain amount of credits above their required credits.

The surcharge is assessed on the tuition portion of the semester hour cost, not the fees.

“I see the sense in the legislation. If it wasn’t there, my degrees would be buy one get one free,” said Usman Khan, a 144-credit “super senior” pursuing a double major in biology and physics who started college in the fall 2009.

The surcharge for students who began college in the fall 2009 was 50 percent of tuition for every credit attempted after 120 percent of their required credits.

For students who started college in the fall 2011, the surcharge was 100 percent of tuition for any credits attempted above 115 percent of credits required.

None of the surcharges are retroactive -- meaning they don’t affect students who started college before the semester the section was implemented or changed.

“The objective is to get students to graduate as quickly as possible and without taking more credits than they need for their degree,” said Kenneth Jessell, chief financial officer.

April Lewis, senior academic advisor of undergraduate education, said many students have not noticed the surcharge until now because students initially affected by it are now reaching their fourth year of college.

“It’s only now that students are starting to feel the effects of the surcharge because they’re nearing graduation,” Lewis said.

More recently, for students entering college in the fall of 2012, the surcharge is 100 percent of tuition for every credit attempted above 110 percent of the requirement, meaning that a student with a 120-credit requirement attempting more than 132 credits will pay double in semester hours.

Doctors research to be featured at conference in Oregon

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Three laboratories from the University’s Legal Psychology Department will be featured at the 2013 American Psychological-Law Society Conference this March in Portland, Oregon.

The AP-LS Conference acts as an opportunity for members of the discipline, be it practitioners, researchers, professors or students, to come together and showcase as well as review the prospective research being conducted annually.

The AP-LS is an academic organization in which interests lie within the application of psychology to the law.

The conference is described to be not only a flagship opportunity for students to become involved and recognized in this community, but also as a means of establishing the University as a professional and credible research institution.

Research studies from the Legal Psychology Department’s three laboratories have been accepted as submissions for the conference.

Three studies from Dr. Nadja Schreiber Compo’s Investigative Interviewing-Lab (iLab) will be presented at the conference.

Dr. Compo’s Investigative Interviewing-Lab (iLab) conducts research with a focus on investigative interviewing with the hopes of improving interviewing techniques on vulnerable witnesses and victim recall.

The first study, known as the Alcohol Study, looks at whether the state of intoxication at encoding of memory versus the retrieval of the memory has an effect. Dr. Schreiber Compo explained that witnesses may be intoxicated or sober at

American Marketing Association starts semester solid

NYSEHA C. GARLAND
Contributing Writer

When students first arrive at a university, networking is one of the most important skills to acquire. The American Marketing Association at FIU helps its members communicate with company leaders, understand the vast job market, and develop connections important to a student’s professional life.

The club is a collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association, one of the largest marketing association in North America for students, professionals and organizations involved in the practice, teaching and study of marketing worldwide.

“At the American Marketing Association, it’s all about the journey,” said Executive Graduate Advisor Sokolina Poder.

The club starts at the new semester with new projects, all open for the taking by students of all majors.

New projects, such as iPledge305, works closely with nonprofit organizations and exercises leadership and organizational skills.

Other projects include a Mama Muncie’s competition to spread “meatball consumption awareness” throughout the school. Winners of the most creative and fun videos earn a cash prize of $500. AMA also sells merchandise to fund the campaign stands before and after Miami Heat games to help fund the 34th annual collegiate conference in New Orleans.

Students than have an interest with social media and fundraising can be a part of a committee to help get the word out about AMA from FIU to beyond.

AMA gives its members a clear map of success, and then pushes them to go after lucrative jobs. Postings, are always available on the AMA website, amafiu.com.

Pierinni Pinuela, a junior marketing major and vice president of FIU’s AMA chapter, said the club is here to benefit all students and make them incredibly successful after graduation.

Membership grants the opportunity to talk with employers at seminars, receive management training, and attend resume workshops.

Members also learn about e-marketing, public speaking and gain skills from the professional world, recruiting sessions, and social event opportunities.

Cosette Garcia, a junior marketing major and first time member of AMA, said she is excited about the events and is making plans to put most of her time into an internship with Honda. AMA will be setting up workshops and events at the University.

“Last semester, we had a workshop on how to build our resume, and that was incredible,” said Jessica Cordoves, sophomore, finance and marketing major. “As a commuter school, it’s good to know people, is one reason I join the club- to make friends that have the same goal as I do. [Members] are ambitious and truly love marketing.”

AMA will be running an upcoming workshop, Marketing Yourself, on Feb. 2. The workshop will give students tips on how to sell themselves, in front of employers. The event location is to be announced on their Facebook page and website.

The FIU Business Olympics will take place on Feb. 9 where marketing, accounting, and business students participate in mini competitions; such as retail marketing, impromptu speaking, sales presentation, and international business. Information and registration is available at businessesolympics2013.eventbrite.com.

Marketingpower.com provides information for students to participate in AMA. Dates and times of weekly meetings and workshops are posted on the club’s “AMA at FIU” Facebook page and its website at amafiu.com.

SCIENCE
Facebook introduces new tool called Graph Search

MARI A BRITOS
Contributing Writer

Facebook is everywhere. The social network will be adding Graph Search to the site, a tool that will allow users to instantly search people, places, pictures and user’s interests within the network.

According to Lewis, the University will be represented at the conference. The second study deals with the percep-
tions and opinion of rapport building among police investigators. Dr. Lindsay Malloy’s Development, Context, and Communication Laboratory focuses on the involvement of children in the legal context in terms of their social and cognitive development.

The second study deals with rapport building before an investigative inter-
view and whether it can help decrease pre-interview anxiety and in turn improve the quality of witness reports. Rapport building suggests the establishment of some form of a relationship before the interview begins between the witness and the interviewer.

The third study deals with the perception and opinion of rapport building among police investigators. Dr. Lindsay Malloy’s Development, Context, and Communication Laboratory focuses on the involvement of children in the legal context in terms of their social and cognitive development.

A total of five studies will be presented from Dr. Malloy’s lab at the conference. The first study also deals with rapport building and investigative interviewing but with children who were suspected of having been victims of sexual abuse. Dr. Malloy explained that what they are doing is “…coding that rapport building section and trying to look at children’s expressions of reluctance and whether children who are more reluctant are getting different kinds of rapport building sessions than the ones who are not showing reluctance.”

The second study deals with true and false confessions as well as adolescents’ perceptions of the justice system in order to see whether there is a relationship between the youth who have had more negative or coercive interrogation experiences with police officers and their atti-
duces with the police and the legal system generally.

The third study focuses on looking at the interrogation experiences of youths and whether youths who have had more negative or coercive interrogation experi-
ences are more likely to have made a false confession in the police interrogation.

The fourth study focuses on children’s requests for clarification in investiga-
tive interviews and how the interviewers respond to the requests.

The fifth study deals with potential jurors’ perceptions of child sexual abuse victims in terms of finding their state-
cents credible.

It does make me want to graduate as soon as possible,” Nguyen said. “It’s a good reason to get students to actually work hard.”

David Chau, majoring in chemistry with more than 160 credits, said that his reason for extending his stay at the University is in order to take what he calls “hobby classes” for a GPA boost.

“My philosophy is that you should take your time with school and try to get the best grades possible,” Chau said. “I finish school when I finish school.”

Chau said this would be his first semester paying out of pocket and that he hadn’t noticed the increase in his tuition due to the surcharge because of his financial aid covering all expenses.

According to Lewis, the University has been providing several initiatives to aid students in graduating more quickly and thereby reducing the amount of credits they may graduate with.

Major Maps and Advisor that were implemented last fall to keep students on track in their majors. The Univer-
sity has also sent out emails, posted on PantherPrint message boards and incorp-
orated the Excess Credit Hour Surcharge from freshman orientation and First-Year Experience classes.

“Excess credit hours pay more money, not less. That’s the first thing students need to understand,” said Lewis. “My philosophy is that you should take your time with school and try to get the best grades possible,” Chau said. “I finish school when I finish school.”

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A second chance to make “change” real

BRIAN ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

I was one of many Americans who was convinced that in 2008 the United States was being steered into an age of “hope and change” by a fresh-faced Senator from Chicago.

In the few years since Barack Obama’s meteoric ascent to power, a plethora of issues have been addressed which had been totally ignored by the previous administration—issues which disproportionately affect those of lower socioeconomic status, women, minorities and small businesses.

One of the first pieces of legislation Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. This law addressed the sensitive issue of pay equity in the workplace.

Another, much to the chagrin of some conservatives who tend to disagree with the premise of a democratic policy-making system, was the Affordable Care Act of 2010, which extended everyone’s access to healthcare services. These issues resurfaced during this past year’s presidential campaign and debates.

While pundits and detractors have highlighted this administration’s shortcomings, there has been significant progress, and still more to achieve. Despite these shortcomings, more than half of the American people are in accord with this administration’s policies.

According to a recent Gallup poll taken between January 7th and the 13th, the approval for the president is around 54%, three percentage points up from the 51%, by which the election was won.

Like many presidents before him and no doubt after—there will be decisions made which will not be popular, but must be made for the well being of the populace.

But, there are individuals who tend to disagree with this president on every issue and seek to hinder progress. It seems they would rather protect their affiliates’ interests and ideals than do what is in the best interest of the American people and the country in general. Hence, the ridiculous amount of time spent getting past the so-called “fiscal cliff.”

Though the Senate majority is skewed liberal, the House of Representatives is polarized to the right—placing the president in a familiar position, just as before the election.

Government officials are elected by the people and should govern in the best interests of the people—not for their own benefit. This is the basic premise of a democratic society.

Once elected, the least we can expect is for individuals to exercise their powers within the office for which they were elected.

Is that too much to ask?

For the next four years, there will be more issues and catastrophes to confront. For there to be true progress, government officials need to work together regardless of a political affiliation.

Recently, the president signed new legislation in efforts to curb gun violence—especially to protect the most vulnerable of our population—our children.

There hasn’t been such sweeping legislation to combat gun violence since the 1960s.

Before the ink had time to dry, the president was immediately vilified by the president of the National Rifle Association (NRA), Republicans and other private gun owners for infringing on their second amendment rights.

My hope for the next four years is that both political parties will begin acting like the adults they supposedly are, stop taking extended vacations and breaks and do the job for which they were elected—to govern.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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.

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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.
School of Architecture sets big goals for spring semester

EDWIN EME
Small World

Architecture can’t always be taught in the classroom, according to FIU’s School of Architecture. Throughout its 1,000-year history, one can see the World Ahead theme and hands-on practice going on.

This spring, the school will organize many events in their three departments — architecture, landscape architecture, and interior architecture. Here are five events from lectures to exhibitions and more.

The Interior Architecture Department will have its Cruise Ship Super Yacht Exchange in stop 8, and the students’ annual master’s student research project from April 15 to 30.

The Architecture Department will have its Cruise Ship Super Yacht Exchange in stop 8, and the students’ annual master’s student research project from April 15 to 30.

The Architecture Department will have its Spring semester includes talks by architects such as Roberto Segre, Rick Joy, and the audience itself becomes part of the action by looking down from the balcony. You will be able to see the show from different viewpoints, and the audience itself becomes part of the action by looking down from the balcony. You will be able to see the show from different viewpoints. Along with the architecture and art, the audience will experience a variety of galleries free of charge.


Also, a series of exhibits will be on display from Feb. 28 to March 29, and on Jan. 30 to Feb. 5. The School’s Classical Guitar Studio at The Wolfsonian-FIU on Miami Beach, Florida Cultural Center, and the Biscayne Bay Campus-FIU.

The music includes a student symposium on the role of the arts in American urban society. Whether you’re a student or a professional, you can experience a variety of galleries free of charge.

A spring of harmony for the School of Music

The School of Architecture is part of FIU’s Miami Beach Urban Studies, a unique urban studies program for students and faculty to have discussions on the crossovers between architecture and urban planning.

The exhibitions will include “Spring Children,” which includes selected student works by March 23. In fact, Jose Outeiro, the French architect and author, is part of the lecture series and will also have an exhibition at Miami Beach titled “Firmity Church” from Feb. 4 to March 3. Architecture professor, Elite Kedan, will exhibit “Upland 2030,” from March 4 to April 8, and the students’ annual master’s student research project from April 15 to 30.

The School of Architecture will host a series of lectures throughout the semester in Paul Cejas Architecture Lecture Hall 155. This Spring, architect and internationally known architectural critic such as Roberto Segre, Rick Joy, and Alberto Lurani will give formal lectures. Students and faculty members will see the speakers and ask the questions about the work they do.

These activities engage our undergraduate students and graduate students to real world professionals in their field of study,” said Gladie Barrientos, clerk of events. “They are informative, educational, and entertaining.” Students and faculty will also engage their works to a wider public in Miami Beach, and more of Miami-Dade County.

Besides the “Recent Works” exhibi- tion, which features architecture, sculpture, carpet, and other forms of creative projects, done by their professors, the School of Architecture will also have exhibits at FIU’s Miami Beach Urban Studies, a unique urban studies program for students and faculty to have discussions on the crossovers between architecture and urban planning.

Judas Iscariot’s fate will be decided on stage

The verdict to decide Judas’ fate will be at the heart of “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,” written by Stephen Adly Guirgis and directed by Wayne E. Robinson, Jr., associate professor of the Department of Theatre.

“The play was written by an ex-Green’s most Catholic background and the unanswerable question: is the plot too fast, too much of the emotion of the trial a short analysis of the whole, which has- ing on all four sides with the trial at the center of the action. The movement of the story is fast-paced; we wanted the audience to think some of the funniest part of the play, but we also wanted to arouse their imagination,” said Robinson.

Judas Iscariot’s fate will be decided on stage. Iscariot, the traitor, will be the subject of a play this Thursday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. The trial will be held in a round, circular shape, with the audience itself becomes part of the action by looking down from the balcony. You will be able to see the show from different viewpoints. Along with the architecture and art, the audience will experience a variety of galleries free of charge.

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Kansas, UCF among teams FIU softball faces at home

BY RYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

Winning a conference is one thing, but having a top-10 team in a player’s division makes it all the more interesting, even if soft- 
ball Head Coach Jack Schumann doesn’t readily admit it.

“[Louisiana-Lafayette] won the conference 15 years in a row, that’s going to be exciting,” Schumann said. “But it’s just a confer- 
ence weekend, we have to win that either way, no matter the opponent.”

After going 28-27 last year, the team’s first under coach Schumann, the Panthers play an intense 
schedule featuring 54 games in 89 days. Last year the team had the 35th toughest schedule in the NCAA, playing top-
ten teams California, Florida, and Louisiana-
Lafayette, and top-25 teams Louisville, Stan-
ford, and Oregon St. They also played games against top-
50 DePaul, Auburn, and North Alabama. Florida State University, Kansas being

the only team of the three ranked higher than FIU.

“Our first weekend is a big weekend,” said Ian Koch, a walk-on offensive 
lineman, according to Koch.

Butkus already has plans of weekly dinners with the offi-
cive linemen, and monthly activ-
ties such as big-men, seven-on-
seven games. He plans these to 
strengthen the bond and trust 
between his linemen and team-

nings a third of the schedule. The club is offering a 

new season-ticket package this year that at $70 for up to two adults and 

three youths. Students can attend any home game free of cost.

“Coach [Turner] seems like a great guy and one who is going to put us as a team in the right place to win for a long time to come,” said Ian Koch, a walk-on offensive

Koch is also glad to be seeing a

new head coach ready to make season debut

BY STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

Last year, the Panthers capped their 7-15 season with a run to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament finals by coming 
up short to top-seeded North Texas 4-2. This year, with four returning players and 

three incoming freshmen, it’s a new era with first-year Head Coach Katarina Petrovic at the helm and a different vibe 
surrounding the team.

“With the newcomers here now, after 

having our team dinner yesterday, we really see a team spirit. I think every-

thing is a lot better since last semester,” Petrovic said.

“I see a lot of excitement in their faces, but mainly I see a lot of motiva-
tion,” added Assistant Coach Claudio Romano.

The team returns with four players from last season. The returners are sopho-

more Nina Jordjevic, who had surgery for a torn ACL in November, junior

Giulietta Boha, and two seniors Magali

Holt and Rita Maisak. Maisak earned 

All-Sun Belt Conference Honors in singles competition last year. Maisak will 

be reunited with Petrovic this coming 
spring after Maisak played in South Caro-

olina during her freshman season when 
Petrovic was an assistant coach with the Gamecocks.

This season, Boha and Maisak are 

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ment last season.
Panthers home winning streak reaches five

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

The last time the Panthers won five consecutive home games was 15 years ago. Fifteen years later, first-year Head Coach Richard Pitino repeated the feat. Pitino has pioneered his team to a 10-8 record after two home games, surpassing last year’s win total of eight.

“I’m extremely lucky to coach these guys in year one, because they really are a lot of fun to coach,” Pitino said.

After splitting their two road games, the Panthers (10-8, 5-4 Sun Belt Conference) were back on the hardwood against the North Texas Mean Green (8-12, 3-6 SBC) on Jan. 17.

The Mean Green’s record may not have been daunting for the Panthers, but North Texas’ Tony Mitchell should have been. He was averaging nearly 14 points (ninth in the SBC) a game and almost nine rebounds (fourth in SBC) going into the contest.

A player like Mitchell should have exposed the Panthers’ 16th-ranked scoring defense or their eighth-ranked rebounding margin. Instead, FIU stifled Mitchell, holding him to zero points and only two rebounds.

“Tony Mitchell is a great player and to hold him to zero points and only two rebounds is not that bad,” Pitino said.

Mitchell, but Cameron Bell added a new dimension for the Panthers. Bell, who had been dealing with a shoulder injury, was named the starting point guard for FIU. His start marked the third time in four games that Pitino has chosen a different player to play the point.

“I think he was good. I expect a lot more from him,” Pitino said. “He gave good effort and only turned the ball over once [since] in 27 minutes so that was a good thing.”

Bell’s lone turnover and three assists may not seem like much, but the Panthers ranked a mediocre sixth in assist-to-turnover ratio going into the game.

WINNERS FIND WAYS

After shutting down the Mean Green, FIU had a tough time taking down the Troy Trojans (7-12, 2-6 SBC) on Jan. 19.

FIU and Troy were the top two teams in making three-pointers per game, nearly going into the matchup.

It was no coincidence that the first shot made by Troy would come in the form of a three. The long distance shot couldn’t find a way to fall.

Tymell Murphy (right) shined once again after leading his team in scoring in FIU’s last two home games versus North Texas and Troy. The junior forward tallied a combined 35 points, 10 rebounds and a superb .625 field goal percent in FIU’s two victories.

“Malik Smith is one of the best shooters in the Sun Belt,” Pitino said.

Smith shrugged off his 2 for 7 three-point performance of the first half, going 3 for 4 in the second half.

“I believe in the three-pointer. It is a huge momentum killer I think,” Pitino said.

“What’s the [greatest] I have been a win because nothing was going our way. Things were just not going our way and we got it out,” Pitino said. “I [shows] when you have a lot of heart and a lot of fight, you can find a way to win and these guys have done that.”

Kevin.castaneda@fiusm.com

SPRING TENNIS, PAGE 6

just getting settled into FIU this spring semester, Gras has been at FIU since fall 2012 and competed in the Opening and End of Fall Tournaments. Gras had a decent showing in the End of Fall Tournament, teaming up with Maisak to win the doubles flight one consolation championship. Then in singles flight two bracket, Gras reached the semifinals before falling in defeat.

“I didn’t know what to expect. Now after fall tournaments, I have a picture of how everything goes and how everything will be,” Gras said.

The Panthers will have their share of matches this season against ranked teams. Some of the players look forward to traveling to New Haven, Conn., to take on Yale University on Feb. 1 and then traveling to New York City to take on Columbia. FIU also will have intra-state opponents like Florida State who come to town on Feb. 22 and Florida Atlantic University who will come to Miami on April 10. The Panthers will face North Texas for the first time since last year’s Sun Belt Tournament Championship.

“I’m looking forward to New York of course, because it’s indoors and I love playing indoors. It’s my type of tennis. It’s my birthday, too, so I will have my birthday in New York,” Maisak said.

“…”
From students to ‘angels’, FIU hosts wine competition

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

Who knew students were such angels? ‘Wine Angels’ to be exact.

On Jan. 20 and 21, several students from the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management were dubbed ‘Wine Angels’ for volunteering in the 6th annual American Fine Wine Competition.

Shari Gherman, president and co-founder of the AFWC, said the competition has raised over half a million dollars in the past for various charities. Gherman stated that this year’s earnings are being donated to Miami’s Diabetes Research Institute.

This year, the AFWC was held at the Kovens Conference Center on the Biscayne Bay Campus. This was the first year that AFWC was hosted by the University.

Although it is the first year the CSHTM is hosting the event, University professors, Chip Cassidy and Barry Gump, have been judges for the AFWC since its start in 2007.

Cassidy said he has been judging wine since 1978 and still enjoys it today.

“I taste about 5,000 wines a year. I only know one person in the United States who tastes more wine than I do. His name is Wilfred Wong and he’s in California, and I’m jealous of him,” said Cassidy.

Wong tastes about 8,000 wines a year and also judges wine, is a buyer, and writes about it. Cassidy and Gump are offering their students 10 extra points to their final grade in each of the wine or beverage courses they are enrolled in, in exchange for dedicating their weekend to serving as a Wine Angel in the AFWC.

The duties of a Wine Angel included such things as labeling wine, serving wine, setting up meals, tables, catering to judges, etc. Nicole Sampson, a graduate student in Hospitality and Tourism Management, said, “I just think [the event] is a great opportunity and you get to network with different people.”

Sampson said she wants to one day own a bed and breakfast.

Caroline Hardenbergh, a senior in Events and Meeting Management and supervisor in the AFWC, said she has helped with the event in the past and this year, the students have been “some of the best workers I’ve ever worked with.”

Hardenbergh said the Wine Angels had everything lined up and ready to go and worked well with minimal supervision, even on the spot training the morning of the event.

Hardenbergh said she hopes Gherman decides to have the AFWC with the University in the future. Cortessa Major, a junior majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management, said it was her first time at an event such as the AFWC. Major said it is “a great learning experience” and it can “teach you a lot from the wine and food part.”

When asked what the students will get from working this event, Gump stated, “It’s the experience; the fact that they will get a sense of how a competition works. Wine has tradition already been an intimate part of society. In our modern age, wine is becoming more and more popular; more people want to know about it,” said Gump.

Gump stated that this summer, for the first time, the CSHTM will be offering a wine making class. Gump said the University teaches so many other aspects of wine and “there’s no reason we don’t teach how to make wine.”

Some of the classes regarding beverages already offered by the CSHTM include Wines of France and Italy, Wine Technology, Merchandising, and Marketing, The Business of Wine and Production, Management, and Merchandising of Craft Beers and World of Wine and Food, Wines of the New World and The History of Wine.

Ping Liu, a graduate student in Hospitality Management, said she has worked similar events in the past such as the SOBE Wine and Food Festival in 2011.

Liu is also studying American Fine Wine Competition & Gala involves a series of events that start in November and continue through April. Some of the upcoming events are the Bloggers & Press Award Cocktail on Feb. 5 and the Wine Carnival & Consumer Challenge on Feb. 21. Gherman stated students are always welcome.

Marti breakfast brings culture back into students’ hearts

NADRA MABROUK
BBC Managing Editor

Thirteen years and 40 scholarships later, the 13th annual Jose Marti Breakfast will once again celebrate the life of the Cuban national hero and figure in Latin American literature.

The breakfast always takes place on Marti’s birthday, Jan. 28, from 8:15 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms, bringing together students and faculty to commemorate the year’s scholarship winners.

Six winners will be announced at the event where University President Mark B. Rosenberg is expected to attend.

“He’s looked upon as a hero,” said Kaytien Franco, a senior in Creative Writing.

“People are still arrested if they’re showing to be against the government. Journalism there isn’t free. He was very big on campaigning for Cuba’s independence,” said Franco.

The breakfast will include guest speaker Rafael A. Penavel Jr., a Miami attorney who is president of the San Carlos Institute. The institute now aims to preserve Cuban culture; students are taught about the history and customs of Cuba and the United States.

Today, this symbol of cultural hope for Cubans stands on Duval street since its restoration in 1992.

Marti loved the San Carlos Institute so dearly that he called it, “la casa cuba.”

Among the scholarships awarded is the Radia Spices - Jose Marti Scholarship.

“Represent[s] freedom, represents the best in human nature,” said Rad Mincaru, vice provost emeritus of Biscayne Bay Campus. “He is not Cuban, not Latin American. He is the world. And that’s what we are trying to teach the community.”

The students from the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, otherwise known as the ‘Wine Angels’, prepare the wines behind the scene for judges to taste in the American Fine Wine Competition.

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