

2018

# The Green School Magazine



*FIU's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy was selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to host the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference for the next five years.*

**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

**A**t the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs each year seems to be more gratifying than the last, with our students, faculty and alumni making more and more significant contributions to a greater understanding of our world.

I am proud to say that 2018 was no different. It was a year filled with tremendous accomplishment by our faculty, inspiring success by our students and several important firsts for the Green School overall.

One of the most notable was the launch of our Dorothea Green Lecture Series in January 2018 with the inaugural State of the World conference, attended by some of the world's leading minds in public policy and foreign affairs.

We are grateful to Ambassador Steven J. Green, his wife Dorothea Green and daughter Kimberly Green for their generosity in creating the series. We are also indebted to our Senior Fellow David Kramer, who led the way in pulling together a star-studded lineup of current and former public officials, top journalists and policymakers from both sides of the aisle to discuss the most critical issues facing our world today.

Our students reap tremendous benefit from being able to engage one-on-one in a thoughtful dialogue with leaders who are actively influencing U.S. foreign policy and America's position in the world. No classroom can replicate that experience!

I am also beyond proud to note that for the second time in its history, our FIU Model United Nations team has been ranked #2 in North America, behind only the University of Chicago, for the Fall 2018 semester! As an undergraduate at Stonehill College, I also took part in the Model UN program so it brings me great pleasure to watch our students distinguish themselves so consistently in this rigorous and invaluable program.

In 2018, the Green School achieved several important rankings, further securing FIU's place as a leading center for the study of international relations and public affairs. These include a Top 10 ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* for our graduate



program in international global policy and administration; best in state ranking for our master's program in international relations and a Top 100 ranking (#68) for our master's in public administration program. Our online criminal justice degree programs are ranked #2 for bachelor's and #5 for master's. We are humbled by the recognition of our peers and committed to further solidifying the Green School's rightful place among the best schools of its kind in the world.

In 2018, we celebrated the inaugural commencement for our dual degree program in Spanish at Qingdao University. Our students have quickly distinguished themselves in China, securing six of the top 10 student passing rates in the country!

We hosted our first National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference, an important collaboration on cybersecurity workforce development between our Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, FIU's Division of Information Technology, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and New America.

This is just a small sampling of the many milestones the Green School reached in 2018. I hope you will take a moment to read about our three Emerging Preeminent Programs – the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Cybersecurity@FIU and the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, as well as the innovative work being done through all of our departments, centers and programs. It is truly a privilege to serve as Dean of the Green School.

Thank you to our faculty, students, staff and alumni for all of your contributions and we look forward to another productive year in 2019!

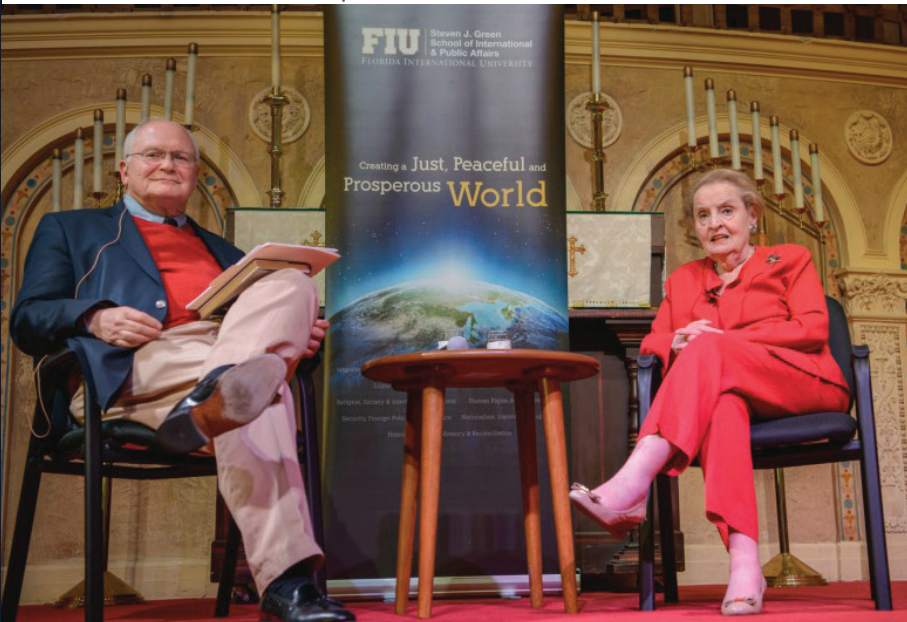
Best,

John F. Stack Jr., Ph.D.

Founding Dean and Professor of Politics and International Relations and Law

# “Madam Secretary”

captivates audience with talk on new book



Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright joined David Lawrence Jr., former publisher of the *Miami Herald*, for a talk on her new book.

Madeleine Albright was just two years old when the Nazis marched into her hometown of Prague.

She didn't understand what was happening but she does remember this:

*"We escaped, we hid, and we were able to get out. I am a refugee and a very grateful refugee."*

The future ambassador to the United Nations also remembers what it was like to see U.S. soldiers arrive after the Nazis were defeated.

*"That's when I fell in love with Americans in uniform,"* she said.

With wit, humility and candor, the former secretary of state captivated a standing-room-only crowd in Coral Gables during a stop to promote her new book, *"Fascism: A Warning."*

On a range of topics that covered the political and the personal – "I'm an optimist who worries a lot" – Albright's sharp observations elicited laughter and applause throughout an hour-long conversation with former *Miami Herald* publisher David Lawrence Jr., who described Albright's book as a "stunning explication of what is going on in the world."

One of the most compelling moments of the evening came when 11-year-old Rania Ishoof – daughter of FIU's Vice President for Engagement Saif Y. Ishoof and his wife Amira – asked Albright if she had any advice for young people today.

*"You're the answer,"* Albright said, pausing for the loud applause that erupted. *"What we need to do is support your age group. We need to make sure that we listen to you. We should learn from you."*

Albright's visit was co-hosted by the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy, in collaboration with Books & Books, HarperCollins and the Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ.

*"I think it is fitting, as Secretary Albright was a dear friend to the former Czech president (Václav Havel),"* said John F. Stack Jr., founding dean of the Green School.

*"My own career as a teacher and scholar owes much to Secretary Albright's family,"* Stack added. *"Her father, Dr. Josef Korbell, was the catalyst for the international prominence of the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies, where I received both my master's and Ph.D. in international studies."*

As a diplomat and a scholar, Albright said she is concerned with the "fear factor" she sees influencing modern political dialogue.

*"We have to learn to have discussions with people we disagree with in a civil way,"* she said to more applause. *"We need to speak out. We cannot normalize what is going on now."*



Rania Ishoof, daughter of Vice President for Engagement Saif Y. Ishoof and his wife Amira, with former Secretary of State Albright.

## Foreign policy leaders discuss

# State of the World in 2018

From leaders of nationally renowned think tanks to former ambassadors and journalists from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Politico*, some of the brightest minds from across the country came together at FIU in January 2018 for a day-long event focused on global relations and U.S. foreign policy.

State of the World 2018, co-hosted by the Green School, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and *The American Interest*, featured panel discussions on some of the most pressing topics of the day, such as human rights, America's standing in the world and current challenges in Cuba, Venezuela, the Middle East, China and Russia.

*"As a public institution, we are intentionally focused on making a difference," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg during his opening remarks. "Dr. Martin Luther King guides us when he says that the time is always right to do what is right. And this gathering is right, for so many reasons."*

The conference was the first of its kind in Miami – and a milestone for the Green School. It marked the inauguration of the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, created with the goal of bringing leading minds together to discuss critical topics of global importance.

*"This event underscores Florida International University's deep commitment to international studies and to creating globally engaged citizens," said founding Dean John F. Stack Jr. "We are so honored that (the Greens') generosity, passion and leadership will further our mission to create a just, peaceful and prosperous world."*

Green School Senior Fellow David Kramer was the lead organizer of the conference. Kramer comes to FIU

with 24 years of experience working in Washington, D.C., including serving as president of Freedom House as well as assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor under President George W. Bush. He reached out to his extensive network and invited top names in foreign policy – successfully bringing together an impressive array of individuals to FIU for the event.

FIU students also shined during the event, asking thoughtful, engaging questions at the end of each panel, captivating many of the guest speakers.

*"Our students were the stars of the show," Kramer said. "I'm incredibly impressed, and I'm even more impressed today. You did the university proud today."*

Elisa Massimino, former director of Human Rights First, thanked students for reassuring her that there are bright, future leaders in the making.

*"For those of us in the trenches, working as activists, it's great to hear the thoughtful engagement and the real intelligence of the next generation," she said. "To know that there are fresh ideas and energy in the wings is very encouraging."*

William Inboden, professor at the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas-Austin, had high praise for FIU students and for the event.

*"The FIU students were some of the most thoughtful, engaging students I have encountered," he said.*

*"Considering that they will be among our next generation of leaders, they give me great hope for the future. The whole conference bears further witness to FIU's growing stature as one of our nation's leading universities in the realm of international policy."*



Peter Baker, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Elliot Abrams, Paula Dobriansky and Karen Donfried kick off the first panel of State of the World 2018.



# FORMER PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA

## NAMED VISITING SCHOLAR, DISCUSSES FUTURE OF THE AMERICAS

*Getting to learn from a professor who is also the former president of a country can sound like a far-fetched dream for students. At FIU, it's a reality.*

Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, who served as president of Costa Rica from 2014 to 2018, began his appointment as a distinguished visiting scholar at FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) in August 2018.

To celebrate his arrival, LACC hosted a special conversation with Solís on the future of the Americas as its 2018-2019 Distinguished Lecture.

"We are privileged to have President Solís here at FIU," said LACC Director Frank Mora, who moderated the conversation. "He is not just a politician and former president. He is a distinguished scholar and author of many books. Here you have a diplomat, scholar, politician and philanthropist all in one."

For Solís, coming to FIU is a lot like coming home.

Years ago, he served as a researcher and Fulbright Scholar with LACC and also worked with FIU's

Center for the Administration of Justice, both part of the Green School. In 2017, he received FIU's Presidential Gold Medallion – the highest honor the university bestows upon heads of state and other high-ranking public officials.

As a visiting scholar, Solís will lecture on governance and democratic stability in Latin America and the Caribbean, among other topics.

"Being back after almost two decades is a special privilege that I deeply appreciate," Solís said. "To serve as president of the Republic of Costa Rica and have the opportunity to return to one's true personal and professional vocation – in my case academia – is not only refreshing, but also an opportunity to share experiences with those who already have or will have the responsibility to make intelligent decisions to improve the lives of their compatriots."



## MODEL UN TEAM RANKED #2 FOR FALL 2018



For the second time in the team's history, FIU Model UN has been ranked #2 on the college Model UN circuit by BestDelegate.com.

"This semester has been one of the most difficult, yet rewarding, semesters for the FIU team yet," said Program Director and former MUN delegate Michelle Rosario. "We faced every sort of adversity, yet we maintained our team motto to never give up. Our students have proven that they are not only coachable, but nothing short of incredible."

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.

FIU achieved a #2 ranking for the first time in Fall 2016. FIU remains the highest ranked team in Florida and the highest ranked of any public university in North America. The university finished at #3 in final rankings for 2017-18, another record, having been ranked #4 for three consecutive years.

The team traveled to a circuit-high 11 conferences in 2017-18 and won a circuit-high eight delegation awards. It repeated as the team with the most delegation awards, with those awards being attributed to team members winning the second most gavels and third most individual awards on the circuit.

*"Our greatest honor is competing alongside some of the most capable individuals that the collegiate circuit has to offer," Rosario said.*

"We have the finest team FIU has ever fielded," said Dean John F. Stack Jr. "I am proud to be a part of their outstanding accomplishments."

Also in 2018, FIU's Model UN team went on the trip of a lifetime to build a stronger relationship with Tel Aviv University's Model UN team. The students were able to explore Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea and were able to break bread with the leaders of their Israeli Model UN counterparts.

FIU Model UN team hopes to send 16 students to the Model UN conference hosted by Tel Aviv University in August 2019, in hopes of further engaging with the Israeli university and with the Israeli culture. The conference would be FIU's first Model UN conference outside of North America.

FIU remains the highest ranked team in Florida and the highest ranked of any public university in North America.



# PROGRESS CONTINUES TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF SIPA PHASE II BUILDING

**NEXT HORIZON**  
The Campaign for FIU

SIPA Phase II is a key component of the Green School's Next Horizon campaign.

**I**n 2018, the Green School continued to move toward construction of a new multi-story building that will allow the school to unify its department, centers and programs and make it easier for students and faculty to engage, connect and collaborate.

*The 84,000-square-foot building – to be built adjacent to the existing five-story SIPA building – will include department and program space, classrooms, multi-purpose and event space, advising offices, executive education space and career development space. Covered walkways or bridges will connect the two buildings.*

In 2017, the State of Florida approved a \$12.7 million allocation for the new building and a \$15 million gift from the Green Family will go toward the

estimated cost of \$40 million. The Green School's \$10 million fundraising campaign will include naming opportunities for the building, the lobby, courtyard, terraces, auditorium, conference rooms, classrooms and each of seven floors.

SIPA II is expected to be a catalyst in helping the Green School achieve full membership in the prestigious Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA). The association represents the top 35 schools of international and public affairs in the world. SIPA II will provide the physical space necessary for the Green School to centralize its operations, creating fertile ground for the kind of interdisciplinary teaching, research and outreach that makes the Green School stand out among other programs of its kind across the world.



## NICARAGUAN STUDENT OPPOSITION LEADER discusses political crisis with faculty experts, calls for freedom for his homeland

Lesther Alemán, a 20-year-old student opposition leader in Nicaragua, visited FIU in 2018 for a conversation about the crisis raging in his country.

Since April 2018, Nicaragua has been engulfed in political instability as a result of the government's violent response to protesters' demands for change. Hundreds of people have been killed, economic activity has slowed, the government has used paramilitary groups to repress its citizens and many Nicaraguans are fleeing to neighboring countries.

Alemán, a member of the Nicaraguan University Alliance and the Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy, made headlines in his home country when he called upon Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to "surrender" during a nationally televised event.

At FIU, Alemán received a standing ovation and drew fervent support from a standing-room only

audience, many of whom sported hats and shirts emblazoned with Nicaraguan flags and symbols.

The discussion, hosted by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, also featured Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, former Costa Rican president and distinguished visiting

scholar at LACC; Richard Feinberg, a non-resident senior fellow at Brookings Institution and professor at the University of California, San Diego; and Jose Miguel Cruz, the director of research at LACC. The conversation was moderated by LACC Director Frank Mora.

To set the stage for the discussion, Cruz presented an overview of Nicaragua's political context prior to the crisis and shared findings from a 2017 LACC research project, for which he was the principal investigator.

In the project, researchers explored and analyzed Nicaraguans' attitudes to political participation, voter turnout and public trust in Nicaragua. It was conducted by LACC and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and was funded by the Nicaraguan-based Grupo Civico Etica y Transparencia.

One of the major findings Cruz discussed: even before the crisis, many Nicaraguans had lost faith in their government and in their own ability to effect change through their votes.

*Before sharing his insights, Alemán, a student at the University of Central America in Managua, asked for a moment of silence to honor the Nicaraguan heroes who recently lost their lives or were imprisoned "simply because they dreamed of a free Nicaragua."*

Alemán said he was grateful for the opportunity to speak in discussions like this one, outside of Nicaragua, that help raise awareness about what's going on in his country – a call to action he believes is his duty and that of others working toward a free Nicaragua.



Nicaraguan student opposition leader Lesther Alemán (left) joined a panel of faculty experts that included former Costa Rican President and Distinguished Visiting Scholar Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera and LACC Director Frank Mora.



## FIU experts analyze gun violence in wake of shooting at Stoneman Douglas

The tragic mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School left Florida grieving. It also jumpstarted debates – both local and national – about gun violence, policy change and safety in our schools and communities.

To shed light on these topics, the Green School hosted an interdisciplinary discussion with FIU faculty, analyzing the many divergent issues intertwined with gun violence, from public policy and mental health to medicine and law enforcement.

The panel featured Alexander D. Casas, chief of police of the FIU Police Department; Ellen Cohn, associate professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Jonathan Comer, professor of psychology in the College of Arts, Sciences and Education and director of mental health interventions & technology at the Center for Children and Families; Manuel A. Gomez, associate dean in the College of Law; Pedro “Joe” Greer, associate dean in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; and Valerie Patterson, associate professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration. Brian Fonseca, the director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, moderated the discussion.

Cohn shared shocking statistics. In 2016, more than 38,000 people in the U.S. died due to gun violence, including homicides and suicides. *In Florida, there were 12.6 gun-related deaths per 100,000 people that year – significantly higher than the national average of four deaths per 100,000 people.*

Pedro “Joe” Greer, associate dean in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; Valerie Patterson, professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration; and Ellen Cohn, professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Mass shootings account for a relatively small portion of gun deaths. But, according to a CNN report featuring a list of worst mass shootings in the country, no other states had more mass shootings than Florida, California and Texas – with each having four mass shootings.

To better understand the problem, panelists said, society must assess a variety of issues, including how gun violence disproportionately affects minorities and how to avoid the pitfalls of using mental illness as a scapegoat for gun violence.

Vice President for Engagement Saif Y. Ishaof, also a senior fellow at the Green School, spoke about his office’s work in the community to curtail gun violence. Through the Together for Children program, FIU has helped convene a task force with representatives from areas like law enforcement, Miami-Dade Public Schools and public health to discuss youth gun violence and ways to combat it.

“Gun violence and the epidemic of mass shootings in our schools and other public places reminds us of just how vulnerable we are,” said Dean John F. Stack Jr. “This has been an extraordinary presentation of fact, understanding, and, I think, of hope.”

**“Gun violence and the epidemic of mass shootings in our schools and other public places reminds us of just how vulnerable we are.”**

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

## Historic gathering of security officials sheds light on hemispheric issues



*The crisis in Venezuela. Oppression in Cuba. Russian and Chinese influence in Latin America. There was a lot going on in the Western Hemisphere in 2018.*

To analyze these pressing topics and explore U.S. policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean, the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center hosted the third annual Hemispheric Security Conference.

The event featured leading minds on security issues and included keynote addresses by Juan Cruz, special assistant to President Donald J. Trump and senior director for Western Hemisphere affairs, and Pete Marocco, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations at the U.S. Department of State.

Another highlight of the event: four former deputy assistant secretaries of defense for Western Hemisphere affairs – all of whom served under different administrations – came together for what was dubbed a historic panel, to discuss change and continuity in U.S. policy.

While many worry that party lines and individual leadership styles in Washington affect the nation's security policies, the reality is quite the opposite, FIU experts said.

"There's been a lot more continuity than change," said Frank Mora, LACC director and deputy assistant secretary of defense for Western Hemisphere affairs under President Barack Obama. "When it came to national security, we had more things in common between administrations. And that is a good news story."

## World Bank unveils flagship report on Latin America at FIU mayor's conference

With a worldwide audience in the tens of thousands, the World Bank unveiled a pivotal report on the future of urban economies in Latin America and the Caribbean during a conference of mayors that FIU has hosted for more than two decades.

Streamed live on Facebook for the first time, opening day of the 24th Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities drew an online audience of more than 140,000 people – many of them local government and non-profit officials from around Latin America – to hear the latest research on how to build better, more resilient cities in the region.

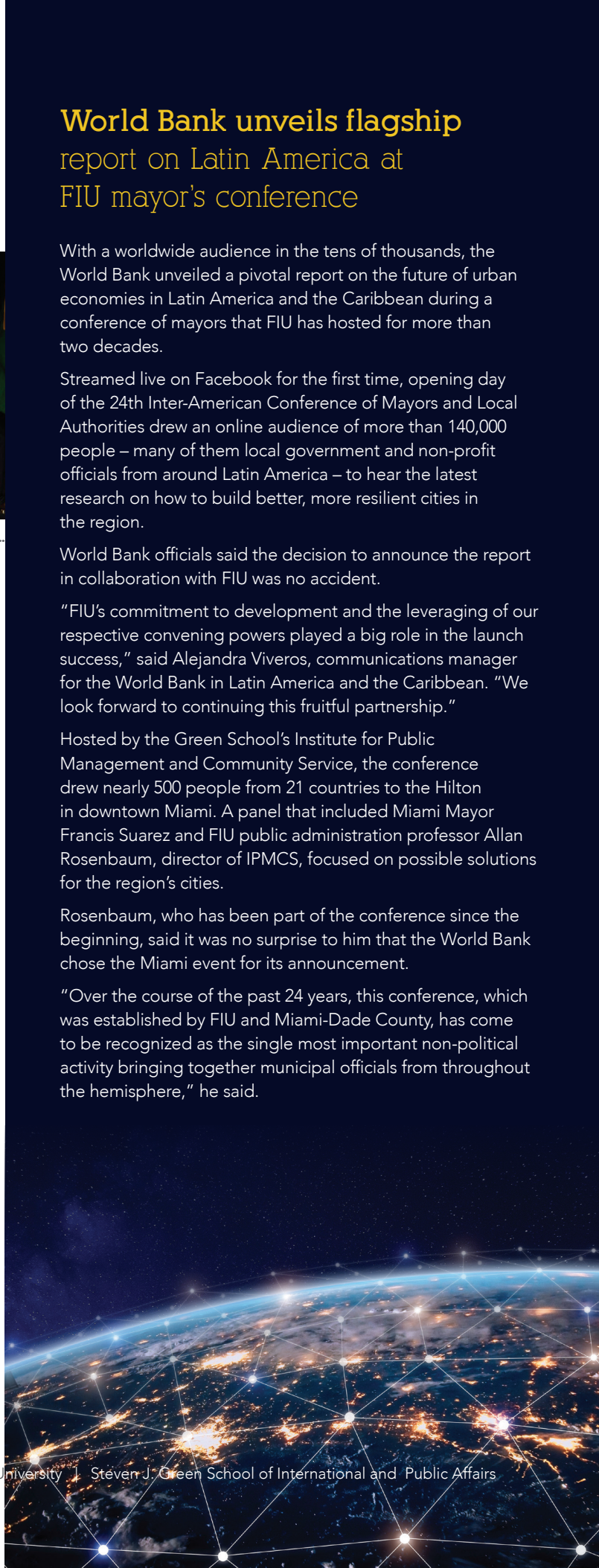
World Bank officials said the decision to announce the report in collaboration with FIU was no accident.

"FIU's commitment to development and the leveraging of our respective convening powers played a big role in the launch success," said Alejandra Viveros, communications manager for the World Bank in Latin America and the Caribbean. "We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership."

Hosted by the Green School's Institute for Public Management and Community Service, the conference drew nearly 500 people from 21 countries to the Hilton in downtown Miami. A panel that included Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and FIU public administration professor Allan Rosenbaum, director of IPMCS, focused on possible solutions for the region's cities.

Rosenbaum, who has been part of the conference since the beginning, said it was no surprise to him that the World Bank chose the Miami event for its announcement.

"Over the course of the past 24 years, this conference, which was established by FIU and Miami-Dade County, has come to be recognized as the single most important non-political activity bringing together municipal officials from throughout the hemisphere," he said.



# FIU HOSTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE focused on cybersecurity workforce outreach



Local Miami tech pioneer Manuel D. Medina and FIU Vice President for IT and CIO Robert Grillo at the NICE Conference.

Our homes and smart devices, banking information and medical records, and the nation's power grids and election systems all face the same devastating threat: cyberattacks. FIU is playing a key role in educating the next generation of highly-skilled cybersecurity practitioners to protect and safeguard important data, systems, and networks.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) selected FIU's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy as a partner to host the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference and Expo on Nov. 6 – 7, 2018, in Miami.

"At FIU, we're privileged to have talented faculty and researchers that have put us on the map as a nationally recognized hub of interdisciplinary cybersecurity education and research," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "It's an honor to bring our expertise to the table and help move the needle in such a critically important 21st century industry."

As a part of the agreement, the Gordon Institute, part of the Green School, and the Division of Information Technology partnered with New America to host the annual NICE Conference and Expo over the next five years.

The conference brings together cybersecurity workforce developers, federal and state government leaders, education and training providers, and others from across the U.S. and the world to help build the foundation for greater security.

The 2018 conference theme, "Innovation in Cybersecurity Education, Training and Workforce Development," included presentations from distinguished cybersecurity experts focusing on demonstrating new, creative and innovative approaches that will prepare, grow and sustain a national cybersecurity workforce.

Microsoft's Senior Director of Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy Angela McKay and local Miami tech pioneer Manuel D. Medina were among the featured speakers. The conference also included McAfee's Chief Scientist Raj Samani and Trend Micro's leading security expert Ed Cabrera, along with a wide range of experts and professionals from the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Science Foundation, T-Mobile, Dell and education experts from over a dozen universities, including the University of Washington, Columbus State University and FIU.

# Master of Arts in Global Affairs ranked among the best in the world

**I**n 2018, *Foreign Policy* magazine named FIU's Master of Arts in Global Affairs one of the top 40 programs in the world for policy careers in international relations. The magazine's 2018 Ivory Tower survey of more than 1,500 international relations scholars in the U.S. placed FIU in the company of top programs at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Yale – and ahead of prestigious universities like Arizona State and Boston University.

This was the first time FIU has appeared on the magazine's list of top international relations programs. Ranked No. 39, FIU is the only Florida school included on the list.

"This is an incredible milestone for our Master of Arts in Global Affairs program," said Dean John F. Stack Jr. "We are in the business of inspiring and developing the global leaders of tomorrow, and we are so proud of all that our students and graduates have accomplished."

*With an online readership of more than 3 million monthly, Foreign Policy magazine is one of the leading publications in the United States devoted to global affairs. The Ivory Tower survey – a collaboration with the College of William & Mary – specifically recognizes master's programs that effectively prepare students for jobs in foreign policy.*

The Master of Arts in Global Affairs program has an employment rate of 90 percent for its graduates, with students finding work in such top organizations as the U.S. Department of State, Defense Intelligence Agency, U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Department of Justice, as well as private companies like Raymond James Financial, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Hayman Woodward, and KPMG. Graduates also found employment in non-profit, multilateral and NGO organizations such as United Nations, German Marshall Fund, National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Human Rights Watch and



Green School Senior Fellow David Kramer; Carleen Vincent, associate chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Dean's Advisory Council member Maria Elena Toraño; Ed Glab, director of the Global Energy and Sustainability Forum; and Shlomi Dinar, director of the M.A. in Global Affairs Program.

Americans for Immigrant Justice.

The two-year professional graduate program offers three tracks – Globalization and Security; Global Risk and Corporate Responsibility and International Crime and Justice. Two of the tracks are available fully online.

The Master of Arts in Global Affairs program made history in 2018 in another way. The program celebrated its largest graduating class – including the first cohort of the Global Risk and Corporate Responsibility track. Graduates came from diverse backgrounds and all over the country and the world.

The program is taught by faculty with high-level experience in global organizations, agencies and companies, including the World Bank, NATO, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Defense, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Komatsu, Porter Novelli, Council of the Americas, Citi, and Ackerman Group.

The Master of Arts in Global Affairs program is accepting applications for Fall 2019.

# Public Policy & Administration Program

## ranked **TOP 10** by U.S. News

In 2018, **U.S. News & World Report** ranked two programs within the Department of Public Policy and Administration as among the best in the nation. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program was ranked in the Top 100 (#68). The department was also recognized as being in the Top 10 of public affairs graduate programs in the specialty area of International Global Policy and Administration. **U.S. News** rankings are based on peer assessment surveys by deans, directors and department chairs representing 282 master's programs in public affairs and administration.

International  
relations  
graduate  
program  
named  
among the  
best in U.S.



Based on faculty expertise, contributions to research and the availability of many joint degree options, FIU's master's in international relations was named "Best in State for 2018."

The ranking, published by InternationalRelationsEDU.org, notes that the list includes "some of the most influential IR programs in the world." FIU is listed among top programs such as those at Stanford, Yale, Georgetown and Columbia universities.

*"Graduates and faculty are regularly transitioning into positions of prominence in the field of international relations," the editors wrote, noting that the Green School's former advisory board chair, Eliot Pedrosa, recently left to fill a key position with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which supports development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

"Where else in the nation can you specialize in Jain Studies?" the article continues. "And that's not the only religious field you can

delve into at FIU – Miami's first and only public research university.

"Whether you want to focus on the cultural and religious aspects of international studies or foreign policy and security, at Green you'll find a world-class faculty and guest speakers that will help get you there. Most recently, former UN Ambassador and Obama Administration National Security Advisor Susan Rice treated graduates of the Green School to an unforgettable commencement address."

"Every one of these programs is exceptional in its own right and offers a learning experience that is objectively outstanding, while at the same time bringing something vitally important to the broader field of international relations," the article continues.

InternationalRelationsEDU.org is a web resource for those interested in a career in foreign policy, intelligence analysis, the foreign service, NGOs and other international relations specialties.

# CasaCuba welcomes new director and major gifts

*In 2018, FIU's CasaCuba initiative took several major leaps forward.*

**María Carla Chicué**n was named to lead the effort to build a center to promote global understanding on Cuban affairs and culture, through education, discussion, research and the arts.

Local construction business leader and member of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors Agustín R. Arellano, Sr. and his family donated \$1 million to CasaCuba. And the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation followed up its seed funding of the initiative with a \$2 million grant.

"Cuba is close to the hearts of so many of us at our FIU and in this community. This is why we have long dreamed of building a home to showcase our wealth of Cuba-related research and resources," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "With this support, we can begin planning for a global center that will foster understanding of Cuban affairs and culture, while showcasing FIU's scholarship and collections related to Cuban art, history, music, and many other disciplines."

"Agustín Arellano has always dared to dream with us," Rosenberg added. "Because of his belief in us, CasaCuba is going to be a reality."

CasaCuba received initial funding from Knight Foundation to hire an executive director and launch operations. Working in collaboration with CasaCuba's Board of Advisors, FIU has set a \$50 million fundraising goal to build and operate a 50,000-square-foot home for CasaCuba on FIU's Modesto A. Maidique campus.

Chicué will lead those efforts. She comes to FIU with prior experience in the education sector, specializing in community initiatives and strategic partnerships. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University and a master's in international relations from the London School of Economics.

Before coming to FIU, Chicué led special projects in the Office of the President at Miami Dade College. Previously,

she was an education consultant at the World Bank in Washington D.C., and at the Inter-American Development Bank in Panama City, Panama.

"I am honored to join FIU and lead an initiative that will consolidate the university's already prominent work in Cuban studies," said Chicué. "Through CasaCuba, I am excited to engage the community to promote an even greater understanding of Cuba and preserve our extraordinary legacy for generations to come."

CasaCuba will leverage FIU's significant collections related to Cuban art, history and music, as well as the Cuban Research Institute, one of the nation's leading centers for academic research and public programs on Cuban and Cuban-American issues. Initiatives currently being developed for CasaCuba include a dinner series that celebrates the diverse roots of Cuban culture and cuisine, and a heritage festival that will help the community preserve personal objects related to the Cuban experience.

CasaCuba will serve as an area for community engagement, state-of-the-art exhibits and resources for students, scholars, policymakers and professionals from a variety of fields.

FIU already has significant resources related to Cuban genealogy, art, history, music and law, such as the Darlene M. and Jorge M. Pérez Art Collection at FIU and the Díaz Ayala Cuban and Latin American Popular Music Collection.

"We're thrilled to welcome María Carla to FIU," said Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute, which has already started working closely with CasaCuba on various projects. "Her appointment will help to expand Cuban and Cuban-American studies at FIU, as well as our extensive program of public events and community outreach."



*"Through CasaCuba, I am excited to engage the community to promote an even greater understanding of Cuba and preserve our extraordinary legacy for generations to come."*

*—María Carla Chicué*

# 祝贺

## FIU CELEBRATES FIRST COMMENCEMENT AT QINGDAO UNIVERSITY



Class valedictorian Mengning Li and President Mark B. Rosenberg, flanked by Li's parents

“

*Together, FIU and Qingdao have quickly put up a nationally competitive Spanish language program that has consistently led China in language competency exams for the last three years,*

*—Mark B. Rosenberg  
FIU President*

In May 2018, FIU celebrated its inaugural commencement at Qingdao University. The partnership offers a dual degree in Spanish that focuses on business and cultural issues in Latin America and Spain. The program is hosted by the Green School's Department of Modern Languages in cooperation with the School of Foreign Languages at QU.

“Together, FIU and Qingdao have quickly put up a nationally competitive Spanish language program that has consistently led China in language competency exams for the last three years,” wrote President Mark B. Rosenberg in his blog post from Qingdao. “I personally have lectured before the inaugural 2014 cohort three times and am particularly proud to experience and lead this first graduation of promising young Chinese students

who are passionate about the Spanish language and Latin America.”

Students in the program used their skills to present business proposals – in Spanish – to major companies in China with business interests in Latin America. They conducted interviews in Spanish – including with President Rosenberg – for a radio podcast, “Se habla español.” And they engaged with fellow students at FIU in Miami on the latest exhibits at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.

Prior to graduation, many had already secured positions or internships with major Chinese companies in media, finance, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and more.

The first graduating class played an important role in helping establish the program at the national level in China.

The results speak for themselves. FIU students scored an 80 percent pass rate on the national test for Spanish Major Language Test Band 4 in June 2016, which far exceeded the national pass rate for China that year.

***Six of the top 10 student pass rates in 2018 were from FIU students. And one student – class valedictorian Mengning Li – had the highest pass rate in the country in Spanish.***

In December 2018, FIU students at Qingdao University won second place at the 6th National Spanish Dubbing Competition – the first time any team from Qingdao has won an award in this prestigious contest. The students competed against 38 teams and were just six points shy of first place.

# Auschwitz survivor makes major gift to Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program

Auschwitz survivor and renowned architect **Tibor Hollo** believes the Holocaust is being forgotten. It all started with a conversation with a teen.

"A supplier of mine came into my office with his son," said Hollo, chairman and president of Florida East Coast Realty. "Somehow, the conversation turned to the Holocaust. The kid looked confused, but I didn't push it because I didn't want to embarrass him."

Since that conversation, Hollo has made it his mission to bring awareness to different Holocaust events – starting with a significant donation to the Green School's Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, designed to provide Holocaust awareness for the university and South Florida communities.

A study recently found that millennials – defined as people ages 18 to 34 – lack basic knowledge about the Holocaust. *Forty-one percent of millennials who took the survey did not know how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust and 66 percent could not say what Auschwitz was.*

"I wanted to create a curriculum about the Holocaust within," said Hollo, who in 2012 also made a gift that established the Tibor and Sheila Hollo School of Real Estate at FIU's College of Business. "[I wanted] to make the youth aware."

With Hollo's donation, the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program has increased its outreach.

"We are incredibly grateful for what Mr. Hollo has allowed us to do. [His] gift launched us into the next level," said Oren B. Stier, director of the program and professor of religious studies. "Now, we have funds to get the word out and do more, [thus] enhancing existing activities."

The program began offering an undergraduate certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the fall of 2018. The certificate provides a multidisciplinary approach for understanding and analyzing the global phenomenon of genocide.

Hollo's contribution has allowed the program to partner with the School of Education and Human Development to offer a workshop to help future teachers gain insight on how to teach the Holocaust, as well as promote, through the program, the educational application of first-person testimonies, among other things. According to Stier, the goal is to develop a curriculum and to offer scholarships for students, graduate research, study abroad programs, campus and community events and more.



Tibor Hollo and his wife, Sheila Hollo

# Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies celebrates first year at FIU

Taking on tough issues like Islamophobia and bullying; the role of the Jewish community in fighting anti-Muslim racism; and prospects for peace in the Middle East, the Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies at FIU has reached its one-year anniversary and several important milestones, including the expansion of undergraduate and graduate certificate programs in Middle East and Muslim world studies.

In collaboration with the South Florida Muslim community, FIU launched the Jaffer Center in January 2018 with a \$2 million endowment from the Jaffer family. The first center of its kind in South Florida, the Jaffer Center has quickly become a hub for academic and cultural exchange that sheds light on the global Muslim experience.

In 2018, the center held more than two dozen academic and cultural events for students, faculty and the community, including a roundtable conversation on the then-upcoming midterm elections focused on the importance of the Muslim American vote and a "hijab-a-thon" in collaboration with FIU's Muslim Student Association that invited women of all faiths to wear a hijab for the day, then reflect on their experiences.

In June 2018, the center celebrated its first Annual Iftar Dinner during Ramadan, which brought together Muslims and non-Muslims for a celebratory meal and communal breaking of the fast. The event featured guest speakers, including Mohsin Jaffer, Dean John F. Stack Jr.; Mohiaddin Mesbahi, founding director of the center; Iqbal Akhtar, professor in the Department of Religious Studies; and Carlos Grenier, visiting assistant professor in religious studies.

The center also brought leading scholars to campus for discussions on a range of topics within Muslim studies, including University of Michigan Professor Juan R.I. Cole, who discussed the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. The center also hosted James J. Zogby, president and cofounder of the Arab American Institute, and James Piscatori, professor at Australian

National University's Center for Arab and Islamic Studies.

This year, the center will host a three-day conference dedicated to Muslim-Jewish relations, "Muslim-Jewish Encounter: Texts, Contexts and Contemporary Implications," which will bring together scholars from around the world to explore the historical, cultural, sociopolitical, economic and geographic linkages that exist between Jews and Muslims.

The project is part of a larger Muslim-Jewish relations initiative at FIU and is intended to foster meaningful dialogue among different religious communities. The conference is a collaboration with the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU and will be held April 10-12, 2019.

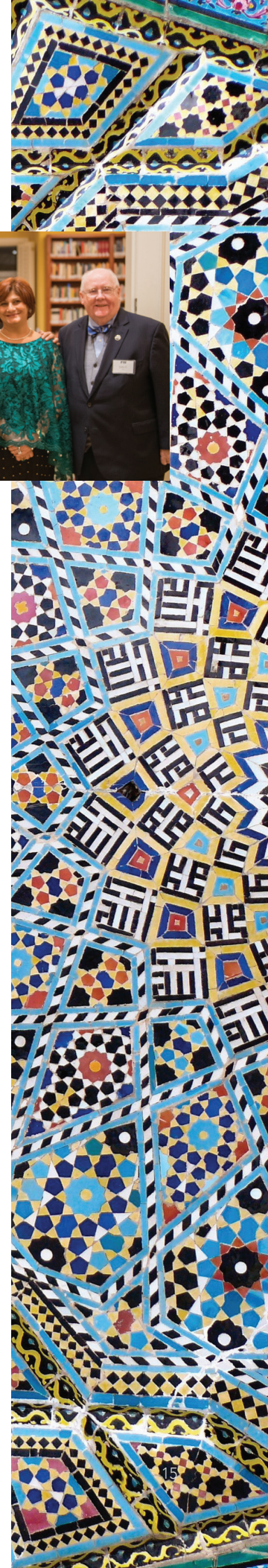
The center has also expanded its course offerings, including a new course on Islamic art and architecture, which will be offered this year. The course will assess how Islamic doctrine manifests itself through art and architecture, providing students with understanding of the theoretical and practical principles unifying Islamic art in a global perspective.

*In 2018, the center welcomed postdoctoral researcher, Saeed Moshveghyaganeh, who studies the participation of Muslim women in STEM fields, and visiting assistant professor Carlos Grenier, whose work focuses on Islamic thought in the early Ottoman Empire.*

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 global Muslim communities. The center collaborates with numerous community organizations, centers and mosques, including COSMOS, the Islamic Center of Greater Miami, the Ershad Center, the Islamic Jaffaria Association and Emgage USA.



President Mark B. Rosenberg; Mohiaddin Mesbahi, center director; Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer; and Dean John F. Stack Jr.



# METROPOLITAN CENTER

## CELEBRATES 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY, PRODUCES CRITICAL NEW RESEARCH



**After 22 years we've gone from being one of FIU's best kept secrets to being South Florida's most respected social science "think tank." That reflects on our skills as researchers and trainers, and our ability to tailor solutions to meet community need."**

*—Howard Frank  
Director of the  
Metropolitan Center  
and chair of the  
Department of  
Public Policy and  
Administration.*

The Metropolitan Center has been the leading "urban think tank" in South Florida for more than 20 years, focusing on applied research and training that provides policy solutions to public, private and non-profit organizations.

In 2018, the center continued its stellar track record of producing top-notch research in areas of critical importance to Miami-Dade County and the entire South Florida region.

The center's 7th Annual MetroForum, "State of the South Florida Economy" highlighted what South Florida's next 20 years would look like.

The forum featured researchers and national experts presenting data on the critical issues and challenges defining Miami's economic future. Speakers included Associate Director Ned Murray, Senior Fellow Kevin Grenier; and Assistant Director Maria Ilcheva, among others.

Murray, a leading expert on economic and housing market issues in South Florida, focused his presentation on community development, exploring the need for a "dynamic community development institutional framework" with a long-term commitment to community investment and human development.

*"Real opportunities exist for well-conceived housing delivery systems that link affordable housing to economic development, transportation and land use planning opportunities, including mixed-income/mixed-use and equitable transit-oriented development," he noted.*

Grenier, a planner, analyst and policy researcher with over 25 years of experience, focused his presentation on building a resilient economic future in South Florida, exploring some essential economic risks, both

short and long term. Some of the short-term economic risks in Miami are rising insurance costs to property owners and businesses and insurance providers retreating from the market.

Ilcheva explored how South Florida could develop and sustain a culture of preparedness and resilience. She spoke about how to raise risk awareness, as well as the long-term view and control of urban development in hazardous areas.

"Development equals revenues," said Ilcheva, who has over 10 years of experience working on various economic development, social and behavioral projects.

In 2018, Ilcheva also served as principal investigator on a report on women, titled *Women in Miami-Dade County: Economic Participation, Opportunity and Equity*. The report presented evidence that economic conditions for women had improved modestly since the publication of the first report in 2016. However, according to the latest report, women's earnings continue to lag behind that of men.

Another major accomplishment of the Metropolitan Center in 2018 was the signing of an agreement with the City of Miami to develop an Affordable Housing Master Plan. The center's researchers will help develop the plan using the most recent U.S. Census data.

"We are pleased to partner with the City of Miami in the preparation of the forthcoming Affordable Housing Master Plan," said Murray, who will serve as principal investigator on the project. "The master plan will provide the city with a comprehensive analysis of housing market conditions that will provide the underpinnings for clear and workable affordable housing policies and strategies."

## Green School alum named to top Trump administration post

As the top U.S. representative to the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., Green School alum Eliot Pedrosa has a hand in deciding which projects the organization will fund to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Alumna Mercedes Schlapp, White House director of strategic communications; Neri Martinez, executive director of the Republican State Leadership Committee's Future Majority Project; Eliot Pedrosa; alumna Lianna Farnesi, intern at The Heritage Foundation; and Carlos A. Becerra, assistant vice president of FIU's Governmental Relations.

Pedrosa, former chairman of the school's Dean's Advisory Council, said he owes his success to his family – and his time at FIU.

"I've been blessed with the support of a loving family and some wonderful mentors, including (Green School) Dean John Stack, who was my constitutional law professor as an undergrad at FIU," said Pedrosa, who earned his B.A. in sociology and

anthropology before going on to Harvard Law School. "It was his class that helped me decide to pursue a career in law."

President Donald Trump nominated Pedrosa to his post as Alternate Executive Director of the IADB last year. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in May 2018.

"It's a humbling experience to be chosen by the President of the United States to serve in his administration, and doubly so to represent our country on the board of an international financial institution," he said. "I'm honored to have the privilege of serving."

Through financial aid and technical support, IADB helps improve health and education, as well as advance infrastructure. Last year, the IADB approved nearly \$15 billion in grants and loans to build infrastructure, create jobs, improve healthcare and education, reduce poverty, fight corruption, and help meet the challenges presented by natural disasters, changes in climate, and fluctuations in markets.

"It's my job to be the United States' voice and to cast its vote on the lending that the bank's

management proposes to support economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean," Pedrosa explained.

Pedrosa, who previously led the Miami litigation department of Greenberg, Traurig, LLP, said the education he received at FIU and the relationships he made here have been foundational to his career, which includes more than 18 years representing clients in legal matters throughout the Americas.

"I have seen how weak institutions, unchecked corruption, political instability, and economic uncertainty can throttle private enterprise [and] I am aware that too many of our fellow citizens of the Americas are still deprived of their basic rights to life, liberty, property and a fair opportunity for prosperity by corrupt and oppressive governments, violent criminal gangs, and the crushing weight of hopelessness," he said in his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Pedrosa, whose parents fled Communism in Cuba for a better life in the U.S., said his inspiration stems from seeing others pursue their dreams.

"It's no coincidence that America is the most free country in the world – and I'm talking about both political freedom and economic freedom – and is also the most prosperous," he said. "Having the chance, through my work at the IADB, to export that freedom throughout our hemisphere is profoundly meaningful to me."

**"We're so thankful that Eliot is helping open doors for our students and helping keep FIU at the table during critical times for the region. It is because of Green School alumni like him that our influence continues to grow in our nation's capital."**

*–Michelle L. Palacio, Vice President for Governmental Relations*

# FIU students shine during Democracy Project event

When students attend presentations, they usually get to hear what a professor or practitioner has to say on a topic. For “The Democracy Project: A Conversation with FIU Students” the tables were turned and students were at the center of a national conversation on the state of democracy in the U.S. and the world.

A collaboration with Freedom House, the George W. Bush Institute and the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, the event grew out of a national survey that revealed that a majority of young Americans no longer believe it is important to live in a democracy.

with different interests and viewpoints, political persuasions and areas of study,” said Dean John F. Stack Jr. “I am eager to hear from you all about what democracy means to you and how we might be able to strengthen democracy both here and abroad.”

Representatives from the Bush Institute and the Biden Center discussed the results of their national survey and answered student questions.

“We know as citizens and as policy makers that we globally are facing an acute crisis for democracy,” said Ariana Berengaut, director of programs, partnerships and strategic planning at the Biden Center. “We see it within our borders every day, but we also see it beyond our borders. Given the fact that you guys have very, very important views that we need to hear, and also the fact that you’re our future leaders, it’s really important for us to understand what you think about all of this.”

Alexander Rubido, a freshman accounting major and a member of the award-winning FIU Model UN team, shared his reflections on the importance of the event and why he was glad to participate:

*“Participating in the Green School’s democracy conversation was an amazing experience. It was the first time I was given a platform to express my ideas about how I think our nation is doing, the beauty of our form of government and the intricacies that it deals with,”* he said. “While I might not have agreed with some of what the other panelist said, the fact that we were all able to sit down and have the conversation is the important take-away. Whatever the ideology, view or opinion of the other panelists, we all had a great deal of respect for each other and the conversations helped each of us develop into more well-informed citizens. I am incredibly grateful to the Green School for allowing me to take part in this event and am appreciative of this great effort to help the community grow.”

To raise awareness about the value of democracy – and hear what students had to say – the Green School invited FIU students, undergraduate and graduate, from a variety of colleges and units, to share their views about democracy and its strengths and weaknesses.

“We have cast a wide net and brought together a diverse group of young men and women



# WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR VISITS FIU, LEARNS ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEAP PROGRAM

Two-time FIU alumna Aimee Viana, now executive director for the U.S. Department of Education's White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, came to FIU in 2018 to explore the university's programs and strategies for fostering innovation in education and student success.

During her visit, she met with faculty and administrators to learn more about the groundbreaking Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) offered through the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

"We've been thrilled to be invited to FIU," Viana said. "There's certainly a lot of innovation happening and there's many ways that faculty and administration have worked to meet the needs of their student population, thinking outside of the box."

The LEAP program was specifically highlighted throughout Viana's visit as one of the trailblazing programs at FIU that is pushing the envelope on ways of, as Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Elizabeth Bejar explained, bridging the divide between theory and practice in education.

LEAP successfully combines classroom instruction with specialized police training and workplace experience. The program offers two options to help current and future law enforcement officers earn their bachelor's degrees in either criminal justice or crime science.

Current students who are not yet law enforcement officers can get real-world experience while earning up to 15 credits by graduating from a Florida state-certified law enforcement academy.

Students who are working as certified law enforcement officers can also earn up to 15 credits by completing a minimum of 120 hours of Florida state-certified courses for advanced and specialized training programs.

"No other state university in Florida is doing this," said Lisa Stolzenberg, chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. "This is about meeting our students' needs."

Stolzenberg said the apprenticeship idea came from FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg, who reached out to her to discuss the possibility of such a program after attending an annual meeting of the American Legislative Exchange

Council. Rosenberg served as the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) representative on the U.S. Department of Labor's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion, formed in response to an executive order signed by President Donald J. Trump to expand apprenticeships and vocational training.

The LEAP program is a perfect fit for that need.

"Modern police departments need officers who are capable of leading change and who have the capacity to utilize highly developed critical thinking skills," said Carleen Vincent-Robinson, LEAP director and associate chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. "Educated law enforcement professionals are essential to the future success of modern police departments."

The department's new crime science degree, which launched in the fall of 2018 and is the first STEM-focused criminal justice degree in the country – also caught Viana's attention.

Offered in-person and fully online, the degree combines forensics and computer science with traditional criminology and criminal justice. The program equips students to solve crimes and keep our increasingly technologically-sophisticated communities safe.

"I commend you, your team and your university for rethinking the way you offer these vital services to these crucial members of the South Florida community," Viana said. "You are embedding STEM in criminal justice. Thank you for your commitment. I have no doubt this will be beneficial to the local police department and inspirational for other universities."



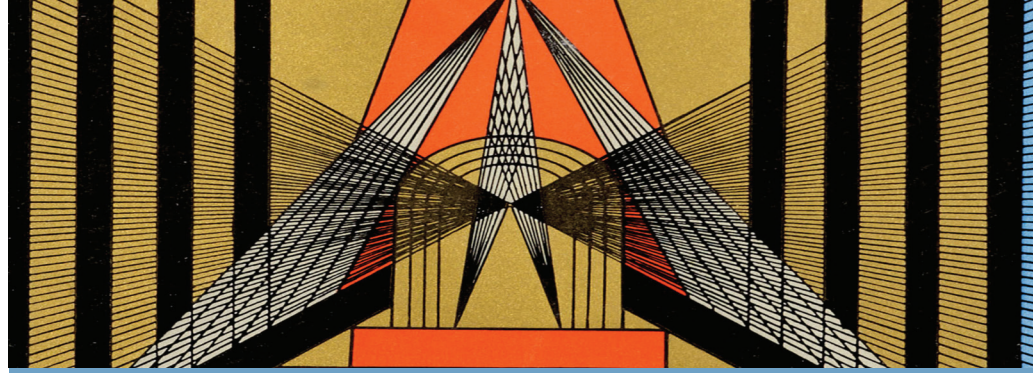
Aimee Viana, executive director for the U.S. Department of Education's White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, with Assistant Vice President for Governmental Relations Carlos Becerra, met with students during a visit to FIU.



## EMERGING PREEMINENT PROGRAMS AT THE GREEN SCHOOL

**A**n Emerging Preeminent Program at FIU is a collaborative endeavor with high potential to be designated a Preeminent Program at FIU – a distinction that recognizes extraordinary success in providing unique learning opportunities, pioneering research and engagement while expanding FIU’s financial base and enhancing the university’s reputation at the national and international level.

*The Green School is proud to be home to three Emerging Preeminent Programs:* the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center; Cybersecurity@FIU; and the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, a partnership between the Wolfsonian-FIU, the Green School, the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts and the College of Arts, Sciences & Education. In addition, Richard Olson, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, serves as director of one of FIU’s six Preeminent Programs, the Extreme Events Institute.



### Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab named an emerging preeminent program

In 2018, an FIU team of scholars came together to launch the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, an innovative multidisciplinary program that quickly earned the distinction of being one of only seven programs across the university designated as “emerging preeminent” and the only one focused on research, teaching and community engagement in the humanities.

The lab is a partnership between the Department of History’s public history program and the Wolfsonian-FIU. It is unprecedented in its mission: to bring together faculty, students, researchers and resources from across numerous humanities fields with the goal of increasing collaboration among researchers and providing a 360-degree perspective on the humanities for faculty, students and the community.

A key component of the lab’s vision is to provide people with the opportunity to engage with the Wolfsonian-FIU’s internationally-recognized collection of objects and print materials while conducting research or analyzing contemporary and historical challenges.

FIU is leading the way in the public humanities field, says Associate Professor of History and Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Provost Rebecca Friedman, who was one of the key faculty members who helped create the lab. The university will soon be one of the first in the country to offer an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in public humanities through the lab.

“Public Humanities has the potential to harness the knowledge in traditional humanities disciplines such as art and art history, literature, history and so forth in order to begin to find solutions to societal problems and help improve people’s lives.”

Future collaborative projects currently in the works include musical and theatrical performances, a Humanities Festival and a Public Humanities Heritage Day. “Not only will students learn traditional humanities-oriented skills such as critical thinking, analysis and effective writing but they will also see first-hand how these skills are powerful tools with which to engage communities.”

FIU hosted the world premiere of a one-hour independent documentary called “Built to Last? Saving our Homes in the Age of Disasters” in June 2018. The film features interviews with Extreme Events Institute Director Richard Olson, a professor in the Green School’s Department of Politics and International Relations. **The Extreme Events Institute is one of six Preeminent Programs at FIU.**



## Educating a new generation of cyber warriors



Brian Fonseca, director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy

Cyber threats have no borders. One hacker in one place can damage an entire company – along with its employees and clients – all over the world. To create a skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of the cyber world head-on, FIU has become an international research and educational hub for cybersecurity.

The Green School's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy is playing a major role in those efforts and helped launch [Cybersecurity@FIU](mailto:Cybersecurity@FIU), a multidisciplinary effort that focuses on digital defense and protection issues that impact the global cyber landscape and examines complex human and social questions related to privacy policies and trust.

A few years ago, the institute created a cybersecurity leadership and strategy executive program tailored toward managers and professionals in the field working in cybersecurity to help them learn the necessary skills to fight cyber threats. The first few programs were originally hosted in Miami and then in Washington, D.C.

In 2018, the Gordon Institute broke new ground and partnered with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Argentine Ministry of Security to organize a cybersecurity certificate training program conducted in Spanish in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The program was attended by professionals from both the public and private sectors, hailing from all parts of the hemisphere.

In an attempt to give students from all majors and disciplines the opportunity to build cybersecurity skills the Gordon Institute also led the way in creating a cybersecurity badge program at FIU.

"Hospitality, healthcare, government, law, business – there isn't an industry that isn't susceptible to cyberattacks," said Randy Pestana, assistant director at the Gordon Institute. The cybersecurity badges are just the beginning of a broader initiative to bring more 21st century workforce competencies to FIU.

Creating a Just, Peaceful and Prosperous World

## Latin American and Caribbean Center again earns national designation

In 2018, the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) reaffirmed its place as one of the leading centers of its kind in the nation, once again earning a designation from the U.S. Department of Education as a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) on Latin America and the Caribbean.

"This is recognition of the university's commitment to the region and to the depth and breadth of expertise among the faculty and staff at FIU," said Frank Mora, director of LACC and a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere. "The designation will provide our students, faculty and community with significant opportunities for research, training and access to scholarship funds, as well as highlight LACC's status as one of the premier centers for the study and research of Latin America and the Caribbean."

LACC has been a designated National Resource Center for 36 of its 40 years.

The center, which draws upon one of the largest concentrations of Latin American and Caribbean studies scholars of any university in the country, will receive more than \$2 million for the Title VI program and the Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. Most of that – \$1.2 million – is designated for student scholarships through the FLAS fellowship, a program for undergraduate and graduate students studying modern foreign languages and area studies. The program puts an emphasis on languages that are less commonly taught and considered critical for national security and development, including Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Quechua, spoken by the indigenous people of the Andes region.

The Title VI grant supports LACC's commitment to community partnerships and its work to train Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) teachers to introduce and/or better integrate Latin American and Caribbean content into the classroom. The funds will also allow LACC to strengthen and expand its programming, curriculum and collaborative projects with institutions in the U.S. and in Latin America and support the dissemination of LACC faculty scholarship and research across the world.

## Student researchers tackle U.S. immigration policy with forum

*“I am so pleased that FIU and the Green School are hosting this important dialogue – and inviting in the voices of those who have experienced it firsthand.”*

*–Maria Elena Toraño member of the Dean’s Advisory Council for the Green School*

When Anne C. Richard became an assistant secretary of state under President Obama in 2012, she made what she now thinks may have been an idealistic assumption.

“I always thought that the work we were doing (at the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration) was part of the “middle of the road” of politics in the United States,” said Richard, who visited FIU as part of a student-led forum on immigration reform.

“We are and have always been a nation of refugees and immigrants,” she said. “We have a long tradition of leading the world in terms of humanitarian assistance. Most Americans are very proud of that. But that identity is being called into question by the political rhetoric we are hearing today.”

Richard gave the opening address at the Forum on Inclusive Immigration Reform organized by three Ph.D. students from the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies: Jack Maguire, Maria Barbero and Katrina Livingston. The event was hosted by the Dorothea Green Lecture Series and co-sponsored by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy.



Maria Elena Toraño

Maria Elena Toraño, a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council for the Green School, introduced Richard and said she believed FIU was the perfect places to host a discussion on immigration.

“We are at the center of the immigration debate,” said Toraño, a Cuban immigrant who founded her own marketing and public relations company, as well as the National Hispanic Leadership Institute.

“We have students from around the world who come to FIU to learn, to grow – and we hope, to make this a better world. I am so pleased that FIU and the Green School are hosting this important dialogue – and inviting in the voices of those who have experienced it firsthand.”

## Russian opposition leader visits FIU for film screening and conversation



Vladimir Kara-Murza

Despite the risk of harm – even death – pro-democracy activists in Russia continue to voice their opposition to the regime of Vladimir Putin.

Opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza, who survived two attempts on his own life, explains it this way: “Looking at Russian history, you can see that political shifts can happen quickly and unexpectedly. We do not know how or when the Putin regime will exit the stage, but we do [know] it will, because nothing is forever.”

Kara-Murza visited FIU for a screening of a documentary he directed on the life of his friend and fellow opposition leader, Boris Nemtsov, who was assassinated in 2015 on a bridge near the Kremlin. The documentary chronicles Nemtsov’s life and political career. Kara-Murza said Russian authorities fight against Nemtsov – even in death – trying to remove his memory and legacy.

Kara-Murza is chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom and vice chairman of Open Russia, a platform for civil society and pro-democracy activists launched in 2014 by former political prisoner Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

After the film screening, Kara-Murza engaged in a conversation with David J. Kramer, Green School Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights & Diplomacy.

*“Being a leader in the opposition and an activist in Russia is a very risky position,” said Kramer, a former assistant secretary of state for human rights, democracy and labor.*

## Interfaith conversation sheds light on how to foster friendships across religious groups

From the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue to verbal acts of hatred and discrimination, bigotry and intolerance continue to plague modern society. Forging strong interfaith relations is perhaps more important now than ever before.

To break down barriers and combat stereotypes, the Green School hosts an interfaith community event each year featuring religious leaders and scholars. In 2018, the school teamed up with Interfaith Youth Miami, an initiative started by local high school students to promote understanding and foster new friendships between various faith communities.

The event, which took place at the Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ, featured a rabbi, an imam and a pastor – longtime friends and co-hosts of an Orlando public radio show that promotes interfaith friendships and a religiously inclusive worldview.

“Our mission at the Green School is to explore how we can create a more just, peaceful and prosperous world. For a society to thrive, tolerance in all forms and at all levels is paramount,” said Pedro D. Botta, senior strategic director of the Green School. “It is my hope that through

conversations like [this] one we can move beyond tolerance. We need to move toward embracing one another. That’s the only way we’re going to build a better world.”

Dubbed the “Three Wise Guys,” the religious leaders – Rabbi Steven Engel of the Congregation of Reform Judaism of Orlando, Senior Imam Muhammad Musri of the Islamic Society of Central Florida and the Reverend Bryan Fulwider, formerly of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park – led a candid discussion on interfaith relations, religious diversity and bringing people together for true dialogue.

“Our country deserves to have a conversation on religions that is comfortable, intelligent, not divisive and also one in which we can disagree [with each other],” Engel explained. “Three religious leaders coming together and actually becoming friends, trusting one another and engaging in intelligent religious conversation [is extremely important].”



Rabbi Steven Engel, Rev. Bryan Fulwider and Senior Imam Muhammad Musri led a community discussion about interfaith friendships.

## The Nordic Green Economy - what it is and why we should care



The five Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland) are often considered at the forefront of adopting “green economic” policies – those that aim for sustainable development without degrading the environment. Through various initiatives, their

governments have taken steps to reduce carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy while creating new jobs and stimulating the economy.

Representatives from the Nordic countries, including Swedish Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter, discussed innovative policy approaches to sustainability during an event hosted by the

Green School and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet European Center of Excellence. Prior to the event, Norwegian Ambassador Kåre R. Aas spoke with FIU News about what the green economy is and how the U.S. could learn from the Nordic model.

“The green economy builds on what we call “green competitiveness” – creating jobs and growth, while reducing emissions,” he said. “This is how industries and markets should work. The other side of this is to have a “circular economy” – not just producing new things, but reusing and recycling more. A circular economy creates major business opportunities with lower costs and better efficiency, by creating new products from old.

“Today’s use of resources and materials is not sustainable in the long run,” he added. “Climate change is accelerating with potentially devastating impacts for resources and livelihoods; air and sea pollution is increasing; and the world’s population is growing.”

## MacArthur Foundation awards FIU \$1.7 million to study prosecutor behavior

In the criminal justice system, prosecutors wield considerable power over who is charged with a crime, what charges defendants face, and whether or not they are eligible for plea agreements.

To better inform prosecutorial decision-making – and reduce the risk of racial and ethnic disparities – the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded FIU’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice a grant to develop more effective and efficient prosecutor practices.



*“We believe this is one of the most important prosecutorial research initiatives happening in the U.S. right now, it is essential that we develop data-driven strategies to keep communities safe but also to ensure our criminal justice systems are effective, efficient and fair.”*

*–Dean John F. Stack Jr.*

The two-year project – funded by \$1.7 million and coordinated through the foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge – is a joint effort with Loyola University Chicago that will examine prosecutor data and policies in four cities nationwide: Chicago, Jacksonville, Milwaukee and Tampa. The grant is the largest ever awarded to FIU by the MacArthur Foundation.

The project, led by criminal justice professor Besiki Kutateladze and housed within FIU’s Center for the Administration of Justice, stems from the growing recognition that prosecutorial offices need to become more data-driven to ensure effectiveness and fairness.

## FIU linguist earned \$100,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant

Melissa Baralt, associate professor of applied psycholinguistics, teaches educators. From working with future Spanish professors in graduate courses at FIU to leading workshops for local K-12 teachers, Baralt explores how people teach language – and how best practices can improve.

She conducted a year-long ethnographic study analyzing the teaching methods of Spanish professors at FIU’s Department of Modern Languages and at Florida Memorial University (FMU). The findings from that study led her to develop a project for which she has earned a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will fund the development of Spanish-language course content and teacher training at FIU and FMU and will be administered under the Green School’s Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC).

For years, Baralt has run LACC’s Minority Institutions Building Resources to Ignite Development and Growth in Education, (MI-BRIDGE) program, a partnership program with FMU – one of Florida’s historically black colleges or universities (HBCU). Many of the Spanish-language teachers hired at FMU graduated from FIU’s Spanish program.

In her study, Baralt found that teaching methods at both institutions were solid. But she noticed two areas for improvement. Some



professors hired at FMU – including FIU alumni – left mid-semester, citing a lack of preparedness to teach Spanish in an HBCU setting. Baralt also noticed that black student enrollment in Spanish language was significantly lower at FIU than student enrollment in other subjects throughout the university.

“This meant that I needed to improve as a teacher trainer to better prepare my student teachers to teach in culturally and linguistically diverse settings,” Baralt says. “It also meant that we needed to improve the curriculum to ensure it was engaging students more and reflecting their realities.”

*“The goal is to create a curriculum that uses texts that promote Afro-descendant speakers, and to promote a more realistic depiction of ethno-racial diversity in the Hispanic world,”* said Baralt. *“No one in Miami has done this. Students need to see examples of teachers, mentors and scholars like them.”*

## FIU team to study the impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico's health care system

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, leaving loss, pain and destruction in its wake. It also led to the collapse of Puerto Rico's health care system. This massive collapse in health care services and technology is thought to have significantly impacted the lives of many Puerto Ricans who survived the hurricane but still needed medical attention to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about this topic, the National Institutes of Health has awarded three FIU researchers, all housed within the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, a \$423,555 grant. The team is made up of professors Mark Padilla, Nelson Varas-Diaz and Kevin Grove.

"This research is of critical importance because it will be the first to examine system-wide effects of the recent hurricanes on Puerto Rico's health care system," says Padilla. "There has been much misinformation and confusion about the impact Hurricane Maria had on morbidity and mortality in Puerto Rico, and much of this has been based on



political posturing rather than science. This research will help to remedy this through a systematic study of all levels of the health care system."

The researchers will conduct on-site observations and detailed interviews with health care representatives, policy makers and patients to explore which components of the health care system failed to respond adequately and which factors facilitated resilience within the health care system. The team also will analyze and describe how patients living with chronic health conditions who need life-sustaining treatment managed their health without regular access to care following the hurricane.

The grant will be administered through the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.



*The grant will be administered through the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.*

## Researchers complete first study on Florida's Puerto Rican population

More than 300 national advocates, elected officials, stakeholders, journalists and prominent members of the Puerto Rican community came together to outline the issues that Puerto Ricans living in Florida are facing and to examine the role that such residents might play in the future of the state.

The "Nuestro Futuro" Symposium was a collaboration between FIU and the Puerto Rican Alliance of Florida and the Puerto Rican Leadership Council of South Florida. The gathering, co-sponsored by the Green School and FIU's Office of Engagement, aimed to demonstrate the impact of the Puerto Rican population in the Sunshine State.

The symposium made news with the

presentation of the first-ever study on Puerto Ricans in Florida. It involved a survey of 1,000 residents around the state who have arrived from the island since 2011. The study was commissioned and sponsored by the Puerto Rican Alliance of Florida and conducted by FIU professors Eduardo Gamarra and Jorge Duany. The findings were unveiled as part of a panel with other experts on the Puerto Rican diaspora.

Key findings include: The main cities of residence are Orlando, Tampa, Miami and Fort Lauderdale. The main reason that Puerto Ricans leave their homeland is for job opportunities. The majority plan to stay indefinitely. The most difficult challenge the newcomers face is



Members of the Puerto Rico Alliance of Florida with Mayor Maurice A. Ferre

speaking English. More than 57 percent say they are registered as Democrats, 12.1 percent as Republicans and 17.9 percent as independents.

*"This study reflects that Puerto Ricans will have a broad impact across a range of areas—social, political and economic—in Florida," Gamarra said. "They will become a very significant Hispanic force in the state."*

# Monolith or Mosaic?

Anthropology professor guest edits special **Miami** issue of 'Latino Studies'



According to the latest U.S. census, nearly 70 percent of Miami-Dade County residents are Hispanic or Latino. Miami is one of the few minority-majority cities in the country.

Sarah Mahler, an associate professor in the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies, has been researching the similarities and differences among Latinos in Miami since 2000. At a conference a few years ago, she realized other scholars were conducting similar research.

While many researchers often focus on Latinos as an individual group, these researchers had each set out to study groups within the Latino umbrella – and to study them in Miami. With such a unique focus, the researchers decided to team up for a project.

The scholars proposed a special issue focusing on Miami's Latinos to the prestigious *Latino Studies* – an academic journal that explores the local, national, transnational and hemispheric realities that influence the Latina and Latino presence in the United States.

"It is very unusual to look at the diverse population

of a group of people in any one area," Mahler said. "Miami is an important place to look at Latino diversity, because there are tens of thousands of people arriving in one region."

Mahler took up the mantle of guest editor and reviewed all the articles in the issue. She also communicated between the writers, peer reviewers and editors at *Latino Studies* to make sure everything was ready for publication.

The special issue – "*Monolith or mosaic? Miami's twenty-first-century Latino dynamics*" – explores how people who call themselves Latinos or Hispanics understand themselves and classify other groups of Latinos.

"While we are considering how diverse Latino groups perceive commonalities, our larger purpose is to resist portraying a homogeneous and ahistorical latinidad," wrote Mahler in the special edition's introduction.

Among the contributing writers were Eduardo Gamarra, political science professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.



## History professor awarded **prestigious NEH Grant**

**Jessica Adler**, a joint professor in the Department of History and the Robert Stempel College of Public Health, has been awarded a \$90,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the development of her public history project "War and Healing: A Century of Veterans' Reintegration." This is a significant project within the NEH's larger "Dialogues on the Experiences of War" supporting humanities-based programs for military veterans and their families. The program funded just 13 projects nationwide.

This grant follows the recent release of her book with Johns Hopkins University Press, *Burdens of War: Creating the United States Veterans Health System*, and enhances the Department of History's reputation as a powerhouse in the field of public history and FIU's presence in the field of public humanities.

## Professor receives **best book award** from political science association

Professor **Danielle Clealand's** book, "The Power of Race in Cuba: Racial Ideology and Black Consciousness During the Revolution," explores racial politics in Cuba. She argues that the way the Cuban state frames racism impacts people's attitudes about the topic.

Her book earned first place in the "Race, ethnicity and politics" category of the prestigious American Political Science Association (APSA) best book awards.

"It was a richly researched and wonderfully written work on Cuba, one that will advance the discourse on this unique case for examining racial identity and politics going forward," said Saladin Ambar, who was on one of the APSA's Best Book Committees.

Clealand said chose to research this topic precisely because it puts people often relegated to the outskirts of society right at the center.

"I want to give a voice to those who are marginalized in the literature," she explained. "This prioritizes public opinion and these ideas from everyday Cubans so we can have a deeper look about how people think about racial politics."

Clealand views racism as a structural problem that leads to inequality.

In this structure, there is employment discrimination, lack of political representation, poverty and housing discrimination.

"I found experiences with racism are quite common," Clealand said. ***"Forty-five percent of my sample reported experience with discrimination, which is a number that is very similar to the United States."***

According to Clealand, activists and scholars in Cuba have begun a small movement trying to bring up issues of race and representation on the island. Clealand is currently conducting surveys in Puerto Rico – similar to the one conducted in Cuba – as part of a larger, long-term project to learn about black politics in the Spanish-speaking parts of the Caribbean.

"It's something we know very little about, I am charting new territory as far as looking at these kinds of issues," she said. "For political science, racial politics have mostly been studied in the U.S. Comparative racial politics in other countries is still a growing field."



## Dean Stack awarded **Doctor of Humane Letters** from alma mater

For his commitment as an educator dedicated to creating a global community that thrives through understanding, connection, and kinship, Stonehill College awarded **Dean John F. Stack Jr.**, *honoris causa*, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Teacher and scholar, leader and innovator, Dean Stack has devoted his career to the highest principles of education, service and global engagement. As founding dean of the Green School he inspires and educates those who are eager to serve as leaders and changemakers in our globalized world.

As professor of politics and international relations, and professor of law, his career has been one of devotion to challenging and mentoring your students. He is a skilled administrator, who oversees eight academic departments and 16 of the university's most prominent international centers, institutes, and programs.

Among these is FIU's Model United Nations, ranked second in North America, which holds a special place in the dean's personal history: during his junior year at Stonehill College, he went to New York City to participate in the National Model UN program, where he acquired skills in the art of diplomacy and compromise, which have proved invaluable.

Dean Stack has kept close ties with his hometown of Brockton, and with Stonehill, from which his sisters, Pamela and Nancy, also graduated. He credits Stonehill with preparing him for life and career, and he returns to campus often for presentations and events, and to serve on the Advisory Board of the Martin Institute.



## Alumna's life mission: to spread awareness about human trafficking

When **Karis Williams** was only 15 years old she watched a human trafficking documentary that changed her life and gave her a purpose. She decided she would dedicate herself to rescuing lives. After earning her master's in global affairs from the Green School and landing a job as a research analyst at a major tech company, Focal Point Data Risk, Williams began a project called "Sparks of Grace" to fulfill her mission. As part of her project, Williams works as an anti-human trafficking consultant and conducts country-specific research on human trafficking policies and ways to spread awareness throughout the U.S. "[I] challenged myself to go where I never imagined," she said.



## Graduate student spent two years stationed at Turkish Embassy

Before becoming a Ph.D. student in international relations and a master's student in Latin American and Caribbean studies, Imdat Oner was an entry-level officer with the Turkish Foreign Service stationed in Caracas, Venezuela. While in Venezuela, Oner was the political officer and deputy head of mission in the Turkish Embassy. After six years as a diplomat, Oner returned to academia, specializing in foreign policy and authoritarianism in Latin America. Oner primarily analyzes the intersection of foreign policy and authoritarianism in Venezuela. He is also currently researching the rising authoritarianism, populism and foreign policy of Turkish politics. Oner said FIU and the Green School's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center is the best place for him to conduct his research. "FIU's multicultural and dynamic community excited me to come to this school. And Miami is the best choice to interact with the Hispanic community."



## Doctoral student earns NSF fellowship for research on women guerillas

Although women have played significant roles in wars, rebellions and global politics, their role doesn't always get included in the history books. **Vierelina Fernandez** is out to change that. A graduate student earning a joint master's degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and a Ph.D. in international relations, Fernandez is researching how women in guerilla groups in Latin America act as political agents and how they contribute to democracy. For this project, she has been awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She plans to use funds to cover costs of traveling to Colombia to conduct research for a year before graduating with her doctoral degree. Fernandez hopes to interview former female members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia-People's Army (FARC), a guerrilla group that followed Marxist-Leninist ideology, and former female members of the right-wing Colombian paramilitary groups. Fernandez came to FIU as a McNair Scholar in 2016 and also plans to conduct research on other guerilla groups across Latin America. "Women are usually erased from history," she says. "This research would put them front and center and give them a voice."



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## Political science major got his start in politics in fourth grade

When **Alex Anacki** was 9-years-old, he was flipping through his local newspaper and saw an article that made his heart sink. His home state of Massachusetts was considering cutting public library funding by 30 percent. A voracious reader, Anacki knew he needed to take action. He wrote to his local legislators – and penned a letter to the editor that was published in the local newspaper. Anacki – a National Merit Scholar and member of FIU’s best freshman class in university history – said this experience was a turning point that encouraged him to become more involved in the political process. He interned for the Florida Democratic Party. Later, he landed an internship working for Florida State Rep. Margaret Good’s campaign. In high school, he served as president of the Model United Nation’s team and helped it grow from 17 members to more than 100. His love of Model UN led him to FIU. He attended FIU’s Model United Nations High School Conference and wasn’t on campus for very long before he realized FIU and the Green School were a perfect fit. He is now studying political science. He’s also part of FIU’s nationally recognized Model UN team.



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## Asian Studies recognizes three students with **Omar K. Carrion Scholarship**

**Sofiya Burmistrova** is the main winner of the 2018 Omar K. Carrion Scholarship. An undergraduate Asian Studies major with a concentration in East Asian Studies, she participated in a five-month exchange program in Japan. Being immersed in the culture gave her a new perspective and appreciation for Japan. Studying abroad strengthened her Japanese language skills, allowed her to develop international friendships, and contributed to her personal development. Two runners-up were also chosen. Adriana Schiavo is an undergraduate student majoring in Asian Studies. She traveled to Japan for the Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program in Kyoto, Japan, where she participated in excursions that ranged from hearing Taiko to meeting Geiko and Maiko. Hedda Stokkland is an undergraduate major in Asian Studies. She completed a study abroad trip to Ritsumeikan University. The Omar K. Carrion Scholarship for Asian Studies was established through a generous gift made by Hilda and Fernando Carrion, parents of Omar Carrion, as an endowment memorializing their son who passed away in 2013.



## Political science major interns with Sen. Charles E. Schumer

**Marcus A. Frias** was a legislative intern at the Office of the Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer – an opportunity he landed through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s Internship program. During the internship, he attended legislative briefings and hearings. He also worked on a variety of projects, ranging from responding to constituents’ inquiries to composing in-depth policy memos and reports on areas such as housing, technology, agriculture and the environment. One of the greatest lessons he learned: that he belongs in D.C. “Being born in the Bronx and raised by a single mother, there were points where my family and I couldn’t even dream of a day that I would be living and working in D.C., but throughout my journey I constantly discovered how my upbringing was my greatest asset. I learned that I had it in me to carry my family’s hopes for our country in a way that really highlighted why diversity on all levels is necessary.”



## From Tango to politics: studying abroad in Argentina

When **Isabelle Brito**, a sophomore majoring in international relations, heard about the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center’s Argentina study abroad program, she knew it was fate. Her dream was to travel all across Latin America – and Argentina was a perfect place to start. From taking Tango lessons and visiting historic sites like the Plaza de Mayo, to hiking in Iguazu National Park, Brito relished immersing herself in a new culture. The trip also helped Brito discover her path as a student. “I had always been unsure about which region I wanted to focus on as an international relations major,” she said. “This trip helped me decide: the Latin American region and its foreign policies. The history of Latin America, especially the period between the 1970s and 1980s and how it has affected life in Latin America today, really peaked my interests.”



## Economics grad creates study abroad scholarship

Studying abroad for one semester changed alumna **Stephany Feijoo’s** life. To give back to FIU and help fellow Panthers experience a journey like she had, Feijoo created a scholarship fund to help students participate in the international exchange program. She has pledged to give a total of \$10,000 over five years, with one student each semester receiving \$1,000 to study abroad through the program. After graduating with her bachelor’s in economics in 2016, she visited numerous countries, from Israel and Jordan to Egypt, Iran, Thailand and Cambodia. During commencement, she realized she wanted to give back to FIU in some way. “Being a donor to FIU helps me to stay connected,” she says. “This is where I had all my education, I had so many opportunities here. Coming back as a donor, it feels like I’m closing the circle.” Thanks to her gift, international relations major Odae Bood, the first recipient of the scholarship, got to study at the prestigious Sciences Po Aix in France. “Being able to go to France and learn about international relations, but also French history is incredible,” Bood says. “Having that access to professors all over the world is amazing. I want to bring back [those experiences] with me in my academic life and my career goals.”



## Students travel to India, support women's entrepreneurial effort

They left for Spring Break with suitcases stuffed with kids' clothing, notebooks and first aid supplies. They returned with fashionable tote bags – as well as purses, makeup bags, and yoga bags – stitched by the women of Bandhwari, a remote, impoverished village in India, with the proceeds from the sales going back to the village to support local economic development and women's empowerment. The project united undergraduate business students with students in the Master of Arts in Global Affairs (MAGA) program at the Green School, who contributed their knowledge, skills, and talents to help build the budding social enterprise. Business Professor David Wernick, who organized the trip, credits **Gabriele Gocso**, a MAGA student who also serves as a human rights coordinator for the Miami-based United States Southern Command, with helping to create a cohesive group on the trip. The students were inspired by the opportunity to put what they were learning about international development into practice. They hope to set up an ongoing structure for the project to grow, and hope to work with other entities within FIU and beyond to make it a sustainable project.



Master of Arts in Global Affairs student Gabriele Gocso plays with a child at the Salaam Balak Trust Shelter for homeless orphans in New Delhi

## MPA alumna named first female fire chief of Fort Lauderdale

A Green School alumna is the first woman to be named fire chief of Fort Lauderdale in the 106-year history of the department.

**Rhoda Mae Kerr** MPA '93, who previously served as fire chief of Austin, Texas, returned to South Florida in July 2018 to lead the department that gave her a start as a firefighter in 1983. A New Jersey native, Kerr is a fourth-generation firefighter preceded by her father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Her family's history in the profession dates back to when firefighters still drove horse-drawn carriages. Kerr started her adult life on a different path: She was teaching physical education and health and coaching sports when she realized, at the age of 33, that she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps. This led Kerr to FIU, where she earned a master's in public administration at the recommendation of a colleague. She knew it would give her the knowledge of the public sector that she needed to pursue leadership roles. She attended classes at night and on Saturdays while working full-time as a battalion chief for the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department. Her classes helped her see how different departments in the public sector can work together for the common good. "In the fire service, we tend to be very insular. I think the thing I appreciated most was perspectives from everybody else who was not in the fire service." Interacting with fellow students, many of whom, like her, were already well into careers in various aspects of the public sector, taught her to "think globally, and act locally."



# Creating opportunities for the next generation of researchers

## 2018-2019 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 37 faculty members and 77 Ph.D. students totaling \$100,000.

### FACULTY AWARDS



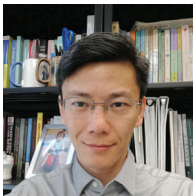
**MARISA FILGUERAS GÓMEZ**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present her research on Spanish heritage language learners' attitudes at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Conference at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain.



**ERIC LOB**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover travel costs to present his research at the Gulf Research Meeting's workshop entitled, "The Gulf States in East Africa: Security, Economic and Strategic Partnerships?" at Cambridge University.



**QING LAI**  
*Global & Sociocultural Studies*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to China so Lai can complete a data analysis of a survey he conducted in collaboration with the Chinese Islamic Association.



**TODD MAKSE**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover the costs of preparing for and conducting research exploring the impact of social context and networks on political discourse and engagement during the 2018 elections.

### STUDENT AWARDS



**ADRIAN ALZATE**  
*History*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to conduct archival research at the Benson Library at the University of Texas in Austin.



**VERA BELOSHITZKAYA**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to attend the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research's Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research in Michigan.



**PALLAVI AWASTHI**  
*Public Policy & Administration*

Funds will be used for travel expenses while conducting fieldwork at various sites in Florida for a project exploring attributes that impact servant leadership in governmental agencies.



**PRIMAVERA CUDER**  
*Modern Languages*

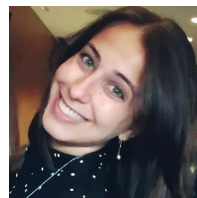
Funds will be used to cover costs of publishing a scholarly book through the prestigious Peter Lang Publishing Group (Frankfurt, Germany).

## STUDENT AWARDS



**MARIA SOLECHARREN**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Barcelona and to conduct research through collections available at the Universitat de Barcelona.



**GABRIELA CAROLINA ESCOBAR RODRÍGUEZ**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses for a trip to Barcelona in Spain to present at the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association 2018: Latin American Studies in a Globalized World.



**JUAN GODOY**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to buy books required for research and to cover travel expenses to Mexico, where Godoy will conduct archival research in the Ateneo Español de México for his dissertation.



**NAZMUL ISLAM**  
*Economics*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present a paper at the Southern Economics Association's annual conference in Washington D.C.



**DENISS KASKURS**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover housing expenses for the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) 2018 summer program at Michigan.



**MAITE MORALES**  
*History*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and to various libraries across several cities in Cuba to conduct primary research for her dissertation.



**SEYED SAEED MOUSAVI**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to destinations within Florida and Washington D.C., to conduct interviews, focus groups and surveys for Mousavi's dissertation.



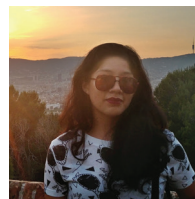
**BEATRIZ MULLER MARQUÉS**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Conference in Salamanca, Spain and to conduct research in collections at Madrid and Paris.



**DEYAN PEYKOV**  
*History*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to conduct archival research for his dissertation at various libraries in Bulgaria.



**GENESIS PORTILLO ESPINOZA**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel costs for a trip to present at the XXXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association 2018 in Spain.



**ALBERTO SOSA CABANAS**  
*Modern Languages*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present at the 2018 annual congress of the Latin American Studies Association.



**NICOLÁS TERRADAS**  
*Politics & International Relations*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses to present at an international conference in Quito, Ecuador and to conduct archival research for his dissertation at the Ecuadorean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



**JOHN "JACK" VERTOVEC**  
*Global & Sociocultural Studies*

Funds will be used to cover travel expenses during a research trip to Havana in Cuba for his doctoral dissertation.

## The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series

The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series takes inspiration from the legacy of Ruth K. and Shepard Broad and is generously supported by a gift from the Shepard Broad Foundation. The series allows students, faculty and the community to analyze the events and forces shaping the world while learning from guest speakers, leading scholars, thinkers and practitioners.

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.

### Highlights of the 2018 series include:

*The Nordic Green Economy*, conversation with representatives from the embassies of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland in Washington, D.C.

*The Balfour Declaration and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, keynote presentations and panel conversation by leading experts from across the globe, including speakers from FIU, various Jewish universities and organizations and the British consulate in Miami.

*Gun Violence in America*, panel conversation by leading FIU experts.

*Russia's Democratic Opposition: Past and Future*, film screening of *Nemtsov* and conversation with Vladimir Kara-Murza, chairman of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom and vice chairman of Open Russia.

*Democracy, Social Media and Corporate Responsibility*, panel conversation with Carla Anne Robbins, Marxe Faculty Director of Master of International Affairs program and clinical professor at Baruch College/CUNY's Marxe School of Public Policy and International Affairs; Michael Samway, president of Business and Human Rights Group; and FIU experts.

*Metamorphosis: Reflections on the Human Journey*, a special program featuring Florida Grand Opera Studio Artists with FIU students and faculty members.

*Fascism: A Warning*, a conversation with Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State.

*The Sacred Mission Baroque Orchestra of Chiquitos*, Bolivia and FIU's Camerata Choir and Baroque Trio, in concert.

To learn more about upcoming events at the Green School visit [sipa.fiu.edu/events](http://sipa.fiu.edu/events).



University of Michigan Professor Juan R.I. Cole speaks with students after an event.

*Jain Expressions of the Perfected Body*, presentation by Debra Diamond, curator of South and Southeastern Asian Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

*Building the World We Want Through Interfaith Friendship and Understanding*, presentation by Rabbi Steven Engel, Congregation of Reform Judaism of Orlando; Senior Imam Muhammad Musri, Islamic Society of Central Florida; and Rev. Brian Fulwider, formerly of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park.

*The Death Penalty: European and International Perspectives*, panel conversation by the consul generals of Spain, Romania, France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with FIU experts.

*The First World War and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, presentation by Juan R. I. Cole, the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan.

*The Democracy Project*, conversation with FIU students, featuring a presentation by representatives from Freedom House, George W. Bush Institute and the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement.

*The Threat of Post-Soviet Kleptocracy and What the West Should Do About It*, panel conversation with Ilya Zaslavskiy, head of research at the D.C.-based Free Russia Foundation, and FIU experts.

*Into Afghanistan: Reflections on War, History and the Persistence of Art*, presentation by Ana Menéndez, co-director of The Humanities Edge Program at FIU

# 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 *Worlds Ahead Graduates* for 2018.

## Spring 2018



**Gigi Bolt** – *Master of Arts in Public Administration*

Gisette "Gigi" Bolt knew the odds were stacked against her when she became a single mom at 16. Determined not to be another statistic, she persevered. She worked on several statewide political campaigns and completed her bachelor's degree in 2012 and master's degree in 2018 – while

raising her daughter and losing her mother to cancer. Gigi and her daughter Katherine graduated together, fulfilling the dream of the woman who inspired them both.



**Pedro Delgado** – *Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice*

Pedro Delgado came to FIU with one major goal: to become a leader. As a freshman, he joined the ROTC program and quickly earned a full-ride scholarship by showing exceptional performance in academics as well as extracurricular and ROTC activities. He traveled

to Estonia to learn about military efforts and attended the U.S. Army's Air Assault school – a coveted opportunity. After graduation, he joined the army as an artillery officer.



**India Ferguson** – *Bachelor of Arts in History*

India Ferguson yearned to know more about her own family and the African diaspora throughout South Florida. Her curiosity led her to FIU's Public History internship program, through which she secured an internship at the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of

South Florida. There, she worked on projects that taught her the importance of historical preservation in understanding race and identity. She hopes to become a fulltime assistant archivist at the foundation.

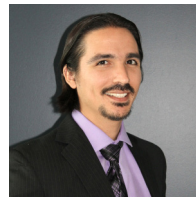


**Jason Fontana** – *Bachelor of Arts in History*

Economic hardships forced Jason Fontana to leave college as a teen. Years later, he came back to school and dove headfirst into his studies. He earned numerous awards and fellowships; he was invited to join the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa; and he graduated with a perfect 4.0

GPA. After graduation, he began his master's degree at FIU and plans to become a history professor.

## Summer 2018



**Zenel Garcia** – *Ph.D. in International Relations*

Zenel Garcia and his mother left Cuba in 1994 – on a boat. After spending six months in a refugee camp in the Cayman Islands and being sent back to Guantanamo Bay, they eventually reached Miami. He earned his bachelor's degree at FIU and pursued graduate school

while working various jobs at a time to pay for his studies. After graduating, he began as a visiting assistant professor at St. Lawrence University in New York.



**Andrea Marie Headley** – *Ph.D. in Public Affairs*

Witnessing firsthand people's experiences with the criminal justice system sparked Andrea Headley's interest in the field. As a Ph.D. student, she focused her research on police and community relations, receiving a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of

Justice to study the issue. After graduation, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California Berkeley and became an assistant professor at the John Glenn College of Public Policy at Ohio State University.

## Fall 2018



**Sara Bedoya** – *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

At FIU, Sara Bedoya discovered she was just as passionate about connecting with people as she was about running a global enterprise. She is most proud of the work she has done for her family's business in Colombia – Café Jesús Martín, a maker of specialty coffees. This

includes winning two international awards from a prestigious gourmet product competition and helping local farmers in her hometown. After graduation, she returned to Colombia to continue working in her family's business.



**Brian Lugo** – *Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice*

In 2016, Brian Lugo was deployed to Africa as a soldier in the U.S. National Guard. There, he earned his qualifications to be a drone pilot and, already an FIU student, continued his studies online. After returning to Miami, he served in relief efforts during Hurricane Irma

and worked as a corrections officer at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. He graduated with a 3.9 GPA and became a commissioned officer of military intelligence in the U.S. Army.

## Advancing Cuban and Cuban-American Studies

In October 2018, the editorial board of the University Press of Florida approved publication of *Picturing Cuba: Art, Culture, and Identity on the Island and in the Diaspora*, edited by CRI Director **Jorge Duany**. The collection of essays is based on a 2017 conference held at the Frost Art Museum, with the support of the Darlene M. and Jorge M. Pérez Collection of Cuban Art at FIU, the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Dedicated to FIU Professor Emeritus of Art History Juan A. Martínez, the book is scheduled for publication during Fall 2019.

CRI hosted its 14th Classically Cuban Concert, **The Essential Music of Cuba**, featuring the **Alonso Brothers** in December 2018. The event was a two-piano extravaganza dedicated to the “Golden Era” of Cuban music and entertainment (mostly during the 1940s and 1950s), a time in Cuban history when the contagious Afro-Cuban rhythms of mambo, cha cha, bolero, son, rumba, and many more, flourished to international fame.



Virtuoso pianists and Cuban brothers Orlay Alonso and Orlando Alonso performed a variety of Cuban styles from the late 19th century to the early 21st century.

The institute also welcomed Cuban-American author **Ana Menéndez** as the newest member of its affiliated faculty in 2018. Menéndez, an award-winning novelist and journalist, joined FIU as program director for The Humanities Edge, a program funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to assist local students pursuing an education in the humanities.

Throughout 2018, CRI scholars provided analysis and commentary for news outlets around the world on topics from Cuba’s presidential transition, constitutional reform and economic issues to the growing Puerto Rican exodus to Florida before and after Hurricane Maria.

## Ambassadors visit FIU for two European and Eurasian Studies conferences

**Ambassador Caroline Vicini**, deputy head of the delegation of the European Union to the U.S in Washington, D.C., visited FIU in 2018 to discuss EU security policy in a transatlantic context. Her speech was the keynote presentation for the annual two-day European Union conference hosted by the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, housed within the European and Eurasian Studies Program.

During her presentation, Vicini emphasized the importance of transatlantic relations among the economies on both sides of the Atlantic – especially because both regions share values and global objectives, along with common threats and challenges.

She said she believes the U.S. and the EU must continue collaborating to meet the challenges of our increasingly complex, interconnected world. This cooperation has been the key to success for both continents in past years, Vicini explained, adding that Europeans maintain their willingness to work together with the U.S. for a better world.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Green School, the European Student Association, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the University of Miami European Union Center and Jean Monnet Chair.

For another conference – this one celebrating 100 years of Polish-American relations – Polish **Ambassador Piotr Wilczek** visited FIU. Wilczek shed light on the Polish experience during World War I and the hardships its people faced as the empires of Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary controlled Polish territory during the war and conscripted Polish soldiers into their armies.

“While the Polish experience isn’t unique,” he said. “it is usually a forgotten one. An estimated 2 million Polish soldiers fought in different uniforms during the course of the war.” Through U.S. humanitarian aid Poland was able to feed its people while rebuilding its war-torn lands.

The conference was part of the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland and was sponsored by the European and Eurasian Studies Program and co-sponsored by the European Student Association at FIU, the American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland.

“The visit of the Polish ambassador underscored the importance of transatlantic relations to the Polish government, and highlighted FIU’s role in hosting the Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland,” said Markus L. Thiel, program director for European and Eurasian Studies.

## Consular Corps of Miami recognized at Green School lunch



To recognize the critical role the Consular Corps of Miami plays in advancing global dialogue throughout South Florida and beyond, the Green School hosted a lunch in honor of the corps at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum in June 2018.

"In a globalized and globalizing metropolis, our consuls general, consuls, vice consuls, and honorary consuls play an important role — advancing networks of interdependence, transcending state to state relations and spilling over to person to person diplomacy," said Dean John F. Stack Jr.

Ambassador Steven J. Green specifically requested that the Green School host the lunch in honor of the consular corps, Stack said. "The ambassador understands the important role the consular corps plays in advancing country to country diplomacy, assisting citizens, promoting trade and economic engagement, among many other vital functions in South Florida," he said.

Nearly 60 members of the corps, along with others from FIU and the community, attended the event, including Secretary Nabil J. Achkar, Acting Dean Marsha Renfurm and Ambassador Volker Anding.

FIU Vice Provost Meredith Newman reiterated the importance of the university maintaining strong ties to the international community and emphasized the importance of the Green School to this university-wide effort. "The Green School is at the heart of our collaborative global efforts," said Newman, who heads the Office of Faculty and Global Affairs. "As President Rosenberg says, 'Our geography is our destiny.'"

After lunch, Senior Fellow David Kramer, a former assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, presented a compelling talk on "America's Role in a Turbulent World."

Creating a Just, Peaceful and Prosperous World

## Containing Putin's kleptocracy: Lessons from Free Russia Foundation head of research

Many scholars and practitioners agree that the West needs to combat Vladimir Putin's corruption and expose kleptocracy. But, to what extent does Putin's corruption reach the U.S. and what does this mean for U.S. foreign policy?

**Ilya Zaslavskiy**, head of research at the D.C.-based Free Russia Foundation and a member of the advisory board at the Hudson Institute's Kleptocracy Initiative, visited FIU for a conversation to answer those questions and explore this topic.

*"Kleptocratic states have become adept at using corrupt businessmen as proxies to advance their political goals, while the latter jump at the chance to pursue their private ambitions with state backing,"* said Zaslavskiy.

To understand how kleptocracy spilled over into the West, he said, people have to look at the roots of Russian history. Most importantly, he added, people have to learn how Putin came into power and established an economy that can thrive on corruption.

When kleptocrats engage with the West, he said, Russia's corrosive values and corrupt practices are transmitted to other countries' democratic, financial, legal and cultural institutions. The West — whether through ignorance, apathy or greed — has mostly welcomed Russia's kleptocracy with open arms, said Zaslavskiy.

"I think the first step is to acknowledge this whole problem is not just about some specific political issues or about some corruption cases. It's a war of values and norms," he said. "The West needs to propose a new strategy of containment. That's what existed in the cold war. Now we need an upgrade and a more sophisticated policy of containment of Russian kleptocracy."

After his lecture, Zaslavskiy joined FIU faculty experts Tatiana Kostadinova, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Manuel Gomez, Associate Dean of International and Graduate Studies and Associate Professor at the College of Law to further explore the topic. David J. Kramer, Green School Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights & Diplomacy, moderated the conversation. The event was part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series.



## Green School co-hosts program with **Florida Grand Opera**

Opera voices echoed through the halls of the Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ as audience members got a glimpse of Daniel Catán's critically acclaimed opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas*. "Metamorphosis: Reflections on the Human Journey" featured a unique spoken word program set against the vibrant and luminous music of Catán's masterpiece, which is the first Spanish-language opera commissioned by a major U.S. opera company.

"Catán's work invites us to reflect deeply on the human condition," said Dean John F. Stack Jr. "The joys and sorrows of life are our intractable connection to the natural world and its forces."



Maria Sol Echarren

The Green School worked alongside the Florida Grand Opera, the Coral Gables Congregational Church and FIU scholars to bring the special "Metamorphosis" program to life.

FIU scholars shed light on the hidden symbols and meanings of the opera, as they continued the story through spoken word. Maria Sol Echarren, who is earning her Ph.D. in Spanish at FIU and participated in the program through spoken word, said the artistic expression of magical realism was used by Catán to demonstrate the carnal and spiritual side of life and death.

***"Magical realism is regarded as a highly detailed realistic story intertwined with something too strange to believe," she said. "Yet, it is hidden so well that we accept it."***

The event was sponsored by the Florida Grand Opera and supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. It was co-sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality, Department of Modern Languages and College of Communication, Architecture + the Arts.

## International panel discusses **BALFOUR DECLARATION**



A panel of experts from around the world came together in February 2018 for an in-depth conversation exploring the legacy of the Balfour Declaration, a public statement issued by the British government during World War I in support of the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population. The declaration was contained in a letter dated November 2, 1917.

Held at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU in front of a sold-out audience, the event was hosted by the Green School in collaboration with the museum, the American Jewish Committee, the Consulate General of Israel and the British Consulate General. The keynote speakers were David Katz, the Abraham Horodisch chair for the history of books at Tel Aviv University, and Uri Ben Eliezer, head of the University of Haifa's department of sociology. FIU Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies Tudor Parfitt was the moderator. FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg delivered welcoming remarks.

Panelists included Lior Haiat, consul general of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico; David Prodger, then-British consul general in Miami; Eric Lob, assistant professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations; Brian Siegal, regional director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) for Miami and Broward; Amy Singer, professor of Middle Eastern and African history at Tel Aviv University; and Adriana Kemp, chair of Tel Aviv University's department of sociology and anthropology.

## Former congressman named Green School senior fellow, meets with students



Former Congressman Patrick Murphy was named a senior fellow at the Green School in early 2018, with plans to help the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy launch a new public policy fellowship.

The fellowship is a multi-disciplinary workforce development initiative designed to combine

academics with mentorship, public policy research, professional development and internship opportunities.

"At such a critical juncture in our nation's history, I believe it's important that our country's next generation of leaders learns as much as possible about the political process," said Murphy, a two-term congressman first elected when he was 29. "I plan to cover everything from being a candidate, being a member, the issues millennials will face as they enter the gig economy, and the need for our political leaders to start addressing automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the future of work."

Murphy spoke to students taking courses at the Gordon Institute and he also met with students in the Diplomacy Lab, a partnership between the U.S. Department of State and FIU, part of a national effort launched in 2013. Students discussed their research topics with Murphy; and he shared his feedback, asking questions and discussing relevant resources.

Murphy spoke about the importance of bipartisanship – and the current structural problems that discourage collaboration between political parties. One of the first millennials elected to Congress, Murphy spoke from experience when he said that reaching for your goals begins with a simple step – just trying.

The best advice he can give aspiring politicians and activists is simple, he said.

"Follow your heart. Get an understanding of the issues. From there, decide where [which office or branch] you want to be in government."

Murphy said his favorite part of being a Congressman was getting to interact with a variety of people. He once helped a mother secure prosthetic legs for her son. That made an impact on him, he said.

***"You can make a difference no matter how broken things are," he said.***



## Global indigenous student group hosts event to honor killer whales

Members of the Lummi Nation transported a 16-foot totem pole of a killer whale over 9,000 miles in 2018 as part of a campaign to bring Lolita – the killer whale at Miami Seaquarium – back home to the Salish Sea.

Along the way, the group stopped in seven cities to raise awareness about the killer whale's unique place in the cosmology of indigenous peoples, the trauma and resilience of killer whales and their importance in keeping the ecosystem balanced and thriving.

In Miami, FIU students – part of the Global Indigenous Group – hosted an event to welcome the tribe at FIU.

"The Global Indigenous Group fights for advocacy and indigenous voices," said anthropology major William Sanchez, the student group's president. "This was a great way to facilitate that. It's about making sure these people are being heard."

The student group collaborates with FIU's Global Indigenous Forum (GIF), a part of the Green School that serves as the university's hub for conducting research about indigenous peoples and organizing events to raise awareness about indigenous cultures, values and perspectives.

***"We try to create a space here at FIU for indigenous voices," said Director Dennis Wiedman.***



## Smithsonian curator leads discussion about Jain art and representations of the human body



Debra Diamond, a curator at the Smithsonian Institution, visited FIU in Fall 2018 to discuss ways artists have depicted bodies throughout history – and the profound spiritual meaning underlying these representations. Diamond curated the Freer Gallery's exhibition "Body Image – Arts of the Indian Subcontinent" – an exhibit Pedro Botta, senior director of strategic initiatives at the Green School, visited a few months earlier. Botta was struck by the exhibit's beauty and themes.

"It's a remarkable exhibit. It tells the story of how fundamental beliefs about the nature of being are expressed through representations of the human body," Botta said. "When I saw the exhibit, I knew we needed to bring Dr. Diamond to speak about how Jain art fits into the sacred art of India."

The conversation with Diamond was hosted by the Jain Studies Program in collaboration with the Patricia and Phillip

Frost Art Museum, the Department of Religious Studies and the Program in the Study of Spirituality.

"We host a lecture each semester that brings the FIU community and members of the South Florida public, including our small but dedicated Jain community, in touch with scholars who research this important but understudied tradition," said Steven Vose, Bhagwan Mahavir assistant professor of Jain studies and director of the Jain Studies Program at FIU.

In Spring 2018, the program hosted Ellen Gough of Emory University for its Mahavir Jayanti Lecture. Gough spoke about tantric meditation in Jainism. In 2018, the program also sent Suman Kakar to India as part of the International Summer School for Jain Studies to research ways Jain ethics may address issues in criminal justice.



## Analyzing Latin American history through heavy metal music

In Fall 2018, Nelson Varas-Diaz, professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, introduced FIU's first heavy metal music class – proving that heavy metal music in Latin America unlocks more about the region than one might expect.

Varas-Diaz has conducted research on the topic and filmed various documentaries exploring how heavy metal music is socially embedded in Latin American countries. His latest film, "Songs of Injustice: Heavy Metal Music in Latin America," recently won an award for best documentary at the For a Cause Music Festival and a recognition for excellence at the Docs Without Borders Festival.

"My job is to bring history and culture [together]," said Varas-Diaz. "From the outside it might look like a course on metal music, but part of what we've gone through is culture shock in terms of [how] we are here not to listen to music, but to discuss the social context of these countries and what's happened in them and how that is reflected through music."

The class listens to works created by heavy metal bands from all over Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on how the lyrics correlate to the history and the social context of each nation. Then Varas-Diaz and the students compare themes across bands in the region and how these add to the heavy metal scene.

## Alumnus gives back, starts first fellowship endowment in the Department of History



Henry "Hank" Voegtle graduated with a history degree in 1974 when FIU only had five history professors. Since then, the history department has grown exponentially and, throughout the years, its faculty and students have earned numerous awards for their research.

To give back to his alma mater and strengthen research opportunities for budding history scholars, Voegtle – who practiced law for 40 years and served as both assistant district attorney for Dallas County, Texas and an assistant attorney general for the state of Texas – recently established the first fellowship endowment in the Department of History.

The Henry J. Voegtle History Endowment is a yearly \$1,000 scholarship that will support undergraduate or graduate researchers who focus on topics regarding the history of Florida or the Southern U.S. The scholarship will provide economic assistance for students to access archival material or conduct research trips.

"I wanted the emphasis on local history," said Voegtle. "In high school, you only get a trickle of history. You really want to learn from the bottom to top, not from top to bottom of history."

Trevor Bryant, a Ph.D. student focusing on Florida's history, was the first student to receive the fellowship during Fall 2018. He will use the endowment to travel to Seville, Spain and conduct archival research in the Archivo General de Indias, where he will continue his investigation of slavery and black society in 18th century Florida. His research focuses on how slaves and free people of color resisted the Atlantic slave trade by forming networks of families and friends in Florida during the time of Spanish conquistadors.

"[Bryant] will be able to diffuse that knowledge to others," said Voegtle. "If you have a love of history you are going to pass that love on."

Creating a Just, Peaceful and Prosperous World

## Green School hosts discussion on social media, privacy and democracy



Social media has revolutionized communication. But it has also created new concerns. How do these platforms affect democracy? How can collection of user data impact society? And what can we do to protect our privacy?

To explore these complex topics, the Green School hosted a discussion with a star-studded group of experts: former deputy editorial page editor at *The New York Times* Carla Anne Robbins; Michael Samway, president of the Business and Human Rights Group; Brian Fonseca, the director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy; and Nancy Richmond, who teaches marketing at the College of Business.

The conversation was moderated by David J. Kramer, senior fellow in the Green School's Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy.

The speakers discussed the controversy over Facebook's breach of privacy – and how it may have influenced voter's choice during the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.

"Why did Facebook violate its own policy – that's the bigger question?" said Robbins. "There is no regulation for these companies. This has raised fundamental questions."

Samway added, "*If you think of privacy as a human right, there's this responsibility companies have to respect privacy.*"

It's no secret that social media sites and websites collect data from users. But what exactly do they use the data for?

"Right now it's used for marketing, but if used to shape cognition – to shape thinking – it becomes very dangerous," said Fonseca. The experts said it's possible that social media could be used as a tool to influence behavior based on data collected about users.

With fake news also swirling around on social media, Fonseca said, it is increasingly becoming the individual's responsibility to find truth. We need to check facts, invest in strong civic education and be aware that we can opt-out of tools that invade privacy. We can also avoid getting addicted to networking sites.

"Social media is like junk food," said Richmond. It's up to you how much you consume.

# Preparing Leaders FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



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