University offering free online classes
FIU enters MOOC generation

By MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer
Taking a class online is now as easy as just signing up. No charge.

As of Jan. 28, FIU Online began offering five new online classes for free. As part of the Open Education Initiative, FIU Online has recently joined Massive Open Online Courses to encourage more education in the community.

The courses offered are all self-directed and only require access to the Internet. Participants do not have to be enrolled at the University.

Completing a course only takes eight hours and upon finishing it, participants receive a certificate. Although it may not charge a fee, these courses do not offer college credit.

“It sounds like a great way to expand your knowledge,” said Alejandro Villanueva, sophomore biology major. “And the course style is not the typical online class that we take with a professor constantly watching your steps.”

The courses offered at MOOC include Applied Real Estate, which teaches the ins and outs of buying and selling residential real estate. The course will provide consumers of real estate services the information to facilitate their real estate decision making.

It also offers Entrepreneurship and New Ventures, which will give students practical tools to help them rapidly assess the potential of a new business idea, and Legal and Ethical Governance: A Roadmap for Florida’s Public Officials and Employees. This course includes both theoretical and practical approaches to ethical issues commonly encountered by public officials and employees with a particular emphasis on Florida law.

Other courses also include Project Management Basics. This course will provide key concepts and techniques for successfully managing projects from planning to completion, as well as Fundamentos para la Dirección de Proyectos, which is the Project Management Basics course taught in Spanish.

“I think it’s a great way to educate those who may not be able to afford the classes or have time to attend school,” said Valerie Blattner, junior and hospitality major. “But what about the rest of FIU’s 20 percent online education (the University) currently has running? I am a little upset by this nationwide movement of free online classes, what makes those classes so special that they don’t have to charge for them?”

Joyce Elam, dean of University College and currently leading the new program was unable for comment.

Enrollment is currently open to anyone at www.open.fiu.edu.

NEWS@FIU.COM

DM courtyard closed for the next 10 weeks

By STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

Construction around campus keeps expanding; this time its Deuxieme Maison building’s turn to obtain a few beauty touches and transform. DM is located at the Modesto Madique Campus, next to Primera Casa building and in front of the Graham Center.

“The overall concept had to do with creating what you can call a sanctuary or an environment where you can feel that you can spend some time studying or having conversations, and a place where you can feel somewhat protected,” said Roberto Rovira, chair of landscape architecture.

Rovira has been working at the University since 2005 and was involved with the initiative to change up the image of the DM building.

A number of students, faculty, and administrators were brought together to work on a project that was picked by the 2010 FIU Open Space Charrette, which is “a series of competition workshops that looked at the best open spaces on campus to make a big, transformative impact,” according to Sylvia Berenguer, director facilities construction.

The workshop takes place every couple of years and in 2010, it focused on MMC.

“We assembled a team of faculty as well as outside consultant people from various firms from the Miami area, facilities and external relations at FIU and the department of landscape architecture and the department of architecture,” said Rovira.

In total they had 80 students and over 100 consultants.

“The proposal they came up with had to do with introducing a lot of vegetation, a lot of shape structures, and transforming what is now a very hard place into a space that would have a lot more inviting qualities than it currently has,” said Rovira.

There are several components that will decorate DM, and will make it into the sanctuary place Roviro described.

There will be large canape structures which will be very lightweight, braided stainless steel wire and they create three bell shapes and will hang from the overhead sun break, and will also allow to hang plants form it.

“These plants bloom every year and you can expect a whole variety of colors,” said Roviro.

These air plants are called Tillandsia, which are native to Florida, require no soil and minimum maintenance.

Another component includes the design of the benches and chairs.

“We basically cut a section of the bench and we did the profile so you just can’t lie on it but you can also lean up against it,” said Roviro. “You can sit on the edge and talk to a friend; it’s a design that is very flexible.”

The chair profile will also allow very flexible postures. On the other hand, the benches will have an inward and outward facing, which will have a U shape.

“But of course, the design is also about creating a place where you can go and connect your laptop and you can listen to music,” said Roviro. “It will be a very dramatic transformation from what it is now.”

Construction started on Feb. 3 and it will continue for 10 weeks. SGA and other consultants, according to Roviro, are contributing $200,000-$250,000 to the overall budget.

STEPHAN.USECHE@FIU.COM
News

Argentina freezes prices to break inflation spiral

Argentina announced a two-month price freeze on supermarket products Monday in an effort to stop spiraling inflation. The price freeze applies to every product in all of the nation’s largest supermarkets — a group including Walmart, Carrefour, Coto, Jumbo, Disco and other large chains. The companies’ trade group, representing 70 percent of the Argentine supermarket sector, reached the accord with Commerce Secretary Guillermo Moreno, the government’s news agency Telam reported.

Shot Armenia presidential hopeful seeks vote delay

The shooting of a presidential candidate threw Armenia’s election into disarray Friday, with the wounded victim saying he will call for delay of the vote.

UK sends hand-held helicopter drones to war zone

British soldiers in Afghanistan have been issued with surveillance drones so small they can fit in the palm of a man’s hand.

Law clinic offering up free legal advice

Argentine freezes prices to break inflation spiral

Argentina announced a two-month price freeze on supermarket products Monday in an effort to stop spiraling inflation. The price freeze applies to every product in all of the nation’s largest supermarkets — a group including Walmart, Carrefour, Coto, Jumbo, Disco and other large chains. The companies’ trade group, representing 70 percent of the Argentine supermarket sector, reached the accord with Commerce Secretary Guillermo Moreno, the government’s news agency Telam reported.

Shot Armenia presidential hopeful seeks vote delay

The shooting of a presidential candidate threw Armenia’s election into disarray Friday, with the wounded victim saying he will call for delay of the vote.

British soldiers in Afghanistan have been issued with surveillance drones so small they can fit in the palm of a man’s hand.

British soldiers in Afghanistan have been issued with surveillance drones so small they can fit in the palm of a man’s hand.

The Scandinavian-designed Black Hornet Nano weighs as little as 16 grams (roughly half an ounce) — the same as a finch. The Nano is fitted with a tiny camera which relays still images and video to a remote terminal.

-- Compiled by Brandon Wise
Best places to catch some Zs around campus

I’m always sleepy. Like many of you, I spend my nights either Netflixing, partying, video gaming, or studying for that exam I forgot I have on Thursday. I work long hours and make an exhausting commute during traffic hour to get to school, only to spend an annoying amount of time looking for parking in a lot a lot of miles away from my classes.

By the time I’m done with my first lecture all I want to do is nap. But the search for a good place to nap on campus is the most exhausting part of my day. You can’t just nap anywhere! A good place to nap has to be quiet, not crowded, not too hot or cold, comfortable and spacious.

Finding a good spot like this is difficult. I've spent the past two years trying to map out the best spots in FIU to catch some Z’s, and after some experimenting and getting opinions from professional sleepers around campus, I’ve finally managed to compile a list of the best places to get some shut eye at MMC.

Probably the most well known nap area is the piano room in the Graham Center. You don’t have to walk far to get here since GC is pretty much right in the middle of everything. This is literally a room full of couches just beckoning your tired little body to rest on its cushiony goodness. If you don’t mind the noise coming from all the students talking in the halls, this is a good place to default to when you need a quick nap.

Also in GC is the Game Room next to Chili’s. There’s not many places to lay your head here, but as long as no one is playing Super Smash Brothers on one of the screens, you can actually have a small room with a couch to yourself. Bring a sweater, though, because the temperature in there is practically below zero.

The study lounge area in AHC3 is another good place to nap. “It has long couches and it’s usually quiet. And if it’s not, no one’s really in there for long so it doesn’t matter,” says junior Melissa Miranda.

The lounge is a good choice when you need a morning nap; in the evening the lounge becomes a meeting area and naps are difficult to have.

The law building is golden. Hidden in the library is a good place to nap so long as you’re on the right floor.

The law building is quiet and never really crowded. If you’re looking for a place where you can nap away from the general population, the library makes a really comfy couches and swings of the law building are for you.

During the early afternoon most of the typical nap areas get taken over by students prepping for tests, but if you walk to the reception hall the walls are lined with cushioned benches just big enough for you to lie down on.

The library is a good place to nap so long as you’re on the right floor. “The music rooms on the 5th floor of the library are great!” said senior Juan Erazo. “They’re supposed to be sound isolated, meaning you don’t hear much noise from outside. They’re relatively easy to get since there’s so many of them, and many have a nice view of the campus.”

The most popular area to nap in remains in your own car in one of the garages. The garage of choice? Red garage.

“The temperature is right and the lighting is perfect,” said senior Michael Vulcian. Fellow pro-napper Gabriel Rodriguez said that between classes she sleeps in the Red Garage because no one can see her or take her belongings.

In a garage you don’t feel watched, and you don’t have to deal with other people’s noise. If you want to fall asleep to the silky sounds of your new One Direction album you totally can without any judgements.

Where do other students like to catch some shut eye? “My favorite place is for sure the Panther Hall lounge because no no one is there during the day and that means you sleep like a Snorkel,” said sophomore Santiago Scott.

Sophomore Jane Rodriguez prefers the lounge is a good choice when you need a morning nap; in the evening the lounge becomes a meeting area and naps are difficult to have.

“Companionship” from their designated baby.

The search for a good place to nap on campus is the most exhausting part of my day.
Uncommon materials used in sculpture exhibit

**ALFREDO APARICIO**

*Staff Writer*

A sculpture made completely out of recycled rubber tires is just one of the many eccentric and atypical materials that were used to build the 10 monumental sculptures featured in the Sculpture Park as part of the Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum’s exhibit, “American Sculpture in the Tropics,” which began last October.

The exhibition, originally shown for the first time in St. Urban, Switzerland as part of the exhibit, “American Sculpture in the Alps,” was brought to Director and Chief Curator Carol Karpowicz’s attention by John Henry, who created the sculpture. “I, Lean, 2012,” specifically for the exhibit in the States to replace his original piece that was sold in Switzerland and has two other pieces, entitled “Blue Storm, 1993” and “Fan, 1982,” on campus.

One of the biggest appeals of the exhibit were the materials used to make the sculptures such as Verina Baxter’s “Big Red Tunnik, 2007” made of recycled aluminum and stainless steel, Peter Lundberg’s “Mercury, 2007,” “Venus, 2007,” and “Mars, 2007,” made out of copper, colored metal and Terrence Karpowicz’s “Untitled, n.d.,” made out of granite, steel and wood.

“Seeing them in pictures didn’t compare to the grand scale look of the sculptures in person,” said Damian. “The pieces were just sitting there [in Switzerland], they didn’t have the sponsorship to bring them back and the artists started saying ‘we want our work back.’ That’s when John [Henry] contacted me about bringing the exhibit to campus.”

The sculptures, which were set to arrive on May of last year during hurricane season, forced Damian to seek co-sponsorship. Henry contacted Sarasota’s Season of the Arts and the sculptures were featured there before coming to the University—a trip that was sponsored by R. Kirk Landon, who demonstrated his support immediately after talking to Damian about the exhibit.

“We collaborated to save expenses and it worked out perfectly because we were able to install the sculptures for Art Basel when Season of the Arts finished. Most of the artists came and picked out the spots where they wanted their piece featured,” Damian said. “It was a lengthy process, making sure each sculpture’s placement had the approval of an electrical engineer, was hurricane approved and strapped down, as well as safe in most weather conditions, but it’s exciting to have these sculptures on exhibit and exposing the University to new artists.”

The installation of the sculptures also coincided with the Frost’s ninth annual Breakfast in the Park, which featured artist Albert Paley, who has his own piece, “Portal, 2005,” in the exhibition. “We really wanted to get people interested in sculpture,” said Damian. “It was coincidence that Albert [Paley] was featured in this year.”

In the exhibit, “Renegade, 2007” by Chakia Booker, made completely out of rubber tires, is Damian’s favorite piece.

“It’s such an interesting concept, to get recyclable things that most people wouldn’t use and make something artistic out of them. I think it’s fascinating because it takes on this living quality in that, depending on how you look at it, it can look like skin of an alligator or the wings of a dragon,” said Damian. “It’s fun for children when they try to guess what it’s made out of and they never do until they get close to it and see it’s tires.”

When the exhibit closes on May 20, it has plans to move to Georgia Tech, although Damian hopes to keep some of the pieces or replace them when the International Sculpture Conference, which brings together artists from all over the world and hosts different material and sculpture workshops, comes to the campus later in the year.

“We hope and will continue to maintain this park as one of the most important sculpture parks in the South,” Damian said.

--alfredo.aparicio@fiusm.com

**KARLA REYES**

*Contributing Writer*

When most students hear the words “math club,” excitement and intrigue are the last things that come to mind.

But if students were to take part in the organization called FIU Math Circles, they may discover a newfound appreciation for the wonders of math. Continuing a tradition dating from the 12th century in Eastern Europe, math professors Mirroslav Yotov and Gueorguiey Yotov first started the Math Circles at FIU in 2004 with the intention of providing a math community for their children, as well as the children of their colleagues.

“The idea [of the Math Circles was to] teach the students what good math is according to us professionals,” said Yotov.

Thanks to word of mouth and advertising in local public schools, the Math Circles has gained popularity both inside and outside the FIU community. Because of the influx, students are separated into two groups: the Big Circle for high school students and the Little Circle for elementary and middle school students.

As the Math Circles continued to grow, the program changed. What started off as a program to get students to develop a deeper understanding of math, turned into a training program for math Olympians.

“The program changed according to what the parents needed and what they wanted,” said Yotov. “However, when I see the students intrigued by a certain lesson, I do take the opportunity to teach them the deeper math.”

And parents appreciate the lessons that Yotov has to teach. The reach of the Math Circles doesn’t extend to just neighboring public schools in the same county; parents bring their children from as far as Broward and Palm Beach County.

Justin Fisher and his wife Claudia make the two-hour drive from their home in Palm Beach County to FIU twice a month in order for their home-schooled son, Ethan, to take part in the circles. When asked why they decide to drive so far, Justin Fisher simply replied, “Mirroslav is the key to the castle.”

Since attending the Math Circles, the Fishers have noticed a newfound confidence in their 10-year-old son.

“He’s not only learning the fundamentals of math, but he’s also developing critical thinking and logic that is important in everyday life,” said Claudia Fisher.

Neyyer Correal-Winters also appreciates the lessons from Yotov, as he drives his son’s son, Naige and Patrick, from Cooper City to FIU.

“We’re lucky to have someone like Professor Yotov and his experience to train [these students] for the math Olympians,” Correal-Winters said.

The students show their appreciation and love for math as well. Naige Correal-Winters, a sixth-grader in middle school, balances soccer and math Olympians on top of being a student.

“I like soccer, but math will help me more in life,” said Naige Correal-Winters. “Claudia Fisher also said that her son Ethan has told her that he enjoys doing solving math problems. ‘I think it’s fun,’ said Ethan Fisher.”

That is the reward that Yotov takes away from the Math Circles. “[I don’t do it for the glory],” said Yotov. “I enjoy it. It’s rewarding to see kids understand.”

--life@fiusm.com

**Math Circles**

*When:* Every other Saturday from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*Where:* GC 276 and GC 277

*How much:* Free
Professor proposes to find better way to purify water

EDNIVE SENE
Staff Writer

Currently, only 1 percent of the Earth’s water is usable by humans, which means about a billion people do not have access to clean water, according to Kevin O’Shea, professor at FIU’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and associate dean of the Graduate School.

By the year 2025, he says, two-thirds of the world’s population will be faced with clean water shortages due partly to the increase in the contamination of water acquirers and demand.

However, there’s still hope. Scientists are conducting researches to find ways to avoid shortage of clean water.

One of these researchers is O’Shea. After conducting research for nearly 20 years on water purification, starting in FIU’s Drinking Water Research Center, he decided to put together a research proposal on finding a more economical and accessible way of purifying water.

Now being funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and National Science Foundation, O’Shea is working with his own research group which includes students, scientists and collaborators from around the world.

They are working on advanced oxidation technologies that will destroy water toxins through a series of chemical reactions. So far, they have produced self-cleaning materials that will use sunlight to destroy the toxins that cause dirt. The same technique will be used in purifying water because using sunlight as a source of energy; they will separate the toxins from the water making it easier to filter. Some purification products require ultraviolet rays to work, but this will only need sunlight which is more accessible and can be used for individual use as well as on a larger scale.

“They can be put in bottles being sent to third world countries,” O’Shea said, “and all they would have to do is expose the water to sunlight and it would work.” These technologies will be able to get rid of toxins like arsenic, and harmful algal blooms cyanotoxins due to algal blooms which can be harmful to both humans and sea life.

It is a long process to develop catalysts that will activate the reactions, according to O’Shea, and it can be costly.

“It costs you to study these toxins, because just one milligram of arsenic can cost $200,” O’Shea said, “and it takes a while to collect the toxins, have engineers map the reactions, and figure out where to attack them.”

The process might be challenging, but the results are worth it. “It feels rewarding,” said O’Shea about being in the process of developing this technology.

According to O’Shea, they are still in the demonstration stage, as they are still trying to find catalysts that absorb more sunlight, and finding what works better, so it might take a while before anything is released to the public.

-ednive.sene@fiu.edu.com

Pre-moot prepares students

JACQUELINE ROSADO
Staff Writer

For most people, the practice of law revolves around the court. However, many cases never even make it there. On Feb. 1, the College of Law held their 2013 Miami International Arbitration Pre-Moot.

The College of Law needs to prepare an arbitration team for the Nineteenth Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The event will be held in Vienna and Hong Kong this spring.

Alexander Thorlton, a third level evening law student, was a participant in last year’s team and tried out for this year’s team at the University’s Miami Pre-Moot.

According to Thorlton, the 2013 Miami International Arbitration Pre-Moot is a practice round in preparation for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, where over 400 law schools from around the world will be participating.

Manuel Gomez, an associate professor who teaches International Arbitration at the College of Law, is the one who coaches and selects the team members who prepare the Miami Pre-Moot and later compete in the International Moot.

According to Gomez, arbitration is a form of dispute resolution that involves an arbitrator, or a private judge, whose job it is to make a decision in a legal claim.

“The Moot is a simulated case based on real world problems between two parties that are being resolved in arbitration proceedings instead of in a court,” said Thorlton.

Thorlton’s contribution to the legal team is to make arguments in front of the court to persuade the arbitrators to rule in favor of his team’s client.

“At the FRU Pre-Moot, our team’s legal arguments are put to the test by local experts and practitioners in arbitration,” said Thorlton.

Gomez said that the only difference between the Miami Pre-Moot and International Moot is that the Miami Pre-Moot only involves a handful of teams while the International Moot involves over 400 teams from all over the world. Overall, both proceedings are basically the same.

The University’s College of Law has had teams from Europe, Latin America and other universities within the United States to represent them in the international event, including the University of Miami.

“(The Miami Pre-Moot and International Moot) gives the students an opportunity to interact with students all over the world and prepare themselves to argue a real case in the context of international arbitration,” said Gomez.

djg@fiu.edu.com

ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

COME MEET ALUMNI AT OUR INFORMATION SEMINAR

DEcisive. RESilient. COMPassionate. THE DEFINITION OF A ROSS GRADUATE.

Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM) provides clinical rotations at teaching hospitals across the US. Our graduates have attained more US residencies than those of any other medical school in the last five years.

RUSM is eligible to participate in the US Federal Direct Loan Program; financial aid and scholarships are available to those who qualify.

For comprehensive consumer information visit www.RossU.edu/med-student-consumer-info

LILIAN SARFATI, MD ’12
Family Medicine Resident

HYATT REGENCY MIAMI
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013 - 2 PM

Speak with alumni and our admissions staff, bring your family and friends who are helping you make this transition, food and refreshments will be provided.

fosm@rossu.edu
(284) 838-2121
The men came close, just not close enough. On Jan. 31, the FIU men’s basketball team fell apart in a devastating loss to the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders, 66-64.

In their previous meeting, the Panthers lost to the Blue Raiders on the road by 17 points. It was the second largest margin of defeat for FIU, only behind the shellacking they took in a loss to the University of Tennessee. The Panthers have been struggling on the road this year, winning just 2 of 14 games away from Miami. The team is 2-6 away from Miami and has lost their last seven road games.

Senior guard Imajae Dodd scored a career-high 27 points, but that was not enough to secure a win for FIU. The Panthers were out-rebounded 48-37 and shot a season-low 35 percent from the field.

The Panthers were also out-rebounded by 21 in their previous meeting against the Blue Raiders. That game was a 17-point win for Middle Tennessee. In that game, FIU had a five-game home winning streak on the line against the Blue Raiders, but lost by 27 points.

With the home loss, FIU now sits 7-9 overall and 3-6 in the Sun Belt. The Panthers are currently in 11th place in the league.

The Blue Raiders, who were ranked number one in three-point field goal defense, allowed the Panthers to shoot a blistering 60 percent from beyond the arc. FIU also converted on 13 of those 19 attempts.

The Panthers, led by Imajae Dodd, made just 4 of 17 three-point attempts.

This, however, would prove to be a tale of two halves.

Raymond Cintron, who was 0-for-3 from the three-point line in the first half, ignited down the stretch. He was a perfect 4-for-4 from the perimeter, bringing his MT back into the game.

“He’s a really good player and you’ve got to respect him and you can’t leave him like that,” FIU Head Coach Richard Pitino said.

After two wild three-point attempts by FIU’s Malik Smith and Marco Porcher Jimenez that were way off, Middle Tennessee was able to tie up the ball game with 0.9 seconds left in the game.

“Malik shot a three in transition that was ridiculous. Marco shot a three in transition that was ridiculous and we have addressed that over the last week,” Pitino said. “We really worked on that – time and scoring. They didn’t learn their lesson.”

With the ball under their basket, Middle Tennessee’s Head Coach Kermit Davis drew up the perfect alley-oop pass to Shaw Jones.

“We knew the play. They just have taller and more athletic players than we do. We knew it was coming,” Pitino said.

**MARCO, POLO**

Porcher Jimenez, a redshirt sophomore, may have missed a pivotal three late in the Middle Tennessee game, but overall, he has elevated his play and found his role on the team.

He is currently FIU’s most efficient shooter from beyond the arc. His 44 percent from the three-point line is the second best in the SBC. His performances against South Alabama and Middle Tennessee earned him a starting role in the team’s contest against Louisiana Monroe (3-15, 2-10 SBC).

Versus the Warhawks, Porcher Jimenez recorded his fourth straight double-digit scoring game. His fourth rebound of the game clinched the 76-73 win for the Panthers on Feb. 2.

**NOT FOREVER YOUNG**

Pitino is only 30 years old. He only has four active seniors on his team. The rest of his active players are either sophomore walk-ons or from small junior colleges. The only exception to that rule is Jerome Frink, who is the lone playing freshman on the team.

Frink, who is the lone playing freshman on the team, had his fourth straight double-digit scoring game. His fourth rebound of the game clinched the 76-73 win for the Panthers on Feb. 2.

See **BASKETBALL**, PAGE 7
Young team still has some growing pains

BASKETBALL, PAGE 6

young.

“I was really upset, not at the players, but I was really disappointed we didn’t get the two wins [South Alabama, Middle Tennessee], because I thought we made a lot of mistakes,” Pitino said. “I went home and I thought about it, and these guys are basically all freshmen. None of them have played college basketball the way that we play.”

The two defeats can be crippling on the minds of young players and Pitino expressed his concern over a possible mental collapse going into the Louisiana-Monroe game.

Quidditch team flying high while grounded

QUIDDITCH, PAGE 6

sented by a volleyball, into a set of hoops on the field to gain points. Every time a quaffle is thrown into a hoop, the scoring team gains 10 points.

The beaters throw bludgers, represented by dodgeballs, at the opposing team to knock them out.

The keeper is the goal-tender of the team’s hoops. Their job is to stop the quaffle from entering the hoop.

The seeker has to chase a snitch. The snitch is a third-party player that has a tennis ball in a sock attached like a flag in flag football. Once the seeker grabs the snitch, the seeker’s team gains 30 points, and the game is over.

One of the most important rules of Muggle Quidditch, is that all players must run with a broom between their legs.

“Quidditch is a sport not to take lightly. Like football or hockey, contact can get rough, players often run non-stop, and players can get injured.

The FIU Quidditch Team has been in matches as far away as Virginia, a few members of the team believe that it would be a great networking and athletic experience to compete against teams from different places around the country.

“I was really concerned, because you think you are going to have a letdown. I thought at shoot around today those guys were so focused and so hungry to show people we are a good team and we’re not just a flash in the pan,” Pitino said.

With seven games left on the schedule, Pitino has nearly a full season under his belt to reference and learn from.

The Panthers’ next game will be Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the U.S. Century Bank Arena against the Florida Atlantic Owls (11-13, 6-7 SBC).

-plaza tailgate with free pizza, games & music

THE FIRST 750 STUDENTS RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT

ON THURSDAY, MEET THE NEW FOOTBALL COACHES

-classified

Inflatable boat stolen Feb. 3 during Color Run between 10 a.m. and noon. Reward.

mw2010mw@yahoo.com
Students prepare for SOBEWFF one event at a time

STEFANIE MASON  Staff Writer

While February may mean red hearts and boxes of chocolates for some, it means hard-work, volunteer hours and working with celebrity chefs for others. The South Beach Wine & Food Festival is approaching and thousands of students from the University work the event every year and this year is no exception.

Returning for his third year working at SOBEWFF, Marlon Edwards, junior in hospitality management, said, “I’ve done a little bit of everything [at SOBEWFF].”

Although he has worked at SOBEWFF in the past, it is Edwards’ first year working at the Fun & Fit event.

“I picked this particular event because...[it’s] Fun and Fit. Health is very important to me right now so I would definitely love to impact the young generation at that age so they can understand that being healthy doesn’t always have to be like ‘ugh,’” said Edwards. “It can be fun as well.”

Another student returning to work at SOBEWFF, Santiago Cardona, senior in hospitality management, said he worked at the festival the previous year with a culinary position and worked over 50 hours.

“I enjoyed it so much that I’m willing to do it again. It was a lot of work but I felt like it was worth it,” said Cardona.

“You get to meet a lot of people, you make a lot of connections...you meet people who can write recommendations for you, people that could offer you jobs. You get to go to the events for free, they’re like 300 dollar events. There’s so much you’re going to get out of it, that there’s no reason for you not to want to put in the hours,” Cardona said. Lauren Keller, senior in hospitality management, is working at SOBEWFF for the second time this year. When speaking about her previous year working at SOBEWFF, Keller said, “It was fun because I met a lot of friends and made connections and I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

However, not all students are returners. Rebecca Merek, freshman in hospitality management, said it is going to be her first time working at SOBEWFF.

When speaking about her job at the event, logistics, Merek said she is looking forward to “the benefits and just the experience. I’ve never had a job before so I really wanted to gain the experience.”

Rather than just working the standard positions at SOBEWFF, a select number of students are also chosen for the role of coordinators for certain events.

Demi Marroquin, senior in hospitality management, is a coordinator this year for the events: Moët Hennessy’s The Q, Burger Bash, A Red Hot Night: Presented by Target, and Guy Fieri’s Roadshow & Reggae with Ziggy Marley.

Marroquin has been working at SOBEWFF since her sophomore year at the University and started working as a coordinator for the event this past October.

“I started off for the experience because I want to go into events. My internships have always been in events, so I thought it would be a good hands-on experience,” said Marroquin. “It’s a lot of fun too. I love working with students.”

Sharing why she wanted to be a coordinator, Donovan said, “What motivated me is because I’m such a big ‘foodie’ and I love Food Network and I also love the networking experience and, along with Demi, I love the events as well.”

With some years of experience under their belt, Marroquin and Donovan gave advice for students new to working at SOBEWFF.

“Have fun and use the opportunity wisely to network and learn things,” said Donovan.

Marroquin said her advice will be to “Stay hydrated, wear comfortable shoes, and sunscreen, lots of sunscreen and just to have fun and enjoy it; it passes by so fast.”

Students to carry weight of award-winning words

ACKENA MILLER  Contributing Writer

“I know they must carry the weight of their lives in the curl of their sullied and empty hands,” wrote John Hodgen in his book, “In My Father’s House.”

Students will weigh and immerse their lives in the poetic words of Hodgen as part of the Barnes & Noble Writers On the Bay Reading series tomorrow, Feb. 7 at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Biscayne Bay Campus at 8 p.m.

Hodgen is a winner of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs’ Donald Hall Prize for poetry, 2008 Chad Walsh Prize in Poetry from Beloit Poetry Journal, and the Yankee Magazine Award for Poetry prize. Some of his poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and he was a finalist in Houghton Mifflin’s New Poetry Series.

“John Hodgen is a significant voice in American poetry who has published a number of books,” said Julie Wade, assistant professor in the Department of English.

“Grace,” “In My Father’s House,” and “Heaven and Earth Holding Company” will be available in the bookstore for purchase before and after the reading and students can get their copies signed.

“The purpose of Writers on the Bay is to bring students, faculty, and members of the community into personal contact with writers and give them an opportunity to listen to quality literature read aloud and to interact with the makers of that literature directly,” said Wade.

Wade also discussed how it is important not to just recognize writers of the past but to also recognize authors who are living and producing literary works that provide just as much insight as to what literature is about.

“I know that when I first went to college, I couldn’t name any living writers. I had only studied canonical literature by writers who had mostly lived and died long before I was born,” said Wade. “So for me, it was revolutionary to realize that not only were there living writers of poetry and fiction and creative nonfiction but also that they sometimes traveled around and might come to my own university, where I could hear them read and ask them questions about their work.”

The reading provides students with great insight on what it takes to become a great writer. There are also many other benefits not just for students but people in the community as well.

“I think the reading series is invigorating for students who want to be writers and to learn more about what a writing life entails, but I think the series is enjoyable for anyone interested in literature and simply curious about contemporary creative voices. There’s both entertainment and educational value implicit in these Writers on the Bay events.”

Students gather around for the Fun & Fit orientation on Thursday, Jan. 31st. Fun & Fit is one of the many events taking place at the South Beach Wine & Food Festival this year. Taekesa Donovan (very right hand side) is the event coordinator for Fun & Fit this year and is speaking with students working at the event after the orientation.

INTO THE LAB

Cristina Romero-Castillo, a postdoctoral researcher in the University, presents a sample of water from the Everglades into a small tube called a cuvette. Castillo studies the different organic matter in samples from several locations by measuring optical properties such as fluorescence and color.