

2017

The **Green School** Magazine

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



Costa Rican President
Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera
and FIU President
Mark B. Rosenberg

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Creating a Just, Peaceful and
Prosperous **World**

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PREPARING THE GLOBAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW

At a time when the challenges facing our world are more urgent than ever – from a rise in nationalism and religious extremism to issues of poverty, inequality and environmental sustainability – the work being done at the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs is more critical than ever.

Our students and faculty are engaged in tackling some of the most difficult issues of our time through a lens of interdisciplinary inquiry – developing the ideas, solutions and policy-relevant research that can make a real difference in our world today.

Each year, I am humbled by the range and depth of scholarship produced by my colleagues in the Green School and the determination and accomplishments of the students who come here with a persistent desire to understand the human condition – and a passion to improve it.

2017 was no different.

Our students are taking what they have learned – both in the classroom and through immersive experiences like study abroad, internships and fellowships – and they are securing top positions in their fields at major public, private and non-profit organizations in the U.S. and around the world.

Programs like our Master of Arts in Global Affairs – now ranked in the Top 40 programs in the world for careers in policy – are preparing the leaders of tomorrow for positions in the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Justice and many more.

Our internationally renowned Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center – one of only 18 National Resource Centers on Latin America in the U.S. – has earned its place as one of four “emerging pre-eminent programs” at FIU.

And we continue to excel in attracting some of the top scholars, dignitaries and policymakers in the world to engage with our students in intimate conversation on real-world issues. From World Bank economist Carlos Végh to religious scholar Reza Aslan, influential leaders and thinkers from around the globe choose FIU and the Green School to host important meetings, conferences and lectures.



We were honored to have Costa Rican President and former FIU researcher Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera join us in September to receive the university’s highest honor – the FIU Presidential Gold Medallion. During our Spring 2017 Commencement, Ambassador Steven J. Green was presented with the FIU Pillar Award – only the seventh individual to receive the prestigious award since the university’s founding.

We also were humbled to receive the support – and trust – of our community partners to continue working on issues that matter to them.

Longtime supporters of the Green School, Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer, generously endowed our Center for Muslim World Studies, which will lead the way in advancing the study of the global Muslim experience.

Leaders of South Florida’s Cuban-American community gathered together to launch CasaCuba, an initiative that will unite all things Cuban at FIU, including our Cuban Research Institute.

We were also delighted to learn that the State of Florida approved \$12.7 million to fund the Green School’s Phase II building, an important milestone in our history that will make it easier for our students and faculty to engage, connect and collaborate.

I hope you will take a moment to read about all of these accomplishments and so much more in our 2017 Green School magazine.

We dedicate this publication to the memory of freshman political science major Alexa Duran and the five others who lost their lives in the tragic collapse of the pedestrian bridge at FIU. We mourn for each of them and send our deepest condolences to their families.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Stack, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

John F. Stack, Jr., Ph.D.
Founding Dean
and Professor of Politics
and International Relations and Law

Costa Rican President Solís

receives Presidential Gold Medallion



Dean John F. Stack, Jr., Costa Rican President Solís, FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and Costa Rican First Lady Mercedes Peñas Domingo meeting with Green School students.

Spending time at FIU was a homecoming of sorts for Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera. A former researcher for the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Solís also worked with the Center for the Administration of Justice – both of which are housed within the Green School.

Solís visited FIU in September 2017 to give a talk about his homeland and to receive FIU's Presidential Gold Medallion – the highest honor the university bestows upon heads of state and other high-ranking public officials. This was the first Gold Medallion President Mark B. Rosenberg conferred since becoming president of the university in 2009.

"FIU recognizes you for your leadership, scholarship and humanitarian endeavors on behalf of the people of Costa Rica and beyond," Rosenberg told Solís during the ceremony. "Through your commitment to a life of service and dedication to building greater knowledge and understanding across borders, you are improving life for your countrymen while continuing to build a legacy that will touch generations to come."

John F. Stack, Jr., founding dean of the Green School, commended President Solís' commitment to the reduction of inequality in all of its forms. "Costa Rica stands as a global leader in the areas of environmental sustainability, commitment to the promotion of green economics and increased opportunities for women in every sector of Costa Rican life."

"I am truly very, very pleased and honored by this occasion," Solís said. "Coming back to FIU is coming back home."

After receiving the medal, Solís discussed Costa Rica's opportunities and challenges in front of a riveted audience that included many proud Costa Ricans, with Frank Mora, director of LACC, moderating the discussion. When Mora asked about Solís' distinguished academic career and its impact on his political career, Solís said, "I am not a politician, I am a professor."

Later that day, Solís and First Lady Mercedes Peñas Domingo also met with a group of students from various programs within the Green School such as the Model United Nations program and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy's Cybersecurity Fellowship program. The students had the rare opportunity to introduce themselves to Solís and to ask him questions.

"I felt honored to get to meet the leader of a country," said Carolina Ramos, an international relations major who participated in the student meeting. "He was completely candid and open about his opinions, and I think that's very admirable. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



After his talk, President Solís invited all Costa Ricans in the room to take a photo with him and President Rosenberg.

Jaffer family endows Center for Muslim World Studies

Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer donate \$2 million to fund scholarship, research and dialogue on the global Muslim experience

“This center will advance the understanding of Muslim history and culture, promote interfaith dialogue and illuminate issues affecting Muslims worldwide.”

– Mark B. Rosenberg
FIU President

To promote greater understanding of the global Muslim community, **Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer**, longtime supporters of Middle East studies and other programs at FIU, donated \$2 million to create a Center for Muslim World Studies at the university.

The first of its kind in South Florida, the center will be named the Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies and will be housed within the Green School.

“This center will advance the understanding of Muslim history and culture, promote interfaith dialogue and illuminate issues affecting Muslims worldwide,” said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. “FIU is the perfect home for an international solution center dedicated to Muslim world studies.”

Mohsin Jaffer, a founding board member of the Coalition of South Florida Muslim Organizations (COSMOS), and his wife Fauzia – who leads the couple’s charitable foundation – have been intimately involved in the development of a Muslim studies initiative at FIU for several years.

The creation of the center is the result of a request made by the South Florida Muslim community for FIU to lead the way in advancing the study of the global Muslim experience.

Academically, the center will focus on key themes, including the global Muslim diaspora; interfaith dialogue; sectarianism and intra-faith relations; gender and identity; and Islam and security.

The multidisciplinary curriculum will draw upon FIU’s expertise in religious studies, political science, international relations, law, business, women’s studies, human rights and other areas.

On campus, the center will be a space for Muslim student life and a hub for intellectual and cultural activities for Muslim and non-Muslim students. Existing programs in Middle East Studies and Western Indian Ocean Studies will be housed within the Jaffer Center.

Mohsin Jaffer, president and CEO at Senior Medical Associates and Stallion Medical Management, is a voluntary clinical assistant professor at FIU, as well as the University of Miami and Nova Southeastern University.

Originally from Kenya, the Jaffers have been active in philanthropic projects around the world through their Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Foundation, including mobile clinics, a rehabilitation program for disabled children and an orphanage in Tanzania.

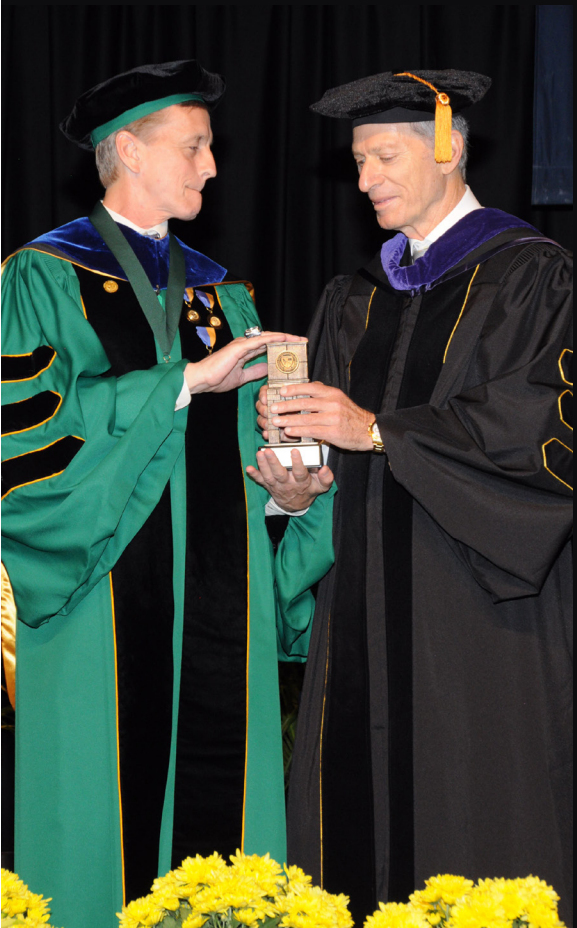
At FIU, the Jaffers have collaborated with the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine through their UHI Community Care Clinic in Miami Gardens, which provides free medical care to low-income and uninsured individuals.

Mohiaddin Mesbahi, current director of the Middle East Studies Program at FIU, will take over as founding director of the Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies.



President Mark B. Rosenberg joins Fauzia and Mohsin Jaffer at the COSMOS gala, where the couple announced their \$2 million gift to the Center for Muslim World Studies.

Ambassador Steven J. Green receives FIU Pillar Award



In recognition of his longstanding support and commitment to FIU, Ambassador Steven J. Green was presented with the FIU Pillar Award during Spring 2017 Commencement. He is only the seventh individual to receive the prestigious award since the university's founding – and the first to receive the award from President Mark B. Rosenberg.

While the honorary doctorate is the highest academic recognition the university can confer, the Pillar Award is reserved for extraordinary individuals who have had a longstanding and transformative impact on the institution.

Ambassador Green, who along with his wife Dorothea Green and daughter Kimberly Green donated \$20 million to the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, is a longtime champion of the university.

His passion and life's work is reflected in the programs and buildings that bear his name, including the Steven and Dorothea Green Library, which serves as the literal and figurative heart of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Ambassador Green's influence extends beyond the university's borders to the underserved residents of South Florida, addressing the critical need for primary and preventive care services through the creation of the Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP, a unique program that offers integrated health care services to members of participating households.

Since the university's founding in 1965, only six Pillar Awards have been given to committed individuals who have made the most significant and enduring contributions toward realizing the vision of FIU. Previous recipients are U.S. Congressman and former State Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart; Ambassador Paul Cejas; Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.; the late Sen. Jack Gordon; former U.S. Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek; and Carolyn Roberts, former chairperson of the Florida Board of Governors – all longtime champions of FIU and its mission.

FIU Provost Kenneth G. Furton presents Ambassador Steven J. Green with the FIU Pillar Award during a Green School commencement ceremony.

State of
Florida
approves
\$12.7 M
for new
Green
School
building

The summer of 2017 brought forth an important milestone in the history of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

The State of Florida approved a \$12.7 million allocation for the Green School's Phase II building – a multi-story space adjoining the existing five-story SIPA building.

The project will include classrooms, conference and event facilities, seminar rooms, and case study rooms, as well as administrative and faculty offices.

Not only will this appropriation allow the Green School to move forward with the planning, design and construction of the new building, it will allow the school to unify its departments

and centers, making it easier for students and faculty to engage, connect and collaborate.

The Green School is grateful to our local legislative delegation, which worked hard on our behalf to secure this critical funding, as well as President Mark B. Rosenberg and Vice President of Governmental Relations Michelle Palacio and her team. They all worked tirelessly throughout the legislative session to ensure FIU received its fair share of state funding, including this allocation for the Green School.

This important development will help the Green School continue to move forward with the important work of preparing globally engaged citizens and the leaders of tomorrow.

TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN

TELLS STORY OF AFGHANISTAN'S ARTISTIC REVIVAL

Green School hosts first showing of Afghan art exhibit since its 2016 premiere at the Smithsonian in D.C.

Abdul Matin Malekzadah's village of Istalif in Afghanistan has been destroyed three times in modern history – first by the British, then the Soviets and, most recently, the Taliban. Each time, he and his family – eight generations of potters – have returned and rebuilt.

"When the Taliban came, we buried our tools and fled," he said. "The Taliban found them and destroyed them. I rebuilt my house with my brothers, and we started to make pots again."

Malekzadah is one of dozens of artists whose work is helping to restore the distinct artistic and cultural heritage of Afghanistan – nearly destroyed by more than three decades of war.

To tell the story of this transformation, the Green School hosted *Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan*, featuring traditional Afghan woodwork, ceramics, jewelry and other crafts, along with immersive documentary video and large-scale photographs of the artists.

The exhibit, held in the Green School's first floor gallery, was the first showing of *Turquoise Mountain* in the United States since it premiered at the Smithsonian Institution's Freer/Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

For the FIU installation, artisans created several new pieces, including the traditional Tekke-designed Peace carpet; a wooden latticed screen called a jali, inspired by those found in historic houses in Kabul; ceramic bowls; and a necklace set with Afghan lapis lazuli stones and inspired by the designs of Parwan province.

Pedro Botta, senior director for strategic initiatives at the Green School, visited the exhibit at the Smithsonian and quickly realized it would be a good fit for the school's new Arts & Humanities Initiative, which seeks to connect the arts to the school's vision of creating globally engaged citizens.

"I was just blown away at the story," he said. "It's a fascinating story of sustainable development that emerged through the arts."

Botta enlisted the help of Bachelor of Fine Arts student Mario Daniel Alvarado to curate the exhibit, which was sponsored by the Green School's Muslim World Studies Program and the Arts & Humanities Initiative. The exhibit was produced under the guidance of the *Turquoise Mountain* Trust and the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

"It was a refreshingly positive story coming out of the Muslim world," Botta added. "A positive story coming out of Afghanistan, a place that we associate with war, with devastation, with all types of negative things."



“

**My father
was a potter,
his father
was a potter
...and so it
goes on.”**

– Abdul Matin Malekzadah,
Turquoise Mountain artist



THE SIXTH ANNUAL GEOPOLITICAL SUMMIT

RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR REZA ASLAN HEADLINES SIXTH GEOPOLITICAL SUMMIT

To highlight strategies for confronting Islamophobia in the United States and abroad, religious scholar and former CNN commentator Reza Aslan visited FIU as part of the sixth Geopolitical Summit – one of the university's signature events featuring distinguished intellectuals discussing some of the most pressing current topics.

"We continue to be an institution that is focused on relevance, focused on impact, focused on taking responsibility," FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg said. "Incivility is far too common in speech and action."

Rosenberg called for a re-dedication to civility and justice, and said he viewed the summit as a stake in the ground to promote these values.

"In the years since 9/11, anti-Muslim sentiment has been on the rise in the U.S. and abroad, fueled by fear, misunderstanding and negative stereotypes," added John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School. "Today we hope to counteract that fear with knowledge, compassion and mutual understanding."

Aslan told the crowd that Islamophobia – or prejudice toward any group – isn't about the particular group being vilified.

"This is not a Muslim issue," he said. "This is about America. In times of societal stress, it becomes harder and harder for us to define what those values mean. The easiest way to define oneself is in opposition to another."

"Bigotry is not the result of ignorance," he added.

"Bigotry is the result of fear. Fear of the other, of losing one's sense of self, sometimes fear of progress."

How can we combat that fear?

"Through relationships," Aslan said. "Not knowledge of information, but knowledge of people. We have to figure out how as a country to reject those that divide us and make good on the promise of this country."



Reza Aslan took photos with students during a book signing after his lecture.

Department of Justice hosts major international conference on transnational crime

“The issue of transnational organized crime and the threat it poses to stability and security in the region is incredibly important.”

– John F. Stack, Jr.,
dean of the
Green School

The U.S. Department of Justice organized a visit to FIU in October 2017 to focus attention on gangs that are threatening the U.S. and the battered countries of Central America’s Northern Triangle.

Speaking alongside the attorneys general of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, U.S. Acting Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Blanco announced that prosecutors had charged over 3,800 MS-13 and 18th Street gang members in Central America and 70 gang members living in the United States. The coordinated law enforcement anti-gang operation was known as “Operation Regional Shield.”

The officials also discussed their strategies on combating gangs, crime, drug cartels and corruption with Frank Mora, director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, moderating the discussion.



U.S. Acting Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Blanco announced the results of the anti-gang operation, “Operation Regional Shield.”

“The issue of transnational organized crime and the threat it poses to stability and security in the region is incredibly important,” said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School. “We welcome those incredibly hardworking prosecutors, investigators and law enforcement agencies. [They] are the ones on the front lines facing the violence, the drugs and the highly organized criminal enterprises that threaten to undermine the rule of law.”



Carlos Végh discusses research topics and trends with FIU students.

World Bank economist offers students research advice, talks fiscal policy

World Bank Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean Carlos Végh visited FIU in November 2017 for a public talk and met with students in economics, international relations, public administration and Latin American and Caribbean studies.

Végh gave tips and suggestions on how students could improve their research and strengthen their work.

“I asked a question related to the structural transformation of Latin America,” said Yulin Hou, a Ph.D. candidate in economics. “That

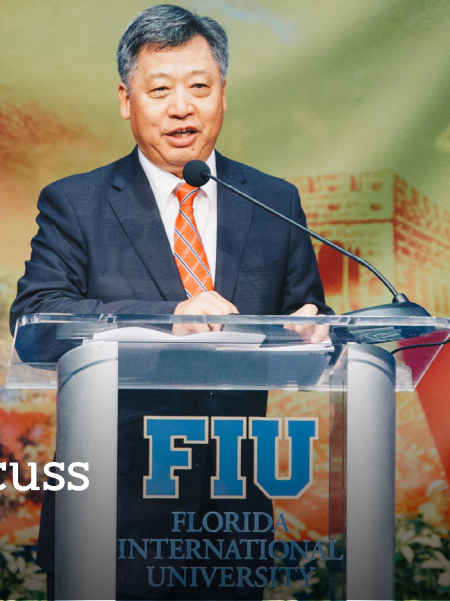
is my future research objective. Dr. Végh mentioned two strands of literature and recommended one possible solution. The feedback increased my confidence to do this line of research because it gave me a different perspective.”

During his public talk, Végh addressed some of the most pressing economic issues facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

“Dr. Végh’s research on monetary and fiscal policy in emerging and developing countries has been highly influential,” said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School. “It is such an honor to have him here to speak to us.”

By H.E. Amb. Li Qiangmin,
Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston

Chinese Consulate General visits FIU, faculty experts discuss U.S.-China relations



Li Qiangmin, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston, hosted a breakfast at FIU to discuss highlights of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, as well as President Donald Trump's state visit to China. He spoke of a "new era," - a "new chapter" - in China, with greater opportunities for cooperation and engagement with the U.S.

Following his visit, the Green School joined the College of Business in organizing a panel of FIU faculty experts to discuss the consul general's visit, as well as the future of U.S.-China relations and the role of China in the world.

The conversation was opened by John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School, and moderated by Joanne Li, dean of the College of Business and president-elect of the Council of Chinese American Deans and Presidents. The panel included Brian Fonseca, director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy; Julie Zeng, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations; Thomas Breslin, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations; Charles Newman, adjunct lecturer for the College of Business; and Dale Gomez, director of computer systems at the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.



VP Pence and Secretary of State Tillerson join Conference on Prosperity at FIU

Vice President Mike Pence and then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson joined a diverse group of government and business leaders from Central America and Mexico for the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America held at FIU.

Green School Dean John F. Stack, Jr. attended the event, along with Frank Mora, director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center; Eduardo Gamarra, professor in the

Department of Politics and International Relations; and Ed Glab, co-director of the Global Energy Security Forum.

Glab, a professor of business who was with Exxon-Mobil for more than 25 years, moderated a panel on energy at the conference. The conference was covered extensively in local and national media, including several interviews with Mora and Gamarra, two of the Green School's leading experts on Latin America.



MODEL UN CONTINUES TO SHINE AS #4 IN NORTH AMERICA



FIU's Model UN team earned more awards than any other team on the circuit in 2017.

Home to some of the best Model UN delegates in the country, FIU's Model UN team is ranked #4 on the college Model UN circuit for the fourth year in a row. FIU remains the highest ranked team in Florida and the highest ranked from any public university. The Class of 2017 is the first to experience being on a Top 5 team during their entire four-year college career.

"I am humbled by the work these delegates have put into this program and for elevating the team to new heights," said Kristen Nyman, program coordinator and a former FIU MUN delegate. "I hope to continue to build on that momentum and push this team to even greater heights. The best is yet to come for FIU."

FIU's Model UN team has advanced steadily in recent years, as noted in Best Delegate, the organization that ranks Model UN teams based on performance. This year, the team earned more delegation awards than any other team on the circuit. It also received the highest number of total points by any collegiate Model UN team.

"Leading the team to eight delegation awards this year – the most in team history – and winning four best delegate awards in a row are two of the things I am most proud of," said Kevin Markowski, an international relations major who served as head delegate along with Michelle Rodriguez, a psychology major.

Model United Nations programs bring together universities across the United States, as well as hundreds of college students, with the goal of furthering international awareness and building consensus. The program builds students' public speaking, writing, negotiations, critical analysis and research skills. Students gain valuable experience that can make them more competitive in the job market and better prepared for the workplace.

"It has been an honor to work with the tremendous talent and leadership that we have seen through our Model UN program," said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School. "This team gets steadily better year after year and I am grateful to be a part of their accomplishments."

Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center – an “Emerging Preeminent Program” at FIU



Recognized as one of the top Latin American and Caribbean Centers in the country – and designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Resource Center on Latin America – the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) has been named one of four “emerging preeminent programs” at FIU. **These are programs that demonstrate the university’s Worlds Ahead focus and address critical issues of increasingly growing national and global concern.**

Drawing upon the expertise of one of the largest concentrations of Latin American and Caribbean studies scholars of any university in the country, LACC had a number of significant milestones and achievements in 2017.

The Haitian Summer Institute — a six-week program designed for anyone interested in learning basic Haitian Creole or for students who wish to continue their language training at the intermediate and advanced levels — celebrated its 20th anniversary.

“For over 20 years, LACC has been committed to investing in and promoting Haitian studies and Haitian Creole language training,” said Frank Mora, director of LACC. “The Haitian Summer Institute has been the center of that effort and is a cornerstone of the Haitian Studies Program of Excellence at FIU.”

The institute offers students intensive language training courses, the lecture series and an optional two-week study abroad trip to Haiti, designed to expose students to its culture and allow them to experience Haitian Creole in Haiti.

“The institute is the only one of its kind in the U.S., and we consistently attract a diverse group of students, scholars and professionals from across the globe,” Mora said.

Also in 2017, LACC launched its first fully online bachelor’s degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The degree joins LACC’s nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate degrees, joint degrees, and certificates of specialization. The program offers undergraduate students the ability to develop an interdisciplinary awareness and understanding

of Latin America and the Caribbean, providing an in-depth, multidisciplinary approach requiring students to achieve intermediate proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, Creole or French.

Notable dignitaries who visited LACC in 2017 include Ambassador Sérgio Moreira Lima, president of the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation, a part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brazil, who spoke about Brazil’s positions on international relations and foreign policy. Colombia’s Ambassador to the U.S. and former Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón joined Mora for a conversation on implementation of the country’s peace process.

In 2017, LACC also collaborated with the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy on several events and initiatives, including the 2017 Hemispheric Security Conference and the launch of a series of reports examining the cultures of militaries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Authored by top scholars, the military culture series examines internal and external factors that shape contemporary institutional identities. Reports on Cuba, Honduras, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Argentina are available online. Forthcoming reports examine the militaries of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru.



Frank Mora, director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, speaks during a conference on Cuban tourism.

Professor wins national Word Gap Challenge



Melissa Baralt

By age three, children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words than those from higher-income families. This “word gap” widens over time and can have serious consequences for a child’s language proficiency, academic performance and career success.

To reduce the word gap among Hispanic children and promote bilingualism, Professor Melissa Baralt created a Spanish-language mobile app to help parents track and improve their child’s vocabulary growth. Baralt is an associate professor of applied linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages.

The app, Háblame Bebé (or Talk to Me, Baby), was chosen from more than 100 entries nationally to receive \$75,000 as part of the Bridging the Word Gap Challenge, an initiative launched by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to support technology that improves early language development among low-income children.



Green School partners with Miami-Dade State Attorney on LGBTQ hate crimes

Hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals are poorly understood and vastly underreported, making the investigation and prosecution of these crimes extremely difficult. Research on these crimes also pales in comparison to studies of racially-motivated crimes.

To help police and prosecutors better tackle the issue – and improve services to victims – the Department of Criminal Justice partnered with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department on a two-year project to study LGBTQ hate crimes in the county.



Criminal Justice Professor Besiki Kutateladze and Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle speak to reporters after announcing the partnership.

Funded by a \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice, Professor Besiki Kutateladze and his team 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, motivations of the offenders and challenges to successful investigation and prosecution.

METROPOLITAN CENTER awarded grant for project to improve government accountability

The Green School’s Metropolitan Center was awarded a **\$160,000 grant for a multiyear study** focused on improving fiscal sustainability in all 50 states. The grant was awarded by the Volcker Alliance, a non-profit organization launched in 2013 by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker, to help rebuild public trust in government.

FIU is one of the 13 academic partners working on “The Truth and Integrity in Government Finance Project,” an effort

to evaluate and improve the quality and accountability of budgeting and fiscal practices in the U.S.

A team of two professors from the Department of Public Administration - David Guo and Howard Frank – and two graduate students has been collecting data on five state governments including Florida. The second phase of the project began in August 2017, with the collection of data on budgeting and reporting performance.

Deficiencies in early brain activity linked to delinquent behavior in teens

Lower levels of brain activity during childhood may lead to decreased self-control and, eventually, delinquent behavior in adolescence, according to a study published by Ryan Meldrum, a professor in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Meldrum co-authored the study with clinical psychology professor Elisa Trucco. Published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, the study is one of the first in criminology to use neuroimaging technology that measures brain activity.

The study found that adolescents who exhibited less activity in the part of the brain responsible for decision-making and impulse control showed lower self-control, as rated by their parents, one year later. Those same adolescents were more likely to engage in delinquent behavior five years later.

The study is a collaboration of the Green School, the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, the Center for Children and Families and the University of Michigan.



Ryan Meldrum

Study on Central American gangs finds rehabilitation possible

To better understand the nature of youth gangs in Central America and how members are able to leave the gang – a process known as “desistance” – Green School researchers surveyed nearly 1,200 current and former gang members in prisons, juvenile centers and rehabilitation programs in El Salvador.

“The reasons for joining a gang have not changed in the more than 20 years I’ve been doing this research,” said Jose Miguel Cruz, director of research for the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and lead investigator of the study.

“However, what we found is that nearly 70 percent of the gang members want to leave. They feel imprisoned, trapped. They are in a very vulnerable position, with threats to themselves and to their families.”

Central American gangs are among the most violent in the world. One of the largest and most highly organized, MS-13 – or Mara Salvatrucha – is also active in major U.S. cities.

“The New Face of Street Gangs: MS-13 and the Gang Phenomenon in El Salvador” – is the first study of its kind conducted by a U.S. university. Along with FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and LACC Director Frank Mora, Cruz presented the findings during an event at FIU in D.C.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State and supported by El Salvador’s National Development Foundation (FUNDE), the study is a collaboration of LACC and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy.





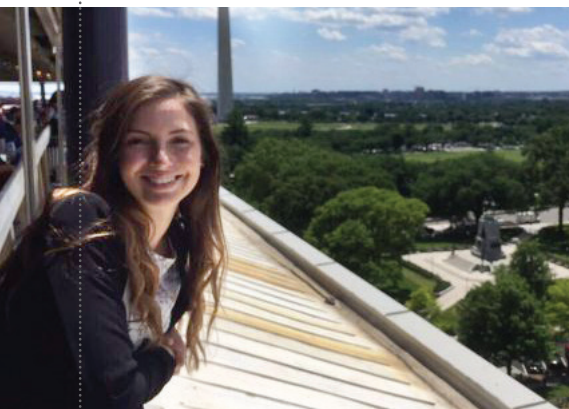
Daniela Cediell

White House intern mastered the art of working in the “real-world”

Daniela Cediell, a student in the Public Administration program, completed the Official White House Internship Program, where she worked in the Office of Presidential Correspondence under former President Barack Obama.

During her internship, Cediell attended workshops, lectures and events. She was also a part of The Washington Center internship program - which consisted of career development seminars, community service projects and a weekly evening class. She was part of the first official internship cohort that inaugurated the university’s satellite office, FIU in D.C.

Her favorite part about the internship? Sitting in and listening to lectures from senior leaders at the White House.



Carolina Ramos

International relations major explored cutting-edge technology programs, implications for policy

International relations major **Carolina Ramos** interned as a research assistant at the General Services Administration (GSA) Emerging Citizen Technology Program in Washington, D.C. Her internship focused on blockchain technology, which created the backbone of a new type of Internet by allowing digital information to be distributed but not copied.

Ramos assisted in putting together GSA’s first interagency blockchain forum. She also worked on a research project studying how the implementation of blockchain will affect organizations and agencies. Ramos attended meetings with major organizations such as the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Partnerships, and she participated in events organized by some of the top names in the industry: Amazon’s Dcode42, Google and IBM.

“At all these meetings, I’ve had a seat at the table and was able to voice my opinion and interact with other attendees,” she said.



Natalia Kolbjornsen

Green School grad receives top Washington Center award

Natalia Kolbjornsen '17 was named The Washington Center’s professional growth award recipient for Spring 2017 after she completed an internship in Washington, D.C., during her last semester at FIU.

The award is given each term to a student who strives for and shows progress toward professional goals independently or through Washington Center programming. This is the second consecutive year a Green School student earned the award; international relations major Jose-Andres Camacho received the honor in 2016.

Aside from doing her internship work as a communications associate at Jubilee USA Network, Kolbjornsen attended events and panel discussions – some of which were required for the internship program, and many others out of her own initiative. At the end of every panel, she would introduce herself to the speakers, discuss their interests and often request informational interviews. Her experience during the internship inspired her to start a non-profit organization to help the agricultural industry in her native Haiti. She is also a sales and operations manager at her family business, Marché Titony S.A., a wholesale company for food and beverages in Haiti.

International relations student named Pickering Fellow

Green School alumna **Kamila Manzueta** '17 was selected as one of 30 students across the country – and one of only 20 graduate students – to receive the prestigious Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship. She edged out hundreds of applicants from more than 270 higher education institutions to earn the spot.

The Pickering Fellowship – managed and funded by the Department of State and administered by The Washington Center – offers fellows financial support for two years of higher education, while they pursue a degree in a field related to the Foreign Service.

Manzueta, who earned her bachelor's degree in international relations, started her master's degree in Latin American Hemispheric Studies at Columbia University in Fall 2017. The fellowship and her future in the Foreign Service is a dream come true for her.

Kamila Manzueta



Doctoral student wins UNESCO Ambassador Award for Peace

Thomas Just, who earned a doctoral degree in international relations, won a "Young Ambassador Award for Peace and the Rapprochement of Cultures" in the summer of 2017, just before graduation. The honor – awarded by the Aladdin Project, under the patronage of UNESCO and with the support of the European Commission – recognizes a research project Just and his team conducted on images and branding strategies used by political extremist movements, including Nazism as well as ISIS and its affiliates.

"Our goal was to find ways for countries to combat that sort of ideology," Just said. "I think our main message is that in order to truly curtail the growth of extremism, societies must expand their efforts beyond military campaigns and focus on ideological campaigns. It's through ideas that extremism grows."

Just accepted the award for his work at a gala dinner at the Hotel de Ville in Paris, at which former President of France Nicolas Sarkozy gave the main address.

Thomas Just



Creating a network in D.C.

Jose-Andres Camacho, an international relations major, interned at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), where he worked on marketing and communications. He helped develop and execute CHCI's social media strategy for the Hispanic Heritage Month Public Policy Conference and the 39th Annual Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.

"During the gala, I was fortunate to get a backstage pass for all that was happening that night," he said. "In addition to this, I was responsible for social media coverage of Secretary Hillary Clinton's and President Barack Obama's address that historic night." One of the benefits of the internship that was particularly valuable for Camacho was networking.

Aside from attending a foreign policy class at the Department of State, visiting multiple embassies and attending receptions with members of Congress, he also conducted two informational interviews with officials in D.C., one at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and one at the White House.

"Both networking opportunities, quite honestly, were invaluable," he said.

Jose-Andres Camacho



MAGA program pairs student with future employer

RAYMOND JAMES



Pierre Funderburk

The connections he made during a capstone project on money laundering led **Pierre Funderburk** to a fulltime job with a Fortune 500 company.

As a student in the Master of Arts in Global Affairs (MAGA) program, Funderburk was paired with Raymond James Financial and U.S. Special Operations Command for mentorship while working on his project, which was eventually published in the *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism*.

Through his relationships with professionals at Raymond James, Funderburk landed a job as a client intelligence analyst for the company, reviewing client histories to detect suspicious spending that could be money laundering activity.

Funderburk, who also interned at the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., says MAGA was instrumental in preparing him for the job.

"The MAGA program gave me the necessary research skills and background information on topics I currently use in my role," Funderburk said. "[It] provided me with an invaluable keen insight on the inner workings of illicit international criminal organizations, which has allowed me to become a great asset to my team and department."

"The MAGA program gave me the necessary research skills and background information on topics I currently use in my role."

– Pierre Funderburk



D.C. experience helps student land job with U.S. Postal Service

As an international relations major at FIU, **Tiffany Roman** traveled to Washington, D.C. for a signing ceremony at the Organization of American States. While there, she connected with an FIU alumna, who encouraged her to apply for an internship with the agency. She did and returned the following summer to work in D.C., making invaluable connections through FIU's extensive alumni network in the nation's capital.

"This experience helped me build up my credibility as an international relations professional and was what drew the attention of my employer,"

said Roman, who works as an international postal affairs specialist for



Tiffany Roman with Deputy Postmaster General
Ronald Stroman

the U.S. Postal Service in D.C. In her position, Roman, who also earned a certificate in national security studies at FIU, manages the relationship between the countries of the Americas, Spain and Portugal and the U.S. Postal Service. She also works with members of the Universal Postal Union – a specialized United Nations agency – on coordinating postal policy.

Internships and study abroad prepared her to educate others



Lisa Niven at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

Before graduating with her master's degree in Asian studies, **Lisa Niven** had already landed a job as the education program coordinator at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach.

Niven, who also earned her bachelor's degree in Asian studies from FIU, says her undergraduate internship with Florida Supercon/Super Conventions, Inc. and her graduate student assistant position with the Asian Studies Program paved the way for her job. During those experiences, she worked with Wendy Lo, curator of education at the Morikami and also an alumna of FIU's Asian Studies Program.

The multidisciplinary nature of the program, combined with experiences like studying abroad in Japan for a year, grounded Niven's knowledge about the field.

"I understand the culture I am trying to educate the public about," she said. "FIU provided me with what I expected and so much more than I could have imagined. New experiences and countless opportunities were what made my time at FIU life-changing."

Intelligence fellowship gives student the edge with NBC Universal

Eiko Diaz says the critical thinking skills he gained as a result of the intelligence fellows program at the Green School's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy helped him land his first job since graduating in 2017.

At NBC Universal, where he serves as executive assistant to the managing director of Latin American distribution and networks, Diaz does administrative work but said he is also able to involve himself in the "upper echelon" of decision-making and projects at the company.

"Exposure and learning that will enable me to make a leap into any facet of the business is gained every day," said Diaz, who earned a dual degree in political science and international relations, as well as a certificate in national security studies.

During his time as an intelligence fellow, Diaz said he got to work closely with U.S. intelligence community practitioners.

"The analytical strengths, refined critical thinking abilities and poise obtained during my time as a fellow stood out among others applying for the job," he said.



Eiko Diaz at commencement

Worlds Ahead Graduates

Each semester, FIU recognizes and celebrates outstanding student achievement – both academic and non-academic – that exemplifies the university’s Worlds Ahead distinction. Here are the Green School’s *WorldsAhead* Graduates for 2017.



BRAHIM ALMARALES – Bachelor of Arts in History

Although he had two jobs to pay for school and to help support his mother and care for his grandmother, Brahim Almarales maintained a grade point average consistently over 3.5, was active in three honor societies on campus and regularly helped other students

with their research. With a passion for teaching, he plans to be a high school teacher after graduation, but his ultimate goal is to become a college professor.



MEDJY PIERRE-LOUIS – Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

A dream for improving educational opportunities for children in developing countries led Medjy Pierre-Louis to spend time away from Miami in order to help children “rewrite the stories of their future.” She received numerous grants and fellowships to conduct her

research in remote villages in Haiti, Jamaica, India and Burkina Faso. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in international education.



PASQUALE GIOVINE – Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology

After dropping out of community college, Pasquale Giovine felt motivated to return to school once his brother got accepted into FIU and it led him to eventually become the “heart and soul” of the men’s soccer team. He and his brother became the first in their family to graduate college.



CHRISTA REMINGTON – Ph.D. in Public Affairs

At the age of 18, Christa Remington formed a non-profit organization to help children in Cabaret, Haiti afford an education. Despite struggling with chronic fatigue and pain, Remington earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology and anthropology, a master’s degree

in public administration and her Ph.D., all at FIU. Christa is now an adjunct professor at FIU, with a simple goal: to give a voice to the voiceless.



TREVOR HANSEN – Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

Though he faced various setbacks in life, finding his Christian faith led Trevor Hansen to earn his GED, associate’s degree and bachelor’s degree. While an FIU student, he volunteered at the Read-to-a-Child and Miami Children’s Initiative, working toward the goal of one day

starting an organization that would provide housing and schooling to children in foster care.



MARGARITA RENTIS – Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies/Bachelor of Business Administration

When her mother suffered a brain aneurysm, Margarita Rentis was ready to leave school. But her father urged her to finish her education. Rentis graduated with a 3.9 GPA, studied abroad in Japan

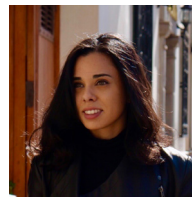
three times and became the first student in South Florida to receive the Critical Language Scholarship. She moved to London after graduation for a marketing and sales internship at Grace Hotels.



KAMILA MANZUETA – Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

Believing music is a universal language that unites cultures and spreads peace, Kamila Manzueta created an a cappella group called HEARTbeats. She was on the dean’s list every semester and won the Outstanding Student Life Award. She was named a Pickering

Fellow and started her master’s degree in Latin American Hemispheric Studies at Columbia University in Fall 2017.



CORTNEY ZAMOR – Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

Courtney Zamor has dedicated herself to become a voice for the voiceless and a leader for organizations involved in the global fight to stop human trafficking. She volunteered for numerous organizations, worked as an advocate and completed a project

to translate books from Creole to English during her years at FIU. After graduation, she plans to work full-time at a startup company and later pursue her MBA.



VENU MEHTA – Master of Arts in Religious Studies

Venu Mehta assisted her professors in cataloguing the ancient language Kacchi for English, after winning an award for publishing a primer for English speakers to learn the Gujarati language. At FIU, she earned induction into Theta Alpha Kappa and founded the Preksha

Meditation club. After graduation, she started her Ph.D. in religious studies at the University of Florida.

The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series

Taking inspiration from the legacy of Ruth and Shepard Broad, the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series is generously supported by a gift from the Shepard Broad Foundation. The series provides students, faculty and the community with insights into the events and forces shaping contemporary global affairs.

By enriching the school's academic program and strengthening its outreach initiatives, the series supports the Green School's mission to create a just, peaceful and prosperous world.

Notable speakers have included U.S. Ambassador to Singapore Kirk Wagar; Yuri Sergeyev, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations; and Danny Danon, permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations.

Highlights of the 2017 series include:

The Great War in Broad Outlines: Exhibition Commemorating World War I and Honoring the Centennial Anniversary of the U.S. Entry into the War, presentation by William de Baets, consul general of Belgium.

Before Night Falls: Reflections on the Life of Reinaldo Arenas, with Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute.

Opportunities and Challenges for the Transatlantic Economic Relationship, presentation by Damien Levie, head of trade and agriculture section delegation of the European Union to the United States.

Contemporary U.S. – Mexico Relations, presentation by Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia, consul general of Mexico in Miami.

Japan at the Forefront of Emerging Issues, a conversation with Japanese Fulbright Scholars.

U.S – Russia Relations: Is This Cold War 2?, presentations by Mark Medish, CEO of The Messina Group International, and Ralph S. Clem, professor emeritus at FIU and former director of the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies.

Indigenous Voices in the Interfaith Conversation, presentation by Bobby C. Billie, original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation.

A Conversation with the Costa Rican President, conversation with Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, 47th president of the Republic of Costa Rica.



Jose Antonio Zabalgoitia, the consul general of Mexico in Miami, presented a compelling conversation about current relations between Mexico and the United States.

Combatting Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13): A Discussion on Transnational Organized Crime, panel discussion with attorneys general from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras and Acting U.S. Assistant Attorney Kenneth Blanco. The discussion was moderated by Frank Mora, director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at FIU.

Why Gridlock Rules Washington and How We Can Solve the Crisis, with former Congressmen Patrick Murphy (Democrat) and David Jolly (Republican).

Looking Ahead: Macroeconomic Challenges Facing Latin America and the Caribbean, lecture by Carlos Végh, World Bank chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Protracted Conflicts: Sovereignty and Democratization in the Post-Soviet Era, presentation by the Hon. Robert Avetisyan, permanent representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

The Broad Series also co-sponsored a number of presentations including:

Socio-Ecclesial Liberation Movements of Latin America: History and Continuity (1968-2018), moderated by Ana Maria Bidegain, and featuring an international group of researchers.

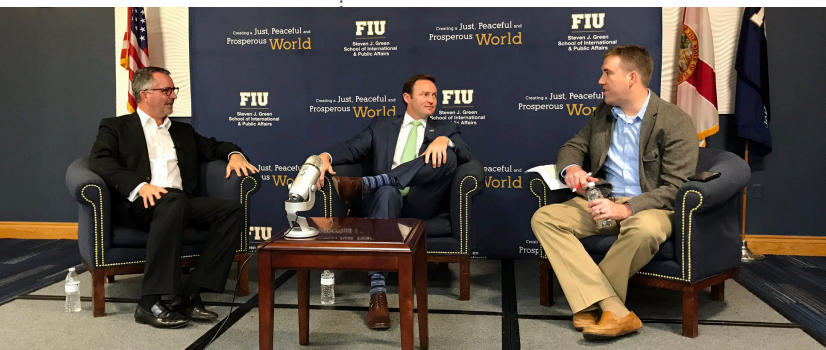
Water Security around the World, a conversation with Aaron Wolf, professor of geography in the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University. The discussion also featured several FIU water experts.

Two former Congressmen discuss Washington gridlock, how to end it

Former Congressmen **Patrick Murphy**, a Democrat from Florida, and **David Jolly**, a Republican also from Florida, visited the Green School to discuss political gridlock and how leaders can find common ground.

"Washington gridlock is an issue that this country faces and will face," said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School. "Here to give us perspective and possible solutions are two former members of Congress who have been in the trenches for many years."

Kevin Evans, associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Politics & International Relations, moderated the discussion.



Former Congressmen David Jolly and Patrick Murphy during a discussion with Kevin Evans, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

"In many ways conflict is part of our founding principles, part of our constitutional principles and theories," Evans said. "It's not supposed to be easy, but, perhaps in some ways, the pendulum has swung too far, and perhaps it should be easier in a number of ways."

Many factors – from systematic to technological – contribute to the partisan atmosphere, the former Congressmen noted.

"Gerrymandering, I would argue, is perhaps the biggest thing creating the partisanship in this country," Murphy said.

"It insulates members of each party to represent only the voices within their party," Jolly agreed. "It protects them, but it also punishes them if they reach across the aisle."



Former Clinton advisor discusses possibility of Cold War 2



Mark Medish, a former special assistant to President Bill Clinton and senior director on the National Security Council for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian Affairs, spoke at FIU in April 2017 to discuss "U.S.-Russia Relations: Is this Cold War 2?"

He joined Ralph S. Clem, professor emeritus of geography and former director of the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies at FIU, and Markus Thiel, director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence and the European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, for the talk – which was a presentation of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series.

"The Cold War 2 reference was meant to be provocative, but it's also a question," Medish said. **"Nothing is inevitable but it is worthwhile to consider the risks of a new, long-term standoff and, more important, to look for pathways to avoid it."**

Medish, who has since been named a senior fellow at the Green School, said he loves engaging with students during his campus visits.

"I always look forward to my visits to the Green School at FIU because I learn so much from students' views and questions."



Rep. Eliot Engel discusses Trump, U.S. policy toward Latin America

As a ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. Rep. **Eliot Engel** has seen relations between the U.S. and Mexico improve over the past decade. Now, with President Donald Trump proposing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border, Engel fears that progress could be in jeopardy.

Engel visited FIU to discuss the future of U.S. policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean. The Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center sponsored the event as part of its Governance and Security Program.



The former chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Engel has consistently called for stronger U.S. relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. He said he disagrees with the president's orders to ban individuals from seven predominantly Muslim countries and to block all refugees from entering the United States.

He said he believes the administration should work toward policies to improve security in the region, reduce drug trafficking, increase economic cooperation and most importantly promote stronger engagement in Latin American countries going through political or economic crisis.

"We need to focus on our neighborhood in the Western Hemisphere," he said. "What's going to make a difference is a stronger collaboration."



Khalilah Camacho-Ali talks about her detention, efforts to fight racism

In February 2017, while returning from a speaking engagement in Jamaica, **Khalilah Camacho-Ali**, the former wife of boxing champion Muhammad Ali, and her son, Muhammad Ali, Jr., were detained by authorities at the Fort Lauderdale airport. While being held, both she and her son were questioned repeatedly about their faith in Islam. In the current political climate, it is clear that discrimination towards minority groups is on the rise.

The Green School hosted a conversation with Camacho-Ali, who discussed the current increase in acts of Islamophobia, antisemitism, and discrimination towards immigrants and people of color. She has made it her mission to speak with college students on how to counter this discrimination using tactics such as education, open-mindedness and cooperation.

Camacho-Ali is mostly known for being the former wife of the late Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight boxing champion of the world. While traveling the world with her husband, Khalilah visited more than 100 countries and met more than 50 heads of state. She continues her work as an advocate for peace speaking to hundreds of students around the country.



Khalilah Camacho-Ali empowered students to counter discrimination

Cuban Research Institute spotlights Cuba and Cuban diaspora

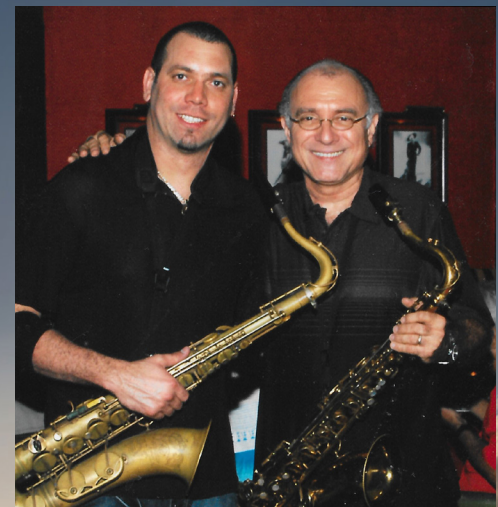
Located amidst the largest Cuban diaspora in the world, the Cuban Research Institute (CRI) is the nation's premier center for academic research and public programs on Cuban and Cuban-American issues. No other U.S. university surpasses FIU in the number of professors and students of Cuban origin.

Those resources proved invaluable in 2017 as CRI led a number of important academic and cultural events, covering Cuban and Cuban-American history, politics, society and the arts.

- In February 2017, CRI hosted the largest international gathering of scholars engaged in the study of Cuba and its diaspora, the 11th Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. The theme of the three-day event, "Beyond Perpetual Antagonism: Reimagining U.S.-Cuba Relations," invited interdisciplinary approaches to the many complex, and often conflicting links between the two countries, both historically and in current times. Co-sponsored by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, the conference was dedicated to Cristóbal Díaz Ayala, in recognition of his numerous contributions to the study, preservation and promotion of Cuban music. Díaz Ayala donated his collection to the FIU Libraries, and it has become the most extensive and publicly available collection of Cuban music in the United States.
- In April 2017, CRI joined LACC to co-host a discussion on policy options for Cuba's tourism industry. The event was aired in its entirety on C-SPAN. LACC collaborated with the Brookings Institution's Latin American Initiative to produce a report on Cuba's tourism industry: "Tourism in Cuba: Riding the Wave Toward Sustainable Prosperity."
- Students, scholars, curators and collectors convened in June 2017 for a two-day conference on Cuban and Cuban-American art, featuring the Darlene M. and Jorge M. Perez Art Collection at FIU, which includes works by many of the best-known masters of Cuban art.

"A Moveable Nation: Cuban Art & Cultural Identity in the Perez Art Collection at FIU" was dedicated to Juan A. Martinez, professor emeritus of art history at FIU, in recognition of his contributions to teaching, researching and exhibiting Cuban and Cuban-American art.

- Finally, CRI closed out the year with the 13th installment of its annual concert series, the Classically Cuban Concert. This year's concert was dedicated to Afro-Cuban and Latin jazz, in memory of the renowned Cuban saxophonist and former FIU music professor, Carlos Averhoff, Sr. The event was directed by his son Carlos Averhoff, Jr., in collaboration with artists who performed alongside Averhoff, Sr., including Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Brian Lynch.



Carlos Averhoff, Jr. and his father, Carlos Averhoff, Sr.

Senior Fellows bring world of experience to teaching, engagement

Russia expert named senior fellow at FIU's Green School



David J. Kramer



Former assistant secretary of state under President George W. Bush and an internationally known expert on Russia, the Ukraine and human rights, **David J. Kramer** was named a senior fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017.

Regularly quoted in national and international media on U.S.-Russia relations, such as the Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election, Kramer recently published his first book, *Back to Containment: Dealing with Putin's Regime*, detailing the post-Soviet era dynamics that brought Vladimir Putin to power.

In a talk at Books & Books, Kramer highlighted Putin's efforts to influence the 2016 election, as well as the Russian president's aggressive human rights abuses; military action against neighboring countries; and cyberattacks.

"In the past few years, U.S.-Russian relations have become particularly challenging, largely due to the actions of the Putin regime," said Kramer. "Preventing tensions in the relationship from exploding into full-blown confrontation is in everyone's interests."

Before joining FIU, Kramer worked in Washington, D.C. for more than 24 years, eight of those at the U.S. Department of State, where he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, among other positions.

Senior fellows devote their two-year residence at FIU to research, teaching and the creation of new engagement opportunities for students. Previous fellows include Manny Diaz, former mayor of Miami; Kimberly Green of the Green Family Foundation; and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio.

Saif Ishaof joins Marshall Memorial Fellowship

FIU Vice President for Engagement **Saif Y. Ishaof** was selected in June 2017 to be a member of the Marshall Memorial Fellowship. Ishaof, a senior fellow at the Green School, leads the Office of Engagement in incubating transformational partnerships.

The Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) is the flagship leadership development program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). Created in 1982 to introduce a new generation of European leaders to the United States, it now prepares future leaders for transatlantic relations.

"The fellowship is a real honor and I am humbled to be able to represent FIU," said Ishaof. "This opportunity will afford me and my team the ability to continue to expand our horizon and build meaningful connections with like-minded organizations across the globe."

"I am very proud to have another member of our FIU family selected as a member of this prestigious fellowship," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "This designation is a testament to the work Saif and the Office of Engagement have done to build meaningful and deep connections in our community, nation and globe and will help FIU further our mission as a globally engaged university."

"Saif is a fantastic role model, building bridges between and across communities," said British Consul General in Miami Dave Prodder. "The Marshall Fellowship is a wonderful recognition of his unstinting leadership in bringing the best from people no matter what their background, empowering them to achieve and celebrating their success."



Saif Y. Ishaof

Gordon Institute tackles global security issues for the 21st century

Brian Fonseca, director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, spoke last year at the Florida Cybersecurity Conference, hosted at FIU and co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Small Business Development Center Network and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.



Brian Fonseca, director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, speaks at the Florida Cybersecurity Conference at FIU.

"We believe cybersecurity in higher education is not vertical, but a core competency. And a core competency that cuts across all disciplines."

– Brian Fonseca

"We want all our students to walk out these doors with a core competency in cybersecurity," he said. "Students are hungry for this knowledge. We believe cybersecurity

in higher education is not vertical, but a core competency. And a core competency that cuts across all disciplines."

The Gordon Institute is tackling this need through a two-day executive certificate on cybersecurity leadership and strategy developed in collaboration with the College of Business. The course was offered last year in Miami and at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.

Ryder, a U.S.-based provider of transportation and supply chain solutions, funded the attendance of 10 women for the D.C. course through the Ryder Women in Leadership Executive Education Scholarship. The course was co-sponsored by OAS, with support from New America, Microsoft and Ryder.

The Gordon Institute also hosted its first Global Security and Public Policy Executive Certificate program in November 2017. The three-day program placed participants in direct contact with public policy and security experts to discuss strategic solutions to global security threats in the 21st century. Participants included Juan Perez, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, as well as representatives from Microsoft Global Security, Sony Pictures Entertainment and Carnival Corporation.

In March, the Gordon Institute joined the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and the U.S. Army War College to host more than

300 participants from academia, government and industry for the 2017 Hemispheric Security Conference, focused on "Security in the Changing Geopolitical Landscape."

The keynote address was given by Lt. General Joseph DiSalvo, deputy commander for U.S. Southern Command. The event focused on security trends in Latin America and the Caribbean; the role of external state actors like China and Russia; and regional leadership in Brazil and Venezuela. Jose Miguel Cruz, research director at LACC, outlined his study on gangs in El Salvador.

In October 2017, the Gordon Institute received a five-year, \$1 million grant from the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, which will allow the institute to expand its national security studies program and increase assistance with internships and employment; interactive learning simulations; national security workshops; and high school outreach.

The institute's prestigious Intelligence Fellowship Program continues to provide a bridge-to-the-workforce designed to give students a competitive edge in the intelligence community application process. More than 70 percent of the students who participated in the program's weeklong fly-in to Washington, D.C. last year landed conditional offers of employment within the federal government.

The fellows visited intelligence agencies and received briefings from senior executives, hiring managers and internship coordinators. They took part in a team building exercise at the International Spy Museum and a war game simulation led by Rob Kurz, author of *Wargaming for Leaders: Strategic Decision Making from the Battlefield to the Boardroom.*

Pedro C., a Green School and Gordon Institute alum who could not give his full name because of his intelligence work with the FBI, served as keynote speaker for the fellowship reception.

Also in 2017, the Gordon Institute welcomed former Drug Enforcement Agency agent Steve Murphy to reveal the true story behind the hit Netflix series "NARCOS." Set in Colombia, "NARCOS" chronicles the rise and fall of history's most infamous drug trafficker, Pablo Escobar, and the extraordinary lengths it took to dismantle his cartel.

Green School students find a home at **FIU in D.C.**

As one of the anchor partners for FIU in Washington, D.C., the Green School has been able to harness the university's expanded presence in the nation's capital to provide our students with enriching experiences and invaluable networking opportunities.

At the heart of FIU in D.C. is the chance for students to gain practical hands-on experience through internships. Working with partners like The Washington Center, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute and many others, Green School students have secured internships at the White House, in Congress, at the State Department and at public, private and non-profit organizations throughout the district.

A platform in Washington also means the opportunity to convene national thought leaders and newsmakers on both sides of the aisle.

In 2017, the Green School collaborated with FIU in D.C. to co-host more than 15 programs and events, including an "insider's view" of the January 2017 presidential inauguration, which was moderated by Mercedes Schlapp, a Green School alumna now working as the White House director of strategic communications.

The Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center unveiled the 2017 issue of its flagship publication *Hemisphere* in D.C., convening a broad dialogue on violence in Latin America. LACC also brought the discussion of Central American gangs and its groundbreaking research on the notorious MS-13 to FIU in D.C.

Green School faculty launched the first courses for current FIU students in D.C., as well as the first executive education programming.

Led by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and with collaboration by the Organization of American States, a non-credit executive certificate in cybersecurity leadership and strategy was offered to 40 professionals who hailed from 13 OAS member countries. The Gordon Institute also partnered with The Washington Center to offer an analytic writing course in D.C., which blended FIU faculty with high-ranking agency professionals for an enriched academic experience.

FIU in D.C. served as a virtual platform for adjunct faculty at the Green School, including U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who co-taught a course on political parties with Dario Moreno, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations. Through technology, Green School students were able to engage with thought leaders in D.C. for career-focused sessions, including a session with the State Department and a webinar with the Central Intelligence Agency.



Students participate in an analytic writing course offered by the Gordon Institute at FIU in D.C.

"It was the political science and international relations classes at FIU where I strongly developed my political thought process and had to debate hard against many other individuals in the classroom."

– Mercedes Schlapp '94
White House Director of Strategic Communications

早上好

Buenos dias, Qingdao:



Qingdao-FIU students presented business plans to representatives from Chinese corporations. FIU instructors Juan Godoy and Jose Morcillo-Gomez are seated in the front row, at left.

FIU helps bring Spanish language to China

FIU's Spanish-language program in Qingdao, China, has helped turn students there into standouts.

The Department of Modern Language's approach to teaching the language—one that is common in the United States and other Western countries—has benefited the 64 members of the inaugural Qingdao cohort.

"The Chinese approach is still very much based on grammar translation," says Pascale Bécel, chair of the department, which oversees the program. "The emphasis for us is to have a more communicative approach and task-based approach that engages students in meaningful activities."

That means peppering class conversations with

real-world examples and finding ways to make assignments impactful.

"The methodology that FIU is using lets [students] be creative, lets them experience the language beyond the vocabulary or the grammar content," explains Jose Morcillo-Gomez, one of two instructors at Qingdao. He believes that focusing on the human facets of language acquisition encourages better performance.

"Language is not about rules," he says. "It's about culture. It's about how you use the language, the double meaning, all those pragmatic [aspects] that you need to be able to understand."

Virtual reality course brings Asia to students



Through virtual reality glasses, students strolled the streets of Nepal.

You visit a panda bear conservation base in China. You explore a historic cave on South Jeju Island. And you get lost in Tokyo's streets.

It sounds like a study abroad trip. But you can visit all these and more from the comfort of home thanks to an online class centered on virtual reality.

"Study and Travel East Asia through Virtual Reality," offered through the Asian Studies Program, is the first course of its kind at FIU.

Using materials like virtual reality glasses, smartphones and YouTube videos, students get to experience East Asia like never before.

"I want students to get a better understanding of what East Asia is and how real it is, how it works," says Marcela Lopez-Bravo, who designed and taught the course, during which students "visited" three countries in six weeks – China, Japan and Taiwan – exploring temples, imperial palaces and national parks.

Dean Stack, Havel director Palouš attend Madeleine Albright's 80th birthday celebration



In honor of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's 80th birthday, the Embassy of the Czech Republic hosted a gala dinner in Washington, D.C. in May 2017.

John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School, Martin Palouš, director of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, and David Skipp, associate director of advancement for the Green School, attended the gala, hosted by Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček, who had recently visited FIU.

Albright, a close friend to the late president of the Czech Republic and political dissident Václav Havel, praised FIU's efforts to preserve Havel's legacy and commitment to freedom and democracy.

"Václav Havel was the epitome of what people thought was needed to be a president and philosopher, and it made us all very proud to have him as a symbol," Albright said. "What you are doing here at FIU through the Havel program is really remarkable and a tribute to Václav Havel and the spirit of the Czech people," Albright said. "I salute you."

The Havel program works to foster partnerships and promote global dialogue on human rights, democratization and diplomacy.

"Secretary Albright has been a friend to FIU and to the Green School for many, many years," said Stack. "It was a great honor to attend her birthday celebration and to hear her speak so highly of the work our Havel Program is doing in the area of human rights and diplomacy."



What you are doing here at FIU through the Havel program is **REALLY REMARKABLE.** I salute you."

– Madeleine Albright,
Former U.S. Secretary
of State

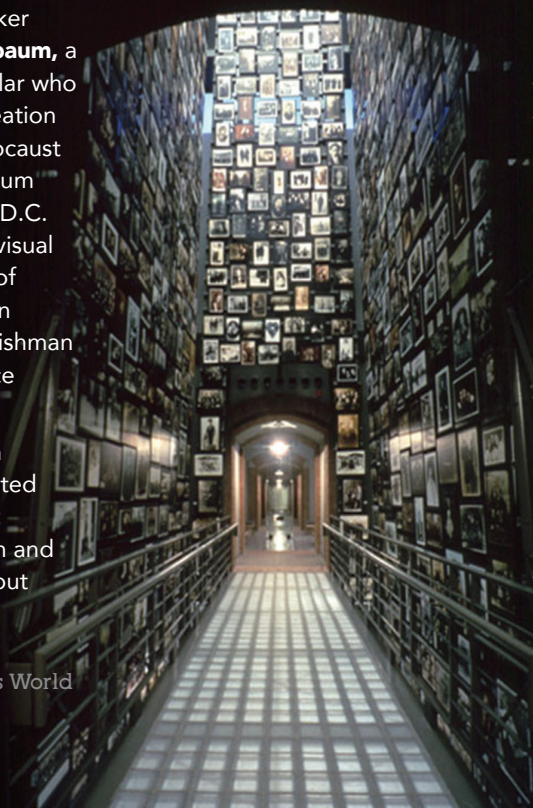
Oscar winning filmmaker named FIU Holocaust Studies Scholar-in-Residence Lawrence and Suzanne Fishman donate \$100K to expand Holocaust education and outreach



Academy Award winning filmmaker **Michael Berenbaum**, a writer and scholar who oversaw the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and later led a visual history project of

survivor testimony with director Steven Spielberg, was named the inaugural Fishman Holocaust Studies Scholar-in-Residence in 2017.

Miami physician Lawrence M. Fishman and his wife Suzanne R. Fishman donated \$100,000 to the university's Holocaust Studies Initiative to create the position and expand Holocaust education throughout South Florida.



"This gift will truly transform the Holocaust Studies Initiative," said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School, which oversees the Holocaust Studies Initiative, a part of the Global Jewish Studies Program. "We are incredibly grateful to the Fishmans for their generosity and their confidence in FIU."

Oren Stier, director of the Holocaust Studies Initiative and professor of religious studies, said Berenbaum, who has taught at Yale, Georgetown, George Washington, American and Wesleyan universities, is a perfect fit for the new position.

"I can think of no other scholar more worthy of inaugurating this program than Dr. Berenbaum, whose encyclopedic knowledge of the Holocaust is matched by his ability to communicate it appropriately to any audience," Stier said.

Professor earns top FIU faculty award, starts fund for student research



Allan Rosenbaum speaks at the Inter-American Conference of Mayors in Miami, which he has organized for FIU for more than 20 years.

"I have a strong belief that it is very important and valuable for the education of students to have the experience to work with faculty in research activity."

– Allan Rosenbaum, a public administration professor and director of the Institute for Public Management and Community Service at the Green School

Because of his dedication to students and higher education, **Allan Rosenbaum**, a public administration professor and director of the Institute for Public Management and Community Service at the Green School, was awarded the President's Council Worlds Ahead Faculty Award at the university's 2017 Faculty Convocation and Awards Ceremony.

Rosenbaum donated his \$15,000 prize to support students in public administration research.

"I have a strong belief that it is very important and valuable for the education of students to have the experience to work with faculty in research activity," he explained.

The award recognizes full-time faculty who make an impact in their field through research, partnership or creative initiatives; who promote student learning, innovation and collaboration in teaching, mentorship or advising; and who demonstrate distinguished leadership within the university.

"This represents a combination of a fairly long career that involved a lot of different things from trying to provide good education for students, to working alongside government administrators and academics in other countries to help build a democratic institution," he said. "FIU is very special to me and it's always very special to be recognized by your colleagues."

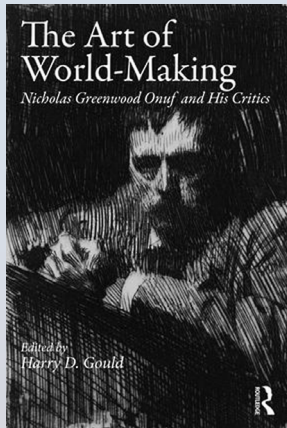
Professor honors mentor and international relations icon

Harry Gould MA '97 found a mentor in **Nicholas Onuf** – a professor Emeritus in the Department of Politics and International Relations, who also happens to be an icon in the field of international relations.

Gould, now an associate professor in the same department, recently edited and published *"The Art of World-Making: Nicholas Onuf and his Critics,"* to honor Onuf's career and contributions to the study of international relations.

Onuf, who taught at FIU from 1994 to 2005, is renowned as one of the founders of the theory of constructivism, a term he coined. Onuf's most famous work is the 1989 publication of *"World of Our Making: Rules and Rule in Social Theory and International Relations."*

Gould's book is a collection of essays analyzing and commenting on Onuf's work, most written by Onuf's former students, classmates and colleagues. For each essay, Onuf contributed a response, often referencing personal anecdotes from his relationship with the author.



Although the book is meant to celebrate Onuf's work, Gould says it is also a tribute to his role as mentor to so many students.

"This is not just a book honoring Nick's career and thought," he says. "It serves as a token signifying the feelings the contributors share for Nick. Nick has been a dear friend to

us all, a mentor to many of us, a professor to some of us, and a teacher to all of us. We love and celebrate him."



Harry Gould (left) with his mentor Nicholas Onuf

Professional Master of Arts in Global Affairs program continues to grow



MAGA is ranked one of the **TOP 40** Master's Programs in the world for policy careers in international relations by *Foreign Policy magazine*.

"MAGA's challenging, relevant and timely course work, along with its first-rate professors, complement these experiences in an impactful manner that will empower me to bring tremendous value to my profession."

– Michael Medina

In 2017, the Green School's Master of Arts in Global Affairs (MAGA) program welcomed 45 new students into two tracks – **"Globalization and Security"** and **"Global Risk and Corporate Responsibility."**

Preparation also began on two new tracks of study – "International Crime and Justice," an online program set to launch in Fall 2018, and "International Development," scheduled to begin in Fall 2019.

The two-year professional graduate program continues to connect students with internship and employment opportunities in top-notch organizations and companies around the globe.

"Every year, I am amazed at the remarkable achievements of our MAGA students and graduates and the opportunities they are able to pursue as a result of this program," said John F. Stack, Jr., dean of the Green School.

Unlike traditional professional graduate programs in international affairs, the MAGA program offers pragmatic skills combined with the theoretical rigor to tackle some of the world's most pressing concerns.

The program is taught by faculty with high-level experience in global organizations, agencies and companies. A unique component of the program is the capstone project, where students work directly with an organization or company on a policy topic, bridging academia and policy-making through real-world experience.

David Kramer, former senior director for human rights and democracy at the McCain Institute for International Leadership and a senior fellow for the Green School, spoke at the August 2017 MAGA orientation and encouraged students to consider a career in public service.

"Government service is a fantastic opportunity and I encourage you to take advantage of that," said Kramer. "It's an opportunity to represent one's country, to represent principles and values on which we were founded."

Through the MAGA program, students have gained internship opportunities at The Washington Center in Washington, D.C.; the U.S. Department of Justice; Defense Intelligence Agency; U.S. Southern Command and many other top agencies and organizations.

Recent MAGA graduates have been employed with organizations such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection; the Cuban American National Foundation; U.S. Department of State; Defense Intelligence Agency; Department of Homeland Security; Focal Point Data Risk, LLC; Hayman Woodward; the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida; Raymond James; and many others.

"As an undergraduate student, I had an academic understanding of international relations, but the MAGA program has elevated me to a deeper understanding," said Richard Hughes, MAGA '17, who works at U.S. Southern Command. "By taking courses on globalization, human security and international law, I have developed a greater contextualization of the emerging security environment we face today."



Michael Medina, MAGA '18, works as the Aviation Security Administrator for the Miami-Dade Aviation Department at Miami International Airport.

Do Black Lives Matter?

Leading dialogue and research about African & African Diaspora Studies

With hate crimes and discrimination threatening local and global communities every day, opportunities for conversation about race and equality prove indispensable. The African and African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS) continually steps up to the task, playing a crucial role in creating and disseminating knowledge on these important topics.

For the 19th Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture, **Pedro A. Noguera**, distinguished professor of sociology and education at UCLA, discussed “Do Black Lives Matter? Education, Civil Rights and the State of Black People Since the Election of Donald Trump.”

Noguera examined phenomena such as chronic unemployment, concentrated poverty, inadequate access to healthcare and mass incarceration as problems that disproportionately impact black communities. He considered the effect of the Trump administration’s policies on black communities, specifically focusing on education.

Hosted by AADS and the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, Research Library, Archives & Museum, the event was co-sponsored by the Green School, the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, the School of Education and Human Development, FIU’s Multicultural Programs and Services and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy.

Described as one of the best lectures in the Eric Williams series, the lecture was attended by more than 180 students, faculty, administrators and community members.

Other highlights from AADS in 2017

AADS faculty members Jean Rahier and Albert Wuaku received a joint fellowship from the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program and the Institute for International Education to lead two graduate seminars at the University of Ghana from May to June 2017 and at the University of Cape Coast, also in Ghana, from June to July 2017. The seminars focused on

“Theorizing the African Diaspora in the 21st Century within an Increasingly Transnational Field of Inquiry” and “Contemporary Trends in Research on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora.”

Rahier also received a Ford Foundation/Latin American Studies Association award with two other collaborators to coordinate a research-oriented, multidisciplinary and international working group for a project focused on analyzing “multicultural legal instruments” being adopted in various Latin American countries by governing bodies to guarantee the rights of Afro-descended populations. The project was supported by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Office of Research and Economic Development.

Faculty members Hilary Jones and Ken Lipartito, in collaboration with Historic Hampton House, were awarded a Knight Foundation grant to host a film series dedicated to understanding African American life and history and the history and culture of Black Miami.

AADS hosted an interdisciplinary workshop in April 2017 for researchers and experts about HIV/AIDS from FIU and leading Caribbean institutions, including the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Common Market. This workshop was part of a larger project, led by Professors Percy Hintzen, Mark Padilla and Nelson Varas-Diaz, that brings together scholars and researchers to address the current state of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the region.

Hintzen was also appointed in December 2017 as editor of the newly established, refereed *Journal of the Guyana Shield Region*, exploring issues of the environment, climate change, mineral exports and border disputes among the various countries comprising the Guyana Shield.



Pedro A. Noguera

Salokar Scholarship helps first generation student pursue law school dream



Constance Lee

First generation college student **Constance Lee** never imagined her dream of attending law school would come true. Now, the political science graduate can pursue her dream thanks to the Rebecca M. Salokar Scholarship Endowment.

Lee, who received \$2,000 to help pay for law school at FIU's College of Law, is the first recipient of the scholarship, created in memory of Rebecca Salokar, former chair of the Department of Politics and International Relations.

"This scholarship has helped greatly in easing some of my worries," Lee said. "I previously thought of law school as a somewhat unattainable goal due to my economic conditions."

Salokar, an associate professor who was at the university for more than three decades, died Dec. 19, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. The scholarship, a legacy of her generosity and commitment to students, is geared toward students in politics and international relations who are enrolled in a pre-law course of study.

Lee graduated magna cum laude with a 3.78 GPA as an elected member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She hopes that after law school, she can use her degree within the intelligence community, U.S. government or as an officer in the military's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

"I thank Dr. Salokar, Judge Judith Rubenstein and the Department of Politics and International Relations for not only helping me financially, but also helping to make sure I am truly prepared for the journey I am about to take," she said.

Scholarship created in memory of political science professor

Kevin Hill, associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, passed away unexpectedly in May 2017. Over his 24 years of service at FIU, his sense of humor and love of learning made a lasting impact on his students, colleagues and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The Kevin A. Hill Scholarship Endowment was created to benefit graduate students in politics and international relations who are enrolled in a course of study with a focus on American politics.

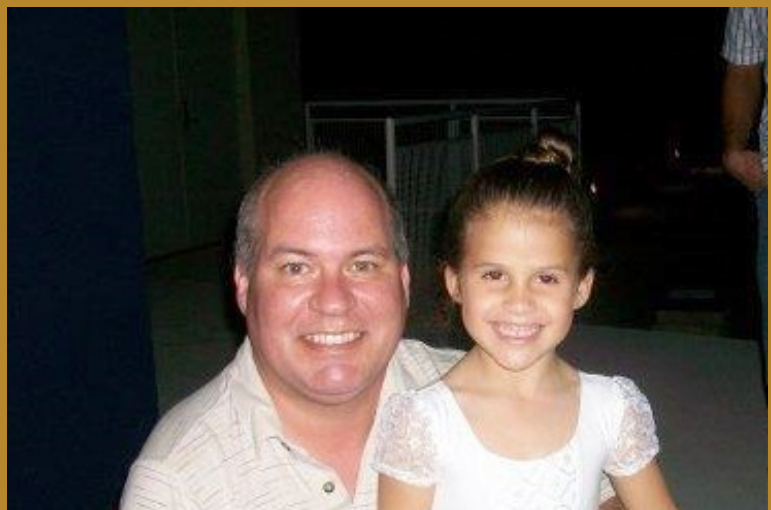
Hill was highly regarded by local, state and national leaders as a leading expert in elections and campaigns. His ability to communicate research in a plainspoken manner and engage the community in the process was his strong suit and a beloved quality among students. He was the recipient of the Faculty Senate Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award in 2001 and a Teaching Incentive Program Award for excellence in teaching in 1997.

Kathryn DePalo, senior instructor in the department and his former teaching assistant, said: "I owe my career to him. He really elevated FIU and the department with his research and outreach to the community. He was the smartest person I ever met."

"Kevin is memorable for two major qualities," said John Clark, chairman of the department. "First, he had an incredible intellectual breadth. Second, he had a palpable love of teaching, and it showed in how students responded to him; he set the bar when it came to student evaluations in our department."



Kevin Hill, right, with former FIU President Modesto A. Maidique and Kathryn DePalo, now a senior instructor in politics and international relations, at commencement in Fall 2006.



Kevin Hill and his daughter Olivia



Venu Mehta

Jain Studies graduates admitted into prestigious doctoral programs

Two graduate students from the Department of Religious Studies were accepted into prestigious doctoral programs in 2017.

Venu Mehta and **David St. John** both held the Rajiv & Latika Jain Graduate Fellowship in Jain Studies at FIU and graduated in Spring 2017.

Mehta, a native of Gujarat, India, was accepted into the University of Florida, where she is pursuing her Ph.D. in religious studies.

"I feel proud being accepted into the University of Florida," said Mehta, who also was named a Worlds Ahead Graduate for Spring 2017.

St. John was accepted into the Asian Languages and Cultures Program at the University of Texas at Austin, where he will continue his studies on Hindi, Sanskrit and Prakrit languages.

"I am excited to be starting at the University of Texas in Austin," said St. John. "Professor (Steven) Vose confirmed that it would be a great choice to learn and grow as a student and fully supported me as much as he could."

St. John said that he is grateful for the religious studies master's program because it was a positive change in his life that has allowed him to follow his passion.

"The Jain Studies Program and Professor Vose have been critical to my success," he said. "Because of him, I feel prepared to take the next steps. I owe everything to the department."

International symposium delves into socio-religious movements focused on loving the poor



Cathedral de San Jose in Antigua, Guatemala

An impressive group of international researchers and some of the pioneering voices about liberation theology and other social movements came together at FIU in September 2017 for a symposium titled, "Socio-Ecclesial Liberation Movements of Latin America: History and Continuity (1968-2017.)"

The two-day event was co-hosted by the Latin American and Caribbean Interdisciplinary Initiative on Religion, housed within the Department of Religious Studies, and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.

Dr. Gustavo Gutierrez, leading Dominican priest and author of the classic, *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, Salvation*, which transformed the language of justice for the poor in Latin America, gave the inaugural address for the event, which was supported by LACC's U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant.

The symposium explored the historical experience of socio-religious movements in the 20th century that strove to be faithful to an ethical foundation of the Gospel focused on love for the poor and that flourished in Latin America during the 1960s and 1970s.

With an eye toward increasing availability of academic resources, one of the objectives of the symposium was to build a hemisphere-wide digital archive encompassing all these movements.

Celebrating the life and works of pioneering Polish women

As part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland – part of the European and Eurasian Studies Program – the Polish-Canadian Theater of Toronto came to FIU and presented the first performance in Miami of “Tamara L., the extraordinary life of Polish painter Tamara de Lempicka.”

De Lempicka was a prolific painter best known for her Art Deco modernist portraits. She left Warsaw for Paris after the Russian Revolution in 1917 and had great success in France and the U.S. in the 1920s and 1930s.

The play was co-sponsored by the European Student Association, the American Institute of Polish Culture, the Honorary Consulate of Poland, Chopin Foundation of the U.S., the Department of Theater, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus Special Events Office.



Girl with Gloves, 1929, artist Tamara de Lempicka

European and Eurasian Studies hosts ambassadors, conference on transatlantic trade

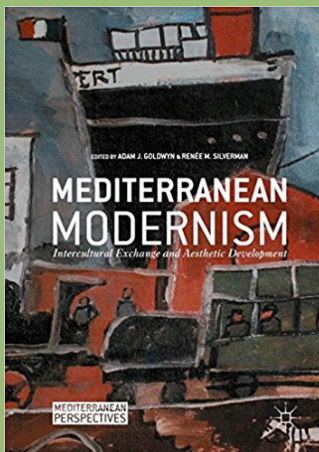
The European and Eurasian Studies Program hosted various ambassadors at FIU in 2017, including Lauri Lepik, Estonian ambassador to the United States, who came to discuss the priorities and challenges of Estonia’s presidency of the European Union. Lepik explored the country’s unique geographic position, its skill as a negotiator and its ability to find balance among different viewpoints.

Jānis Mažeiks, Latvian ambassador to the United Nations in New York, also visited to discuss security challenges in the Baltic Sea Region following the Russian annexation in Crimea.

The program hosted its annual two-day European Union conference. The 2017 event was themed “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership” and revolved around EU-U.S. trade agreements and the debates surrounding some of these agreements in Europe and the U.S.

Damien Levie, head of the trade and agriculture section delegation of the European Union to the United States, presented his keynote address on the opportunities and challenges for the transatlantic economic relationship.

Exploring Mediterranean Modernism



The Mediterranean area is full of rich cultural and historical traditions and movements. To explore the unique nature of modernist movements all across the Mediterranean basin, Renee M. Silverman, associate professor of Spanish and director of the Spanish graduate program at FIU, and Adam J. Goldwyn, assistant professor of English at North Dakota State University, led a discussion of their book, *Mediterranean Modernism: Intercultural Exchange and Aesthetic Development, 1880-1945*.

They delved into conversations about the political and economic turmoil of a

period marked by world war, revolution, decolonization, nationalism and the rapid advance of new technologies that forced artists, writers and other intellectuals to create a new hybrid Mediterranean Modernist aesthetic. This new aesthetic sought to balance the tensions between local and foreign, tradition and innovation and colonial and postcolonial.

The presentation was part of the TotalBank Distinguished Speaker Series, within the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program. It was sponsored by TotalBank and co-sponsored by JW Marriott Miami and Air Europa.

Nourishing **your spirit**



Fred Alan Wolf

Fred Alan Wolf, a physicist, writer and lecturer who conducts research on the relationship of quantum physics to consciousness, visited FIU to give a talk that combined the scientific and the spiritual. He explored how the mind works by a quantum physical process that creates subjective

time and makes time travel a necessary part of the way our minds function and the way time works.

Wolf discussed how this leads to the conclusion that an infinite, unchanging reality exists, and that life has one main purpose: to experience this one reality and discover God while one is living on earth, that there is only one mind and that our thoughts have been thought everywhere by everyone, in some form.

Sister Jenna, spiritual leader, author and host of the syndicated radio show, *America Meditating*, also visited campus. She discussed how, despite the world's pressure, conflicts and demands, people can access a place of inner peace through the power of meditation and by gaining a new perspective.

Both events were hosted by the Dianne Collins and Alan K. Collins Distinguished Speaker Series, within the Program in the Study of Spirituality. Wolf's event was also co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Planting seeds for generations: **Celebrating indigenous culture**



Bobby Billie

The fourth annual Indigenous Celebration at FIU brought students, faculty and community members together to celebrate the richness of indigenous culture and to reflect on the theme of the celebration: "Planting Seeds for Seven Generations: Working as One for the Future." Planting seeds refers to a saying common among indigenous North Americans. It is a reminder of the impact people's present actions have on the future, and particularly, the future of the next seven generations. The event was hosted by the Global Indigenous Forum, in collaboration with the student Global Indigenous Group and the Council for Student Organizations.

To celebrate Earth Day, the Annual Interfaith Lecture and Gathering, sponsored by the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, hosted a discussion on "Indigenous Voices in the Interfaith Conversation." The discussion featured Bobby C. Billie, an aboriginal elder and spiritual leader of the original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation of Florida. An educator and advocate for the environment and aboriginal rights, Billie has led litigation efforts to protect water, wetlands, aboriginal burial grounds and sacred sites throughout Florida. The event was co-sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality, the Department of Religious Studies and the Coral Gables Congregational Church-United Church of Christ.

History faculty recognized for outstanding research and teaching

Associate Professor Bianca Premo was elected as vice president of the distinguished American Historical Association's Conference on Latin American History for 2018-2019. She will also serve as president of the association during 2020-2021. Professor Ken Lipartito was elected to the Board of Editors of the *American Historical Review*, the most important journal in the field. And, Aurora Morcillo, professor of European history and director of the Spanish and Mediterranean Studies Program, was selected to work at Oxford University's Exeter College as a visiting fellow in 2018.

Faculty member Tovah Bender received a faculty award for excellence in teaching, and Associate Professor Kirsten Wood received the best graduate program director award in 2017 from the Provost's Office.

Lipartito and Department Chair Victor Uribe received recognition as top scholars from the Office of the President. Lipartito was honored for his significant grants in the humanities. Uribe was recognized for his award-winning book, *Fatal Love: Spousal Killers, Law and Punishment in the Late Colonial Spanish Atlantic*, which received a Southern Historical Association's Murdo Macleod Prize and two honorable mentions in other prize competitions.



Bianca Premo

Film nominated for Best Feature Documentary



The documentary features research on heavy metal communities in the Caribbean.

Nelson Varas-Díaz, professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, released his documentary, **"The Metal Islands: Culture, History and Politics in Caribbean Heavy Metal Music,"** based on his research with heavy metal communities in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. The film explores how music, identity and politics shape communities. It was nominated for Best Documentary at the 2017 World Music & Independent Film Festival and was an official selection in numerous other film festivals around the world, including the Miami International Film Festival, the Barcelona Planet Film Festival, the Dominican Film Festival in New York and the Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano in Cuba.

Department of Economics rises in research rankings

The Department of Economics has been named one of the top economics departments in the southern United States in terms of research productivity and one of the five biggest "risers" in the rankings in the last 15 years. The department rose 16 spots to now rank among the top 30 economics departments in the South and one of the top three in Florida, behind only the University of Florida and Florida State University. The ranking, compiled by the Center for Economic Education at Columbus State University and the Department of Economics at the University of New Haven, was last done in 2001.

Helping young scholars advance their research

2017-2018 Morris and Anita Broad Fellows

Each year, the Morris and Anita Broad Fellowship Award offers junior faculty and doctoral students an opportunity to advance and develop their academic research at early stages in their careers. The fellowship has provided research funding for 33 faculty members and 60 Ph.D. students totaling \$80,000.

FACULTY AWARDS



YOUNG RAE CHOI
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Funds will be used to conduct research and interviews in South Korea and China on the history and conservation of the Yellow Sea.



DANIELLE CLEALAND
Politics & International Relations

Funds will be used to conduct research and interviews in Cuba to examine the significance of racial difference and inequalities in Cuba.



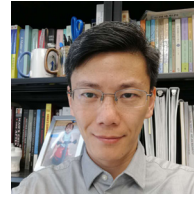
ANDREA FANTA
Modern Languages

Funds will be used to present research findings at the University of San Diego on how non-governmental organizations use art and interdisciplinary projects to raise awareness about environmental degradation, social inequalities and violence.



MARISA FILGUERAS-GÓMEZ
Modern Languages

Funds will be used to attend the International Symposium of Bilingualism at the University of Limerick, Ireland.



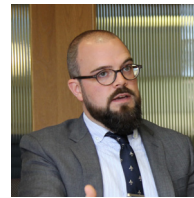
QING LAI
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Funds will be used to conduct research and interviews in China to examine how the Hajj experience has influenced Chinese Muslims' national identity.



OKEZI OTOVO
History

Funds will be used to conduct research in the Latin American and Caribbean Collection at the University of Florida for a book manuscript examining social marginalization and disease in Brazil.



TERRENCE PETERSON
History

Funds will be used to conduct archival research in the French military archives and the National Archives in Paris for a book project examining the political culture of the French Army during the Algerian War.



DANIEL ROYLES
History

Funds will be used to conduct archival research in Los Angeles, California and San Francisco, California to examine the evolution of black politics and activism in post-Civil Rights America.

STUDENT AWARDS



MARIA BARBERO
Global & Sociocultural Studies

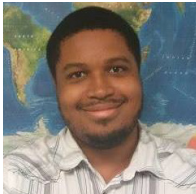
Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to conduct interviews and archival research in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



NICOLAS BECKMANN
Politics & International Relations

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to conduct interviews and access archival

research in Uruguay.



CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
History

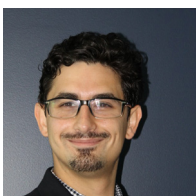
Funds will be used to cover travel expenses for archival research in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad.



MARIA SOL ECHARREN
Modern Languages

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to Chicago, for the purpose of collecting archival research at

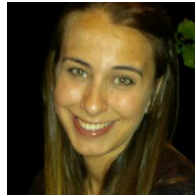
institutions including the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago, the Chicago Public Library and Latin American Studies collection at the Center for Research Libraries.



ONUR ERPUL
Politics & International Relations

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to Stanford, California, for the purpose of collecting archival

research at Stanford University and the Hoover Institution.



GABRIELA ESCOBAR RODRIGUEZ
Modern Languages

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to Lima, Peru, to present a research paper at the XXXV

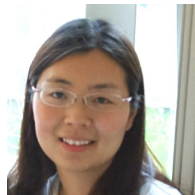
International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association 2017.



MARIA GABRYSZESKA
Politics & International Relations

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to California for the purpose of presenting

research at the American Political Science Association's 2017 Conference and conducting additional research with a content analysis program.



YULIN HOU
Economics

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to attend the Fifth Summer School of Socioeconomic Inequality in

Chicago. The dissertation topic examines how international trade and economic growth influence each other in Latin America.



ADAM HOWE
Politics & International Relations

Funds will be used to cover book expenses to conduct research on Southeast Asia. The dissertation examines

how state capacity affects the relationship between authoritarian regimes and religious organizations in mainland Southeast Asia.



JOSHUA MULLENITE
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to conduct archival research in London and conduct fieldwork and

interviews in Guyana. The dissertation analyzes how flood control policies in Guyana are imbued with political, economic and social objectives.



TANVIR PAVEL
Economics

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to attend the "Introductory Training in Geographic Information

System Applications for Natural Resource Management" workshop in Gainesville, Florida.



AMELIA PRIDEMORE
Public Administration

Funds will be used for travel expenses to conduct fieldwork and interviews in popular fine arts scenes of New Orleans, Louisiana and

Austin, Texas. The dissertation focuses on how local governments respond to artistic outlaw citizenship.



QINGRU TU
Economics

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present research results at various academic conferences including the Midwest

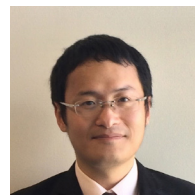
Economics Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Southern Economic Association Conference in Tampa, Florida.



YUN WANG
Economics

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to attend and present research results at the Southern Economic Association Conference

in Tampa, Florida. The dissertation examines various aspects of international trade.



WENJUN XUE
Economics

Funds will be used to cover book expenses and travel expenses to attend various academic conferences including the Southern

Economic Association Conference in Tampa, Florida.

The Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs equips our students to think about the world in unique ways, generating policy-relevant dialogue and research on critical global issues, including the following strategic themes:

- Migration, Diasporas & Transient Communities
- Historical Inquiry, Memory & Reconciliation
- Economic Development, Sustainability & Environment
- Religion, Society & Interfaith Engagement
- Human Rights & Democratization
- Security, Foreign Policy & Governance
- Nationalism, Identity & Language
- Poverty & Global Inequalities



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