

TECHNOLOGY

University offering free online classes

FIU enters MOOC generation with courses open to the public

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.

DM courtyard closed for the next 10 weeks

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 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.

"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 canapé 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.

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LIFT FOR LIFE



ROBERTO JIMINEZ/THE BEACON

Fernando Trillo, sophomore chemistry major (left), and Joshua Brisk, senior business major (right), spot for Curtis Mizell, freshman criminal justice major during an event hosted by the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. Brisk was in the pit charging \$3 to bench press 225 pounds, with all proceeds are for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

JUST DANCE



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The DM kickoff started at the pit Monday, Feb. 4, and will continue all week to promote the Dance Marathon. The event will raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network and will take place this Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Recreation Center.

NEWS FLASH

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 a 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 16 grams (roughly 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

COLLEGE OF LAW

Law clinic offering up free legal advice

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

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 Justice] 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.

If 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

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Now, we have eight clinics, so we have found that there is a need in the community for the service that we are providing.”

Zoraya Ledesma
Administrative Assistant
College of Law Clinical Program

Florida Bar rules, they can do what is called a Certified Legal Intern, in order to be able to represent the clients in court."

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.

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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 Maidique 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 with 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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THE BEACON

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

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Best places to catch some Zs around campus



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

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 million 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 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

"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.

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

all the way on the outskirts of campus lies a nap lover's paradise.

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 Scort.

Sophomore Jane Rodriguez prefers a very 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.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Sugar daddies: not as sweet as they seem

Getting an education is important, but some students are taking incredible measures to afford it.

University students are willing to go as far as prostitution, or what many are referring to as "companionship," to pay for their education.

Seekingarrangement.com, a website dedicated to matching "sugar babies" with "sugar daddies," recently reported that FIU is the seventh fastest growing sugar baby schools, based on new sign ups in 2012.

These sugar daddies are willing to pay the tuition, loans and debts all in return for some "companionship" from their designated baby.

While the site has a strict policy on prohibiting any language that implicates prostitution, they don't control what happens behind closed doors, and we're sure they're not gullible enough to believe that students are just spending quality time with someone who's willing to pay off a \$30,000 school loan.

It smells like a front for high-end prostitution if you ask us.

Not only is prostitution illegal, it's dangerous. Assault and rape is all too common in prostitution, which is why it's known as the most dangerous job in America.

With the increase in tuition, we understand that many students can no longer afford an education and are forced to take out loans, stacking on a debt that is unlikely to be paid off easily.

But no one ever said it would be easy. But it's most definitely possible.

There are multiple ways to pay for school, and it can start by simply getting a job. This is not easy either, particularly with the job market as it is now, but again, it is possible. Seekingarrangement.com is not the solution to the problem.

No amount of money is good enough to bargain with your life. You never know who someone really is when online dating. According to a global research by OpinionMatters, 53 percent of American people surveyed said they lied in their online dating profiles.

Resorting to this website is not in your best interest. As college students, you're much smarter than that.

To think that someone is willing to give you a monthly allowance of \$5,000 dollars for friendship in return is ludicrous. No one is that generous, and it's certainly not out of the kindness of their heart.

While it seems like easy money, it won't be as easy to live with yourself after the fact. This is your education. Expensive or not, you chose this path for yourself. A path that we all hope will one day lead us to a successful career. So how can we strive for so much, but respect ourselves so little?

Seekingarrangement.com is bad news waiting to happen.

So think twice before you get yourself into a situation that might possibly scar you emotionally and physically for the rest of your life.

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 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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EDITORIAL POLICY

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 michae.baisden@fiusm.com.

THE PATRICIA & PHILLIP FROST ART MUSEUM

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 Damian'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 Tumkin, 2007" made out of painted aluminum and stainless steel, Peter Lundberg's "Mercury, 2007," "Venus, 2007" and "Mars, 2007," made out of copper and colored concrete 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 to 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 Chakaia 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 the 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.

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PHOTOS BY ALFREDO APARICIO

Chakaia Booker, Renegade, 2007, Rubber tire, 96 x 60 x 60 inches. [top] Verina Baxter, Big Red Tumkin, 2007, Painted aluminum & stainless steel, 158 x 74 x 120 inches. [bottom right] John Henry, I Lean, 2012, Steel Painted Red, 312 x 204 x 120 inches. [bottom left] Peter Lundberg, Mercury, 2007, copper and colored concrete 56 x 27 x 12 inches. [center]

FIU MATH CIRCLES

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 to 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 problem, 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.

Neiyer Correal-Winters also appreciates the lessons from Yotov, as he drives his sons, 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.

pians 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

DRINKING WATER RESEARCH CENTER

Professor proposes to find better way to purify water

EDWIVE 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 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.

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COLLEGE OF LAW

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 its 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 Thorton, 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 Thorton, 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 Interna-

tional 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 a court," said Thorton.

Thorton'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 FIU Pre-Moot, our team's legal arguments are put to the test by local experts and practitioners in arbitration," said Thorton.

Gomez's reason for becoming the coach for the Miami Pre-Moot and International Moot is that while teaching in the College of Law, he felt his students needed the practical experience in arbitration.

Gomez expressed that trying out for the team is very competitive, while many people want to participate, the College of Law only has so many spots.

Gomez explained that in order to qualify, applicants must go through a trial process, held

every September, which consists of extensive writing and research. They also have to demonstrate that they have the necessary oral skills to argue before a panel of experts.

According to Gomez, the University's College of Law has been participating in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot for over five years.

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.

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LILIAN SARFATI, MD '12
Family Medicine Resident

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU bounces back after crushing loss

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

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 Louisville. Tymell Murphy, the Panther's leading rebounder, had zero boards in that meeting.

After that humiliating loss to the Blue Raiders (19-4, 11-1 Sun Belt Conference), Murphy and the Panthers (11-10, 6-6 SBC) tightened up their play going 7-2 before entering this contest. FIU had a five-game home winning streak on the line against the best team in the SBC.

The Panthers pounced early and went into the half with a 17-point lead. The team absolutely dominated the Blue Raiders through the first 20 minutes of play. FIU held the number one team in the SBC to 27 percent from the field, 27 percent from the three-point line and forced 13 turnovers.

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 those 13 turnovers, 10 of them coming from steals, into 22 points.

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 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).

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

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ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

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.

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CLUB FEATURE

Nydam: "[Quidditch's] a greater success than... ever imagined."

RHYS WILLIAMS AND AARON PABON
FIUSM Staff

In the magical world of Harry Potter, there is a sport that combines lacrosse, rugby and flying. It's called Quidditch.

In 2005, the fictional sport became a reality at Middlebury College in Vermont, and has since been popular among colleges.

Two years ago a few Quidditch-loving FIU students gathered and formed the FIU Quidditch Team. Since then, the club has competed amongst themselves and other Florida universities.

"I was a member when the team was started back in 2010 and I have enjoyed watching it grow since then. I really love the Harry Potter books, and being able to do something that relates me to it is fine by me," said coach Kiara Nydam, a senior biology major.

The rules of the sport are similar to its fictional counterpart. Two teams meet on a field. Each team consists of three chasers, two beaters, one keeper and one seeker.

The chasers have to throw a quaffle, which is repre-

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SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE



ROBERTO 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

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.

"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 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.

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, 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 at FIU believe that it would be a great networking and athletic experience to compete against some teams from different places around the country.

"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.

Recently, the FIU Quidditch team has had tryouts, increasing its roster.

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.

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CLASSIFIED

Inflatable boat stolen Feb. 3 during Color Run between 10 a.m. and noon. Reward. mwj2010mwj@yahoo.com

SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Students prepare for SOBEEWFF one event at a time

STEPHANIE 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 SOBEEWFF]."

Although he has worked at SOBEEWFF 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 SOBEEWFF, 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.



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

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.

"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 to not want to put in the hours," Cardona said.

Lauren Keller, senior in hospitality management, is working at SOBEEWFF for the second time this year. When speaking about her previous year

working at SOBEEWFF, 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 SOBEEWFF.

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 SOBEEWFF, 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 SOBEEWFF since her sopho-

more 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."

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

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 SOBEEWFF.

"Have fun 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."

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INTO THE LAB



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Cristina Romera-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.

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 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 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 or simply curious about contemporary creative voices. There's both entertainment and educational value implicit in these Writers on the Bay events."

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