University School Student Wins First Place at Student Film Competition

More than 50 teams of high-school kids made movies to compete in a contest as part of the Miami International Film Festival.

BY MARGARITA SWEETING, SPECIAL TO THE MIAMI HERALD

Foreign directors, actors and local film buffs aren’t the only ones excited about this year’s Miami International Film Festival. One University School student stole the show at the awards ceremony of the Fifth Annual Student Film Competition on Sunday, March 6, 2011.

In the public-service announcement category, senior Eric Flemons from University School of Nova Southeastern University in Davie won first place with his film entitled The Road to Ruin. “This was something that has just always been in me, helping homeless people. I wanted everyone to see that the homeless are real people and not just scenery,” said Eric. University School students Brian Oldak, Jared March, Adam Diveroli, Christopher Yang, Victoria Kohl, Matthew Seely, Hayley Jackowitz, and Sarah Gordon also contributed to this winning project.

Sponsored by the Miami Coalition for the Homeless as part of the Miami International Film Festival, the competition included 56 entries from 65 students throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Students were required to produce a 30 and 15 second PSA surrounding the theme Homelessness: Just Look Around.

According to Pauline Clarke-Trotman, board president for the coalition, the student competition was created as a way of enlightening area youth to the realities of homelessness. “Since we started this event, there has been a marked decline in crimes against homeless people in Miami-Dade County,” said Clarke-Trotman.

Now in its fifth year, the competition is part of the week long festivities of the Miami International Film Festival.