

2019-2020

The **Green School** Magazine



BUILDING FOR THE *FUTURE*

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

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

A rendering of the planned SIPA II building by architect Yann Weymouth, renowned for his work on the Louvre in Paris as well as FIU's own Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum. Shared spaces with natural light allow "the outside in" and reflect the fundamental structure of the Green School as interdisciplinary and collaborative.



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On the cover: Ambassador Steven J. Green, his wife Dorothea Green and daughter Kimberly Green joined FIU leadership for the groundbreaking of SIPA II in October 2019. (See story on page 2.)

Charting a course for success

At a time when the world faces one of the greatest economic and public health challenges in history, the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs is committed to doing what we do best.

First and foremost, we recognize the uncertainties that our students, their families and the community are facing during the current pandemic. We are working together to navigate these challenges and ensure our students will succeed.

Beyond meeting those immediate needs, we are marshalling our resources to provide the kind of research and analysis that can help public officials, policymakers and local leaders make the best decisions during these difficult times.

Our economics experts are working with the World Bank to track the global coronavirus outbreak using migration data. Others in public policy are assessing the economic fallout and charting plans for South Florida's recovery. Our faculty are providing the critical analysis needed to move the world from crisis into resilience in places like France, Germany, the Middle East, Cuba and Venezuela. Others are assessing the impact on the geopolitical environment and global security.

It has been a challenging year but not without its victories. We are pleased to share just a few highlights:

- In a major milestone, the Green School broke ground on **SIPA Phase II**, the next step in fulfilling our founders' vision and giving students and faculty more opportunities to connect and collaborate.
- The *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings named FIU **No. 33** in the world and **No. 3** in the U.S. for **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, which measures universities' research on international relations and their participation as advisers for government, two areas where the Green School is a leader.
- *Times Higher Education* also recognized FIU as **No. 15** in the world and **No. 2** in the U.S. on **No Poverty**, which measures universities' research on poverty and support for poor students and citizens locally.
- A third ranking by *Times Higher Education* placed FIU **No. 3** in the U.S. and top third in the world on **Decent Work and Economic Growth**, which promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked our public finance and budgeting program **No. 22** among public universities and our MPA program **No. 52**.
- Three of our **No. 1 ranked FIU Model UN team** members were named to the North American Collegiate Model UN All-Star Team – one of only a handful of schools to receive that many all-star designations.
- **Cindy McCain** joined us at our third annual **State of the World** conference, speaking on human rights, an event viewed online by more than 10,000.
- The Washington Center recognized the Green School with its **Higher Education Impact Award**, for leading FIU to the No. 2 contributor of interns in our nation's capital.

Universities are communities of memory and hope. At the Green School we are committed to providing our students with the tools they need to transform themselves and our fragile world. We thank you for your support as we navigate these new realities and work to create a more just, peaceful and prosperous world!

Best,



John F. Stack, Jr.
Founding Dean



University breaks ground on second phase of **Green School building**

SIPA PHASE II WILL PULL MOST OF THE GREEN SCHOOL'S DEPARTMENTS AND CENTERS UNDER ONE ROOF

"I'd like to see the Green School become a globally recognized school, and I'd like to see the students from the Green School around the world in positions of leadership".

—Ambassador Steven J. Green

Pointing to three flags waving in the breeze just a short distance behind him, FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg reflected back on the first groundbreaking event at the university, in 1971.

United Nations Secretary General U. Thant was the guest of honor that day, and he spoke about the important role universities play in creating future global leaders.

"Today, we come full circle" and further solidify the "I" in Florida International University, Rosenberg said, as he welcomed more than 200 students, faculty and guests to the groundbreaking ceremony for the second phase of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA) building. "This is a day many of us have dreamed about."

The new building is an 80,000-square-foot, multi-story facility to be built just west of the current site. It will be linked to the existing structure by a covered walkway and courtyard. SIPA Phase II will pull most of the Green School's departments and centers under one roof, giving students and faculty more opportunities to connect and collaborate.

"This is the next step in fulfilling Ambassador Green's vision for us," said John F. Stack Jr., founding dean of the Green School.

Ambassador Steven J. Green, his wife Dorothea Green and daughter Kimberly Green attended the ceremony, along with Mireille Charles, the executive director of the Green Family Foundation. FIU named the Green School in honor of the ambassador in 2015.

Speaking after the ceremony, Ambassador Green said the students he meets when he visits the Green School are the reason he is so committed to its success.

"It's a fabulous school," he said. "The faculty is terrific and the mission is great, but what really makes me committed are the students," he said. "To come out here in a world of pessimism and to see the optimism in the young people today is just inspiring."

"I'd like to see the Green School become a globally recognized school, and I'd like to see the students from the Green School around the world in positions of leadership," he added.



FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg speaks with Ambassador Steven J. Green and Dorothea Green before the groundbreaking for SIPA Phase II.



Ambassador Steven J. Green with, from left, Mireille Charles of the Green Family Foundation, daughter Kimberly Green and Dorothea Green.

KIMBERLY GREEN ON HER WORK IN HAITI AND THE CENTER THAT BEARS HER NAME

When Kimberly Green was in first grade, her teacher asked a simple question: What would you do if you were president?

For Green, who grew up watching the evening news with her father, a business executive who would later serve as ambassador to Singapore, the answer was easy. She wanted to help people, as many young children do.

But Green's writing assignment, which her mother Dorothea still has, was extremely specific—and also very telling.

Green wrote that she wanted to “send money” to doctors working in Haiti, a country whose suffering she had witnessed on television and later came to understand more directly as she met Haitian children at school and church in Miami, where thousands of Haitians fled in the 1970s and '80s as they escaped political oppression in their homeland.

“It’s so interesting to me that I never said I wanted to be a doctor in Haiti. I wanted to fund doctors in Haiti,” said Green, laughing. “My teacher put a Star Wars sticker on my paper and said she would vote for me. And that’s where it all started.”

At just 25, Green assumed the reins of her family's philanthropic organization, the Green Family Foundation, where she has spearheaded projects ranging from HIV/AIDS education and prevention in Liberty City and other parts of Miami to early childhood development, disaster relief and health care initiatives in developing nations.

Eventually she would lend her support—and her name—to FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), a part of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, named for her father, the former CEO of Samsonite and now honorary consul general of Singapore in Miami.

Founded by President Mark B. Rosenberg in 1979, LACC celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019. The center is one of the university's emerging preeminent programs, a reflection of its strong reputation as one of the leading centers of its kind in the world.

For Green, whose family ties to FIU span nearly three decades—her parents' names also grace the library at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, an art lecture series, the groundbreaking Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP community-health program within the



Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and more—the work goes beyond simply sending a check. Instead, it's intensely personal.

In the early days of leading her family's foundation, Green funded a number of programs for Haitians living in Miami, such as Habitat for Humanity, and eventually visited the island nation to monitor progress on initiatives there. She invited a group of friends to Haiti to celebrate her 35th birthday and experience a country she had come to know and love.

“They didn't imagine that Haiti was as beautiful as it is,” she said of their reactions. “That is what I want [FIU] students to see,” she adds, “not just the intellectual, but the food and the music and the religion—to understand a country through experience and not just what they read in books.”

Through all her work, on behalf of people in Haiti and elsewhere, Green has adhered to one principle: “It's not about supplanting their ideas and their way of life. It's about supporting their ideas and their way of life,” she said. “To go into a country and not take the time to talk to people and learn about a culture is disrespectful.”

Following the 2010 earthquake, which killed an estimated 230,000, Green and a team of local artists and filmmakers “followed the fault line” to bring to devastated towns a program called Cinema Under the Stars, a series of documentaries produced by Haitians for Haitians and designed to encourage pride. At FIU, she made possible a digital archive, “Haiti: An Island Luminous,”—hosted by the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)—that provides access to rare books, manuscripts and photographs from libraries in Haiti with commentary by scholars from around the world.

“The Haitian culture is their most beautiful export,” she said, “and we really need to focus on that and elevate that.”



FIU MODEL UN IS

#1

IN NORTH AMERICA



FIU Model UN team was ranked No. 1 in North America by BestDelegate.com. Pictured are some of the team's 75 member delegates.

For several years, FIU's Model UN team held steady in the Top 5 of Model UN programs, jockeying for position with rival teams at Georgetown, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago and Harvard. FIU had been the top team in Florida and the top of any public university in the United States for more than a decade.

In 2019, however, FIU Model UN took it up a notch and made history. Not only did the team receive more awards – 120 individual and nine team – than any other delegation in North America, FIU Model UN nabbed the No. 1 team ranking for the first time in the program's 31-year history.

"No other college MUN team came close," was the assessment by the editors at BestDelegate, the organization that rates Model UN teams based on performance at competition.

"Widely respected across the circuit for the training and hard work that the team puts in every year, FIU demonstrated this year that any university — including public schools outside of the elite Northeast — can become the No.1 team in college Model UN."

For members of FIU MUN, it's all about unity and teamwork.

"Awards are great but Model UN is not defined by the awards," said Daniel Sixto, an international relations and history major who led the team as head delegate in the fall. "It's the experiences you have and the sense of community and support everyone brings to it. We are able to thrive in the most difficult situations and always, always work as a team and think strategically."

At FIU, Model United Nations is centered around an international relations course supervised by John F. Stack Jr., founding dean of the Green School and faculty advisor for the program. It is generously funded by the FIU Student Government Association.

"It's an extremely rigorous academic program," Stack explained. "Our students gain invaluable experience as leaders, negotiators, consensus builders and critical thinkers. The success they have in Model UN translates into success in life and in their careers, as evidenced by the many successful MUN alumni we have in top positions throughout the public and private sectors."

FIU Model UN was founded by Professor Dario Moreno in 1988, one year after he arrived at FIU as an assistant professor of political science. Throughout the 1990s, Professor Jeanne Kates engaged hundreds of students in the study and practice of Model United Nations until her retirement in 2005. Stack assumed leadership of the program after that. Since its inception the program has been funded by the Student Government Association.

"We are so grateful for the generous support of the Student Government Association all these years," Stack said. "I have also witnessed a number of remarkable student leaders over the past 13 years challenge our students to be better, to be fearless and to understand the intricacies of international relations."

RELATED GROUP FOUNDATION makes \$1M naming gift to Metropolitan Center

In 2019, FIU's Metropolitan Center received a \$1 million endowment gift from the Related Philanthropic Foundation. In recognition of this generous donation, the university renamed the center The Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center.



"It's an honor to support and partner with The Metropolitan Center, especially after it's been such an incredible resource for countless Miami businesses and organizations over the years. We share the center's goal of serving and empowering residents across the demographic spectrum. We're excited about the future growth opportunities we will help generate for the community at large," said Jorge M. Pérez, chairman and CEO of Related Group.

Jorge M. Pérez, second from left, accepts a certificate in recognition of his \$1 million gift naming the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center. Also pictured: Howard Lipman, CEO of the FIU Foundation Inc., FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and Green School Dean John F. Stack

The Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center is an integral part of the Green School. The \$1 million donation marks a significant milestone in the Related Philanthropic Foundation's mission of empowering and supporting organizations driving positive impact in the areas of economic development, education, health and well-being, the environment and arts and culture.

"This initiative and Mr. Pérez's support will greatly enhance the Green School's visibility in the community and throughout the state and reinforce FIU's already excellent reputation as an engaged public research university," said Howard A. Frank, director of the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center.

Since its founding 22 year ago, the Metropolitan Center has trained graduate students in policy sciences, spearheaded cutting-edge research on economic development and affordable housing at the direction of local government and nonprofit organizations throughout the tri-county area. This latest research effort will build upon the Metropolitan Center's recently published studies, Miami-Dade County Prosperity Study and Liberty City Economic Opportunities Report.

"Miami is changing at an unprecedented pace, making research into areas such as affordable housing, resilience and economic growth critical for the city's future," said Jon Paul Pérez, Jorge M. Pérez's son, who is the vice president of Related. "The center already has an incredible legacy, and I'm certain that together, we can help build a stronger, more inclusive Miami."

In addition to research and technical assistance, the center offers cost-effective, customized training and organizational development solutions to nonprofits and local governments throughout South Florida, and has attained national and international reach most recently through the Mandela Washington Fellows Program.

State of the World 2019 tackles tough foreign policy issues

As the federal government shutdown dominated news headlines, attendees of State of the World 2019 were treated to an insider's view of the chaos in D.C. by some of the top names in political journalism.

ambassadors and advisors to Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Obama and Trump.

David J. Kramer, senior fellow in the Green School's Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy and a former assistant secretary of state for human rights, democracy and labor under President George W. Bush, was the lead organizer of the event.

He said he viewed State of the World as an opportunity for FIU students to hear directly from top experts, journalists, political leaders and policymakers about the most critical issues of the day.

"It also provides a platform for FIU to shine by showing off its own talent to the broader community," he added, noting the addition of former Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís, now interim director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, to the roster of panelists this year.

One of the out-of-town visitors attending State of the World for the second year was Elisa Massimino, former president of Human Rights First and a senior fellow at Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. Massimino took to Twitter to share her impressions of the event – and of FIU's students.

"So impressed with the students here at FIU's #StateoftheWorld2019 conference," she posted. "Smart, well-informed, and challenging questions. This is the next generation of foreign policy leaders."

State of the World gathered for a dinner featuring an "off the record" conversation with former Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and María Elena Toraño, a groundbreaking Miami executive and entrepreneur who serves on the Green School's Dean's Advisory Council, moderated by Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, FIU's senior vice president for the Division of External Relations, Strategic Communications and Marketing.

"We're in a period of disruption in Washington in terms of our politics, our government and our media," said New York Times White House correspondent Peter Baker. "This is a period of great upheaval in our system and it's a little disconcerting to most people."

Added Susan Glasser of The New Yorker: "Regardless of what you think about policy, it's a system in crisis. The new normal is a kind of rolling crisis. We can't always figure out where one stops and another one starts."

It was a riveting start to the second annual event of the Dorothea Green Lecture Series, hosted by the Green School along with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and The American Interest.

The two-day conference featured more than 30 of the nation's leading experts in foreign policy and global affairs, including several former

"This event has truly become a major highlight of the year for me personally and for so many of us at FIU and at the Green School," said Dean John F. Stack, Jr. "Within the major conference circuit, the State of the World is making its mark by being the first one of the year and a must-attend event."



Green School Senior Fellow David Kramer speaks during State of the World 2019.

FIU CUBA Poll reveals support for the embargo on the rise among Cuban-Americans

A strong majority of Cuban-American voters in Miami-Dade County supported Republicans in the 2018 midterm elections, giving Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.S. Sen. Rick Scott a significant boost in tight statewide races.

Seventy percent of Cuban-Americans surveyed said they voted for DeSantis and 69 percent said they voted for Scott, according to the 2018 FIU Cuba Poll, the longest-running research project measuring Cuban-American public opinion.

The poll was presented as part of the Green School's annual State of the World conference in January 2019. It revealed that Cuban-Americans in Miami were evenly split on support for the U.S. embargo of Cuba – a striking contrast to the 2016 poll, where only 37 percent of those surveyed expressed support for the policy.

This was the first Cuba Poll conducted since the midterms and the first since President Donald J. Trump took office. The poll showed Cuban-Americans were highly motivated this election cycle, with 87 percent of registered voters turning out on Election Day.

Despite the strong showing for Republican candidates, a large majority of Cuban-Americans in Miami said they continue to favor many of the policies of engagement ushered in under President Obama, including lifting of travel restrictions and increased investment in the island.

"The policy preferences of Cuban-Americans are less a reflection of their party affiliation and more a reflection of the attachments that they have on the island," said Professor Guillermo Grenier, the principal investigator on the project and chairman of the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies in the Green School, the primary sponsor of the poll. "Cuban-Americans with relatives and alliances on the island are more likely to want to keep doors open."

Since Obama's decision to reestablish relations with the island nation in December 2014, much has changed in the tone of U.S.-Cuba relations, particularly under the Trump administration. A series of "sonic attacks" reported by the U.S. Embassy in Havana in 2016 and 2017 led the

U.S. to withdraw most of its diplomats and issue a travel advisory for U.S. citizens.

"The mood of the community has changed in the last two years," Grenier noted. "We see a community divided on the issue of the embargo while still willing to maintain and even expand business relationships established as a result of the Obama initiatives."

The FIU Cuba Poll was conducted by telephone – cell phone and landline – between Nov. 14 and Dec. 1, 2018, using a random sample of 1,001 Cuban-American residents of Miami-Dade County, age 18 and over, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.



Florida International University's Cuban Research Institute (CRI) began sponsoring the Cuba Poll in 1991 to record a snapshot of the Cuban-American community at a time of major geopolitical change, including the collapse of the Soviet Union. Funding for the 2018 Cuba Poll was provided by the Green School, CRI and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center. No external funds were used to conduct the poll.

Professor Guillermo Grenier, lead researcher on FIU's Cuba Poll, presents at State of the World 2019.

LACC at 40:

FRANK MORA ON THE CENTER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS— AND THE WORK AHEAD

The Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding by then-professor Mark B. Rosenberg, today the university's president. Frank Mora, who led the center until June 2020, brought real-world credentials to the job of director, previously serving as U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere from 2009–2013.

What is your proudest accomplishment since taking the helm? In 2014 LACC was awarded the National Resource Center/Title VI designation, which was renewed in 2018. The center had previously shared the designation in partnership with other institutions. But now we stand on our own. This U.S. Department of Education designation recognizes ours as one of the top centers for the study of Latin America and the Caribbean in the country. It raises our profile and reputation at the national and international levels.

You have worked in both the academic and the policy worlds. **How has LACC been successfully able to contribute to both?** One of my objectives has been to bridge what we do at the center—the intellectual work—with President Rosenberg's idea of the university as a solutions center. I want to leverage our expert scholars and bring their research to bear on the challenges of the day. Rather than be an observer, a commentator on the world, we want to be at the table and engage on these issues. In addition, LACC's participation in helping formulate real-world policies gives us opportunities to apply for grants and contracts with a number of government agencies, and that's brought opportunities for students. An excellent example is our contract with

the Department of Defense in which we are part of a team of scholars publishing studies that offer forecasts so that the DoD can better plan with regard to the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

Kimberly Green talks a lot about the importance of cultural competency, in places like Haiti, in order for programs to succeed. **Why is this so important and how does LACC contribute to this concept for its students?** My job at the center is to insist that we give our students an understanding of why studying Latin America is so important in today's world, especially in a world that is much more globalized and interdependent than ever before. We as Americans tend to look at things in these cookie cutter ways. But we cannot make a fair, educated assessment of how or what is required if we don't understand the reality on the ground.

For example, if we want to students to understand Haiti, we need to offer them opportunities to study in Haiti, to learn the language in Haiti. That kind of background will serve them well whether they go on to advise government, an NGO or the private sector. They will know the DNA of the country. They will know the language, they will have visited, lived or studied in the region. They will have real on-the-ground understanding, and that's something you can't learn so easily



from a book or a course.

You said in 2013 that you wanted LACC to be the “center of gravity for all academic and policy discussions about Latin America and the Caribbean.”

How has LACC succeeded in that goal? It's a work in progress. I think we've moved in that direction. For example, one of the biggest issues in Latin America is corruption and governance. So one of the priority research areas for LACC is this issue of governance and security and briefing government people in the region on these issues. And they are beginning to come to us and ask for our help. That type of interaction helps us leverage other things and gives us excellent access for our students.

In another example, we have former Costa Rican president Luis Guillermo Solís teaching a class of 20 students—giving them access to a former head of state who can tell them about the practical side of governing a country is invaluable.

Incoming LACC director leads independent electoral observations in Guatemala

Former Costa Rican President and FIU professor Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera traveled to Guatemala in the summer of 2019 to lead an independent team charged with observing the nation's elections.

Solís, who is the incoming director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, was chosen by the Organization of American States (OAS) to head its independent electoral mission to Guatemala, which held general elections for president and Congress in June 2019.

The electoral mission was made up of 84 observers from 23 nations.

The group of specialists will conduct an analysis of key themes: electoral organization; electoral technology; financing of campaigns; electoral justice; women participating in politics; participation of indigenous and Afro-descended communities; foreign voting and the political party system.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro announced the appointment on social media, saying it was a "priority of the OAS" to support the "strengthening of democracy" in its member states.

"I cannot think of a better person to navigate through the challenges presented by this year's election in Guatemala than President Solís," said Frank Mora, outgoing director of LACC and a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere. "His leadership and commitment to democracy and the rule of law in the hemisphere will provide the OAS delegation with the credibility needed to have its judgments respected by all parties."

Electoral missions of the OAS provide local support and impartial observation of the electoral process to help ensure free and transparent elections and strengthen democracy in the region.

"This important mission will take place amidst a context of political instability in one of the key actors of the Central American community," said Solís, who began his tenure as professor at LACC in August 2018. "It demonstrates the continued international recognition of Costa Rica

in the promotion and defense of democracy. It is my privilege to uphold, defend and reflect the democratic principles and values which we all hold dear."

Solís first came to international prominence as an aide to the president of Costa Rica during Central American peace negotiations in the 1980s.



He previously served as a researcher and Fulbright Scholar with the Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) and also worked with FIU's Center for the Administration of Justice, both part of the Green School. In 2017, Solís received FIU's Presidential Gold Medallion – the highest honor the university bestows upon heads of state and other high-ranking public officials.

His lengthy academic career includes nearly 30 years at the University of Costa Rica, where he held various positions, including a deanship, and remains a tenured professor of history and political science. He has written, co-written and edited 10 books and published more than 60 academic articles. Solís holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Costa Rica and a master's degree in Latin American studies from Tulane University in New Orleans.

Former Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís led the Organization of American States electoral observation mission in Guatemala in June 2019.

Czech Foreign Minister joins launch of Havel project on Cuba

Czech Foreign Minister Tomáš Petříček was only 8 years old when the Velvet Revolution of 1989 brought freedom to his country and an end to communist rule.

Through his work as a diplomat – and as a student of international relations with three master’s degrees and a doctorate in the field – Petříček said he is aware of how his country’s long road to democracy serves as a beacon of hope for others around the world.

It should not be surprising to anyone, he explained, that his government would have an interest in – and support for – the pro-democracy movement in Cuba.

“While we come from a different cultural and social background, our own historical experience enables us to understand the current political challenges in Cuba,” he said. **“We will never cease in our efforts to prevent human rights abuses in and improve the prosperity and the lives of the people of Cuba.”**

Petříček spoke at the launch of a new initiative on Cuba at FIU – created through the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights & Diplomacy, a part of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

“I am so pleased that the program – IDEAS for Cuba – will be housed within a center that bears the name of our first Czech president and the symbol of peaceful democratic transition, Václav Havel,” Petříček said. “His legacy remains important as an inspiration and anchor for our foreign policy today.”

The project – Initiative for Democratic and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS) for Cuba – is a collaboration between

FIU, the Inspire America Foundation, the Václav Havel Library in Prague and the Center on Global Economic Governance at Columbia University.

IDEAS for Cuba will focus on four key areas – diplomacy, economics, law and the historical context of democratic transitions – to explore alternatives for Cuba’s future, said Martin Palouš, director of the Havel program at FIU.

“This new program will certainly not start from zero,” said Palouš, a former dissident and friend of Václav Havel who served as ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States and the United Nations.

“It will call upon my experiences as a diplomat and a dissident, as well as the experiences of so many others in this room,” he said. “We take this program seriously ... and I believe it can make a difference.”

Marcell Felipe, a Miami attorney and the co-founder of Inspire America, said he looks forward to a time when he and other Cubans and Cuban Americans can “have coffee in a free Cuba” without fear of the government looking over their shoulders.

He said the experience of the Czech Republic is an inspiration and “an example” but cautioned that the IDEAS project is not intended to create a prescription for democracy in Cuba.

“We are not here to provide a blueprint for what should happen in Cuba, that is for Cubans to decide,” he explained. “We are here to provide some answers and some recommendations. This is not a political exercise, it’s an academic exercise.”



Czech Foreign Minister Tomáš Petříček speaks to guests before the launch of the IDEAS for Cuba project.

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF EL SALVADOR JOINS FIU AS SENIOR FELLOW

The former attorney general of El Salvador, whose high-level corruption cases put a former president, a judge and his own predecessor behind bars, joined the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs as a senior fellow.

Credited with strengthening the rule of law in a country besieged by powerful gangs and corrupt government and military officials, career prosecutor **Douglas Meléndez Ruíz** led a series of workshops and capacity-building programs on justice reform and anti-corruption at FIU and in Central America.

Supported by a grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Meléndez Ruíz worked with LACC and the Center for the Administration of Justice, both part of the Green School. Meléndez Ruíz arrived at FIU in summer 2019 and began leading workshops on anti-corruption and justice reform in the fall.

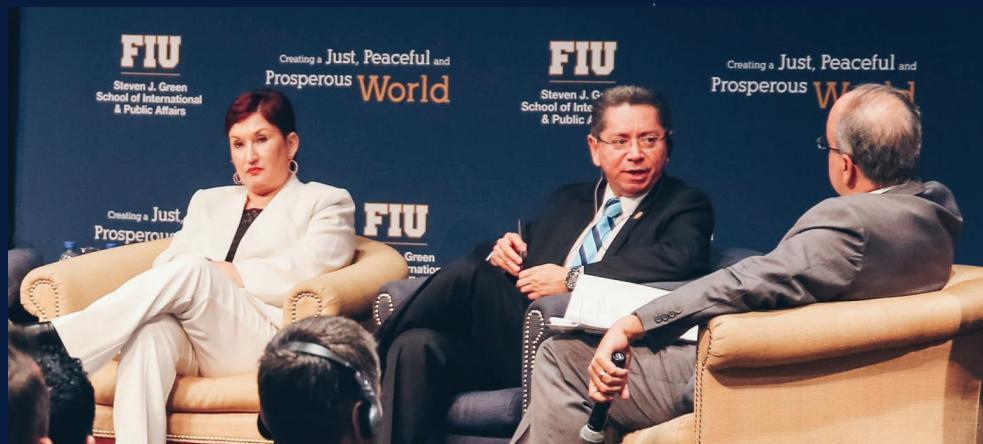
“We very much look forward to having Attorney General Meléndez Ruíz engage our students and faculty on one of the key challenges facing the Americas,” said Frank Mora, former director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, where Meléndez Ruíz is based.

Senior fellows at the Green School devote their time at FIU to research, teaching and the creation of new engagement opportunities for students. Previous fellows include Manny Díaz, former mayor of Miami, and Kimberly Green, president of the Green Family Foundation. Current fellows include David J. Kramer, former assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor under President George W. Bush.

Meléndez Ruíz’s anti-corruption work brought him death threats and criticism from politicians on all sides. Late last year, El Salvador’s legislative assembly denied him a second term, appointing a candidate backed by right-wing party leaders. Despite powerful critics from the left, Meléndez Ruíz maintained both sides had accused him of bias.

Speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., last year, Meléndez Ruíz said it is essential for civil societies to stand up to corruption in all forms:

“It seems that in some countries, and in El Salvador, the most complicated thing is not to investigate the criminals. The most complicated thing is to fight against the [corrupt] system that you have,” he said. “Corruption has no ideology. It is indifferent to any ideology. We have found people linked to corruption from the right and from the left.”



Former attorney general for El Salvador, Douglas Meléndez Ruíz, center, speaks at an event at FIU in October 2017, along with Attorney General of Guatemala Thelma Aldana Hernandez, and Frank Mora, director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.



Panelists Cheryl Little, Juan Carlos Gómez, Martha Vallejo and Michelle Marie Ortiz discuss the effects of immigration policies on family separation.

Assessing the impact of the family separation crisis

For more than two decades, Americans for Immigrant Justice (AI Justice) has fought for the rights of immigrant children who arrive to the United States alone, by providing free legal help and a better life. When immigration policies dominated headlines during the summer of 2017, the nonprofit law firm faced one of its biggest challenges: the family separation crisis.

A panel of leading experts and practitioners in immigration law and trauma joined the Green School to discuss the impact of immigration policies through shocking statistics and heartbreaking testimonies featured in the latest report by AI Justice, "Family Separation: Broken Systems, Broken Families."

The panel included Cheryl Little, co-founder and executive director of AI Justice; Michelle Marie Ortiz, deputy director of AI Justice; Martha Vallejo, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist; and Juan Carlos Gómez, director of FIU College of Law's Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic.

The reports affirm that in the last few years, families that have presented themselves at official ports of entry have been turned away, or told that border patrol's daily quotas have already been met. Little explained the government's "zero tolerance" policy, announcing that all families crossing the border without inspection should not only be separated, but also charged with a misdemeanor in federal court.

With no plan for reunification, children were sent to shelters scattered throughout the United States, while their parents were detained and awaited their court appearance.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS DISCUSS EFFORTS TO FIGHT FINANCIAL CRIME IN LATIN AMERICA

When Kenneth A. Blanco first visited FIU in 2017 it was to talk about his role in a massive anti-gang operation in Central America's Northern Triangle. Blanco, a former Miami prosecutor, led a highly coordinated regional effort that resulted in the arrest of nearly 4,000 gang members in Central America and the United States.

It was all in a day's work for Blanco, then the acting assistant attorney general for the criminal division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Now, as head of the financial crimes unit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Blanco is still fighting transnational crime – but this time he is following the money.

It's a trail that can lead law enforcement to drug traffickers, corrupt government officials, human traffickers – even international terrorists.



Kenneth Blanco, left, head of the financial crimes unit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, listens as Brian Fonseca, director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, speaks during an event on financial crimes in Latin America.

"Money crosses borders and it jumps jurisdictions and that's why it's critical that we follow the trail and connect the dots," said Blanco, director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, commonly known as FinCEN, which was made a Treasury bureau under the U.S. Patriot Act in 2001. "Our work takes us all over the world and all over the world's financial sectors. It's a national security issue, and it is not easy."

Blanco was recently in Miami to meet with the heads of 23 financial intelligence units from throughout the Americas to improve transnational efforts to fight money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes.

Following their closed-door meetings at FIU, Blanco joined his counterparts from Argentina and Canada for a conversation on the issue with students and faculty. The event was a presentation of the Dorothea Green Lecture Series and co-sponsored by the Green School and the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy.

Technology summit spotlights changing face of intelligence workforce

New America Senior Fellow Peter W. Singer has been described in the Wall Street Journal as “the premier futurist in the national security environment.” He is considered one of the most influential voices in the world on cybersecurity.

And he likes what he sees happening at FIU around the future of technology – and its impact on U.S. intelligence and national security.

“There is an energy around these topics at this university and it is very exciting,” said Singer, who spoke at FIU’s first annual Critical Technology and Intelligence Summit hosted by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, a part of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.



Peter W. Singer spoke at FIU on the weaponization of social media and other trends.

“It’s happening at multiple levels,” Singer explained. “You’re adding new programs in cyber that are taking off, you’re leaning into AI (artificial intelligence) and you’ve got energy within the Green School and the Gordon Institute to have a real impact.”

“You also have a group of students – the intelligence fellows – who are incredibly engaged.”

Many of those intelligence fellows – enrolled in

the Gordon Institute’s Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) program – lined up to speak to Singer after his talk Sept. 17.

This year, the IC-CAE program – specifically created to help prepare tomorrow’s intelligence community workforce - celebrates its 14th anniversary.

“I cannot think of a topic more pressing and needed than what we are doing here today,” said John F. Stack Jr., founding dean of the Green School and director of the Gordon Institute when the intelligence fellows program was created.

“It is so critical for academic institutions to work with partners like the CIA, NSA, the U.S. Army and other intelligence community agencies to ensure the proper cultivation of our nation’s national security workforce.”

Security officials assess hemispheric challenges, solutions



Admiral Craig Faller, head of U.S. Southern Command, speaks with Frank Mora, former director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, during the 4th annual Hemispheric Security Conference.

Top minds in regional security issues gathered at FIU for the fourth annual Hemispheric Security Conference to discuss how to combat some of the most pressing threats facing the Western Hemisphere.

The forum – hosted by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC), both under the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs – featured academics, policymakers, senior military officials, former ambassadors, as well as FIU faculty and students.

The Green School’s founding dean John F. Stack Jr. kicked off the conference sending a message of hope to the Venezuelan people.

“The situation in Venezuela is dire and the impacts of the political and humanitarian crisis extend well beyond Venezuela,” he said. “FIU is committed to offering such venues to the open discussion of Venezuela’s future, and indeed, the future of the hemisphere.”

The opening keynote speaker, Admiral Craig Faller, head of U.S. Southern Command, highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships and a peaceful neighborhood in the Western hemisphere.

As a frequent forum for dialogue on critical global issues, FIU is a logical place to host a discussion on hemispheric security, said Brian Fonseca, director of the Gordon Institute, who co-founded the conference with LACC Director Frank Mora in 2016, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Defense.

“Educating citizens on the threats to security and governance in the region was an important theme throughout the conference, and FIU’s geographic proximity to both Washington, D.C., and the region makes it a perfect venue for advancing the understanding of the evolving and complex political and security landscapes,” he said.

Green School programs among Top 50 by U.S. News and Times Higher Education

U.S. NEWS and World Report

Several graduate programs at FIU were ranked among the **top 50 in public universities** in 2019 by **U.S. News & World Report**.

That includes the Green School's **Public Finance and Budgeting** program, which was ranked **22nd** among public universities. The **Master's in Public Administration** was ranked **52nd** among public universities.

Times Higher Education

The Green School has also been recognized in three categories by **Times Higher Education** for impact on the community, based on United Nations criteria. These three rankings include areas in which Green School programs play an important role:

No. 33 in the world and **No. 3** in the U.S. for **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, which measures universities' research on international relations and their participation as advisers for government.

No. 15 in the world and **No. 2** in the U.S. on **No Poverty**, which measures universities' research on poverty and support for poor students and citizens locally.

No. 3 in the U.S. and top third in the world on **Decent Work and Economic Growth**, which promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

In other rankings news:

BestColleges.com named the online bachelor's degree in political science **No. 2** in the nation.

ValueColleges.com named the Executive Master of Public Administration as one of the **Top 25 best value programs** of its kind in the country, coming in at **No. 15**.

BestColleges.com named the online bachelor's degree in criminal justice **No. 2** in the nation and the master's in criminal justice **No. 4**.

ValueColleges.com named the online master's in history **No. 9** in the nation and the bachelor's in history **No. 13** for most affordable history degree programs.

GREEN SCHOOL RECEIVES TOP AWARD FOR PROMOTING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS IN D.C.

The university is the No. 2 contributor of student interns to The Washington Center from more than 400 partner institutions around the country

Each year, college and university students from around the world converge on our nation's capital to pursue real-life experience in government, nonprofit organizations, public and private foundations and corporations.

Many of them find their way to D.C. through The Washington Center, an independent nonprofit that connects young people to experiential learning opportunities in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.



Natalia Kolbjornsen '17 landed an internship in Washington, D.C., through The Washington Center.

Since FIU began collaborating with the center in 2012, the university has become one of the top contributors to the organization's pipeline of young talent.

"FIU exemplifies the best of our partners, with its deep commitment to providing opportunities for transformational internship experiences to their students," said Saima Siddiqui, vice president for development, alumni and university relations at the center. "FIU has been one of the most consistent contributors to our enrollment, routinely ranking among the very top of our partner institutions."

In fact, for the past five years, FIU has sent more students to internships through the center than any other university in Florida, with more than 200 students traveling to D.C. for positions – nearly a quarter of all the students from Florida.

This year, FIU was the No. 2 contributor of student interns to the Washington Center from more than 400 partner institutions around the country, with 28 students placed in internships in 2019.

In October, the center recognized FIU with its Higher Education Impact Award at the 2019 annual scholarship dinner.

"This year's theme is "Bridging to the Future," and we feel that FIU exemplifies leadership and impact in higher education and continues to play a substantial role in creating access for students to participate in these transformative experiences," Siddiqui said.

While the internships are open to all students at FIU, the partnership is overseen by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, with support from FIU's Career and Talent Development Department, as well as FIU in DC, the university's hub in the capital.

RESEARCHERS LAUNCH NETWORK ON HEALTH AND SOCIETY

NEW INITIATIVE SEEKS TO CONNECT SOCIAL SCIENCES TO HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Research Network on Health and Society – led by a team of researchers in the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies – is examining issues like access to health care and health care inequalities through the lens of economics, history, sociology and other social sciences.



Professor Mark Padilla discusses the Research Network on Health and Society.

“The Green School has a growing portfolio of health-related research from the perspective of the social and policy sciences,” said Mark Padilla, a medical anthropologist with extensive research experience in public health, including several studies funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He leads the new initiative along with Professors Nelson Varas-Diaz and Sheilla Rodriguez Madera.

“We’re talking about the social determinants of health, we’re talking about structural violence and issues that affect large populations in terms of health inequalities,” he added. “We’re talking about all kinds of issues that are related to health and wellbeing but are not necessarily clinical outcomes.”

The network is housed within the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, as the work focuses on disadvantaged and marginalized populations in the Global South, a term used to describe less-developed regions of the world, including areas of Latin America and the Caribbean.

“We often hear that the university is a solutions-based center and this research network is committed to providing solutions to the challenges that we face today,” said Frank Mora, former director of LACC.

Community engagement is another significant aspect of the initiative. The launch included two photo exhibits that illustrate the power of connecting the community to social science research.

Neighborhoods of Refuge features work by persons experiencing homelessness in Overtown and other areas of Miami. It is a collaboration with Camillus House. The second exhibit, Mi Vida con VIH/My Life with HIV, was created by Latino and Latina activists/artists living with HIV/Aids in Miami, in collaboration with the community organization Pridelines.

National Institutes of Health awards FIU grant to study cancer screening among transgender Latinos

While transgender men and women have a higher risk of breast and cervical cancer, internalized stigma related to body image and gender identity may make them less likely to undergo preventive screenings for the diseases.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a team of social scientists from the Green School a \$398,000 grant to study barriers to such screenings and how culturally sensitive, targeted interventions can support transgender persons in overcoming these barriers.

“Transgender men and transgender women have been under-studied

with regard to reproductive cancer risk and there is very little information on how the disease affects their lives,”

said Sheilla Rodriguez Madera, a professor in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and one of the principal investigators of the project, along with professors Mark Padilla and Nelson Varas-Diaz

A collaboration with researchers in Puerto Rico and San Francisco, the study will focus on Latino transgender communities in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Miami, with the aim of reducing health disparities experienced by these populations.



DOCUMENTARY EXAMINES POLITICIZATION OF HURRICANE MARIA DEATH TOLL IN PUERTO RICO

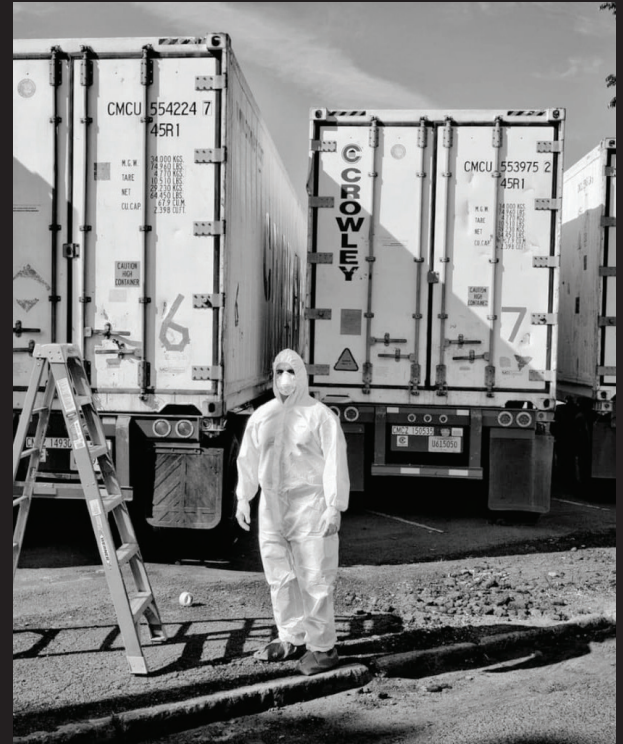
After Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico with Category 4-force winds in September 2017, government officials placed the death toll at 64, drawing intense criticism from experts and local residents. A study from Harvard University later estimated the actual death toll to be far greater – more than 4,600.

A team of researchers from the Green School, some of whom were in Puerto Rico when the storm hit, have produced a new documentary that examines how the storm's impact became the subject of a highly politicized debate, calling into question the science behind how hurricane damage is assessed.

"It reflects on the deteriorating relation between science and government and the growing erosion of trust in key institutions, even on something like disaster management, which has historically been one of the least politicized areas of government practice," said Nelson Varas-Díaz, professor in the Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies (GSS) and the director of the film.

"Collapse" – the title of the film, referring to the collapse of Puerto Rico's healthcare system after the storm – has been accepted into several film festivals and received numerous awards.

Varas-Díaz, who has produced several award-winning documentaries, collaborated on the project with fellow GSS professors Kevin Grove, Mark Padilla and Sheilla Rodríguez Madera.



The Humanities Edge awards first research grants to Green School projects

Sociology professor **Matthew Marr** knows just how critical proximity to social and public health services can be in a neighborhood where homelessness is an ongoing concern. During his research, he learned of a homeless man in Overtown who happened to bump into a former caseworker. The homeless man asked for help. This led to his finding housing and getting assistance.

Marr, associate chair of the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, explores homelessness in Overtown as part of a long-term comparative research project, Neighborhoods of Refuge. The project explores how the homeless population live and how the local government interacts with them in cities like Miami, Los Angeles, Osaka and Tokyo.

Marr is among the first in a group of faculty and students from FIU and Miami Dade College selected to receive \$10,000 grants for research in the humanities. The grants were awarded through The Humanities Edge – an academic and career development program funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support MDC-to-FIU transfer students in the humanities.

Marr and History Professor **Ken Lipartito** were the first recipients of The Humanities Edge collaborative research grants at FIU.

Lipartito earned his grant for Free Blacks of Florida, a research project exploring the lives of African Americans – both slaves and free – in Florida during the 1840s and 1850s.

His project includes the digitalization and transcription of historical documents from the Key West Public Library, which include court cases, citizenship and immigration papers and other state papers. Lipartito will enlist the help of students to transcribe the documents, helping them gain key research skills.

"We want to uncover their experiences, document the difficult negotiation between slavery and freedom that African-Americans in Florida were subject to, and gain a greater understanding of the legal issues," he said.



Professor Matthew Marr



Professor Ken Lipartito

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSOR WORKS WITH MIAMI POLICE TO CREATE REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER



From left, criminal justice professor Robert Guerette with City of Miami Police Lt. Jaime Rodriguez, FIU student Kimberly Przeszlowski and Miami Police Maj. Jose Rodriguez at the Miami Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center

To give officers more information before they encounter a potential suspect, criminal justice professor Rob Guerette worked with the City of Miami Police Department to build and evaluate what is known as a real-time crime center or RTCC.

"In the age of information, technology and data, the purpose of the real-time crime center is to harness all of the available information that is out there and deliver it to responding officers in real time so that they can make better decisions," Guerette said. "[This system will allow them] to investigate and solve crimes with better information, which will hopefully lead to better outcomes."

To implement the center, Guerette and the Miami police department received a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This is the second round of funding for Guerette's work. The first phase was a \$600,000 grant to help enhance the department's crime analysis unit.

Working with two students in the international crime and justice doctoral program—Joelle Lee-Silcox and Kimberly Przeszlowski—Guerette refined the Miami police department's crime analysis techniques and assisted in overhauling the department's data systems.

"We hope to arm officers with information to make the community safer," Guerette said.

The project is an example of the many recent technological developments in law enforcement, such as body-worn cameras and biometrics, that have had far-reaching effects on police agencies, said Professor Lisa Stolzenberg, chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, a part of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

"It aligns perfectly with our new bachelor's in crime science degree, which integrates the latest advancements in forensics and computer science with traditional criminology and criminal justice, as well as the Ph.D. program in international crime and justice," she said.

RESEARCHERS SHOW ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EVENTS CONTRIBUTE TO LOWER SELF-CONTROL AMONG TEENS

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are known to lead to a number of negative health and behavior outcomes, including delinquent and criminal behavior. A new study by FIU criminal justice researchers found exposure to adverse childhood experiences is also associated with lower self-control in teenagers, especially when those experiences are related to maltreatment.

Researchers found that a greater variety of adverse experiences in childhood leads to lower levels of self-control in later years, particularly experiences that reflect exposure to abuse, neglect and family violence. Other experiences related to household dysfunction, such as substance abuse and mental illness in the family, separation or divorce and parental incarceration, were also found to be detrimental for self-control but to a lesser degree than the maltreatment-related ACEs.

"Decades of research tells us that having good self-control

Researchers assess racial disparities in prosecutor behavior

To promote fairness and transparency in the criminal justice system, researchers at FIU and Loyola University Chicago partnered with prosecutors in Tampa, Chicago, Jacksonville and Milwaukee to take a fresh look at prosecutorial performance and decision-making.

Funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—the largest MacArthur grant ever awarded to FIU—the project aims to identify racial and ethnic disparities at various stages of a criminal case, from arrest and charges being filed to plea agreements, conviction and sentencing.

Researchers from FIU's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice assessed nearly 87,000 cases from 2017 and 2018 to compare outcomes for Black, white and Hispanic defendants in Hillsborough County, Florida. Although there were differences between racial groups, the disparities were not glaring, researchers found.

"Among multiple prosecutorial and judicial decision points analyzed, racial and ethnic disparities are not large," said FIU criminal justice professor Besiki Kutateladze, who along with Loyola professor Don Stemen, FIU associate professor Ryan Meldrum and post-doctoral research associate Rebecca Richardson, led the project, housed within the Center for the Administration of Justice at the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs.

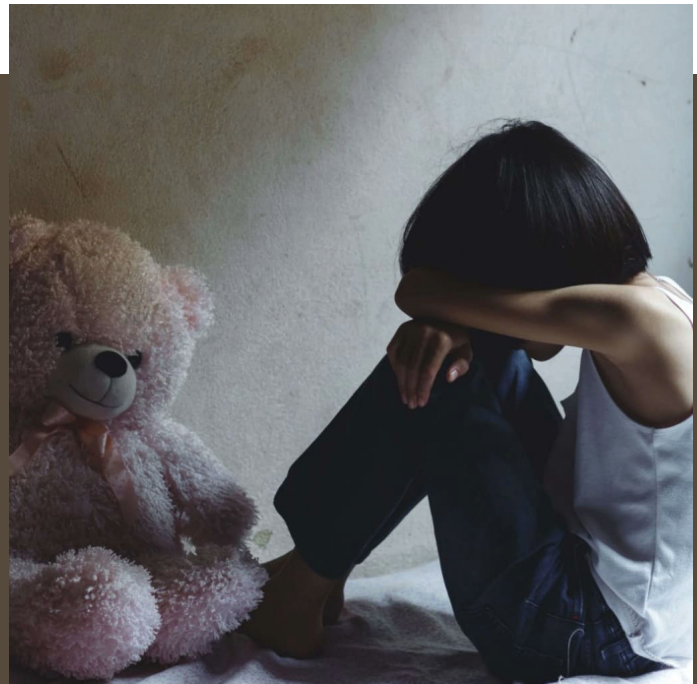
"Whenever differences among white, Black and Hispanic defendants in prosecutorial and judicial decisions exist, whites are more disadvantaged for some decision points and offense categories, and blacks and Hispanics are more disadvantaged for others," Kutateladze explained.

The racial disparities report is the second in a series of publications to come from the MacArthur Foundation project.

Researchers from FIU's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice assessed nearly 87,000 cases from 2017 and 2018 to compare outcomes for black, white and Hispanic defendants in Hillsborough County, Florida.

can have impacts on physical and mental health, education and employment outcomes," said Ryan Meldrum, associate professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the lead author of the study. "Given this, understanding the factors that may contribute to deficits in self-control is critical. Even though we approached the topic through a criminological lens, the findings of our study are relevant to a number of disciplines, including public health, sociology and education."

Funded in part by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the study was a joint effort by researchers from FIU, Florida State University, Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University.



Studying abroad in Jordan,

New program supported through the Kimberly Green Scholarship, the Dorothea Green Lecture Series Endowment and the President Navon Endowment for Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewish Studies

Riding camels in the desert. Floating in the Dead Sea. Exploring some of the most revered and sacred religious holy sites of major world religions. And experiencing Middle Eastern hospitality.

This is just a glimpse of the jam-packed, 14-day study abroad adventure a group of students experienced this summer during their trip to Jordan, Israel and Palestine. This pilot program marked the FIU in the Middle East program's first study abroad trip to the region.

The group journeyed to famous cities including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Haifa. They visited renowned museums such as Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center and the Museum of the Jewish People.

The trip was in conjunction with two courses, Politics of the Middle East and Topics in International Relations: Arab-Israeli Conflict, taught through the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Here are some highlights of the trip as told by the students and their professor.



GABRIELLA ROLDOS

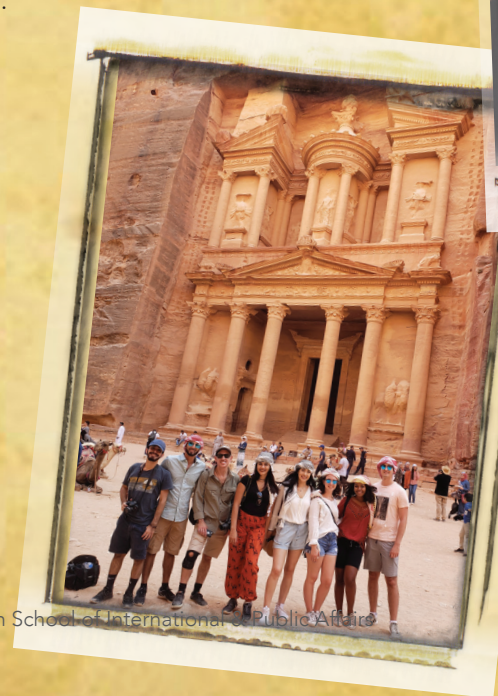
Junior, International Relations

"We went to Petra!!! The natural architecture was mesmerizing. I don't think I will ever see something like that again in my life. I can also officially say I was on the set of Aladdin. Well, not technically. I really was in Wadi Rum. We were able to do things such as ride camels and sit in a Bedouin tent. At the Dome of the Rock, I witnessed a Muslim pray for the first time. There is a certain beauty to watching someone pray, a certain vulnerability that comes from seeing a person and their faith colliding. This trip was very easily the trip of a lifetime for me."

LAURA LAVERDE

Senior, Political Science

"I got to experience something I only imagined in my dreams. We went to Wadi Rum, which is one of the most beautiful places I've been in my life. We got a Jeep ride through the desert, and I felt like I was in a Star Wars movie. The landscape was breathtaking. We walked the "Via Dolorosa" where Jesus walked with the cross. And we had the honor to be part of a Shabbat dinner, where a Jewish family opened their doors to teach us about their culture while enjoying a family dinner. Not only the food was delicious, but the family hospitality was out of this world. We talked for hours."



Israel and Palestine



SEBASTIAN MELENDEZ
Sophomore, Economics

"The first day of the trip, we went up to Mount Nebo, the place where Moses looked over the Holy Land. From there you can see the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and one of the oldest cities in the world, Jericho. We also saw the oldest map of the Holy Land and visited the Jordan River to see where Jesus was baptized. Another highlight: We drove up to Acre, which was my favorite city. The architecture and the sea walls are among some of the longest standing and most historic structures. It was different from anything we had seen."



TANIA ALVERADO
Junior, International Relations

"After our site tour of the Jordan Valley, we attended a meeting in Amman about Muslim and Christian coexistence. It was beautiful to see how both religions are similar. To see both of these important religious figures, a priest and a mufti, connect with each other and recognize that they can coexist without any difficulties was breathtaking. Coming into this trip, I did not know all the similarities Christians and Muslims had, which is an eye-opening experience."

MOHAMED K. GHUMRAWI
*Faculty Director, FIU in the Middle East
Adjunct Professor, Department of
Politics & International Relations*

"This study abroad trip was an amazing opportunity for our students to become immersed in the region of the Middle East. It is one thing to learn about something from a book in a classroom. It is another to actually travel to and directly interact with the region you are studying. Traveling is one of the best methods of learning. I believe it's very important to give our FIU students an opportunity to receive a high-quality and life-changing experience like this program provided."

Metropolitan Center report reveals manufacturing jobs on the rise in Miami-Dade

After decades of decline, manufacturing employment in Miami-Dade County is showing signs of a comeback, increasing 14.5 percent from 35,738 workers in 2012 to more than 40,800 in 2017, according to a report from the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center.

A collaboration between the Met Center and the Florida Small Business Development Center at FIU, the report, "Make it Miami: Report on South Florida's Manufacturing Sector 2019" was supported by Citi Community Development.

"Miami has a small but important cluster of advanced manufacturers with significant value to the economy," said Maria Ilcheva, assistant director of planning and operations at the Pérez Met Center and lead author of the report. "They help diversify Miami's economic landscape and their continued growth is essential for boosting the county's and region's economic resilience."

Added Jorge M. Pérez, CEO and Chairman of Related Group: "Miami's resurgence in the industrial sector speaks volumes.

It is also proof of the importance of continuing to nurture Miami's diverse industries."

The study found that nearly a third of current Miami-Dade manufacturers have considered relocating out of the county due to the cost of doing business, the need for access to new markets and customers, high insurance costs, a lack of tax incentives and the need for a more qualified labor pool.

"This study underscores the importance of creating well-paid jobs that diversify the Miami-Dade economic base beyond tourism and services," said Howard Frank, director of the Met Center. **"Creating a vibrant manufacturing ecosystem will require extensive cooperation between the public, private and educational sectors."**



GENDER WAGE GAP PERSISTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, REPORT FINDS



Left to right: Larah Varghese, United Nations Association of Miami; Maria Ilcheva, FIU Metropolitan Center; Vicki Lopez, VLL Consulting; Cindy Makita, Social Impact Movement; Alexandra Figueredo, United Nations Association of Miami; Scarlett Lanzas, Emergent Global Investments; and Claudia Akel, Social Impact Movement

Starting in 2016, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Office of the Commission Auditor and the Miami-Dade Commission for Women, the Metropolitan Center has tracked progress toward closing the gender gap in Miami-Dade.

The annual report is an important demonstration of Miami-Dade County's commitment to understanding the status of women.

In the most recent report, researchers noted the stagnation of women's earnings and the persistence of the wage gaps.

In 2017, Miami-Dade female full-time workers made only 86 cents for every dollar earned by men, a 14 percent wage gap. There were almost 280,000 women living in poverty.

Women, on average, earned less than men in nearly every single occupation, and some of the most staggering disparities were in the highest earning occupations. Yes, there are more women today than ever before with degrees in law, engineering and architecture. But the gap in legal occupations was 52 percent; 36 percent in computer and mathematical occupations; and 24 percent in architecture and engineering.

Women of all major racial and ethnic groups also earn less than men of the same group, with white women earning more than Hispanic or Black/African American women, but less than white men.

"Considering that there are more women (30 percent) than men (29 percent) in Miami-Dade who have a bachelor's degree or higher, it is clear we can no longer ascribe the differences to the 'education lag,'" said, Maria Ilcheva, assistant director of planning and operations at the Pérez Met Center and lead author of the report.

25 YEARS OF BUILDING DEMOCRACY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Since the summer of 1995, each June, local and regional, as well as some national, government officials from throughout Latin America have been coming together in Miami to assess the progress being made in the building of local democracy and to develop strategies to further advance the strengthening of municipal government throughout the hemisphere as a means of both building democratic institutions and advancing the economic well-being of Latin America's people.

Sponsored by Miami-Dade County and organized by Florida International University's Institute for Public Management & Community Service, some 500 local government leaders from throughout the hemisphere will gathered in Miami for the 25th annual inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities. The event has become the largest annual non-political gathering of Latin Americans concerned with the building of local government.

The conference kicked off with a keynote address by Luis Alberto Moreno, the president of the hemisphere's most important multinational organization, the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition to Miami-Dade County Commissioner Javier Souto, a long time advocate of strengthening of local government throughout Latin America, conference attendees heard from an array of prominent figures from throughout the hemisphere.

For the past 25 years, ideas and initiatives emerging from this annual meeting have significantly influenced the actions of presidents, parliaments and regional authorities throughout Latin America in terms of the strengthening of local governments and the enhancement of their role in the construction of democratic institutions.

Of particular note, the conference, in many instances, has enabled both national and international leaders to learn about the importance of strong local governments for both economic and democratic development. As the long time president of the IDB, Enrique Iglesias, frequently noted, it was through his participation in this conference that he first realized the importance of the bank working with local governments.

Similarly, the conference has served as both an inspiration and a learning opportunity for those at the grass roots of democratic development. As the then mayor of Asunción, Paraguay, one of the most democratically challenged countries of the hemisphere, commented in a Miami Herald story a decade ago, "The conference is like a great supermarket of ideas for local government officials."

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FIU Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FIU Institute for Public Management and Community Service PORTLAND OREGON



Allan Rosenbaum, professor of public administration and director of the Institute for Public Management and Community Service at the Green School, speaks at the Inter-American Conference of Mayors.

First graduate of international crime and justice program researches trust in police

Candice Ammons-Blanfort '19 is a champion of global perspective. If you don't know what people in other countries are doing, how can you learn from them, she asks.



Candice Ammons-Blanfort at her commencement ceremony

"I want my students to be able to connect what they're learning and make it practical, so they can use it. They can change the perception of law enforcement, start to tear down those walls of division, really encourage community engagement and rebuild citizen trust."

When she discovered FIU's Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice – a new program focusing on the global aspect within the criminology and criminal justice field – she knew it was the right fit for her. Ammons-Blanfort began at FIU in the fall of 2015 as part of the program's first class.

The degree, offered through the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), is one that speaks directly to FIU's mission to provide an international education, says CCJ Chair Lisa Stolzenberg.

"With its innovative specialization, the international crime and justice program prepares students for academic careers and professional life in public and private justice organizations," Stolzenberg explains. "This

degree, unlike traditional criminal justice degrees, fosters research on criminology and criminal justice from a comparative and international perspective.

"Not only does this program bring in people from all over the world to think about crime from a global perspective, but it also caters to local practitioners who want to earn a doctorate degree and lead their agencies. It fits perfectly with our university's global learning initiative."

In 2019, Ammons-Blanfort became the first student to graduate from the program. She did it in an impressive four years – all while juggling a hectic family life and giving birth to two baby boys.

"It was a matter of focusing and being really determined," she explains. "For me it really boiled down to just knowing that no matter what, I'm going to keep moving. Having faculty support also made a world of difference. I'm eternally grateful for that."

While in the program, Ammons-Blanfort conducted research on an increasingly pressing topic: the distrust of law enforcement officers by communities of color. She studied this by analyzing the level of "self-help" or "vigilante justice" – taking the law into their own hands because of distrust of police – present in black communities across the country.

She found that Blacks were less likely to use firearms in areas with diverse police departments. This finding, she says, helps point to a crucial idea: people are more likely to trust law enforcement officers who look like them.

This forms the basis for her future goal – to help diversify police departments as a way to help increase trust in law enforcement for communities who have a deep fear of police officers.

Now a visiting instructor at FIU, she's ready to help students – many of whom hope to one day become police officers – learn about the importance of diversity and cultural sensitivity in criminal justice.

"I want my students to be able to connect what they're learning and make it practical, so they can use it. They can change the perception of law enforcement, start to tear down those walls of division, really encourage community engagement and rebuild citizen trust."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GRADUATE WORKING AT THE WORLD BANK IN D.C.

Name: Paula Mora '17

Hometown: Miami, Florida and Bogota, Colombia

Degree/major: Bachelor's in international relations, minor in political science

Where are you working? I work at the World Bank as an IT Assistant.

How did you get your job? Throughout my time at FIU, I was very involved in extracurriculars – serving as president of the Colombian Student Union (PorColombia) and treasurer of UN Women. I also had the opportunity to intern in difference sectors, starting with the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce in 2015, Global Ties Miami in 2016, the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office in 2017 and finally the Port of Miami in 2017. These experiences helped pave the way to a successful journey post-graduation, as I was able to create connections and gain experience well beyond the classroom. Upon graduation and throughout my job search, my networks and my experience positioned me as a great candidate for my current role.

What was your greatest fear going into your first job and how did you face it or overcome it?

I was quite intimidated by the sheer fact that I was joining the world's most important international development organization. I was the youngest staff member on my team and this was my first full-time job, so the fact that I had to prove myself worthy of this role was intimidating. However, I quickly learned that everyone here is always willing to help, to mentor and to guide younger professionals navigating the institution.

What surprised you the most about your first job? The impact that the World Bank has made and continues to create throughout the developing world. As an international relations student, I had read about the work of the World Bank, but one thing is reading it and another is being in the midst of where it all takes place. Being surrounded by passionate people who want to make this world a better place has been my favorite discovery through this journey.

What advice do you have for those beginning the job search process? Internships, internships, internships! I cannot stress enough the importance of internships. The classroom provides excellent tools, but it is out there in the real world where you are able to actually get a feel of what each sector has to offer – internships allow you to take a "test drive" and decide for yourself where it is that you see yourself making an impact.

What does a day on the job look like? In my specific role I assist the IT Governance team in program delivery; this includes managing IT project approval processes, including project quality assurance, maintenance and approval of project workflows, and tracking and reporting on project status. In a few words, project management is at the top of the to-do list.

How does your job connect back to your coursework? Although I currently work in the information technology department, my studies in international relations provided me with the context of why the work of the World Bank matters at a global scale. Knowing that even as an assistant I can contribute to the mission of the World Bank has been the most rewarding aspect of my job.

What's been the coolest thing about your job so far? The coolest thing about working in the World Bank has been having the opportunity to participate in World Bank annual meetings – where leaders from all around the world and experts from various sectors meet to discuss the current state of the sustainable development goals, and how we can create a world free of poverty.



Paula Mora turned her extensive internship experience as an undergraduate in international relations into a first job with the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

WORKING AS A STAFF ASSISTANT FOR CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA SHALALA

Name: Diana Garcia

Hometown: Pembroke Pines, Florida

Degree/Major: International relations and philosophy

Where are you working? I work as a staff assistant at the U.S. House of Representatives in the District Office of Congresswoman Donna Shalala (FL-27).

How did you get your job? I began interning at Congresswoman Donna Shalala's district office in January as part of an Honors College course. I was taking "How to Change the World" with Professor Rosado, and we were required to complete an internship as part of the course. After finishing my internship, I was asked to join the team permanently.

What was your greatest fear going into your first job, and how did you face it or overcome it?

My greatest fear going into this job was that I would not have had enough prior professional experience. Luckily, my Honors College classes at FIU prepared me for this role more than I had initially realized. The Honors College's focus on interdisciplinary learning, writing and research have been my biggest asset in this new role.

What surprised you the most about your first job? What surprised me the most about my first job is how important people and communication skills are. I went into the role worried about my ability to complete certain tasks and found that one of my greatest assets is the ability to listen and communicate.

What advice do you have for those beginning the job search process? Do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help! Honors College Career Services advisor Isabel Green and professor Ralph Rosado were so vital in this process for me. As a friend once said to me: "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." So don't be afraid to put yourself out there and experience new things.

What does a day on the job look like? Every day is different but as the office's staff assistant my role is to support all members of the staff in any way I can. This usually means working closely with our district director, caseworkers and outreach coordinators to make sure that we support Florida District 27 and our constituents in the best and most efficient way we can.

How does your job connect back to your coursework? As an Honors College student double majoring in international relations and philosophy, I'm constantly challenged to think critically and problem solve. Working in a congressional office requires me to use my knowledge of politics, social issues and organization daily.

What's been the coolest thing about your job so far? My favorite part of the job is getting to hear from and interact with our constituents. It's really cool to be able to see someone come in with a problem or concern and see the office be able to help them find a solution. I really love the office I work in and am lucky to be surrounded by such supportive colleagues.



Internship helps Green School grad land job at Adobe

Alumnus Jose Andres Camacho '17 reflects on his internship experience and how the skills he gained helped him land a job at Adobe.

What did you major in? I majored in international relations and pursued a certificate in national security studies.

Where are you working? Title? I work for Adobe as a social media enablement specialist.

Where did you intern while in D.C.? My internship was in Fall 2016. I was the marketing and communications intern with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI).

What is the most significant takeaway from your internship experience that is still affecting your life today? A key part of my (Washington Center) Academic Internship Program was the informational interviews assignment. We had to conduct informational interviews with two people outside of our internship site network that we found inspiring or that we wanted to learn more about. We had to step beyond our comfort zone. My interviews were with the Policy Advisor for the FEMA Administrator and the Policy Lead for the White House's Precision Management Initiative. Doing these interviews made me aware of how to network.

These networking skills would prove immensely valuable when I returned to school. An acquaintance of mine announced on LinkedIn that she was being promoted to the main headquarters at Microsoft. This is where my (Washington Center) experience kicked in. I immediately commented, "Congratulations, I'd love a chance to meet and talk about how you got to where you are today if you have time." She sent a direct message back, inviting me over to her place where she was already packing up to move. We talked for two hours about her work experience, and I shared

my experience with The Washington Center. At the end of it, I asked her if she would be open to being my mentor, and she accepted. That's basically where everything changed for me.

What were some of the skills you learned at your internship that you are still benefiting from now? I think it's both the hard and soft skills I developed. At my internship site, I learned hard skills like how to make editorial calendars for social media and how to plan social media posts for big events. For example, CHCI hosts a big annual gala and the

year I was there we had former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and then-President Barack Obama as speakers. My role was to capture all that was going on that night for the organization's social media. I employed the social media management and Adobe Photoshop skills that I had learned at my internship site to post on CHCI's social channels.

I also demonstrated the soft skills I had been picking up and refining during the semester. Working that event, I benefited from knowing how to work within a team, how to communicate with other teams' manager and how to acclimate to different working styles for the greater goal.



Jose Andres Camacho '17 capitalized on his internship experience in D.C. to land a social media job at Adobe.

What made you realize you needed to do an internship while you were in school? Because I was studying international relations, I wanted to make the most of my education and take the opportunity to study abroad at some point in my college career. To me, abroad doesn't have to mean outside the country. I thought, "How can I study international relations and not study 'internationally'?"

D.C. is a city full of leaders, where decisions are made on an international scale. When a Washington Center recruiter came to my campus to speak about the internship program and the opportunities it afforded in Washington, I felt as if my next step was right there in front of me. It felt like the obvious solution to my study abroad questions.



National Science Foundation awards FIU \$1 million to train policy professionals in cyberinfrastructure

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded FIU a \$1 million grant to train policy scientists in infrastructure to help meet the demand for professionals with an in-depth understanding of the latest technologies.

"This is a great collaboration that melds science, technology and public policy," said Howard Frank, director of the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center, which houses the training program. "It combines the technological side of security with the human and organizational side of the enterprise, through public policy and administration."

This award will jumpstart a new era of public policy practice and research, according to the grant's lead investigator, Sukumar Ganapati, from FIU's Department of Public Policy & Administration. The grant will enable the creation of Daylong training workshops for local government policy makers and professionals, and also local nonprofits. It will also create a policy informatics certificate for Master of Public Administration (MPA) students through the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

"The target audience is senior management in local government and nonprofits," said Frank, who also chairs the Department of Public Policy and Administration. "Many of our students are 'adult learners' in that sector, making this a perfect fit for them."

The skills acquired through this training will also benefit low-income communities as it will provide them with the same access to resources that high-income communities have. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) located in Miami, FIU is well suited to implement this grant.

The collaboration includes FIU's Metropolitan Center, the Department of Public Policy and Administration, the School of Computing and Information Sciences and the School of Electrical, Computer and Enterprise Engineering both within the College of Engineering & Computing. The collaborators are part of Cybersecurity@FIU, an emerging preeminent program that focuses on digital defense and protection issues that impact the global landscape and examines complex human and social questions related to privacy policies and trust.

NICE CONFERENCE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

The 2019 National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference and Expo in Phoenix marked the event's 10-year anniversary.

Hosted by the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and the Division of Information Technology at Florida International University, along with New America and Arizona State University, the conference hit record-breaking numbers with over 800 attendees, 40 professional exhibitors and over 30 presentations. The conference is hosted by FIU as part of Cybersecurity@FIU, an emerging preeminent program.

The NICE Conference brings together thought leaders from industry, government, academia and nonprofit organizations to address the community's cybersecurity education, training and workforce needs. Students, industry professionals, educators and policymakers are encouraged to attend as it provides an opportunity to share best practices from around the world and across sectors in order to build the workforce we need to confront cybersecurity risks today and in years to come.

"We're incredibly pleased at the growth we have had since leading the conference in 2018 and our ability to reach underrepresented communities," said Randy Pestana, assistant director of the Gordon Institute, part of the Green School, and conference coordinator. "We're also grateful for the support of industry partners that have helped advanced the conversation on how best to tackle the 500,000 cybersecurity workforce shortage."

The 2020 NICE Conference is scheduled for Nov. 16-18 and will be held virtually. The theme is New Decade, New Solutions: Meaningful Actions for an Evolving Cybersecurity Workforce.

"Last year NICE celebrated its 10th annual conference and as we look forward to the next decade and beyond, we want to be known as an action-oriented community," said Rodney Petersen, director of NICE at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce. "Therefore, we are excited to engage with community members from industry, academia, and government this Fall to learn about creative and innovative solutions that will create a future where employers find



Brian Fonseca delivers welcome address at NICE Conference in November 2019.

the skilled cybersecurity workforce that they need to manage their enterprise cybersecurity risks."

The event is supported by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), a program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce, under NIST Financial Assistance.

This will be FIU's third year as host in a five-year cooperative agreement with NICE.

To register, inquire about sponsorships or for more information, please visit www.niceconference.org.

"We're also grateful for the support of industry partners that have helped advanced the conversation on how best to tackle the 500,000 cybersecurity workforce shortage."

—Randy Pestana, assistant director of the Gordon Institute



FIU booth at 2019 NICE Conference

USAID awards FIU \$4.2 million to reduce disaster risks in Latin America and the Caribbean



From left to right: Gabriela Hoberman, assistant director of the Extreme Events Institute (EEI); Meenakshi Jerath, Ph.D. student from the FIU Department of Earth and Environment; Richard Olson, director of EEI and professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

The United States Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID-OFDA) has awarded a \$4.2 million, three-year cooperative agreement to the FIU Extreme Events Institute (EEI) Disaster Risk and Resilience in the Americas program (DRRA).

The program will focus on disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing advanced training to higher education faculty and practitioners that will prepare them to help their communities by reducing existing risks, as well as identifying and confronting the driving forces that are creating new risks on an almost daily basis. The training will teach participants about numerical risk modeling and its practical applications.

The program will address risks from multiple hazards, including earthquakes, tropical cyclones, landslides, floods and droughts, but will be particularly sensitive to risks posed by the increasing magnitudes and frequencies of hydro-meteorological events, such as hurricanes, storms and floods, which are of major concern to many communities in the region. The program's goal is to help communities reduce vulnerabilities, better manage risk and build long-term resilience – taking at least some pressures off emergency response, relief and recovery organizations, which are often overburdened and highly stressed.

“There are no such things as ‘natural’ disasters, as hazard events only become disasters when they interact with our human exposures and vulnerabilities, and those derive from choices our societies make, or don’t make,” said Richard Olson, EEI director. “The DRRA program tackles that problem head-on with knowledge, techniques and assistance.”



Julio Capó Jr.
Deputy Director, Wolfsonian
Public Humanities Lab
Department of History

Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab builds toward future

The 2018-2019 academic year was a building time for the Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab, an Emerging Preeminent Program at FIU. The program hired its first faculty member, Julio Capó, an associate professor of history and public humanities, along with two graduate assistants, supported by the Green School.

In April 2019, the program hosted the Inaugural Public Humanities Lab Symposium with over 60 attendees. In November 2019, it co-hosted, with The Humanities Edge, a Public Humanities Faculty Development Day attended by over 30 faculty from FIU and Miami-Dade College.

The Vulnerable Landscapes Research Group was organized with colleagues from across the university in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and the arts. Another collaborative research team was organized to solidify a partnership with the Museum of Graffiti in Wynwood.



The Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab hosted its first faculty development seminar with The Humanities Edge in 2019.

LACC HOSTS VENEZUELA REPORT LAUNCH

As the crisis in Venezuela dominated headlines last year, a team of prominent policy experts from the region came to FIU to unveil a new report on what course of action by the United States and others could help bring about peace.

The report – prepared by the Venezuela Working Group of the Inter-American Dialogue, a leading foreign policy think tank that focuses on the Western Hemisphere – concluded that peaceful, democratic transition in Venezuela is possible – but far from guaranteed.

“In a nutshell, the democratic transition which is urgently needed is possible but not inevitable,” said Michael Camilleri, director of the Peter D. Bell Rule of Law Program at the IAD and author of the report. “There are massive vacuums of state authority combined with criminal activity. It’s an extremely toxic brew. The trajectory is clear: this is a deepening humanitarian crisis.”

Camilleri traveled to Miami from Washington, D.C., with IAD President Michael Shifter to present the Venezuela report and

discuss its findings with students at an event hosted by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.

Former LACC Director Frank Mora, who worked with Camilleri when Mora was the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Western Hemisphere under President Obama, moderated the discussion.

“They approached us because they wanted to do an event in Miami,” Mora explained, noting both the proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the large Venezuelan population that lives in South Florida. “Many of these groups like to bring their findings to Miami.”

Launching the Venezuela report in Miami and in partnership with FIU represented “a tremendous opportunity to advance our mission and engage new stakeholders,” added Camilleri.

“South Florida is a crossroads for Latin America-

focused policymakers, academics and media, and home to important diaspora communities from Venezuela and elsewhere in the region,” he said. “In this context, FIU and LACC stand out as a unique convening ground and as a center for consistently excellent, policy-relevant scholarship.”

For students, Mora said events like these “bring the think tank world” to the university and give students a rare opportunity to interact with and ask questions of high-level policymakers who are experts in foreign policy and international relations.

“It exposes them to the work and people that work at D.C. think tanks,” he said. “The purpose of (the IAD’s) work is to influence policymakers. The report presented (at FIU) will be sure to have some influence on policy discussion within different agencies of the U.S. government.”

It’s the second time in the past several months that a major international organization has chosen to present new information on Latin America and the Caribbean at FIU.

In February, “Acts of Violence in Nicaragua,” a report commissioned by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and banned by the government of Daniel Ortega, was also unveiled at a LACC event. Both the Americas director of Amnesty International and the former attorney general of Guatemala, now a human rights attorney, participated in that event, which was moderated by FIU professor and former Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solís.

Adam Ratzlaff, a doctoral student in international relations, said these kinds of activities make FIU and LACC stand out.

“Hosting events with scholars and policymakers on issues of importance to the region allows students to gain a deeper understanding of an array of topics ... and develop the professional connections that may help students determine what they want to do following graduation,” he said.

“Not only does FIU have an abundance of in-house expertise on these issues, but its location in Miami and the events that the university hosts allow students to learn from some of the top minds in the field.”



From left to right: Michael Camilleri of the Inter-American Dialogue; Venezuelan author Raul Stolk; Tamara Taraciuk of Human Rights Watch; Michael Shifter of IAD; and Frank Mora, former director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center.

CUBAN IDENTITY UNVEILED THROUGH ART



René Portocarrero, Interior el Cerro con figura danzante (Cerro Interior with Dancing Figure), 1944



Manuel Mesa, Procesión en La Habana (Procession in Havana), 1930. Darlene M. and Jorge M. Pérez Art Collection at FIU, Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami



Humberto Calzada, Tradición (Tradition), 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

In 2017, the Cuban Research Institute hosted a conference that brought together a distinguished group of art critics, scholars and collectors to share their research on Cuban culture and how it has been defined by or reflected through art.

Several scholars engaged with works from the Darlene M. and Jorge M. Pérez Art Collection at FIU – a gift made to the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum by the Pérez couple.

To capture these conversations and ideas, Jorge Duany, director of CRI, worked with the scholars to produce a book that would be readily available to everyone interested in Cuban art.



"*Picturing Cuba: Art, Culture and Identity on the Island and in the Diaspora*" features 14 chapters written by leading and emerging scholars delving into different historical eras and various forms of art, including prints, paintings, photography, architecture and fashion. The book also includes re-prints of historical and contemporary Cuban art.

"The basic idea of the book was to trace how Cuban national identity, *cubanía*, has been represented throughout history from the 18th century through the present," Duany says. "We wanted to explore the distinctive lenses, themes and styles used and how those representations of identity have changed or remained very strong over time."

Published by the University of Florida Press, the volume boasts a robust list of contributors, including Carol Damian, the former director of the Frost Art Museum; art collector Emilio Cueto; Ramón Cernuda, gallerist of Cernuda Arte in Coral Gables; Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, professor of literature at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and many more. Aside from editing the volume, Duany also wrote its introduction and one of its chapters.

Master of Arts in Global Affairs graduates 52 students

After considerable effort and much determination, 52 students in the Green School's Master of Arts in Global Affairs program graduated in Spring 2020.

The MA program, which is ranked one of the Top 40 Master's Programs in the world for policy careers in international relations, graduated students from several different tracks, including Globalization and Security, Global Risk and Corporate Responsibility and International Crime and Justice.

Throughout the academic year, students participated in professional development seminars and in capstone projects. They completed internships in organizations like The Washington Center in Washington, D.C., U.S. Southern Command, Focal Point Data Risk LLC, the Department of Homeland Security, the Global Sustainability Network and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, among others.

"In my 24 years in Washington, I have met a lot of smart people – but I can safely say that the students at FIU, and in this program in particular, stack up very well with those in D.C.," said David Kramer, a senior fellow at the Green School and director of the European and Eurasian Studies Program, welcoming new students at an orientation in 2019.

This year, the MA program collaborated with organizations from the public and private sectors to provide graduate students the best academic mentorship experience, including JP Morgan Chase, Raymond James (RFJ), Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Sustainable Solutions Network, Air Europa, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Government Accountability Office, the McCain Institute, the Organization of American States, the Miami Dade Police Department, and more.

Malena Torres, value added programs manager for the Green School, expressed how fond she was of the graduates.

"We are extremely proud of our school community and alumni network," she said. "Many of our students have secured jobs in the public and private sectors."

Angel Enriquez, a new student who began the program in Fall 2019, was awestruck when listening to the program's faculty members at a dinner in September.

"It was amazing," said Enriquez. "Getting some insight from people that have so much experience, hearing their advice...it's amazing."

Alumni from the program also visited this year's cohorts to provide students with company information, employment and internship opportunities.

"Our mission at the Green School is to encourage and develop leaders who will make the world a more just, peaceful and prosperous place," said Dean John F. Stack at the new student orientation. "I am certain you will be those kinds of leaders."

Top 40
Master's
Programs
in the world
for policy
careers in
international
relations



From left: Maria Ilcheva, Perez Metropolitan Center; Senior Fellow David Kramer, European & Eurasian Studies; Carleen Vincent, Criminology & Criminal Justice; Ed Glab, Global Energy & Sustainability Forum; and Shlomi Dinar, director of the program and associate dean for graduate studies & innovation.

High school students learn about the Holocaust through art

To mark the closing of an exhibit in its gallery, the Green School hosted an interactive learning lab with a group of high school students – members of Interfaith Youth Miami, an initiative to promote understanding and foster new friendships between various faith communities.

The exhibit, “All This Has Come Upon Us...” featured 42 works by award-winning artist, author and physician Mark Podwal. Podwal’s collection illustrates historical tragedies and injustices suffered by the Jewish people since the days of Pharaoh.

The students were part of a Holocaust learning lab exercise.

The original exhibition premiered in April 2014 at the Terezin Ghetto Museum outside of Prague. In 2015, it was on display at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU (JMOF).

Oren Stier, the director of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program, led the learning lab, giving students a tour of the exhibit and providing historical and contextual information about the paintings, the Psalms as well as the religion and history of the Jewish people.

The event was funded by Auschwitz survivor Tibor Hollo’s gift to the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program.

“This active learning exercise was about using the exhibition as a tool to facilitate a discussion about antisemitism and the Holocaust,” Stier explained. “I wanted the students to learn something about the experiences of hate and intolerance and how that is relevant today. Visual culture is a tool for expression and interfaith conversation.

Stier added, “I don’t want these students to just look at art in a museum. I want them to see. When you really look, you really see, and then you really understand.”

Alexander Sutton, the founder of the high school interfaith group and a rising senior at Coral Gables Senior High School, said that one of the best parts of the activity was learning more about the interconnectedness between the three Abrahamic religions – Christianity, Islam and Judaism – throughout the lab.

“I can relate to this as a non-Jew,” Sutton said. “The lab was extremely enriching. As a group, we hadn’t done an in-depth look into faith and history yet. We went deep today. The big takeaway for me is that the history of the Jewish people is even longer and filled with more oppression than people often realize.”



Expulsion 1492 by Mark Podwal
Psalm 119:54 Your laws are songs to me wherever I may live.
King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain expelled from their lands the largest and most distinguished Jewish community in Europe. Jews who converted to Catholicism were welcome to stay.



Learning about Japan through anime

Students in a new online course got to analyze Japanese culture in a novel way: through the lens of anime and manga, a style of Japanese comic books. The class was offered through the Asian Studies Program and was open to any student, not only Asian Studies majors.

"Naturally, seeing Japanese anime and manga as an available course made me literally do a double take," said Alan Durham, a student in the class.

Not only are students delighted, but according to Rachel Levine, professor of the course, faculty have also shown interest in the class.

"It is a course about all the things you never knew about the manga and anime phenomenon," said Katherine Dicken, an Asian Studies major.

In the class, students focus on analyzing anime and manga through a sociological lens and discuss its effects on – or reflection of – Japanese culture and identity.

Levine said the importance of this class lies in creating, "a deeper understanding of Japanese culture through an unlikely, yet incredibly amusing, medium."

Her goal is for students to develop a multi-dimensional view of society, in which they can expose themselves to something other than mainstream culture.

"Assignments and readings vary and cover a broad range of topics," she said. "I want students to absorb the material, form their own opinions, and debate these opinions."

Students have the opportunity to interact and share their ideas with other classmates through online discussion boards, where debate and open conversations are encouraged.

"I think the insight into Japanese pop culture is invaluable and entirely unique," Dicken said. "The content is interesting and the papers we get to write are reflective, which are perfect for a course like this."



STUDENTS, FACULTY GATHER TO REMEMBER GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS

It's become an all too familiar refrain on newscasts and in social media posts.

"Thoughts and prayers" for the growing number of gun violence victims in communities across the country. Shootings dominate news headlines for a few days, only to be overshadowed by new acts of violence.

The FIU community came together once again to mourn, to remember and to honor those affected by gun violence. Hosted by the Green School, the event was also a teach-in for the FIU community: an in-depth conversation with experts in criminal

"I call upon you today to take what you learn here and use it ... use it to make our communities better, to make our nation better. Let our sadness drive us to do more and to once again embrace the bright weapons of love and hope and action."

"We are not powerless," Rosenberg added. "Our will to be better can be translated into action ... to ensure that our communities become beacons of peace and prosperity. It starts with what we're doing here."

While incidents with mass casualties like those in Parkland, Dayton and El Paso get the biggest



justice, law, psychology and law enforcement on how to cope with the tragedies, deal with the aftermath and work toward solutions.

"We must never become numb and inured to this awful reality that claims innocent lives and destroys families," said Green School Senior Fellow David Kramer, who moderated the discussion. "How can we make ourselves safer, reduce the likelihood of more mass shootings and reduce gun violence more broadly, while also protecting individual rights?"

Back-to-back shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, took 31 lives in less than 24 hours, leaving the nation stunned and shaken, said President Mark B. Rosenberg. However, sadness and grief can and should be turned into action, he said.

headlines, gun violence is a much broader issue than many people realize.

"People tend to hear more about mass shootings, but it's the everyday violence in our urban communities that is much more prevalent," said Candice Ammons-Blanfort, instructor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the first graduate of FIU's Ph.D. program in international crime and justice.

While funding for critical mental health services is not sufficient, it's important not to use mental illness "as a scapegoat" for gun violence, added Carleen Vincent, senior instructor and associate chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. People with mental illness, she said, are far more likely to become the victims of violence than to commit acts of violence.

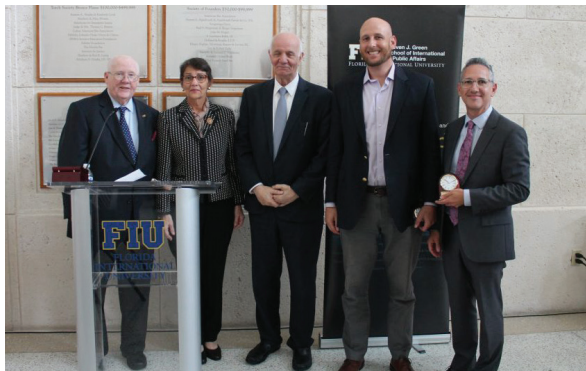
Green School hosts second annual lunch for Consular Corps of Miami

The Green School hosted an honorary lunch for the Consular Corps of Miami in recognition of the group's integral role in advancing diplomacy in the South Florida region.

Dean John F. Stack Jr. opened the event by acknowledging the destruction and lives lost after Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas on August 24. Terry Archer, consul to the Bahamas, expressed his gratitude for the outpouring of support for those affected by the storm.

Also attending were Consular Corps Secretary Nabil J. Achkar, Ambassador Volker Anding of Germany and Acting Dean of the Consular Corps of Miami, María Mérida de Mora of Guatemala.

Assistant Professor Eric Lob of the Department of Politics & International Relations gave the keynote address at the event, focused on the current state of U.S.-Iran relations and tensions that have developed between the two countries.



FIU President and Green School Dean travel to China for graduation

In May 2019, FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and Green School Dean John F. Stack traveled to Qingdao, China to celebrate the second commencement ceremony of the dual degree program in Spanish. Pascale Becel, chair of the Department of Modern Languages, was grand marshal for the ceremony.

The dual degree program in Spanish is a partnership between FIU and Qingdao University and is administered by the Department of Modern Languages. One of its goals is to help bring together two powerful regions and break the language barrier between China and Latin America.

"We live in a time of tremendous change," said Rosenberg at the ceremony. "We also live in a time where we're more globally connected to one another than before. The partnership between QU and FIU – and this program in particular – are key to strengthening and forming business connections to ensure economic well-being for years to come."



THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES — REVISITING THE LEGACY OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL

In October 2019, the Program in the Study of Spirituality revisited the legacy of writer and mythologist Joseph Campbell in an event featuring Robert Walter, the president and executive director of the Joseph Campbell Foundation. Walter shed light on key questions about the power of myth, how a story can influence the lives of millions and how we celebrate our common journey as one human family.

Campbell is best known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. In his acclaimed *The*



Hero with a Thousand Faces (1949), Campbell argued that universal patterns are the essence of – and common to – heroic tales in every culture. This groundbreaking work has sold almost two million copies and has been translated into dozens of languages. It has influenced generations of creative artists, including songwriters, authors and filmmakers such as George Lucas in the *Star Wars* series.

The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, The Humanities Edge and Coral Gables Congregational-United Church of Christ.

The world through Haitian eyes: History professor presents new co-edited book

Chantalle Verna, FIU associate professor of history and international relations, recently presented her co-edited work, *The Haiti Reader* at Books & Books. She was joined by co-editors Laurent Dubois, professor of romance studies and history at Duke University, and Kaiama Glover, professor of French & Africana studies at Columbia University.

The *Haiti Reader* introduces readers to Haiti's dynamic history and culture from the viewpoint of Haitians from all walks of life. Its dozens of selections—most of which appear here in English for the first time—are representative of Haiti's scholarly, literary, religious, visual, musical, political cultures, range from poems, novels, political tracts to essays, legislation, songs, and folk tales.

Verna is also the author of *Haiti and the Uses of America: Post-U.S. Occupation Promises* (Rutgers University Press, 2017). Her current projects include research on Haitian professionals hired to work across Africa during the waves of decolonization that followed the Second World War, and a collaborative scholarly edition and translation of St. Victor Jean-Baptiste's *Fondateur Devant l'Histoire* (1954).



GREEN SCHOOL'S JAIN STUDIES PROGRAM HOSTS 2 MAJOR EVENTS

In 2019, the Green School's Jain Studies Program hosted two major events – one about Jainism and crime prevention and one about causality in Jaina philosophies – which served as the Seventh Mahavir Nirvan Lecture and the Ninth Annual Mahavir Jayanti Lecture.

Suman Kakar, a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, explored how Jain principles could be applied to crime prevention – particularly violent crimes. Kakar, who has earned multiple university awards in research, teaching and service and has been nominated for the University Distinguished Professor Award, explored the implications Jain doctrines can have on society and how they can serve as guideposts for the creation of public policies to reduce and prevent crime.

At the second event, the Jain Studies Program hosted Ana Bajželj, an associate professor in religious studies at the University of California, Riverside. Her presentation, titled "Clay Pots, Golden Bracelets and Clean Upper Garments: Causality in Jaina Philosophy," focused on how new things come into being – a question that sparked some of the most important debates among Indian philosophers and religious seekers.

Creating a Just, Peaceful and Prosperous World

Experts discuss democracy in central Europe

Eighty years since the German invasion of Poland and 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the European and Eurasian Studies Program at FIU, in collaboration with The American Institute of Polish Culture and The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland, held a conference on Democracy in Central Europe as part of the Lady Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series.

Authorities of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland and FIU experts from diverse fields engaged in this discussion and provided their perspectives on the past and present of democracy in that region.

Dean John Stack and David Kramer, director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program, opened the conference. Speakers included Polish Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Piotr Wilczek, who delivered opening remarks.



Polish Ambassador H.E. Piotr Wilczek spoke at a conference on democracy in Central Europe in October.

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 foster dialogue on global issues.

Sponsored and co-sponsored events of 2019:

Find Me Leonard Cohen, I'm Almost Thirty, book presentation featuring author Amit Ranjan, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at FIU and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Carlos Grenier

The Death Penalty: European & International Perspectives, panel discussion with the European Consuls General in Miami, diplomats and FIU College of Law faculty experts

How to Understand and Deal with Gun Violence, memorial in honor of the victims of shootings in El Paso and Dayton and teach-in by FIU experts

The Hero with a Thousand Faces, presentation by Robert Walter, Joseph Campbell Foundation

Un Musiquito Nuevo, concert of Esteban Salas' Colonial Cuban Villancicos

The Portrait of Frida Kahlo, presented by the Green School, the Florida Grand Opera and Coral Gables Congressional United Church, featuring music from Robert Xavier Rodriguez's opera Frida

Global Hot Spots, conversation about the top challenges confronting U.S. foreign policy in 2019 by FIU faculty experts, held after the groundbreaking ceremony for SIPA Phase II.

Muslims and the Chinese State: From the Qing to the Present, presentation by Kristian Peterson, Old Dominion University

Putin's Russia and the Future of U.S. –Russian Relations, a conversation with leading experts



Ambassador Steven J. Green, his wife Dorothea Green and daughter Kimberly Green sit with Jim Messina, White House deputy chief of staff under President Obama, during the Global Hot Spots panel, held after the SIPA Phase II Groundbreaking event in October 2019.

Forty Years of U.S.- China Relations, a conversation with Yawei Liu, Carter Center

Protecting our Democracy from Authoritarian Attacks, a conversation with leading experts from the German Marshall Fund of the United States and FIU

Worshipping the Same God: A conversation with film director Linda Midgett and Larycia Hawkins on the documentary film *Same God*

Screening of Documentary Film Same God, followed by a conversation with Larycia Hawkins, film director Linda Midgett and local religious leaders

The Social Life, Religious Studies and History of the Bohras of Madagascar, lecture by Denis Gay, Universite de Fribourg, Switzerland

The Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies Annual Iftar Dinner: Celebratory Meal in Observance of Ramadan

White Supremacy, Black Redemption and the Korean Jeremiah: The Southern Education of Yun Chi'i-ho, presentation by Youngchan Justin Choi, University of Oxford

Advancing Democracy, Then and Now: Lessons learned from Combating Intolerance in Central & Eastern Europe, a conversation with international experts

Law Versus Power: Our Global Fight for Human Rights, book presentation by Wolfgang Kaleck

Worlds Ahead Graduates 2019

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 2019.



Peculiar Awa – *Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice*

As a young woman growing up in Nigeria, Peculiar Awa witnessed gender discrimination and violence. Despite many challenges, she became a practicing attorney. In 2016, she met women and girls suffering disabilities and incontinence brought on by early childbirth. Peculiar followed her passion

and began investigating how women and girls become involved in terrorism through kidnapping and forced marriage. Peculiar is now an assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Central Missouri.



Trevor Hansen – *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

After various setbacks, including dropping out of high school, Trevor Hansen discovered a passion: working with youth. He became part of Read-to-a-Child and participated in neighborhood unification projects in Liberty City. Trevor is training to become a volunteer panelist for Florida Foster Care Review. He is pursuing

his master’s degree in social work at FIU and hopes to start an organization that would provide housing and schooling to children in foster care.



Christina Bazzaroni – *Ph.D. in Global and Sociocultural Studies*

When Christina Bazzaroni was 14, she was diagnosed and treated for leukemia. Ten years later, she was declared cured – but that was not the end. Over the course of her adult life, she would be diagnosed with cancer several more times and undergo various treatments. While undergoing treatment, she persevered

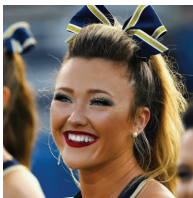
through her doctoral program, completed field research and wrote and defended her dissertation. After graduation, Christina plans to teach, travel and develop different aspects of her social science career.



Kristina Labrada – *Bachelor of Public Administration*

Growing up, Kristina Labrada underwent various personal challenges, including being hospitalized for depression, the murder of a good friend, a car accident, and surgery to remove a tumor that could have left her paralyzed. Nevertheless, she refused to give up. She got married, finished her degree, and had a daughter,

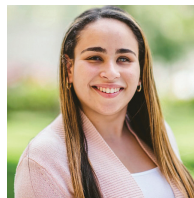
all while working for the City of Miami. She hopes to continue working in human resources and pursue her master’s in Adult Education and Human Resource Development.



Hailey Conboy – *Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice*

Hailey Conboy has always wanted to be a police officer. With an outgoing personality and 10 years of competitive cheerleading, people didn’t take her dreams seriously, so she set out to prove them wrong. She became the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy’s Collegiate Outreach Intern and earned

a certificate in national security studies - all while being part of the university’s cheerleading team. Hailey received several job offers from the national security community and hopes to continue making a difference.



Dorysped Mancebo – *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

Dorysped Mancebo was 14 years old when she developed coloboma, a condition that creates a hole in the eye and causes blindness. Growing up, she refused to go to school for blind children. When she arrived at FIU, she studied many fields, including French, language interpretation studies and Portuguese.

She interned at the Broward County Courthouse, focusing on interpretation services. She is enrolled at the FIU College of Law and hopes to become an immigration lawyer.



Raquel Fernandez – *Bachelor of Public Administration*

Raquel Fernandez has always had a calling to serve. In 2000, her father was diagnosed with dementia while battling Parkinson’s disease. Shortly after, her mother - who had diabetes and congestive heart failure - passed away. Raquel took up the role as primary caregiver. Although earning her degree seemed far-fetched, she

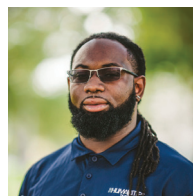
persevered. She got involved with different programs, including an “asset mapping” of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Raquel looks forward to graduating with her master’s degree next.



Amber Mannings – *Bachelor of Science in Political Science*

Amber Mannings always knew she wanted to be an attorney. Although she had challenges growing up, she never let those hardships stop her from following her dream - even when those challenges ended with her sleeping in her car. At FIU, she joined the Fostering Panther Pride Program, the political science honor

society and the FIU chapter of the NAACP, which led her to help restore the historic Hampton House in Liberty City.



Josh Goodwin – *Bachelor of Arts in History*

Josh Goodwin came to FIU with one major goal: to fulfill a promise he made to his late father. After promising him that he would finish his degree, he became a passionate advocate for history. He worked three jobs and says he owes his success to his father’s memory, which has kept him going. Josh hopes to earn his

master’s in history and become a professor, both at FIU.



Alfredo Oballos Diaz – *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

After appearing on national television criticizing Venezuela’s prison system, Alfredo Oballos Diaz became the victim of political persecution, which forced him to flee to Miami with his mother a year later. He enrolled at FIU as an Honors College student, all while working multiple jobs. Alfredo interned at the

Office of Congressman Darren Soto in Washington, D.C., among other places. After graduation, he will be working at the Global Blockchain Business Council’s D.C. office.



On top of the world: Members of FIU's No. 1 ranked Model UN team join Green School benefactor Kimberly Green, in khaki jacket, and Anne Marie Slaughter, CEO of New America, in red scarf, during a break in the annual State of the World 2019 conference.

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