

FITNESS MAGAZINE

FALL 2018 VOLUME 40



GAME ON!

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Social enterprise: A College of Business professor three years ago began taking undergraduates to an impoverished village on the outskirts of New Delhi. The goal: help local women make and sell a product that could bring in much needed funds for food and other basics. "We are approaching a tipping point," says David Wernick of what today is close to becoming a sustainable endeavor. "This project has the potential to really change the lives of some very poor women in India. But it is clear that it has already changed some other lives closer to home — the lives of our students," he added of the value individual participants have taken from the experience. At right, business student Cindy Makita poses with residents who this year focused on creating fashionable tote bags.





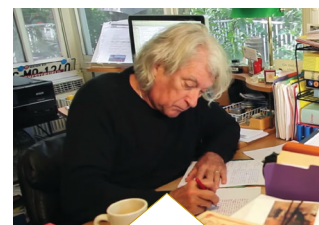
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Worth another look! Check out these classic FIU videos and others at go.fiu.edu/magazine-videos



FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOPE

A young woman excels after FIU extends a hand.



A creative writer spills his secrets

A well-published professor shares what it takes to succeed.



CAPTURING CANCER RESEARCH ON CAMPUS

Manipulating cells could be the key to a cure.



South Beach soirée

FIU students mix it up with celebrity chefs.



A riff on "Friends"

President Rosenberg stars in this welcome-to-campus clip.

AND DON'T MISS THESE MUST-SEE STORIES:

- A video about making FIU videos
- The "essence" of Pantherness
- Most watched ever: An April Fools' joke goes viral

FOR MORE, GO TO FIU'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

FROM THE EDITOR



For those of you old enough to remember, do you recall where you were Nov. 23, 1984? I do. I was in the stands of the Orange Bowl, rooting for the Boston College Eagles as they played the University of Miami Hurricanes. The 'Canes were defending national champs, but with a father and older sister who graduated from BC, my family was there that day rooting for the Eagles.

Full disclosure: I don't recall most of the details of that game. But, boy, do I remember the ending. With only six seconds remaining on the clock, we (BC) were losing. With the play clock expiring, BC quarterback Doug Flutie threw a 63-yard "Hail Mary" pass to Gerard Whelan, who was in the end zone. Incredibly, Whelan caught it, and just like that, the Boston College Eagles vanquished the defending national champions, 47-45, on their home turf. Today that game is routinely cited as one of the Top 10 greatest college football games of all time.


More than three decades later, I still remember the electricity in the stadium. It was palpable. As we were putting this issue together, I found myself thinking about that game — and other sporting events I've been fortunate enough to be a part of. Because that's how a truly memorable sporting event makes you feel — like you were a part of it, even if you were only a fan in the stands. That feeling that you're part of something bigger than yourself is hard to explain but oh so special.

In its brief history, FIU football has a bit of its own magic — the "Motor City Miracle" when quarterback Wesley Carroll threw a nine-yard pass to Jacob Younger on 4th and 17 with less than two minutes left in the team's first bowl appearance in 2010. Younger flipped the ball to T.Y. Hilton, who was running in front of him. Hilton literally "toed the line," speeding up the sideline to get the first down and keep FIU's hopes alive. Three plays later, Jack Griffin connected on a 34-yard field goal, and the Panthers stormed Ford Field having won the game 34-32.

I wasn't in the stands that day. I was at a local sports bar covering fan reaction to the game for FIU News. While the atmosphere in the bar that night was euphoric, I'm pretty sure it didn't compare to being in the stands.

I know there are more special moments to come from FIU football, but you can't be a part of them unless you attend a game. The young men who leave their hearts on the field every game for our FIU deserve our support. And this year, the university is working with a consulting company to elevate the game-day experience. That commitment to a new and improved fan experience also deserves our support.

I've already purchased my season tickets. Have you?


Karen Cochrane

On the cover: FIU Football kicks off its season Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at Riccardo Silva Stadium against Big Ten Conference opponent Indiana in a nationally televised game. Call 305-FIU-GAME to purchase your tickets today.

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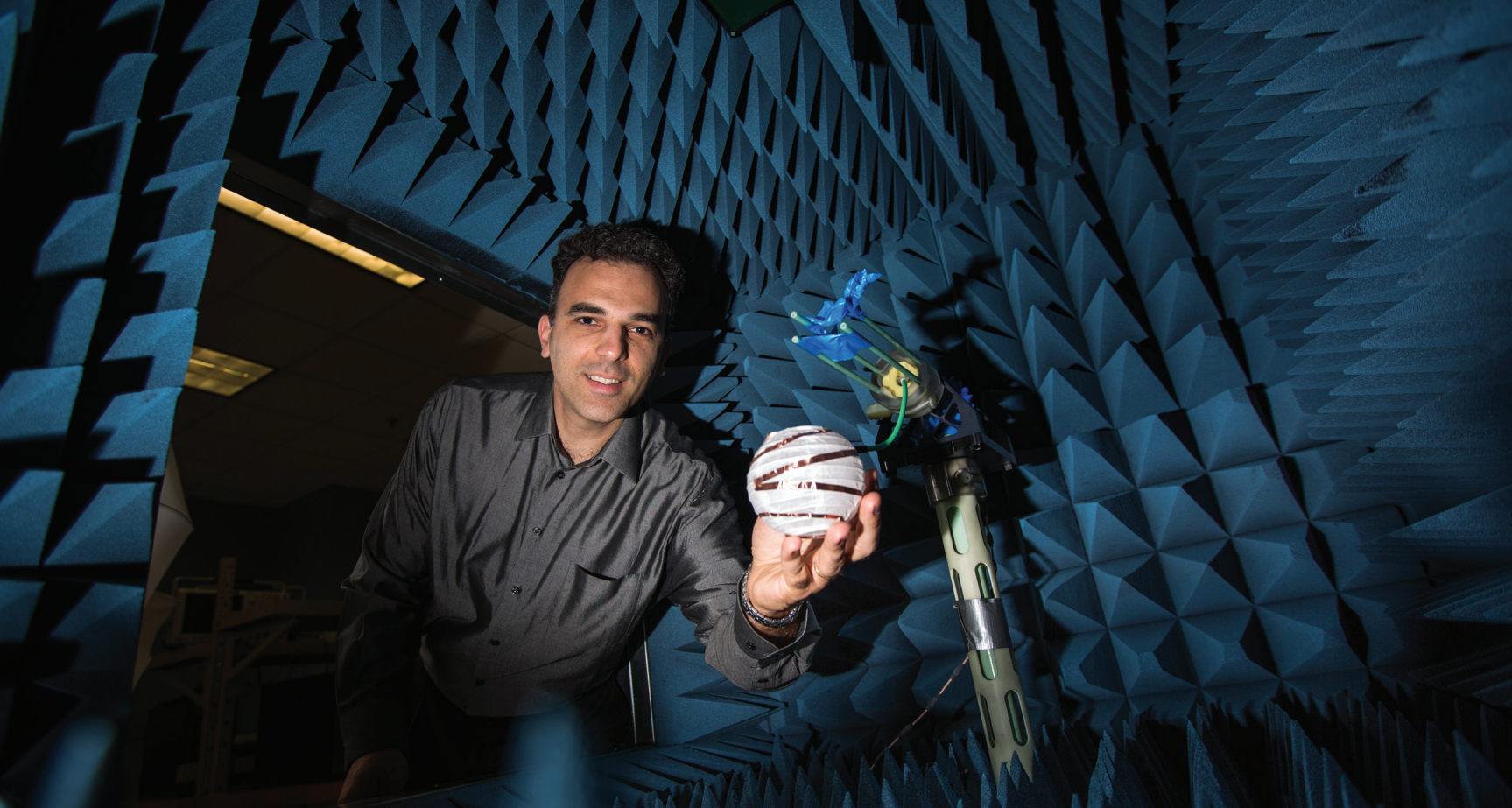
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A new center will develop innovative and advanced origami-based antenna technologies for next-generation Air Force and Department of Defense systems.

Air Force supports pioneering antenna

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research has awarded FIU a \$4.8 million grant to launch the Center for Physically Reconfigurable and Deployable Multifunctional Antennas.

The long name is actually a scientific way to reference origami-based antennas, which are inspired by the Japanese art of paper folding. The center will be led and directed by researcher Stavros Georgakopoulos, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the inventor of foldable origami antenna systems, which typically are ultra-compact during stowage, deploy easily and are lighter in weight than traditional antenna.

“These technologies will provide groundbreaking capabilities to Air Force and military communication, reconnaissance, sensing and energy harvesting systems that are used by aircraft, drones and satellites,” Georgakopoulos said. The center will create “antennas that can change their shape to dynamically adapt to varying operating conditions. These antennas will provide unprecedented electromagnetic and mechanical performance to aerospace systems and will also increase the agility of soldiers and ground personnel in the battlefield.”



Treasure: A pair of repurposed houses of worship

In 1929 Miami Beach's first Jewish congregation erected a synagogue at 311 Washington Ave. and seven years later constructed a second, larger one next door. The neighboring 301 location was designed by noted Art Deco architect Henry Hohauser, a member of the congregation, who enhanced the structure with eight chandeliers, a marble bimah (similar to a pulpit) and a copper dome. Added in the late-1940s and designed by Rabbi Moses Mescheloff were 80 stained glass windows, many inscribed with the names of congregants whose contributions supported the synagogue. The beautiful appointments remain on view today in what is home to the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. The now-adjointing buildings house a permanent collection and play host to the museum's own curated shows as well as traveling exhibitions. Programming explores the contributions of Florida's Jewish residents over the years and reflects the kind of experiences and successes shared by the state's many other immigrant and ethnic communities.

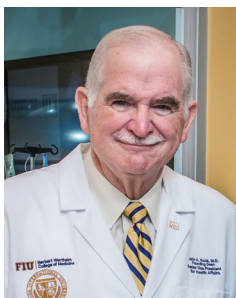
The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. Go to jmof.fiu.edu for more information.



Green School welcomes Madeleine Albright

Former Secretary of State and Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright captivated Miami in April as she shared both her personal history and cautionary advice. As part of a book tour for “Fascism: A Warning,” the 80-year-old diplomat sat down with former Miami Herald publisher David Lawrence and an audience of hundreds at the Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ. The visit was co-hosted by the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy at FIU’s Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

Dean of medicine stepping down



The founding dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and FIU senior vice president for health affairs is stepping down after a remarkable tenure. Dr. John A. Rock joined FIU in 2006 to help prepare the medical school to welcome its first students three years later. The HWCOCM earned full accreditation in February of 2013 (in the shortest time frame possible), and has 490 alumni in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

Under Rock’s leadership, the college earned numerous distinctions, including recognition by the Institute of Medicine for implementing “a socially accountable curriculum,” by the Association for Medical Education in Europe for its education, research and service activities in support of community health needs and by the Florida Blue Foundation and others for its unique Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP™ program. The latter has students taking part in the care of participating households and working in faculty-staffed mobile health centers that provide primary, preventive and behavioral health services, chronic disease management and screening services for low-income patients.

Rock, who is certified in obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive endocrinology, will continue to serve as a professor and the first holder of the newly endowed John and Mary Lou Dasburg Chair in Medicine.



New law school dean named

Antony Page has been appointed dean of the Florida International University

College of Law. Page joins FIU Law from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, where he was vice dean and a professor.

“Today marks a significant moment in FIU’s history,” said Provost Kenneth G. Furton. “FIU Law is already a leader among Florida law schools, and Dean Page shares our enthusiasm for continuing its rise in the national rankings as well.”

Page’s tenure at McKinney followed years of public service, including as a diplomat in the Canadian Foreign Service. As vice dean, he played a key role leading McKinney, from launching new graduate interdisciplinary programs to developing initiatives that improve access to legal education. He is also an acclaimed teacher and scholar in corporate law and related subject areas.

Page will bring his ambitious vision to a law school that quickly is earning national acclaim. FIU Law graduates have finished number one on five of the past six Florida Bar Examinations. It was recently named the nation’s 17th Best Value Law School by The National Jurist.

#2

FIU's placement among the 12 universities in the Florida State University System in relation to annual improvement and overall performance in key areas such as student retention and on-time graduation rates.

Former president of Costa Rica to teach at FIU

Former Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera has been named a distinguished visiting professor at FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), shortly after turning over the reins of the country he led for the past four years.

The move is a kind of homecoming for Solís, who served as a researcher with LACC from 2004 to 2008 and also worked with FIU's Center for the Administration of Justice. LACC and the Center for the Administration of Justice are both part of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, which just received a top ten ranking in *U.S. News and World Report* for best public affairs schools for international and global policy.

"Through his commitment to a life of public service and dedication to building greater knowledge and understanding across borders, President Solís has not only improved the lives of his countrymen but he has built a positive legacy that will touch generations to come," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "We could not be more pleased to have such a distinguished diplomat, scholar and statesman return to FIU."

Fighting hate crime

To help police and prosecutors better tackle hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals — and improve services to victims — FIU's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has partnered with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department on a two-year project.

Funded by a \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice, researchers will interview crime victims, police detectives and prosecutors, as well as review hundreds of case files and court records. The goal is to better understand barriers to reporting LGBTQ hate crimes (which are believed to be underreported generally), motivations of the offenders and challenges to successful investigation and prosecution.

"This research will be a major step forward in better understanding the nature of LGBTQ hate crimes, how they can be prevented and how our community can better respond to them," said John F. Stack Jr., dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, which is collaborating with the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work on the project. "Our hope is that these efforts will increase awareness of bias-motivated crimes and help individuals who are the victims of these crimes feel more able to come forward."

Panthers of Praise

The FIUnity gospel choir performed a rousing inaugural concert in front of nearly 500 people in the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Whether vocally seasoned or not, students, employees and community members are welcome to join the currently 35-member-strong chorus developed by School of Music choral director Kathryn K. Longo and directed by singer-songwriter Terence Clayton. At left, graduate student Daniel Townsend basks in the spotlight.

Five Questions

with the Dean of Engineering

Born and raised in Greece, John L. Volakis arrived in the United States as a teenager knowing only a few words of English. Today, he is dean of the College of Engineering and Computing and internationally recognized for introducing hybrid finite element methods, now widely used in the design of antennas and smart devices. Volakis earned his bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University and master's and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University, where he most recently served as the Chope Chair Professor in engineering. Previously, he was a professor at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for 19 years. He arrived at FIU in 2017.

What are the college's strengths and how do you plan to capitalize on them?

With nearly 6,000 students, including 1,000 graduate students, we are one of the largest engineering and computing colleges in the nation. We have expertise in most technologies and offer degrees in most engineering and computing areas of specialization. Our faculty are research-oriented and leaders in their fields. Coupled with our diverse student body, we are well positioned to support the aspirations of top students and leading faculty. We are building on all of this to attain standing across a variety of metrics and make our college and university great.

What are your priorities for the College of Engineering and Computing?

I am committed to a dynamic environment in which students have every opportunity to pursue their dreams. In this rapidly changing technological period, we are pushing innovations in education, and research that is interdisciplinary and leads to entrepreneurial endeavors. Above all, we are committed to strong community engagement and in finding better ways to stay industry-relevant. With this in mind, we have launched new degrees, such as the bachelor's in the Internet of Things, and we are expanding our online programs. We are also boosting our research enterprise by starting new centers with greater industry participation and by hiring faculty that have a record of proven success.

What goals have you established?

Our immediate goal is to support the university-wide effort to attain preeminent status within the State University System of Florida. Concurrently, we are growing our reputation and improving our national rankings by focusing on strengths in cybersecurity, infrastructure and resilience, sensors and sensing, biomedical technologies and wireless communications, among other areas. And we are pursuing initiatives to expand our facilities for teaching and research.

You're still new here. What stands out to you about FIU?

This is truly an international university, and therefore a great platform for educating future world leaders. I wish I were a student today at FIU to experience the diversity of thought and cultures, and to engage in projects bound to make our lives better, healthier and more productive via automation, 3D printing, nanomanufacturing, and software innovations, to name a few.

What are you enjoying in South Florida?

I grew up on a Mediterranean island in the Aegean Sea. Miami has comparable weather, and the people are friendly and expressive. I feel quite at home.



“The brain controls pain. It controls fear. Sleep. Empathy. Hunger. Everything we associate with the heart or the soul or the nervous system is actually controlled by the brain. Everything. What if you could control it?” –Shutter Island

The Dennis Lehane Narrative: Talent, grit and making his own luck

By Evelyn Gonzalez | Photo by Gaby Gerster/Diogenes, Zurich

Controlling the brain. It's a skill one of FIU's most famous authors has yet to master. But, it's a skill he might not want to master. The stories that have made him an award-winning novelist and screenwriter are all woven from the chaos in his own mind.

“I don't know what goes on in my head, and I don't want to know,” said Dennis Lehane MFA '01. “I just know I write a beginning, a middle and an end. I don't deal with certain details until the end.”

In a career spanning 25 years, Lehane has published 13 novels. Five of his mystery and crime thrillers — “Mystic River,” “Gone, Baby, Gone,” “Shutter Island,” “The Drop” and “Live by Night” — have been adapted into major motion pictures. Lehane has written for the HBO series “The Wire” and “Boardwalk Empire,” as well as the TV series adaptation of Stephen King's “Mr. Mercedes.” And he has taught classes at

Harvard University and Eckerd College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing in 1988.

Today Lehane and his family live in Los Angeles. His most recent novel, “Since We Fell,” a psychological thriller written from a woman's perspective, was published in 2017, and he is working on the screenplay for its movie adaptation. But before Hollywood came calling, Lehane was working hard to become a writer.

“Plans are just dreams until they're executed.”

— Live by Night

Lehane grew up in Boston's historic Dorchester neighborhood, the son of a foreman and school cafeteria worker. His parents wanted him to pursue a career as a utility worker or letter carrier. “I'm only good at one thing and that's making stuff up,” Lehane admitted, so he headed for Eckerd

College in St. Petersburg and a few years later enrolled at FIU to pursue a master of fine arts in creative writing.

Housed in the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, the Creative Writing Program trains writers across genres — fiction and creative non-fiction, poetry and screenwriting — to hone their craft, publish and connect with their intended readers. Graduate school fed Lehane's craving for collaboration, feedback and hard deadlines. He was living the writer's life.

“You get to hide from the world, not grow up, and spend time with like-minded geeks who talk about writing,” Lehane said. “Those aren't conversations you get to have regularly.”

At FIU, he met Professor Lynne Barrett, a short story writer and editor. She taught him how to hone narrative structure, or the framework that gives order to a story. Known for his gripping storylines, unforgettable characters and witty dialogue,

Continues



Continued

In a career spanning 25 years, Lehane has published 13 novels. Five of his mystery and crime thrillers have been adapted into major motion pictures.

Lehane admits that putting it all together in a way that makes sense for readers never came naturally to him. “Lynne gave me a strong sense of structure,” Lehane said. “I learned almost everything I know about plot from her. I have to remind myself that’s why people read. But it’s not why I write.”

Lehane also found a mentor in Professor John Dufresne. “That’s the guy,” Lehane recalled of *The New York Times* notable book author who wrote, taught classes at FIU, led workshops in the community, and still had time for graduate students to bang on his door at 10 p.m. to talk about the craft of writing. “I wanted that, I wanted to be that. He embodied my ideal of a writer. He lived and breathed the craft, ate and drank it, ordered it for dessert.”

Dufresne knew the budding author would be successful in his own right — he had talent, ambition and grit. Dufresne and his wife regularly hosted get-togethers for young FIU writers in their home. During those gatherings, Lehane was usually the guy at the kitchen table working away on his laptop.

“He was obsessed. He would just write, write, write,” Dufresne said. “He knew what he wanted, but he also listened. He wanted you to tell him what worked and what didn’t.”

Ready to graduate, Lehane submitted his master’s thesis in 1994. The series of short stories were fantastic, according to Dufresne,

all except for one that lacked a complete plot. Knowing he could do better, his professors asked him to work on it. “It will only take you a few weeks to fix it,” they advised him. Seven years went by. During that time, Lehane published his first novel, “A Drink Before the War.” Four others followed.

Then Lehane finished his most acclaimed novel to date. Having scrapped his 1994 thesis, he returned to FIU with a gripping crime thriller instead. “Mystic River” was born from the incomplete short story that had stalled him years earlier. It was published in 2001, the same year Lehane — finally — earned his MFA.

**“There are threads in our lives. You pull one, and everything else gets affected.”
—Mystic River**

When Lehane was at FIU, Miami was a hotbed for crime and suspense stories. Novels by Edna Buchanan, Carl Hiaasen, Elmore Leonard, Les Standiford (director and founder of FIU’s Creative Writing Program) and James W. Hall (a former FIU faculty member) flew off bookshelves. But Lehane didn’t want to write about South Florida. He felt like a tourist and didn’t understand it the way the others did. He understood Little Havana, a working-class neighborhood home to exiles and immigrants. It reminded him of growing up among mixed

communities of African, Asian, Caribbean and European families. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn’t connect to Miami outside of the Cuban culture he responded to. This drove him back toward writing about the world he had grown up in.

Dominating Lehane’s creative works are questions of race, class and economics. His popular appeal and literary excellence earned him the 2018 Lawrence A. Sanders Award for Fiction, which is presented annually by FIU’s Creative Writing Program. Lehane is the first FIU alumnus to earn the award, and he stands in good company. Past recipients include literary luminaries Scott Turow, Isabelle Allende and Amy Tan, among others.

**“The foundation of your life is luck. Hard work and talent make up the difference.”
—Live by Night**

“Dennis knows how to tell a gripping story, but those stories are grounded in characters that people care about. The issues at the heart of things are as profound as anything you’ll find in contemporary literature,” said Standiford. “I tell my students there’s a formula for success in writing: 25 percent is talent, 25 is hard work, 25 is persistence and 25 is luck. Dennis has done so well on the first three counts he made his own luck. His dedication and hard work are truly phenomenal.” ■



Theater major wins national award

Cirque du Soleil changed Apriah Williams' life. Visiting New York in 2012, the then-16-year-old from Turks and Caicos experienced her first-ever theatrical production. "I was mesmerized," Williams recalls.

A few years later she was studying architecture at a small college outside of Boston when she approached an advisor about a career in theater. "I would love to know what goes into it. I would love to be a part of that," she explained. Soon Williams was ushered into a class where her interest in architecture and her newfound fascination had her building sets, hanging lights and pulling props.

Williams eventually transferred to FIU, formally became a theater major and designed her first set, for the absurdist play *Ubu Rex*, during the 2017-2018 season.

"When I first read the script, I had no idea how this could be staged," Williams says. "One minute they're in a castle, then the next minute they're in a cave. Then all of a sudden there's a horse. It's all over the place."

She settled on creating an elegant banquet hall—long, beautifully set tables and tall columns and curtains enclosing the audience in the space—that the play's monstrous king and queen would destroy. The audience walked into an opulent setting only to see it torn apart.

Her attention to detail paid off. When the production took the stage at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival regional competition in Georgia, Williams beat out more than a dozen others in the set design category. A few months later, in Washington, D.C., she won national honors. The prize included \$500 and a trip to a workshop in Las Vegas, where she had the chance to go backstage at—wait for it—three different Cirque du Soleil productions. Meeting the creative teams laid the possibility that Williams one day could land a job with the company.

"That's my dream," she says, still true to the show that ignited her passion. Whatever the future holds, one thing is for sure: This award-winning student has set the stage for her success.

Heading off disasters

The Extreme Events Institute takes a broad approach to saving the world from what Mother Nature dishes out

By Alexandra Pecharich

It's a tale of two countries.

In January of 2010 a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked Haiti. An estimated 230,000 people perished in the cataclysm, a tragedy of unfathomable proportion punctuated by individual stories of heartbreaking loss.

Just six weeks later, a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile, a country located along a highly active offshore fault line. The official death toll was reported at 560, with an estimated one-third due to the tsunami that followed.

Both earthquakes resulted in tremendous pain and suffering, but the losses in Haiti remain staggering. In addition to the deaths, more than 300,000 people were injured and 1.5 million left homeless. Some 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed as were more than 60 percent of government and administrative buildings in the capital.

Meanwhile in Chile, with a population 65 percent higher than Haiti's, 370,000 homes were damaged, but affected municipal buildings and hospitals generally returned to service within days or weeks.



These stark differences in human and economic losses are at the core of what researchers within FIU's Extreme Events Institute (EEI) want everyone to understand about the impact of nature's destructive forces: Collectively, we humans have choices.

"Nature provides the events," says EEI Director Richard Olson. "What we put in harm's way — ourselves, our societies, our economies — that's on us."

Therein lies Olson's big-picture message. There is nothing "natural" about disasters, and calling them so lets communities and their leaders off the hook for poor decisions. Natural events — be they earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, drought, wildfire or lava flows — are by definition acts of nature. But disasters reflect what humans do, or *don't* do, in the face of known hazards. In the cases of Chile and Haiti, one had effective building standards and consciously prepared. The other, for a host of reasons, could not and did not.

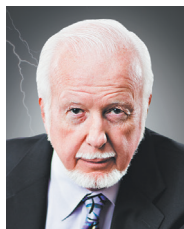
Disaster as a moral issue

Olson speaks passionately about the role of people and their governments in creating disasters: When people build and live in hazard-prone areas without contemplating ways to adapt or mitigate — some of them forced there for economic reasons — well, then we are the problem.

"You want the real heart of this?" he asks while talking about his work as the head of a multi-pronged, multidisciplinary institute that currently has more than \$14 million in grant-funded projects underway and affiliations with universities and organizations throughout the world.

"People don't need to be dying, and we don't need to be seeing them destroyed economically at these rates. There's just something morally wrong about people suffering these unnecessary losses," he argues.

"Back when we didn't understand hazards, maybe. Back when we didn't understand



There is nothing 'natural' about disasters, and calling them so lets communities and their leaders off the hook for poor decisions, Richard Olson explains. Natural events—be they earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, drought, wildfire or lava flows—are by definition acts of nature. But disasters reflect what humans do, or *don't* do, in the face of known hazards.

engineering and technology and where and how to build stuff, maybe I wouldn't be so angry. But when you look at the numbers of people being killed, injured, made homeless, economically devastated, it's just wrong."

And so Olson, a renowned political scientist and disaster expert with 20 years at FIU, makes the case that large-scale loss of life and property does not make sense, even in these highly volatile times. "We have the knowledge, the technology," he insists. And while the fix won't come easily, with enough vision and resolution it can happen within the next century.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

Nowhere does EEI's long-term view come into greater focus than in the work of the Disaster Resilience and Climate in the Americas Program (DRCAP). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded the university more than \$9 million since the program's inception in 2008 to address existing and developing risks in Latin America and the Caribbean. The program seeks to advance the region's ability to mitigate hazards by focusing on land use management, building codes and preparedness.

Among the international projects undertaken in recent years is a USAID-funded study of slums and shanty-towns in Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica and elsewhere. The goal: to understand the role

of society's smallest units in planning for, and bouncing back from, the kind of flash flooding and mudslides, earthquakes and tsunamis that have killed hundreds of thousands in the region over the past 20 years.

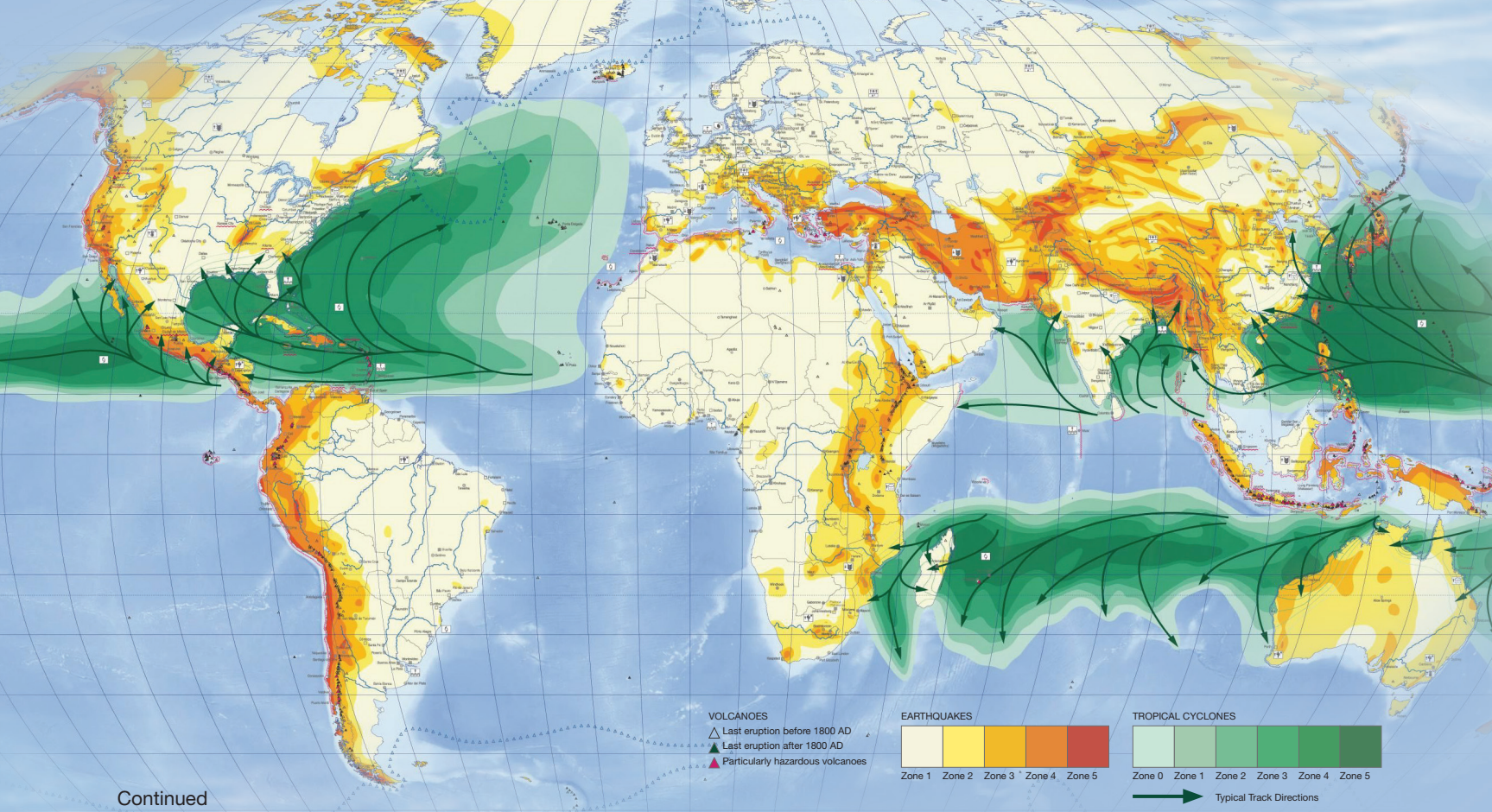
"It is so challenging because the presence of governments [in these poor areas] is nonexistent. So the needs are huge," says DRCAP Director Juan Pablo Sarmiento. The Colombian surgeon for two decades worked for USAID as a technical manager for Latin America and the Caribbean before coming to FIU. He served as an evaluation team leader on the project that took him to eight countries.

DRCAP's goal is to build capacity within affected areas to make it possible for homegrown experts to tackle the risk issues affecting their communities and countries. To that end, DRCAP collaborates with universities, governments and NGOs to train those in the best position to understand circumstances on the ground and take charge.

"We trust in people, encouraging them to get involved, create incentives, and we work together to develop an agenda in which they feel ownership, that this is their own need, their own priority," he says.

DRCAP foremost provides "technical assistance," a sharing of knowledge and practices to foster skills and development at the local and community levels. DRCAP and its affiliates together offer workshops and intensive online courses on topics such as land use management and economic-impact analysis. In just the past year and a half, 211

Continues



Continued

hand-picked individuals (of the nearly 900 who applied from around the world) have participated in professional development programming, among them mayors and emergency management officials.

Other DRCAP initiatives include a collaboration with USAID and the Florida Small Business Development Center at FIU to create a mobile disaster-preparedness app for small business owners and a collaboration with the United Nations and several multinational firms to assess the ability of small and medium-sized businesses in New Orleans to continue operations in the face of recurring flooding.

INTERNATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH CENTER

The Wall of Wind

Located in hurricane alley, South Florida knows violent windstorms, and FIU's International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) has its origin in one of the biggest to hit the region: Hurricane Andrew. The 1992 disaster devastated a large swath of Miami-

Dade County, an event that continues to serve as a watershed for the state.

Now part of EEL, the IHRC is a hub of cutting-edge research programs. Perhaps the best-known is the Wall of Wind. Designated an experimental research facility by the National Science Foundation, it features 12 fans capable of generating category-5 windstorm conditions. The most powerful of such laboratories in the country, the Wall of Wind serves as a testing ground for construction components and has contributed to the state of Florida's raising its building code to one of the most stringent in the country. Research there pushes continuous improvement of design in the service of saving lives and property.

In 2018, the facility is expected to be in use 203 days (with the remainder available for maintenance). That time includes not just testing but also the critical prepping of components and scaled-down buildings through application of pressure taps and sensors that record as many as 1,000 different measurements. The facility is operated by professors of civil and environmental engineering Ioannis Zisis and

Arindam Gan Chowdhury, the latter a holder of patents on hurricane-resistant roofing and related technology.

Established companies and startups come to test solar panels, shutters, windows, wall systems and roofing materials. Engineers from universities such as Stanford, Ohio State and Rensselaer Polytechnic bring their ideas and inventions.

"They know that something tested in the Wall of Wind will have all these complements of turbulence, rain, high-speed wind," says Chowdhury of the many variables that can be introduced. "So it's realistic."

The Florida Hurricane Public Loss Model

Until communities have mastered the science of mitigation, violent hurricanes will continue to exact a human toll — and cost a lot of money. Andrew in 1992 cost individuals and insurers in Florida more than \$25 billion — about \$45 billion in 2018 dollars — and revealed the vulnerability of everyday citizens as well as the insurance industry charged with protecting homeowners' property.

Andrew was responsible for the failure of at

least 16 insurers, according to the Insurance Information Institute. The inability of so many to survive massive payouts had its origins in the relative dearth of prior recent hurricanes.

“The insurance companies had not experienced [a major windstorm] for years, and rates were ridiculously low,” says Shahid Hamid, chair of the department of finance within the College of Business. “They traditionally looked at 10 or 20 years to determine rates, but there had not been any hurricanes for 20 years.”

The insurance crisis had Florida’s leaders scrambling to prevent future financial calamities. One task force called upon the talents of Hamid, who today serves as director of the Laboratory for Insurance, Financial & Economic Research. The lab’s main order of business: to maintain and operate the Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model (FPHLM), which the state uses to regulate windstorm insurance rates and determine fair pricing.

The FIU-developed FPHLM has been funded with approximately \$20 million from the state since 2001 and relies on nearly 40 experts and graduate students — in the fields of computer science, engineering, meteorology, hydrology, storm surge, statistics, finance and actuarial science — at FIU and partner institutions such as the University of Florida, West Virginia University and the University of Notre Dame. The team works to determine likely average annual windstorm losses and probable maximum losses in a worst-case scenario.

“It’s basically a computer program with hundreds of thousands of lines of code,” Hamid says of the FPHLM, which is updated as new information becomes available. Into the program goes meteorology data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), engineering data from experiments at the Wall of Wind and elsewhere, insurance-company data on individual

The most powerful of such laboratories in the country, FIU’s Wall of Wind serves as a testing ground for construction components and has contributed to the state of Florida’s raising its building code to one of the most stringent in the country. Research there pushes continuous improvement of design in the service of saving lives and property.

policyholders’ homes (location, year and style of construction, type of roof, etc.) and GIS data that describes “terrain roughness” (such as tree cover and hilliness, both of which serve to slow down wind).

The team then simulates 60,000 different storm tracks and intensities and couples those with engineering vulnerability models and actuarial models. The output is used by the state to ensure that rates are neither too low nor too high and reflect individual homeowners’ true risks.

“We are influencing every premium in every house in the state of Florida,” Hamid says.

The FPHLM also helps keep proactive homeowners’ premiums down by quantifying the economic benefits of using hurricane shutters, impact windows, stronger roofs and other mitigation measures, which collectively cut losses by as much as 40 percent — information the state uses to negotiate discounted rates.

Coastal waters modeling

In addition to damaging winds, water issues such as storm surge and coastal flooding have become major focuses of attention, and the IHRC has answered the need to better understand these threats.

FIU has brought together geoscientists, mathematicians, meteorologists and computer scientists to develop a coastal storm surge model — known as the Coastal and Estuarine Storm Tide model, or CEST — that NOAA

uses to update and refine its own numerical modeling prediction system. CEST allows the agency to test and evaluate potential improvements before adopting them.

“Our modeling system has to be rock solid when so many people are depending on accurate and on-time forecasts,” explains Jamie Rhome, leader of the agency’s storm surge unit. He is responsible for providing the information upon which local and state authorities make calls about evacuating residents — decisions that in the United States are related not to wind but to water.

“If the modeling system that I use to make those forecasts suddenly blew up, becoming mathematically unstable, or it just suddenly crashed and I couldn’t get it to run again, think about how much it would imperil the safety of all those people and the critical decisions that emergency managers and local authorities are making all up and down the coastline,” he explains.

For example, FIU helped advance NOAA’s model by taking the same terrain ruggedness data used in the FPHLM and applying it to CEST. FIU incorporated the data and over several months wrote the required code to run simulations that reflected the additional information. NOAA specialists reviewed the work and decided it had value and incorporated it.

Separately, FIU has cooperated with NOAA to give the agency the ability to capture data related to potential coastal flooding

Continues

Recognizing Excellence

University leaders have designated six standout programs as “preeminent.” Another seven with high potential are designated “emerging.”

PREEMINENT

Center for Children and Families

A nationally regarded center revolutionizing treatments for childhood mental illness

Extreme Events Institute

A globally involved center for research, education and training in natural hazards and disaster risk reduction and management

Global Forensic Justice Center

An innovative resource for education, research, training and policy initiatives related to criminal justice, cyber and emerging forensic sciences

Institute for Resilient and Sustainable Coastal Infrastructure

A multipronged hub dedicated to developing innovative, economical and sustainable engineering solutions related to aging infrastructure

Institute of Water and Environment

A collaborative of FIU’s top centers and programs focused on issues related to water and environmental threats around the world

STEM Transformation Institute

A multidisciplinary cooperative committed to improving educational practices that lead to more and better prepared professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

EMERGING PREEMINENT

Brain, Behavior and the Environment Program

Cybersecurity@FIU

FIU Tropics

Health Inequalities and Disparities Program

Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

Translational Molecular Discoveries

The Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab

Continued

Fully mitigating disasters worldwide will take decades or longer. And yet the team at FIU remains undaunted. They see their labor already bearing fruit—be it in Latin America, where both will and a supply of trained professionals is growing, or in Florida, with its strict building codes and a burgeoning awareness among the public—and their energy shows no signs of flagging.

internationally by relying on satellites. Rhome calls the work “an incredibly big breakthrough” that will give countries such as the Dominican Republic and the Philippines better information about the hazards they face.

Other work of the IHRC

With the Wall of Wind, the FPHLM, CEST and other initiatives underway, the IHRC brings together disparate technical projects and high-level resources. Outreach and education programs, however, remain critical and have been developed in a broadly collaborative effort under the direction of Erik Salna, a meteorologist and former TV weatherman who still has his hand in the media as a substitute on-air personality.

Salna preaches “the message of mitigation,” or preparedness, he explains while rattling off numerous events and activities he attends to inform children and families of their responsibility to keep themselves safe.

“That’s one way to take what we do at the university out into the community,” Salna says. Making it real has him and others offering mini-science lessons in efforts to engage and educate the public. A few years back, FIU engineers even designed a small-scale Wall of Wind as an exhibit at the Frost Science Museum so that youngsters could better understand risks. And the Wall of Wind runs a challenge for high school students to encourage innovative thinking in support of mitigation design. (And, yes, they do turn the fans on the kids’ projects.)

IHRC has also worked with NOAA to make a Spanish-language version of the agency’s hurricane web site. And just before the start of storm season this year, the center helped premiere “Built to Last?,” a documentary produced by one of its resilience experts, Aris Papadopoulos. It is currently airing on PBS stations and around the world.

For all the work underway at EEI, the truth remains that fully mitigating disasters worldwide will take decades or longer, particularly as climate change throws a new wrench into the mix. (EEI regularly collaborates with FIU’s Sea Level Solutions Center.) And yet the team remains undaunted. They see their labor already bearing fruit — be it in Latin America, where both will and a supply of trained professionals is growing, or in Florida, with its strict building codes and a burgeoning awareness among the public — and their energy shows no signs of flagging. If anything, the team are encouraged by the progress, says EEI Associate Director of Research Administration Carolyn Robertson MS ’04.

“Five years ago everyone was interested in the aesthetics of the home,” she says. By contrast, prospective buyers now ask, “Is the home built strong? Am I going to be inconvenienced every time there’s a hurricane where I need to evacuate because I live in a flood zone or my roof is 40 years old?” The message is getting through.

“I think change is happening,” she says. “People are starting to pay attention.” ■

We. Are. Back.

PANTHER PRIDE

FIU Football exceeded expectations last season. Can the team do it again in 2018?

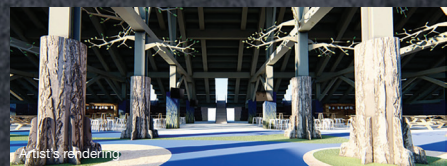


Inside:



Coach Davis Q&A

Have you purchased your season tickets yet?



Introducing the Panther Way

FIU



Q&A

with Butch Davis

Q: As you enter your second season with the Panthers, how have you prepared the team for the 2018 season?

A: We had a wonderful first season culminating in our first bowl game appearance since 2011. We came in last year and put in a system and process that our players believed in. In year two, we know more about our players' abilities. We're raising the level of expectation with a significant emphasis on the players taking ownership of the growth and development of the team.

Q: You and your staff had a wonderful recruiting class ranked #1 in Conference USA and #66 in the nation. What impact will this have on this and future seasons?

A: While we lost some experienced guys that were key to our success, I'm excited with how we recruited and reloaded. I wanted to get bigger and faster, and we've done that. With the first two recruiting classes, our hopes were that they would make a big impact helping us with depth and position competition. One of the major hurdles last season is that we lacked depth. These last two recruiting classes brought us additional depth. Our coaches worked very hard on the recruiting trail and found players that our program needs. We added some top-caliber players that I feel could play at any level, and we won recruiting battles over some of the top tier programs nationally.

Q: The home opener vs. Indiana is looming. What are you looking forward, to not just for that game but for the overall schedule?

A: I've always been a big believer that with the first game you love the idea that it's a huge challenge. Anytime you open the season with a high-profile football program, it really motivates the players during the offseason. They know that you've got to be ready to go week 1. This will be a great opportunity for our team to play a Power 5 opponent on our home turf with a national TV audience.

Q: You and the FIU Administration have been working closely this off-season to create more affinity for the university via the football program. Can you tell us about that?

A: President Rosenberg and I met on how to continue to build the program and keep it moving forward. The 2017 season was a positive one, having an eight-win season and qualifying for a bowl game. Campus leaders have been working with a fan engagement agency to help us deliver a better game-day experience for all Panther fans. We must get our students more involved. We want more alumni from Miami-Dade and Broward counties. We want more young alumni to engage with us. We believe that Panther Pride is a sleeping giant, but we need our fans and followers to feel like we are part of them, and they are part of us.

**Ranking per 24/7 Sports.com*

Our Promise

THE PANTHER WAY

If you've ever traveled outside South Florida, you know this: We're special. Visitors come from around the world to experience the sights and sounds we live on a daily basis. So this year we're bringing some of that flavor to Riccardo Silva Stadium for a game-day experience we're calling the Panther Way.

We've created fan engagement zones inspired by the Everglades and Biscayne Bay. We've designed them so you can enjoy yourself there before and during the games. These are just the first in a series of fan engagement zones you'll see in the stadium in the years to come.

In reinventing how you experience Panther football, we surveyed thousands of alumni and spoke to hundreds more. We learned a lot about what matters to you. Atmosphere. More and better food choices. Customer service. More importantly, we listened. Moving forward, we'll work harder than we ever have to ensure we deliver nothing less than the finest service experiences possible.

This year, under the leadership of President Mark B. Rosenberg, the university embarked upon a long-term strategy to ensure that FIU sporting events, starting with football, focus on the fan experience. The university is working with Orlando-based EngageMint, whose principals bring 50+ years of Disney leadership training to this initiative, to help FIU focus on "exceeding guest expectations."

We know that the brand of football you'll be watching from our Panthers this season will be of the highest caliber. And just know that we're working hard behind the scenes to make sure that your entire game-day experience is, too. Paws Up!

SEPT

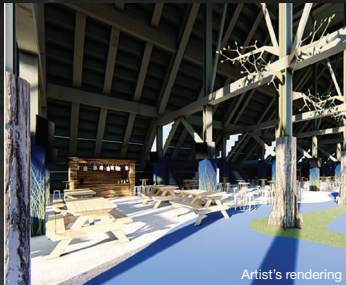
HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	HOME
				
SEPT 1 7:00 PM	SEPT 8 7:30 PM	SEPT 15 7:30 PM	SEPT 22 TBA	SEPT 29 7:30 PM
CBSSN	BEIN	BEIN	TBA	ESPN3/ESPN+

TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Use to You in 2018:

DIFFERENT WAY

What you can expect at all home games



Artist's rendering



Artist's rendering



Artist's rendering



Upgraded Technology

- **Digital Ticketing & Printing** — Purchase your tickets online, print at home or download to your phone.
- **Digital Readers** — Available at all gates, these new readers will streamline entry.
- **Digital Parking Passes & Tailgate** — Preferred parking spaces and group tailgating are now available at www.fiusports.com under the tickets tab.



Improved Customer Service

- **Service Training** — New service standards have been created for staff and third-party vendors. You can feel comfortable knowing that anyone wearing a name badge/button will display a level of service that matches these standards.
- **Brand Ambassadors** — Student Guest Service Ambassadors will meet and greet fans at all the games.



Food & Beverage

- **New Concessionaire** — Fans will see all new dining options in the stadium including a variety of local Miami flavors and menu offerings. Chartwells is the new campus-wide food service provider and is part of Compass Group, who currently runs the food service at Marlins Park and the American Airlines Arena and will bring industry-leading experience in athletic concessions.



Stadium Experiences

- **Biscayne Bay** — Located in the new student section in the West End Zone, students can come early and hang out in this new area that will include portable bar/stations and outdoor furniture.
- **The Glades** — Fans can now immerse themselves in our version of the Everglades and enjoy the atmosphere of music, fun and food.



Alumni Pregame Experience

Grab your friends and cool off with the FIU Alumni Association before every home game! There will be A/C, drinks, food and fun for the whole family at Parkview Hall, located directly across from Riccardo Silva Stadium.

The pregame starts two-and-a-half hours before each home game. Adult admission for Indiana, Middle Tennessee (Homecoming) and Florida Atlantic with food option will be \$20. Adult admission for all other home games starts at \$10.

- **New this Fall:** Arrive 30 minutes early to cheer on players during the Panther Walk to be eligible for Alumni Association giveaways!
- Join us at the **Panther Party Deck**, and roar for the Panthers as we take on the University of Miami on Sept. 22. Admission is \$40 per person and includes food and drink until halftime and a 300-level, standing room-only ticket to watch the game.

Reserve in advance at FIUalumni.com/football.

FIRST HOME GAME

Sept. 1 vs. Indiana
(Big Ten Conference)

Kick-off at 7 p.m.

We need all Panthers to pack the stands for this nationally televised game on CBS Sports Network!

OCT

NOV

HOME	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY	AWAY	HOME
OCT 13 7:30 PM	OCT 20 7:30 PM	OCT 27 7:30 PM	NOV 3 7:30 PM	NOV 10 7:00 PM	NOV 17 2:00 PM	NOV 24 12:00 PM
CBSN	ESPN3/ESPN+	BEIN	STADIUM	ESPN3/ESPN+	ESPN3/ESPN+	STADIUM/FB*

*STADIUM FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM

2017 REWIND

3RD

FIU EARNED ITS 1ST BOWL BID SINCE THE 2011 SEASON AND THE 3RD OVERALL FOR THE PROGRAM

8

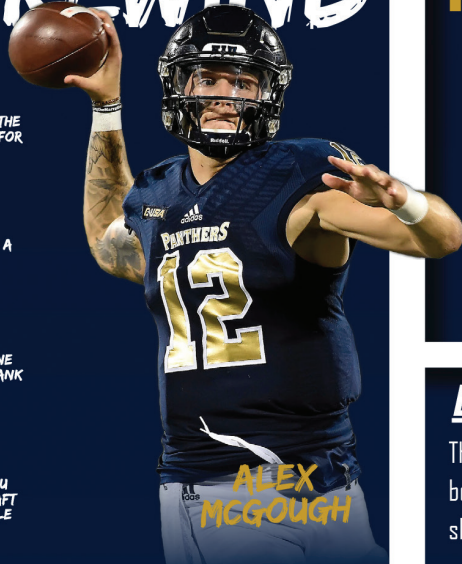
THE 8 WINS LAST SEASON MATCHED A PROGRAM RECORD SET IN 2011

98%

FIU SCORED ON 98% OF ITS RED-ZONE SCORING CHANCES (40-OF-41) TO RANK 1ST IN THE NATION

1ST

ALEX MCGOUGH BECAME THE 1ST FIU QB TO BE SELECTED IN THE NFL DRAFT AFTER BEING TAKEN BY THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS IN THE 7TH ROUND

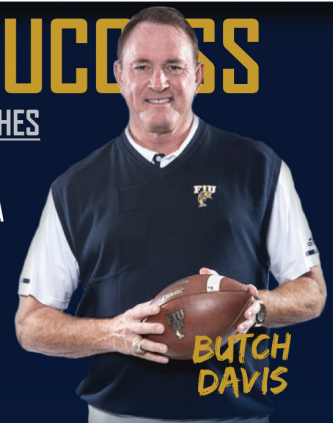


ALEX MCGOUGH

FIRST YEAR SUCCESS

2017 FIRST-YEAR FBS HEAD COACHES

- 12-2 LINCOLN RILEY >> OKLAHOMA
- 11-3 LANE KIFFIN >> FLORIDA ATLANTIC
- 10-2 CHARLIE STRONG >> SOUTH FLORIDA
- 10-4 JEFF TEDFORD >> FRESNO STATE
- 9-4 ED ORGERON >> LSU
- 8-5 **BUTCH DAVIS >> FIU**
- 7-5 MAJOR APPLEWHITE >> HOUSTON



BUTCH DAVIS

DID YOU KNOW?

The **2018 SIGNING CLASS** for FIU has been heralded as one of the best in program history, as the class ranked **#1** in Conference USA and was slotted **66TH** overall nationally.

WHO TO WATCH

RETURNERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Year	2017 Player Notes
91	Anthony Johnson	DL	6-3	291	R-Sr.	Earned seven sacks
23	Napoleon Maxwell	RB	6-0	215	R-Sr.	Rushed for five touchdowns
7	Fermin Silva	DL	6-2	235	Sr.	Named to the All-CUSA 2nd Team
66	Jordan Budwig	OG	6-4	311	R-Sr.	Named to the All-CUSA 2nd Team
47	Sage Lewis	LB	6-1	240	R-Jr.	Earned 55 tackles, with five being for loss
9	Bryce Singleton	WR/KR	5-10	193	So.	Named to the All-CUSA Freshman Team

NEWCOMERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Hometown
12	James Morgan	QB	6-5	226	R-Jr.	Green Bay, WI
93	Teair Tart	DL	6-3	290	Jr.	West Philadelphia, PA
97	Tayland Humphrey	DL	6-5	350	Jr.	Spring, TX

RETURNING STAT LEADERS



OFFENSE

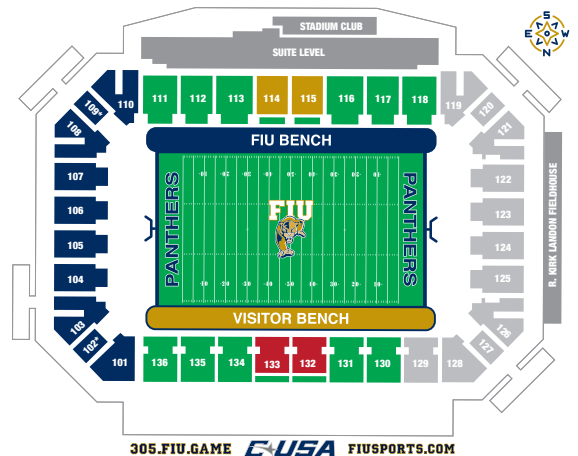
Rushing: Napoleon Maxwell (477 yards)
Receiving: Tony Baiter IV (314 yards)

DEFENSE

Tackles: Sage Lewis (55)
Sacks: Silva & Johnson (7)

SPECIAL TEAMS

FGs: Jose Borregales (15-18)
Punts: Stone Wilson (41.0 avg.)



305.FIU.GAME CUSA FIUSPORTS.COM

CLUB LEVEL \$350 <small>INCLUDES A \$250 NON-TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION</small>	SIDELINE \$125 PUBLIC \$100 FACULTY, STAFF & ALUMNI <small>INCLUDES A \$75 NON-TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION</small>	GENERAL ADMISSION \$50 [^] \$200 <small>^ A RATE OF \$40 PER TICKET MAY BE OBTAINED WITH GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE</small> <small>GENERAL ADMISSION FAMILY PLAN: +2 ADULTS +3 KIDS (AGE 17 & UNDER)</small>
PREMIUM GROUPS		FIU STUDENT SECTION

*DENOTES FAMILY FRIENDLY ALL-COOL-FREE SECTION



ANTHONY JOHNSON

NAPOLEON MAXWELL



@FIU Football



FIUPanthers



FIUSports
FIUFootball



@FIUAthletics
@FIUFootball



FIUAthletics



790 AM
The Ticket

Cheaper, faster,
more accurate:
**Devising a
better drug test**

A liquid solution developed at FIU could be the key to identifying the presence of illegal drugs.

As a first step toward eventual tests for all manner of illicit substances, chemist Yi Xiao and her team have patented technology that can quickly, cost-effectively and—most important of all—accurately confirm the presence of cocaine. Testing can be done on saliva or an unknown powder, which in either case would be added to the solution developed by Xiao and several graduate students. If the tested substance contains cocaine, the sample glows red under a green light within seconds.

The technology can be used to carry out testing on the side of the road by police or onsite by employers, and it represents an important advance over currently available tests.

Existing roadside tests for cocaine, for example, leave too much room for error, according to *The New York Times*. One gives a positive result in the presence not only of cocaine but an additional 80 other substances, including cleaning products. Other tests can give a false reading, positive or negative, if officers fail to follow a prescribed procedure or if the outside temperature is too hot or too cold.

Alternately, lab-based testing methods are expensive, complicated and time consuming. Instead of saliva, they require harder-to-obtain blood or urine samples that are then sent to a lab for analysis. Results usually take weeks to return and may still yield false positives or false negatives.

The testing developed by FIU could become especially important in the near future as there is a growing worry among drug enforcement officials that cocaine use might be on the rise for the first time in a decade. While stemming the nation's ongoing opioid crisis remains a major focus, a recent State Department report cites an increase in cocaine production in Colombia and a jump in seizures of cocaine along the U.S. border as a warning that the illicit drug might be making a comeback.

The researchers are working to license and commercialize the technology. They are also expanding their work and will soon patent tests that can identify the chemical compositions of other drugs, including synthetics.

That ongoing work remains critical to ensuring accuracy of testing across a broad spectrum of illegal substances. "If there's something in the person's saliva," Xiao said, "the solutions we're developing will tell us." ■

Harnessing

an ancient practice

A complementary therapy could improve the lives of HIV patients

By Galena Mosovich | Photos by Ben Guzman

When life stressors started getting the best of her, FIU researcher Gladys Ibañez turned to kung fu to cope. The traditional Chinese martial art was more than a form of fitness for her; the practice became therapy as it trained her to stay calm amidst the chaos of life.

That was nearly a decade ago, and the daily ritual has served Ibañez well. Now the HIV researcher and professor in the Department of Epidemiology within the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work is looking to transmute what has helped her personally into a professional endeavor that could help others in times of stress and uncertainty.

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health within the National Institutes of Health is funding Ibañez with a \$600,000 grant as she attempts to reduce the physical and psychological symptoms of HIV in elderly adults through the ancient Chinese mind-body-spirit practice of qigong (pronounced chee-gung).

Qigong dates back approximately 5,000 years and incorporates meditation, controlled breathing and gentle movements that can ultimately cleanse and re-energize the internal organs; the more commercialized

healing practice of tai chi was born from the foundations of qigong.

“Kung fu is intimidating for beginners or for those who may think they’re too out of shape. While these perceptions are usually false, we thought a gentler practice would be easier for our demographic to embrace,” said Ibañez.

After more than 15 years of traditional HIV research, this is the first project in which Ibañez will be able to integrate alternative approaches to care into her work.

“I’ve always hoped to do a study on the health benefits of mind-body-spirit approaches such as qigong, yoga and meditation. This project allows me to do just that with an aging HIV community,” Ibañez said. “I’ll be pilot testing my qigong intervention specifically for underserved seniors living with HIV, and I’m eager to see the impact.”

In the U.S., 50 percent of individuals infected with HIV are older than 50, and this estimate is expected to rise to 70 percent by 2020. There’s a dire need to establish innovative and accessible interventions that can assist older people living with the virus.

At the Midtown Miami location of Borinquen Medical Centers of Miami-Dade, where most patients are low-income and

uninsured, there’s a brand-new wellness center space for exercise programs. Here, Ibañez will recruit from a culturally diverse group of existing patients. They will receive one of three versions of care: a full qigong intervention; a sham treatment (guided movements but without a focus on breathing or meditation); or a standard care treatment (typical antiretroviral therapy without any exercise or meditation).

Ibañez is collaborating with Linda Larkey of Arizona State University, who found success in using qigong to improve the health and well-being of breast cancer survivors, and Kristopher Fennie of Stempel College, who will contribute his expertise in data analysis and management.

Larkey’s interest in qigong sprang from her own lifelong practice of yoga and meditation. She used the gentle and easy-to-adopt practices to support patients with issues ranging from hypertension to cancer remission, and the beneficial outcomes were inspiring. Assessing patients before and after the intervention period, including several months out, she found improvement in levels of fatigue, depression and cognitive function.

Larkey utilizes a modified practice that blends qigong with repetitive tai chi

movements and breathing techniques. She has employed it successfully in her research and has committed to helping Ibañez implement the same for her study. The two will train Borinquen staff to serve as practice leaders who will run group sessions and teach patients to continue the exercises on their own at home.

“There’s a lot of potential for achieving health benefits among vulnerable older adults, and what’s more, there’s a minimal cost associated with this form of self-care for the patient,” Larkey said. “We want them to learn the philosophy and the techniques so they can better manage their health.”

The novel intervention could address common symptoms such as fatigue and poor mental health as well as low self-esteem in older HIV patients. One of the biggest challenges for the research team is that the population is older and disadvantaged, and the approach may be perceived as too abstract. The pilot study will include recommendations for addressing this challenge.

While HIV medications continue to prolong people’s lives, it remains incumbent on health care practitioners and researchers to work toward bettering other aspects as well — something Ibañez clearly has her eye on.

“Qigong is for promoting health and longevity,” she said. “It’s intended to improve the quality of life for those who do it. I definitely expect qigong to help our HIV patients in many ways.” ■



Qigong’s gentle movements both stretch and harmonize the body, as demonstrated here by Vanessa Ayala MPH ’17, who worked on the FIU research.

BISCAYNE BAY

Coming into its own

By Karen Cochrane | Photos by Doug Garland '10 and Ben Guzman '11

Maybe it's because of its location on the water's edge. Perhaps it's because of its smaller physical footprint. Possibly it's because it is less crowded. Whatever the case, if you ask those who have visited both of FIU's campuses, they will likely tell you that the Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC) has a presence — a “vibe” — unlike the bigger, main Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC). Words and phrases like “chill,” “calmer” and “family-oriented” routinely find their way into peoples' descriptions of BBC.

The ethos that has long been part of the campus's DNA will be tested in the months and years ahead as the university works to increase student enrollment at BBC. Last fall, student enrollment at the campus reached a high of 6,000, and plans are to increase that slowly to 15,000 as more programs — such as health services administration and kinesiology (formerly known as the bachelor's in physical education) — move up there.

“We all love that BBC has a different feel to it than MMC,” says BBC Vice Provost Steve Moll '76 '77. “We look at MMC as being the corporate campus and we're the family campus. And together we are one FIU.”

The ties that run deep

Moll was appointed vice provost in 2011. A two-time graduate of the university's hospitality school — now known as the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management and a signature institution at BBC — Moll had worked for them in various capacities since 1977, the year that BBC opened as the North Miami Campus. If anyone knew the BBC ecosystem, it was Moll.

Once in charge, he quickly hit the road, visiting with business and civic leaders in the northeastern part of the county to establish a community relations board at BBC called the Vice Provost's Council. He brought influencers into the FIU fold and turned them into brand ambassadors and

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BBC is the largest branch campus in both enrollment and acreage in the State University System.

.....
200

Acres of waterfront property in northeast Miami
.....

CAMPUS

An aerial photograph of a campus featuring a large body of water with mangroves. The campus buildings are visible on the left side, and a city skyline is in the background under a cloudy sky.

300

The approximate number of faculty and staff who call BBC home

\$1M

Scholarships funds raised by the Vice Provost's Council

6,156

Students served during the Fall 2017 semester

Environmentally Conscious FIU was named a Tree Campus USA in 2010 in large part due to myriad efforts and initiatives at BBC. Students, faculty and staff have worked for years on mangrove restoration at Oleta State Park as well as BBC, whose shoreline is hugged by several acres of mangroves.

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advocates for the university. BBC had been in the community for decades. Now it was time for it to become *of* the community.

Today the council has 30 members and three goals: spread word of the campus and the opportunities it offers; raise money for scholarships in support of students who live in the area; and mentor BBC students.

Moll calls the council members “wise people from the community who help our students because they want to. It’s an extraordinary story.” And they’re effective: In just four years, they have raised more than \$1 million in support of two scholarships: the Vice Provost’s Council Scholarship and the Golden Gift First Generation Scholarship. More than 250 students have received awards.

Community collaborations

After learning that so many people didn’t know about FIU and its offerings, Moll began inviting the community to events. The Creative Writing Program within the College of Arts, Sciences & Education is based at BBC, and Director Les Standiford brings world-famous authors to campus (see “The Dennis Lehane Narrative,” page 8) as part of its annual Lawrence A. Sanders Award for Fiction. It’s an opportunity to open the campus to everyone, Moll says. But that’s just the beginning. The campus has a long and growing list of ways in which to engage students and the community. Outlined here are a few key initiatives and programs.

MAST@FIU

In 2013, MAST@FIU opened its doors at BBC as Florida’s only four-year high school on a university campus. The school follows the highly successful Maritime and Science Technology (MAST) Academy magnet model found elsewhere in the county. The

partnership between FIU and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is creating a pipeline of prepared students who are attending FIU to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. (According to Moll, approximately 25 percent of last year’s inaugural graduating class matriculated at FIU.) Many earn college credit while still in high school by taking dual-enrollment courses taught at BBC by FIU faculty.

Royal@FIU World Stage Collaborative

In 2015, the university teamed with Royal Caribbean Cruises to create a 130,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art rehearsal and production studio at BBC. The partnership — The Royal@FIU World Stage Collaborative — allows for joint research projects, talent development and real-world experience for FIU students. The production studio features three-story studios, a 300-seat theater, 20,000-square-foot costume-making facility, 10 rehearsal studios, a recording room and video editing facilities. In addition to learning about stage management and design, audio engineering and production, students also have a chance to learn something about cruise line operations.

A wine and food extravaganza and more

The Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management hosts several community-focused activities and events. The most famous is the annual Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival. Relying on the skills and hard work of more than 1,200 students — who earn internship credit and invaluable hands-on experience as planners, managers and culinary assistants — the festival brings together celebrity chefs, local restaurateurs

and wine-and-spirits distributors for several days of tastings, dinners and parties that draw thousands from around the country to Miami Beach. Proceeds have benefitted the hospitality school to the tune of \$28 million over the past two decades — money that has gone back into scholarships, programming and a one-of-a-kind teaching restaurant and wine-education facility at BBC.

North Miami BrewFest, a one-day beer festival, has its roots in the hospitality school. FIU students started the event in 2012 and within four years had won the sponsorship of nearby North Miami, which has provided a new venue in its downtown. Proceeds benefit the school’s brewing science program.

The Chaplin School is also home to StartUP FIU Food, an incubator for nascent food-related small businesses in the area, whose owners receive mentoring as well as access to the school’s state-of-the-art commercial kitchens.

iSTAR

Supported by a \$1.2 million donation from Bridgegate Pictures, the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) is beginning construction on iSTAR (the Immersive Studio for Altered Reality) this fall, providing FIU students with career training in the creation of virtual reality and augmented reality. The program was created to help students earn jobs in an industry that Goldman Sachs estimates will grow to \$95 billion by 2025. The program will also provide students mentorship and hands-on internship opportunities with Bridgegate that will further prepare them for employment. Program facilities will feature a virtual reality lab, green screens, a panoramic theater, classrooms and offices.

Art incubator

The CARTA | Ratcliffe Arts + Design Incubator at FIU gives art, design, and communication students the tools and support needed to turn their ideas into profitable businesses. Two faculty fellows, one designer, one entrepreneur and Jacek Kolasinski, associate professor in the Department of Art + Art History, mentor up to 15 students, also known as Ratcliffe Student Fellows. Each student fellow receives a \$7,500 tuition scholarship for their year in the program. The faculty fellows operate their own on-site studios, co-design products for university and external clients, and oversee the fellows' development of startup businesses or patents. Among the most innovative arts entrepreneurship spaces at a public university in South Florida, the program was created with an \$831,000 gift from The Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation. In July, the board of the foundation agreed to augment their original gift with another \$685,000 in support of the Student Fellows continuing their work.

Community science journalism

Eyesontherise.org focuses on creating student journalism that highlights environmental impacts related to sea level rise. The project began as an initiative of four journalism faculty members to raise public awareness of sea level rise through student and community engagement. The award-winning project began in 2014, and when the School of Journalism and Mass Communication integrated into CARTA in 2016, eyesontherise.org expanded to include disciplines from across the university. To date, the initiative has produced award-winning documentaries, innovative science journalism storytelling and research through the use of virtual reality and 3D technologies, and the Sea Level Rise Toolbox - an application

which simulates the potential impacts of sea level rise in South Florida.

Water world

BBC's bayside location allows for some unique activities that are not possible at the main campus. FIU's Academy for International Disaster Preparedness, for example, conducts simulated trainings for first responders at BBC, incorporating land, sea and drone training into the exercises.

"In order to earn a master's in disaster management, students must participate in an outdoor, 48-hour disaster field exercise," says Ruben Almaguer, assistant vice president of Disaster Management & Emergency Operations. "BBC's open spaces provide us the perfect location to set up the equipment to support the exercise. We even use the boat dock to transport students across the waterway to conduct disaster damage assessments."

Professors teaching courses as part of the marine sciences program take students down to the water's edge or out in boats for study and research purposes, among them Heather Bracken-Grissom, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Arts, Sciences & Education.

"I teach an invertebrate zoology class where most of the labs are spent actually observing and collecting inverts in the bay," says Heather Bracken-Grissom, who incorporates crabs, shrimp and lobsters she catches in the bay into her research studies. "This allows students to see animals in their natural habitat. It's a major advantage of having a campus on the water."

It's not all work and studies, however. The Health & Wellness Recreation Center hosts two-hour kayaking trips all year so both students and locals can take advantage of the pristine scenery. ■



There's no stopping Daenne Dolce

Students like Daenne Dolce are why Vice Provost Steve Moll and the Vice Provost's Council are so passionate about their scholarship program. A few years ago, Dolce was a high school student in Haiti who spoke no English. Today she is a senior biology major at FIU whose goal is to become a physician.

After graduating from high school, Dolce came to Miami and enrolled in a one-year, accelerated English program at Miami Dade College. Upon its completion, she earned her AA and then transferred to FIU. A top student, she is president of the FIU chapter of Tau Sigma National Honor Society for transfer students.

"This scholarship came at the right time," says Dolce, who will graduate in Spring 2019. "I received it when I was just returning to FIU from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, which I attended for one semester as part of the National Student Exchange program."

When she returned from Kentucky, Dolce began working nearly 30 hours a week for a tutoring company in addition to taking 12 credit hours. The First Generation Golden Gift scholarship she received allowed her to focus on her classes and work fewer hours.

"I am determined to get a good score on the MCAT," says Dolce, "but at the same time I have so many needs for electronics and books. This was a lifesaver."



Andrew Tarver, a finance major and defensive tackle, got some important coaching from Denisse Olarte, a graduate student who tutored him in math at the Student-Athletic Academic Center.

WINNING EQUATION

FIU student-athletes are reaching new heights in the classroom thanks to a more effective game plan for student success

By Karen Cochrane | Photo by Doug Garland '10

Last football season, defensive tackle Andrew Tarver began his weekdays at 5:30 a.m. The redshirt freshman would eat breakfast, get taped and meet with the football team prior to practice at 8:45 a.m. After that, he had just enough time to shower and grab some lunch before classes at 1 p.m. Three hours later he was out of class and lifting in the gym. After that, it was player-led meetings until he hit the books again with a pre-calculus class from 6-7:15 p.m. A finance major, Tarver found the math “very tedious,” so at the conclusion of class he often went straight to the Student-Athlete Academic Center (SAAC) for a one-on-one tutoring session from 7:30-9 p.m. with tutor and graduate student Denisse Olarte. Tarver typically ate dinner during tutoring and ended his days with homework and studying in his dorm room.

For his efforts Tarver earned a B+ in pre-calculus, was named to the Conference USA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll and recorded eight tackles (including two solo tackles against Western Kentucky University) in the Panthers’ bowl-earning 2017 season.

Tarver and the 393 athletes who compete for FIU across 16 sports in Division I-A receive a collective assist in their educational journey from coaches, faculty, academic

advisors, SAAC academic coordinators and volunteer tutors. This potent combination propelled FIU’s sports teams to an historic performance in the 2018 NCAA annual Academic Progress Rate (APR) report. Originally created to ensure that the education of student-athletes remains a priority, the APR uses a series of formulas related to student-athlete retention and eligibility to measure the academic performances of all NCAA Division I student-athletes.

The latest APR report, released by the NCAA in May, included APR data from the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years. All 16 teams finished above the required multi-year score of 930, with 15 FIU teams recording scores of 960 or better (1,000 is a perfect score). Women’s golf and women’s cross country were recognized by the NCAA for registering a multi-year score of 1,000, putting them in the top 10 percent of their sports nationally in academic performance. It marked the fourth straight year women’s golf was recognized for its academic success. Nine teams improved their multi-year score (men’s basketball, men’s cross country, football, men’s soccer, softball, swimming and diving, women’s tennis, men’s track and field and women’s volleyball). The men’s track and field

program recorded the biggest jump, improving 16 points from last year.

To understand the improvement reflected in the latest numbers, one must first know that less than five years ago one of FIU’s sports teams was put on probation due to low APR scores.

‘If it happens, it has to have a purpose’

For years FIU used a time-based system employed by many universities, one in which student-athletes are required to log a certain amount of hours per week in study hall. In this model, there is often limited oversight in how the students spend their time while in study hall. Still used by a majority of universities today, it is a system that favors quantity (hours) over quality (meaningful time spent).

“Unfortunately, that system tends to foster a swipe-in, swipe-out mentality,” says Wesley Maas, assistant vice president of undergraduate education and director of SAAC. A former football player at South Carolina’s Newberry College, Maas was familiar with the weaknesses of such a system. When FIU saw its APR scores begin to dip, Elizabeth Bejar, senior vice president for academic and student affairs,

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The process of getting student-athletes up to speed both inside and outside of the classroom is collaborative. “It’s not athletics versus academics, which does exist at other institutions,” explains Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth Bejar. “The coaches are there, the academic advisors are there, the academic coordinators are there. We’re working in tandem toward the same goal: the academic success of our student-athletes.”

hired Maas “so we could build a culture that makes sense.”

Maas implemented an objective-based study program at FIU designed to create independent learners. The student-athletes share their course syllabi with their team’s academic coordinators, who then work with the student-athletes to map out their courseload for the semester. The athletes meet weekly with the academic coordinators to ensure they remain on track. Some weeks they might spend 10 hours or more at SAAC working on assignments, studying for tests or receiving tutoring. Other weeks it’s less.

“With the system we have in place here, it’s simple: If it happens, it has to have a purpose,” says Shirley Caballero, assistant director at SAAC. Caballero has been at the university since 2011 and with SAAC since 2015. “We don’t focus on the time the athlete is here, we focus on getting the work done.”

Caballero is one of the only academic coordinators to consistently travel with a team, in this case men’s basketball. The experience has given her insight into what it takes to be a Division I student-athlete. She has commandeered hotel meeting spaces for players to study or work on assignments between practices while on the road and been on the bus with the team when it rolled into a campus parking lot at 2 a.m. after an out-of-

town game. And yes, she was the one texting some of the players as they got off the bus to remind them of a tutoring session at 8 a.m. that morning.

Caballero loves her job. When asked where the passion comes from she says, “The students. They work so hard. It didn’t really hit me until I went on that first trip. How could I not match that intensity? I want them to know, ‘I’m just as committed to this as you are.’”

Collaboration is the secret sauce that makes it all work

That commitment to the student-athlete starts long before the student enrolls at FIU. Bejar, for instance, meets personally with as many of the parents and recruits as she can. When asked if it’s typical for a senior university leader to meet with recruits, Bejar says she doesn’t know. Nor does she care.

“I do what I think is right. We are asking these recruits to commit their time and their talent to us, which is not entirely understood at the university,” she says, “so the ability to meet a student-athlete and recruit at the highest level from an academic perspective to ensure that academics is at the forefront of this partnership is helping our coaches be more successful in their recruiting endeavors.”

The meetings are a hit with the parents. “The reality is that most student-

athletes don’t go pro, so the parents are very interested in what the university’s opportunities are for their students to engage academically,” Bejar says. “They ask questions about majors and disciplines and career outcomes. Because I’m familiar with the broader landscape, I speak to the value proposition of FIU.

“This entire process is collaborative,” continues Bejar. “And we’re doing it better than we ever have before. It’s not athletics versus academics, which does exist at other institutions. So the coaches are there, the academic advisors are there, the academic coordinators are there. We’re working in tandem toward the same goal, the academic success of our student-athletes.”

Swimming and diving head coach Randy Horner, whose team has won the last four Conference USA Championships, is all-in. In June 2018, nine of his student-athletes were named to the 2018 College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America Team.

“Very few swimmers go pro. They are here to get a degree, and this new model has been a successful approach to taking care of business,” says Horner. “We’ve gotten across the message that they can be successful on their own, and that’s a really important message to deliver.” ■

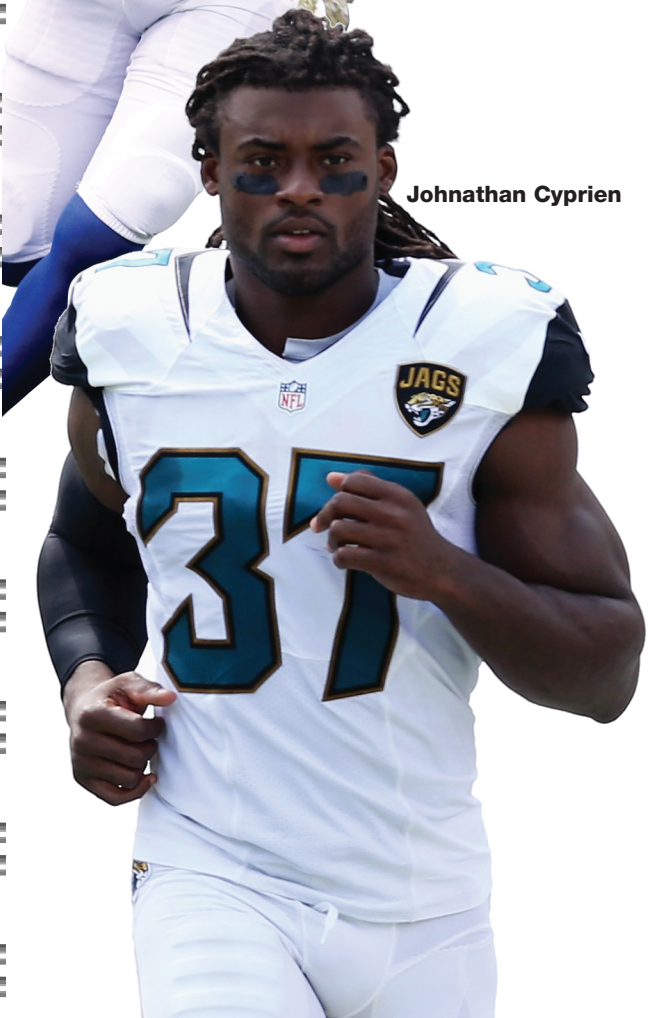
FROM PANTHERS TO PROS

A look at the eight former FIU football players who have heard their names called on Draft Day and where they are now

By David Drucker '18



T.Y. Hilton



Johnathan Cyprien

FIU is not a typical college football program. Most new teams take decades to rise to the Division I-A level and then longer to reach a bowl game. Not FIU. Beginning play in 2002, the Panthers joined Division I-A in 2005 and have been to three bowl games in the last eight years. A handful of talented individuals helped make these rapid advancements possible. And the National Football League has watched closely.

The Seattle Seahawks' selection of Alex McGough in April bumped the total number of Panthers drafted to the NFL to eight. Not bad for a program entering its seventeenth season. Here is a look at the Panthers who have been selected in the NFL drafts over the years and what they have done on the professional level.

Antwan Barnes, linebacker (2003-2006)

The first Panther ever drafted, Antwan Barnes would help FIU make history. He led the Panthers to their first Division 1-A win and their transition to the Sun Belt Conference. Between 2003 and 2006, Barnes recorded 55.5 tackles for a loss (TFL) and 21.5 sacks. Not only are both totals still university records, but in his senior year, Barnes was No. 1 in TFL in the nation. His combination of size and dogged speed earned him a nickname in the local Spanish media: "El Monstro" (The Monster).

The Pick: Baltimore Ravens (Round 4, Selection #134)

In 2007, Barnes joined NFL legend Ray Lewis in Baltimore. He went on to play for four different franchises in his eight-year career. His most successful stint came with the San Diego Chargers, when in 2011 he recorded 11 sacks and two forced fumbles.

Chandler Williams, wide receiver (2003-2006)

Before T.Y. Hilton came along, Chandler Williams set all the university receiving records. The former Miami High quarterback became a favorite target in head coach Don Strock's pass-heavy offense because of his reliability in the slot. Williams led the team in receiving in 2005 and 2006 and completed his FIU career with 2,519 receiving yards, 203 receptions and nine receiving touchdowns.

The Pick: Minnesota Vikings (Round 7, #233)

The Vikings released Williams shortly after drafting him. He journeyed around the league on several practice squads before signing with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. On January 5, 2013, Williams died due to a heart-related issue while playing in a flag football tournament. He was 27.

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**Anthony Gaitor, defensive back
(2007-2010)**

He was written off as a two-star recruit by scouting services. But Anthony Gaitor would rise to become a key player in the Panthers' first bowl game season, surprising his early critics with his quickness and instinctiveness as a cornerback. The Miami Northwestern Senior High alum played his way onto two All-Sun Belt Conference First Team recognitions. In 2011, he earned his BA in recreation and sports management.

**The Pick: Tampa Bay Buccaneers
(Round 7, #222)**

Gaitor saw several regular season games before being released. He eventually made his way to the Canadian Football League, where he plays for the BC Lions.

**T.Y. Hilton, wide receiver
(2008-2011)**

Rarely does a young program like FIU get a star like T.Y. Hilton. He chose FIU over older, more established programs and promised he would score a touchdown on his first touch. He did. He took the Panthers to their first bowl game, helped them win it, won Sun Belt Player of the Year and then took them back to a bowl game the next year. He caught and ran for 3,531 yards at FIU and scored 37 touchdowns. Hilton broke 12 offensive records. And he did it all while earning his BA in liberal studies.

FIU football would not be what it is today without "Goodbye" T.Y.

**Professional: Indianapolis Colts
(Round 3, #92)**

Hilton is having tremendous success in the NFL. Over a six-year span with the Colts, he's gained 6,827 yards and scored 34 touchdowns. In 2016, Hilton led the NFL in receiving yards with 1,448. He has also enjoyed four straight Pro Bowl appearances through 2017.

**Tourek Williams, defensive end
(2009-2012)**

Williams developed into a stout defender over his four years at the university. As he gained muscle and trimmed fat, Williams began to stand out. By his senior year he was a team captain and a Sun Belt All-Conference First Team pick. Williams finished his collegiate career with 45.5 tackles for a loss and 18 sacks.

**The Pick: San Diego Chargers
(Round 6, #179)**

Williams was mostly a special teams contributor during his four-year tenure with San Diego. In his rookie year, injuries to the linebacking corps gave him more playing time. He started six games and had 10 tackles, a forced fumble and a sack as a rookie in 2013.

**Johnathan Cyprien, defensive back
(2009-2012)**

Cyprien garnered national respect as one of the best safeties in college football. His intelligence stood out in particular; Cyprien often called out defensive adjustments from his safety position, which is traditionally done by a linebacker. He did this while becoming FIU's all-time leading tackler (365). Even though T.Y. Hilton was in the spotlight during most of Cyprien's career, the safety's draft stock got its own fair share of attention. In fact, he ended up being drafted much earlier than Hilton was the year before.

**The Pick: Jacksonville Jaguars
(Round 2, #33)**

Cyprien was named the starting strong safety as a rookie in 2013 and he's been a consistent starter on defense since. His 2016 season in particular was noteworthy; his 128 combined tackles were the 12th most in the NFL. In 2017, he signed a four-year, \$25 million contract with the Tennessee Titans.

Jonnu Smith, tight end (2013-2016)

While attending West Port High in Ocala, a young Jonnu Smith didn't receive much attention from college scouts. That was until FIU's tight ends coach, following head coach Mario Cristobal's philosophy of visiting every high school in the state, watched the young man play for 10 minutes and was sold. Smith would go on to become the best tight end in program history. He ended up with 2001 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns on his college resume.

**Professional: Jonnu Smith
(Round 3, #100)**

Smith joined fellow Panther Johnathan Cyprien in Nashville in 2017. He made his first touchdown on a 32-yard pass from Marcus Mariota on his way to a 37-16 win over Jacksonville. He finished his rookie year with 18 receptions for 157 yards and two touchdowns.

**Alex McGough, quarterback
(2014-2017)**

McGough may be the best quarterback to ever play at FIU (most total touchdowns, most passing yards in a season) and is the first signal caller to be drafted. His college career is highlighted by a remarkable senior year under head coach Butch Davis. McGough captained a red zone offense that went 40-41 (most efficient in FBS). His Panthers went 8-4 and went to a bowl game. Although McGough broke his collarbone in the bowl, he received attention from NFL scouts after it healed and four teams worked him out privately. McGough graduated with a BA in liberal studies.

**Professional: Seattle Seahawks
(Round 7, #220)**

With the pick, McGough became the first quarterback drafted by the Seahawks since Russell Wilson in 2012 and the first quarterback to ever be drafted from FIU. ■

CRUNCH TIME

Who will fill the void created by the loss of several key players remains to be seen

By Pete Pelegrin



Like every college football team in the nation, FIU has yet to write its script for the 2018 season. However, unlike many teams, the Panthers have plenty of roles available for leading men.

Coming off one of the most successful seasons in FIU football history, the Panthers enter their 17th campaign on the gridiron with competition at several key positions all over the field.

Last year's team matched the program record for wins in a season with eight. (The 2011 team also won eight games.) And for the first time since 2011, last year's team returned to the postseason in what was head coach Butch Davis' first season at FIU.

FIU lost many instrumental cogs from its 8-5 Gasparilla Bowl team. Due to graduation, the Panthers said goodbyes to their leading passer (Alex McGough), leading rusher (Alex Gardner), leading receiver (Thomas Owens), top four tacklers (linebackers Anthony Wint and Treyvon Williams and safeties Bryce Canady and Niko Gonzalez) and interception leader (Brad Muhammad).

Still, thanks to Davis and his coaching staff's recruiting prowess, the cupboard is not bare entering 2018. FIU has a deep running back and receiving corps plus a combination of experience and promising youth along the offensive line.

The defensive line and linebackers have an intriguing mix of brawn and quick playmakers. A quick glance at the secondary shows athletic, tall, rangy defenders.

Inquiring minds want to know

Possibly the number one question entering training camp in August and leading into the season opener against Indiana on Sept. 1: Who will be the starting quarterback?

McGough broke just about every FIU passing record during his illustrious four-year career before being drafted by the Seattle Seahawks in the 2018 NFL Draft last April.

This season FIU will have a new starting quarterback for the first time since 2014. The leading candidates to be under center are Bowling Green graduate transfer

Quarterbacks Christian Alexander (left) and James Morgan

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James Morgan and redshirt junior Christian Alexander. Maurice Alexander, who played quarterback last season, has moved to receiver. FIU also has redshirt freshman quarterback Kaylan Wiggins.

Despite losing Gardner, the Panthers have four diverse and talented running backs returning in Napoleon Maxwell, Shawndarrius Phillips, Anthony Jones and D’Vonte Price.

Although Owens missed the last four games with a knee injury in 2017, the Panthers got an extended look at their young receivers and liked what they saw. Sophomore Bryce Singleton set an FIU freshman record with three touchdowns in the regular season finale against UMass. FIU also welcomes Florida transfer C.J. Worton, who impressed in spring practice.

FIU brings back the majority of its starting offensive line from a year ago and adds

monstrous left tackle D’Antne Demery (6-5, 320 pounds). Jordan Budwig, one of the pillars of the line, was granted a sixth year and he’ll man his usual left guard spot.

The team’s two leading sackers are back in Fermin Silva and Anthony Johnson. Each had seven sacks last year. While Johnson remains on the defensive line, Silva moves to linebacker this season to help spell the losses of Wint and Williams.

The FIU defensive line is bolstered by the additions of Georgia Tech transfer Jordan Wood, who showed tremendous promise while working with the defensive scout team last season. Junior college transfer defensive tackle Tayland Humphrey, the highest-rated recruit in FIU history, figures to take the FIU D-line up a notch or two.

Sage Lewis is expected to continue his good work at linebacker as he and Silva look to carry

on the sterling play of Wint and Williams.

The FIU secondary will have a new look with the loss of its top three defensive backs. Cornerback Isaiah Brown is healthy again and looked every bit as good in the spring. Emmanuel Lubin is expected to compete at the other corner with receiver-turned-cornerback Stantley Thomas-Oliver.

Safety Dorian Hall (6-4, 215 pounds) has intriguing size and athleticism while at free safety Rutgers graduate transfer Kiy Hester should make an impact.

The Panthers return both of their kicking specialists. Kicker Jose Borregales was 15 of 18 on field goals last season. Punter Stone Wilson knocked nine punts inside the 20 in 2017.

UM, FAU and more this season

FIU has a challenging schedule in 2018, but the Panthers will only leave the state of Florida four times in their 12 games.

FIU has seven home games this season beginning with the Sept. 1 opener against Indiana.

The Panthers actually play six of their first seven games in Miami — the only out-of-town game in that stretch is at Old Dominion Sept. 8. FIU travels up the Florida Turnpike to Hard Rock Stadium Sept. 22 to renew its rivalry against Miami. The Panthers and Hurricanes have not played since 2007.

After opening its Conference USA schedule on the road at Old Dominion, the Panthers begin the home portion of their C-USA slate against Middle Tennessee Oct. 13.

Don Shula Bowl XVII takes place at FIU’s Riccardo Silva Stadium Nov. 3 when FIU and Florida Atlantic play for the coveted Shula Trophy.

FIU finishes the regular season with two of its final three games on the road at University of Texas-San Antonio (Nov. 10) and Charlotte (Nov. 17). The Panthers close out their regular season at home against Marshall (Nov. 24). ■

Possibly the number one question entering training camp in August and leading into the season opener against Indiana on Sept. 1: Who will be the starting quarterback?



Offensive guard Jordan Budwig (left) and defensive lineman Fermin Silva

CLASS NOTES

1980s



Daniel A. Gwinn '82 published “Free to Marry, Not Free to Work” in the *Michigan Family Law Journal*, a scholarly review contrasting the lack of equal rights in the workplace with

legally recognized marriage rights for same-sex couples, and also published “Assuming False Identity” in *Laches*, a publication of the Oakland County, Michigan, Bar Association, examining the weaknesses of reliance on a “sex-gender stereotyping” theory to secure equal opportunity in employment for transgendered people.

1990s



Andrea Phillips-Lopez '93 has turned her many years of experience in broadcast journalism and public relations into her own consultancy, Andi Phillips Communications. Now

celebrating 25 years since walking across the FIU commencement stage, she looks back on an excellent undergraduate experience, during which her mandatory internship led to her first job as a weekend assignment editor at local WTVJ.



Terry Fields '96 published his latest work, “Somewhere Beyond Manhattan,” a coming-of-age novel about a teenage boy who discovers a hidden tribe of Lenape Indians living in the midst

of Manhattan.



Ghislaine Torres Bruner MPH '98, an energy litigation attorney and shareholder with Am Law 100 firm Polsinelli, has been named a Top Woman in Energy by the *Denver Business Journal*.

Arlene Cabrera-Peterson '98 has returned to Miami after five years of raising her young family and focusing on community work and ministry in Connecticut. While away, she gained a new appreciation for the South Florida community. She looks forward to reconnecting and engaging with FIU as well as Miami.

2000s



Myrtle Patricia Alexander '07 earned a Ph.D. in management from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and has been appointed president of

the university’s alumni association in Washington, D.C.

Consuella Askew Ed.D. '08, director of the John Cotton Dana Library at Rutgers University, was named a 2018 Library Senior Fellow at UCLA.

Edward O. Kennedy Jr. MBA '08 retired this summer after 38 years as a commercial lines insurance premium auditor. He and his wife Elaine are planning trips to Disney World and Mexico, after which Ed is considering

a return to FIU for a second master’s degree in hopes of launching a second career as a teacher/researcher in Latin American political economy or working for a political consulting or public opinion polling firm.



Jorge Navarro JD '09, a real estate attorney, was recently elevated to shareholder at the international law firm Greenberg Taurig, P.A.

2010s

Sa'id Ibrahim '11 was named an associate of the international law firm Goldberg Segalla’s Workers’ Compensation Practice Group in Albany, NY. Ibrahim counsels employers, insurers and third-party administrators in a wide variety of workers’ compensation matters and defends them before the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board.



Christopher Patron '11 has been appointed business development officer at BrightStar Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in South Florida. A seasoned business development executive with eight years of experience in the banking and finance industry, Patron has served in various leadership positions throughout South Florida. Most recently, he was the officer and relationship manager at Ocean Bank, where his duties included managing multi-million dollar portfolios for corporate and real estate clients.



Alumna Irma Becerra has scaled the ladder of academia to arrive at the top.

Becerra, who in 1994 became the first woman to earn a doctorate in engineering from FIU, in July took office as president of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. She is the Catholic university’s seventh president and the first of Hispanic heritage.

Becerra launched her academic career at FIU, where she served for decades, as a tenured full professor in management information systems and later as vice provost for Academic Affairs and vice president for Engagement. In the latter role she developed an extensive portfolio of partnerships for the university, spearheaded FIU’s collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and supported the goal of aligning higher education with economic development and industry needs.

“My many experiences at FIU unequivocally shaped my sense that when you set yourself a goal, it is always possible,” Becerra says.

Becerra left FIU in 2014 to serve as the provost and chief academic officer at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens. Her research focuses on knowledge management, business intelligence, enterprise systems, disaster management and IT entrepreneurship. She holds four patents.



Emeritus Professor creates professorship in Tropical Ecology

By Charles Crespo MA '13, FIU Foundation

If you want to know about FIU Professor Emeritus Walter M. Goldberg's distinguished academic career, you should first dial your time machine to the 1960s, throw on your wetsuit and head to the Pentagon. It might sound strange now to take scuba lessons at the headquarters of the Department of Defense, but that was where Goldberg, then an undergraduate at American University in Washington, D.C., and his then girlfriend-now-wife, Rosalie, learned to dive.

Those lessons led in 1966 to a scuba-diving vacation in the Florida Keys. It was there that his fascination with marine environments — and corals in particular — was cemented.

"On my first dive, when all the bubbles cleared, I was on a reef. I thought, 'What is this?' It was fascinating," he remembers. "It was an underwater art museum, but I had no idea what these things were. That's when I really became interested in [my field]."

His growing interest in corals led him back to Florida for graduate school, where he completed a master's degree at Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. at the University of Miami. Soon after, Miami's brand-new public university came calling, and Goldberg signed on as one of its youngest professors.

In many ways, Goldberg grew up alongside

the university. He remembers the early days of teaching just 10 to 15 students in a class and carving out a small research nook for himself because, in those resource-poor early days, only the head of the department was given lab space.

During his 39-year career, Goldberg taught courses in general biology, oceanography and zoology and served a term as department chair. While he is now retired, Goldberg still makes the weekly four-hour round trip from his home in Stuart, Florida, to MMC to teach a scientific writing course for honors students in the Department of Biological Sciences.

"I've learned a lot on my way to retirement. I've seen the department grow," he says. "As the department developed and expanded, it had to broaden its representation of all that the biological sciences has become, and in turn, I became more appreciative of that scientific diversity."

"[For example], we have huge issues with habitat loss," says the marine biologist, who specialized in coral biology. "When the habitat disappears, there go the species. We have an emergency that is global in scope."

So, when it came time to consider where he and his wife might establish a legacy, he

naturally thought of FIU. Together, the couple recently established the Walter and Rosalie Goldberg Professorship in Tropical Ecology in the College of Arts, Sciences & Education. It is open to anyone who studies any form of tropical ecology. The university will use the new position to attract someone interested in working to solve the many challenges facing ecosystems across the world.

In addition to researching and advancing potential solutions for tropical ecology's biggest issues, the person who fills the professorship will act as the spokesperson for these issues at FIU.

With nearly four decades invested in FIU, Goldberg understood full well that a gift to Miami's public research university has the potential to make a bigger impact than elsewhere and that he and his wife could make a meaningful difference.

"I want to see our profile elevated. That's very important," he says. "We are on our way to doing it. We are a respected department. I'm hoping that the [professorship] will serve that goal."

Thanks to Walter and Rosalie Goldberg, you won't need a time machine to see the future of tropical ecology studies at FIU. It is already shining that much brighter. ■

VIP: Very Important Panther

Regynald G. Washington

- Chief Executive Officer, Hojeij Branded Foods
- Bachelor of Science in international hotel and restaurant administration, 1974
- Member, Dean's Advisory Council, Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Torch Award recipient, 2005
- Commencement speaker, Summer 2018

Q: You've climbed from the lowest rung of the hospitality world — starting as a teenage busboy in the Florida Keys — to the very top — head of a company that operates the airport outlets of popular restaurant brands nationwide. How has that experience made you a better leader?

A: Those who have surveyed and experienced the food and beverage landscape from the bottom to the top are capable of understanding the importance of how all of the restaurant components harmonize together to ensure a successful business. Experiencing all levels enhances your credibility as a leader. You have walked in the shoes of those whom you are leading.

Q: Hospitality is a tough industry. What is the key to success?

A: I am very passionate and committed to my work and thoroughly enjoy it. I see every challenge as an opportunity to do what one would believe is the impossible. The key to success is strategic preparation, intelligent execution, striving for excellence, surrounding yourself with great people, creating an environment of continuous learning for your staff and putting your guest and employee needs first. Also, treating your employees and guests with dignity and respect will create an atmosphere capable of positive traction.

Q: How did your FIU education help you get where you are today?

A: FIU's fine reputation opened many doors of opportunity for me. The faculty members during my years at FIU were very engaging, smart, motivating and enthusiastic about the hospitality industry, and they had strong academic credentials integrated with significant industry experience. It was exciting to learn every day.

Q: What advice do you have for young people just starting careers?

A: Do not focus on how much money you are going to earn in your beginning years. Focus on learning and delivering excellence every day. The money will eventually come. Also, be a person who can be held accountable for your promises. Your reputation will follow you for the rest of your life.

Q: Where do you go for a great night out?

A: I frequent establishments that are fun, with great food, atmosphere and over-the-top service. Being a restaurateur, I enjoy many types of cuisine. My outings may encapsulate an evening with friends, a business dinner, family members or an evening out alone to experience new trends.



Our Success Is Your Success

18 programs among the TOP 100



Over the last ten years we have been unstoppable because of you. Our students, alumni, faculty and staff make us worlds ahead and this is your success. For a complete list of programs and other recent rankings visit go.fiu.edu/rank.