University offering free online classes

FIU enters MOOC generation

University offering free online classes

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 the movement called Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) 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, taking a class online is now as easy as just signing up. No charge.

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 classes? Do they offer college credit as well?”

Other classes include Project Management Basics, as well as Fundamentos para la Dirección de Proyectos. Although it may not offer college credit, the course provides an educational experience for those who do not have time to attend school or are unable to afford the classes.

“We basically cut a section of the bench down to the table level of competition workshops that looked at the best open spaces on campus to make a big, transformative impact,” according to 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.

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 a sanctuary place Roviro described.

There will be large canape structures which will be very light weight, 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 $280,000 - $250,000 to the overall budget.

DM courtyard closed for the next 10 weeks

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

Construction around campus keeps expanding; this time it’s Deuxieme Maison building’s turn to obtain a few beauty touches and transform. DM is located at the Modesto Madigue 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 somehow 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 group 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.

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"stephan.useche@fiusm.com"
Law clinic offering up free legal advice

To those who cannot afford a lawyer, or any other legal charge, you need not look any further. Inside the University’s College of Law is the FIU Law Clinic Program, providing people with legal advice and representation at absolutely no cost. Since its founding in 2004, the clinic has been run by both professors and law students.

From immigration and human rights law to environmental law, the clinic provides an array of services to the public.

“When we started in 2004, we only had one clinic. So from 2004 to the present, we have expanded our clinics. Now, we have eight clinics, so we have found that there is a need in the community for the service that we are providing,” said Zoraya Ledesma, administrative assistant for the FIU College of Law Clinical Program.

“Our [Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic] has over 100 cases that we are actually working on, the [Family and Children’s Advocacy] Clinic has over 50 cases, the [Immigrant Children’s Advocacy] Clinic has about the same amount, [and] we have a Community Development Clinic, which every semester we get about maybe 40,” said Ledesma.

The clinic also provides a hands-on experience for the students; it helps them apply their studies into real-life legal situations as their professors watch over their every move. It is not a requirement for the law school, however, it is under the College of Law’s curriculum.

“The only difference between the [Clinic] and the other courses taught at the Law School is the fact that we have an actual case component to the course. So we have our class, and as part of that class, we actually have cases that the law students work on,” said Ledesma.

Those seeking the clinic’s legal advice can either visit the offices or call in for advice.

The front desk will then match the person seeking advice to a specific clinic. If the case falls under a certain clinic, the law students will come in and help.

So, not, they will refer the person to a different agency that can better help them.

Though the law students are still unlicensed, they can provide people with help because they are working under the supervision of professors, who are all licensed attorneys.

Since “the [students] work under the supervision of a licensed attorney,” said Ledesma, “under The Law Clinic’s hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday, they close at 5 p.m. Their number is 305-348-7541.

- new@fiusm.com

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Comptroller position filled

BRANDON WISE
News Director

Freddy Juarez was selected by the Student Government Council as the comptroller for the Modesto Madique Campus.

The position, which was vacant for the past three months, has been filled now just in time for budget hearings, which started Tuesday. Juarez was selected after the staff was forced into “emergency mode” with the impending budget hearings beginning on Feb. 5. Juarez was formerly the Homecoming Director where he had a budget of over $500,000.

He also had the Interfraternity Council, where he monitored roughly $150,000. Juarez was nominated chief of staff for Laura Farinas in January and held that position up until Monday, Feb. 4. He is a senior psychology major and business administration minor.

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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.

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. Paruir Airikian, 63, was shot and wounded by an unidentified assailant outside his home in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, on Thursday just before midnight. Airikian said from the hospital after surgery Friday that he would initiate proceedings as allowed by the constitution to delay the vote for 15 days due to his condition, but not longer.

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. The Scandinavian-designed Black Hornet Nano weighs as little as 14 grams (roughly half an ounce) — the same as a finch. The 4-inch (10-centimeter) -long helicopter is half an ounce) — the same as a finch. The 4-inch (10-centimeter) -long helicopter is fitted with a tiny camera which relays still images and video to a remote terminal.

– Compiled by Brandon Wise

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– Compiled by Brandon Wise
ASHLEY VALENTIN
Contributing Writer

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 doing some experimenting and getting opinions from professional sleepers around campus, I’ve finally managed to compile a list of the best places to get a 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 very quiet spot. “I like to sleep in my office because there are no distractions,” says junior Melissa Miranda.

The law building is quiet and never really that crowded. If you’re looking for a place where you can nap away from the general population, the 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. “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 one is there during the day and that means you sleep like a snorlax,” said sophomore Santiago Scott.

Fellow pro-napper Gabriel Rodriguez prefers a quiet spot. “I like to sleep in my best friend’s dorm where people aren’t in and out.”

Noah Blanco, senior, says, “My spot is the toilet. I can snore as loud as I want inside that cubicle.”

FIU students tend to sleep virtually anywhere. This semester when you need a good rest and don’t know where to go, these are really some of the best spots to try.

Just maybe not the toilet.

Send us your letters
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at 2109 FIU Hall. 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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The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the FIU Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and members of the University community.

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The search for a good place to nap on campus is the most exhausting part of my day.

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Math Circles proves to be more than just tutoring

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 Gueo Grantcharov 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 topic, 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.

Neyier Correal-Winters also appreciates the lessons from Yotov, as he drives his sons, Neiyer and Ethan, 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, who brought her son Ethan to the University—a trip that was sponsored by R. K. 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 a special artist’s exhibition in St. Petersburg, Florida, as part of the University’s celebration of the artist’s work.”

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 with new ones. “If things go as planned,” said Damian, “you’ll definitely see this sculpture on exhibit for longer after this trip. It’s made of concrete and wood and has a unique scale look of the sculptures.”

“After seeing it, we feel that it’s made out of gravel, steel and granite,” said Damian. “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, who brought her son Ethan to the University—a trip that was sponsored by R. K. 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 a special artist’s exhibition in St. Petersburg, Florida, as part of the University’s celebration of the artist’s work.”
Professor proposes to find better way to purify water

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

One of those 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, 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, 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.

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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 from Louisiana Monroe, 88-59, on Jan. 2. Middle Tennessee is the second best team in the SBC. His performances 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. After 22 games and back-to-back two point losses to the number one and number two teams in the SBC, it finally dawned on Pitino. The team is 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 Shawn 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).

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FIU bounces back after crushing loss

The FIU men’s basketball team had an up-and-down weekend after losing against Middle Tennessee 66-64 on Jan. 31 and edging out Louisiana Monroe 76-73 on Feb. 2.
**SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE**

*Robert Jimenez/The Beacon*

With only two days remaining before the season kicks off, the FIU softball team held an intra-squad scrimmage on Feb. 4.

**Young team still has some growing pains**

**BASKETBALL, PAGE 6**

"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.

"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).

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**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 other team gains 15 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.

While the sport may sound simple and odd, Muggle Quidditch is a sport not to take lightly. Like football or hockey, contact can get rough.

"It is crazy to think that something most people don’t even know exists, a game made up in a children’s book series, is something that we can play against people all over the country. It would be a fantastic experience,” said Casey Lamrouex, a junior architecture major and the team’s chaser.

Nydam believes that the club has a sturdy foundation that can survive once the founders graduate. "There are some really reliable, determined and dedicated underclassmen on the team right now that have the chance to continue the team for a while to come. After I graduate, I feel like it will not just fall apart because of not only the returning members but also the members who we bring in now and over the next few years. It has so far been a greater success than I or any of the other founding members could have ever imagined," said Nydam.

On Feb. 9, the team visits Brevard Community College in Titusville for the Florida Quidditch Conference to play against other Florida Quidditch teams.

-sports@fiusm.com

**CLASSIFIED**

Inflatable boat stolen Feb. 3 during Color Run between 10 a.m. and noon. Reward. mw2010mv@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 the festival, 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 because…[it’s] Fun and Fit.”

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.

“Have fun,” said Donovan. “It’s a lot of work but it’s worth it.”

“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. Taekesha 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.”

—stephanie.mason@fiusm.com

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 curled 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 Chautauqua 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 revelatory 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 writers 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 simply curious about contemporary creative voices. There’s both educational and entertainment value implicit in these Writers on the Bay events.”

—stephanie.mason@fiusm.com

INTO THE LAB

Cristina Romero-Castillo, a postdoctoral researcher in the University, pours 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.

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Wednesday, February 6, 2013

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SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Students prepare for SOBEWFF one event at a time

STEFANIE MASON Staff Writer

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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 getting 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.”

“Yet, 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.”

Demar 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.”

“Tackesha Donovan, a senior in hospitality management, also started working for SOBEWFF as a coordinator in October. Donovan was previously a student volunteer for SOBEWFF for two years and will be working as a coordinator for the Fun & Fit event this year.

“With some years of experience under their belt, Marroquin and Donovan gave advice for students new to working at SOBEWFF. "It’s cool and use the opportunity wisely to network and learn things," said Donovan.

Marroquin said her advice would 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.”

—stephanie.mason@fiusm.com

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