Dean Northup and Daughter Donate
$250,000 Planned Gift

“The gift of an education is truly the gift that keeps on giving – not just to the student, but to the community.”

Recently, the Dean and her daughter, Evan, Assistant Director for marketing at CARTA’s Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS), made history and a joint planned gift to the Honors College – the largest such gift in the College’s history. Their hope is that others will follow their lead.

The idea was hatched when an Honors alumnus, Jonathan Cameron, now a financial planner and partner in Cameron/Downing, approached members of the Honors staff with a proposal that would allow them to make a significant later investment in the College with a very reasonable up-front cost. Several members of the staff were intrigued. Instead of begging everyone to help, the Dean decided to lead by example.

She approached her daughter with the idea of a joint gift. Evan, who practically grew up on FIU’s campus after her mother became an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies in 1993, would never have guessed that one day she would herself be an important part of the FIU family. In addition to her publicity, marketing, and development work with MBUS, Evan is an Honors College Associate Instructor, teaching the Intro to Honors course that all first-year students take. The experience has made her more appreciative of the College’s work. She adds, “My mother and I wanted to give a joint gift to show our commitment to FIU because we believe so wholeheartedly in this university. We’ve been part of this community for more than 20 years, and it has both shaped our lives and given us friends, opportunities and priceless education.” She also helps pay back that gift by heading Homecoming 2014—maybe because she remembers attending the first football tailgate as a youngster.

Ultimately, the Dean would like their gift to become the impetus that propels the Honors College to its next horizon. As the College looks ahead toward acquiring its own building, it’s important to ensure its future at FIU. Planned gifts do that, with their promise of large endowments down the line. Said the Dean, “I hope more of our alums will consider planned giving. It is an excellent option, especially for younger folks, who can give a lot with very little.”

The Dean has big plans for future donations: “My hope is that one day every Honors student will have at least one educational experience abroad … that out-of-state and international students will be able to afford to come to our Honors College … that every Honors student will have the opportunity to live in Honors campus housing … that every Honors student will be guaranteed an internship.

“The gift of an education is truly the gift that keeps on giving – not just to the student, but to the community.”
It has now become a commonplace on university campuses that these institutions and their constituents should leave behind the ivory tower and interact more fully with people, places, and things beyond the campus boundaries. Indeed, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching offers a much-sought-after Elective Community Engagement Classification for universities, defining engagement as collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

In 2010, FIU earned that prestigious Carnegie designation. But long before that, long before we even had an FIU Office of Engagement, the Honors College was collaborating with outside partners—private, corporate, and non-profit—to engage our students in multiple communities and activities. In Sweetwater, at the Overtown Youth Center, around the globe, and in many other venues, Honors students were making a difference. Through service, research, and innovation, Honors students taught by example what it meant to be engaged. This tradition continues and grows to this day.

This issue of Summa cum Laude pictorially focuses on how the Honors College engages with its neighbors. From Tamiami Trail to Cambodia, we are facilitating change, sharing knowledge and resources, and interacting with new people and ideas. This collective effort is engrained in the nature of the College and the many people—faculty, staff, and students—who constitute the Honors community. We have integrated engagement throughout both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, teaching the value of partnerships, the power of collaborative thinking, and the importance of taking responsibility and giving back.

We hope you will be as impressed with our students’ accomplishments as we are.

Lesley A. Northup
Dean

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Honors is Engaged...

Dennis Gibson and Jocelyn Benitez brought educator David Lawrence to Sweetwater Elementary to discuss the importance of reading.

Helping out at Li’l Abner Carnival.

Building a garden at the elementary school... ...and planting trees.

Happy student takes home tree for his yard.

Setting up for University City festival.

4th graders work on an Everglades project led by Honors students.

Honors community-based research class boards bus with Sweetwater mayor Jose Diaz to tour the city.
Sweetwater Partnership Becomes a TIGER

In 2009, the Honors College launched its groundbreaking service-research partnership with the neighboring City of Sweetwater. Since then, students have researched community issues, implemented projects to enhance the residents’ quality of life, interned in City offices, and assisted with numberless Sweetwater events. Over the years, Honors has, among other things, run tutoring and fitness programs with the L’I’Abner Mobile Home Park, which houses almost a third of Sweetwater’s residents; held an annual “Evening with the Arts,” built a community garden, and run a girls’ basketball program with the elementary school; planted trees along the 8th Street canal; conducted citizenship preparation classes; and taught seniors basic computer communication skills. Meanwhile, dozens of Honors students gained invaluable experience as interns with the City.

Aside from the obvious benefits to both partners, a more important result of the partnership soon became evident—an increased sense of trust and cooperation that helped move both neighbors into a new era of collaboration, dubbed the “UniversityCity Alliance.” High-level meetings between FIU and the city led, eventually, to what promises to be a radical change in their relationship, a change with dramatic implications for the entire area.

Developers are erecting student apartment complexes in Sweetwater, starting with the 109Tower at 109th Avenue and Tamiami Trail, which opens this fall. A second building is going up at 10899 SW Fourth Street and more such construction is planned. There has been only one major stumbling block: How do people get safely across 8th Street?

Enter the TIGER. After several earlier attempts, the partners have finally secured over $10 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program. While the primary goal is to build a pedestrian walkway over the dangerous highway, the TIGER goals are much broader: creating safe, vibrant spaces and a robust economic engine through innovative, sustainable design, along with a viable transportation plan. Sweetwater’s “University District” between 107th and 109th Avenues will welcome students with parks, attractive retail, and easy transport.

Clearly, TIGER is going to revolutionize west Miami-Dade County.

The Honors College’s “little engine that could” work in Sweetwater has helped lay the foundation for this exciting development, and we will be participating in the projects outlined in the TIGER grant. Specifically, we will be working with Naphtali Rishe of the College of Engineering in beta-testing an Informed Traveler “wayfinder” app for identifying on-the-spot transportation alternatives. Our “heavy lifting,” in the words of President Rosenberg, has helped raise both city and university to new heights of vision and collaboration.
...in the Local Community

Folks get down at Honors-sponsored Overtown Youth Center luncheons.

Honors leads the way for Diversity Day.

The Pan American Round Table Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

Honors helps student through The Herald’s Wish Book

Throughout her entire high school experience, Stephanie Flores has had to rely on peers and mentors for computer access to complete school projects and assignments. Her family’s daily struggle with financial hardships has made it impossible to afford a home computer or the monthly payments for internet access. Stephanie’s mother, Alba Flores, often worried that Stephanie would fall behind with her schoolwork. “She’s been at a great disadvantage. My fear has always been that she’d be left behind.”

Dean Northup read Stephanie’s story in The Miami Herald’s Wish Book series and reached out. The Honors College gave Stephanie a brand new laptop, a personal printer, and a cash donation for home internet connection. Stephanie’s hard work and impressive academic performance have earned her acceptance into FIU as a “Golden Scholar” for Fall 2014.

Left to right: Alba Flores, Stephanie Flores, Lesley Northup.

IT Coordinator Juan Lopez instructs Stephanie Flores.
...in the National Community

Model U.N. Makes a Big Impact by Blanca Ordonez

This year, the FIU Model United Nations team rose from 7th nationally to 5th against teams from all the major universities.

It was a windy Tuesday afternoon in November. I struggled trying to pull SIPA’s large doors open in order to make it to my Honors Hour on time. I was actually excited for this one: members from FIU’s Model United Nations team were invited to give a presentation on their program. There were only 2 weeks left in the semester and I had only heard of the program the week before when I received my “This Week in Honors” e-mail. Once they began their presentation on different alternatives on how we could survive a zombie apocalypse, I knew I had to join the program.

Recently, the team and I returned from our trip to Harvard. It was the first conference I had ever attended and I’m very proud to say my partner and I got second place out of 400 contenders. Not only did I come home with a personal achievement, but FIU as a school received the Outstanding Delegation Award, the first time ever in FIU history to receive an award as a large delegation at Harvard. With this huge feat, we were excited for what is to come at the University of Chicago, University of Virginia and West Point. I cannot express my gratitude towards the Honors College. Thanks to the mandatory Honors Hours I would often find tedious, I was introduced to the program that has allowed me to visit places I had only dreamed of and meet the most amazing people from all over the world. Being part of the Honors College has changed my life.

John Bailly’s study abroad class in France focuses on war and democracy in Europe’s most bloodied country. After visiting Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery, and other key World War II sites, his students brought full circle their new-found appreciation of the sacrifices made by the veterans of that conflict. This spring, at the Frost Art Museum, the Honors College hosted a deeply moving ceremony during which French Consul General Philippe Letrilliart initiated eight surviving WWII vets into the French Legion of Honor in recognition of their service with allied troops in France. The students also had the opportunity to sit and converse with the vets. Bailly, himself half French, said, “Every student in here will remember this event for the rest of their lives.” German Consul General in Miami Juergen Borsch also participated, thanking the veterans for liberating Germany. “Freedom has a taste,” he said. “It tastes like Hershey’s chocolate and peppermint chewing gum”—the gifts, taken from their rations, that GIs handed out to civilians in the liberated countries.
...in the National Community

Scholars discuss “Dropping the Bomb” at Truman Little White House

By Rodney Castillo and Jenyer Paez

Often history comes to us as printed words from books with facts like death tolls in numbers where pain and tragedy elicit a moral reaction that seems to lack a personal connection. Yet, when the past interacts personally in a live setting, history can be viewed differently and varying perspectives are gained that might otherwise be overlooked.

Through FIU Honors College Fellow Mary Lou Pfeiffer and a grant from the Lady Suzanna B. and Carlton Tweed Foundation (courtesy of Roy B. Gonas, Esq.), along with Robert Wolz, Director of the Truman Little White House, thirteen FIU Honors College students attended this year’s Truman Legacy Symposium at the Truman Little White House.

Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor from Hiroshima, and Yasuaki Yamashita, who was in Nagasaki when the bomb hit, offered us an exclusive meeting with them; they are called the hibakusha, Japanese for “explosion-affected people.” This intimate gathering prior to the symposium allowed us to create a bond with the survivors as we listened to their stories.

Although an occasional smile appeared on Setsuko’s and Yasuaki’s faces as they interacted with us, the scars of the suffering and loss in the aftermath of the bomb explosions were clearly evident. One student asked Setsuko about how these memories had altered her sense of identity. “Water please, just a little water,” she recalled the badly burned pleading. Yet, there was no resentment in Setsuko’s voice; her identity is defined by spreading awareness, not by hatred.

Throughout the symposium the survivors shared with the audience their powerful stories, bringing to life the horrors of nuclear warfare, and issuing a warning to stop events like this from any recurrence. President Harry S. Truman’s grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel, and his family joined the attendees, discussing the need for healing and intercultural understanding that allows all human beings to be viewed like us, “not as the other.”
Every Christmas day I can remember has always been about spending time with my family, away from the world, right in my comfort zone. All of that changed this past Christmas when I found myself halfway around the world in Cambodia and teaching English as a Mechanical Engineering major.

There are a lot of things to gain out of a study abroad experience, like the chance to see places with your own eyes that only existed in textbooks up to that point, or eating snakes and dancing to traditional Khmer music. I could write novels on that, but that has already been done.

What nobody tells you, though, are the things you lose in these experiences, thousands of miles away. I lost my insecurities taking pictures with graduating students in Vietnam (complete strangers and somehow best friends that day). I lost all hubris after being reminded by monks that it is better to humbly serve the good of many instead of oneself, which is something I feel has made me a better student and will make me a better Engineer in the future. I even lost a lot of grief and stress after praying alongside strangers inside the temple of the Reclining Buddha.

Sure, I did come back with some trinkets, presents, more scarfs than I could ever need in Miami. And maybe even something to add to my resume that may attract an employer or two. But the biggest changes in my life that came out of the Honors College Cambodia/Vietnam study abroad program are those I will never be able to show in pictures, but that I will live out for the rest of my days.

For this year’s Father’s Day I got my dad a world map for him and his children to mark all the places we have visited. My dad has been to the sites of all the pink flags, my sister the yellow, and I to the blue. As you can see, I have a whole side of the map all to myself thanks to the Vietnam-Cambodia program. I give you a picture of this map and my eternal thanks again to the Honors College and the Office of Study Abroad.

– Erick Camacho

STITCH Nicaragua Medical Brigade by Bryan Diaz

During Alternative Spring Break, Onosma Crawford, Kétialie Laroche, Monica Calderon, Jennifer Narvaez, Allen Becker, Amin Sarikhani, Erick Ramirez, Rick Collazo, and Bryan Diaz, members of the Honors Pre-Med Society, STITCH, traveled to Nicaragua to give medical assistance and donations in the poorest and most needy parts of Nicaragua. Their 9-day trip was a life-changing event for both students and those they impacted. They took with them practical donations like clothes and toothbrushes, which were greatly needed. More importantly, throughout their trip they assisted medical personnel in different locations, including Managua, Esteli and San Juan De Rio Coco. They were able to help hundreds of people in their short trip, and hoped to leave a lasting impression on the people of Nicaragua, letting them know someone cares. STITCH plans three more medical brigades in 2015.
...with the Environment

Environmentally themed cubes by different artists were floated on Green Lake behind the Library in celebration of Earth Day, thanks to Artist-in-Residence Leonor Anthony and the PIAG Museum. The project was highlighted on the WUM online journal for the arts.

Students create an arch of recyclable materials that otherwise clutter our landscape.

To highlight the threat to endangered species, students participated in an art project creating flags celebrating different at-risk animals.

Professor Peter Machonis and a Park Ranger discuss Everglades issues with students.

Honors alums add some muscle to an Everglades clean-up day.
Aesthetics and Values Art Exhibition

This spring’s Aesthetics and Values Art Exhibition was the ninth in this series of annual programs. Curated entirely by the students in John Bailly’s class each year, the show highlights edgy art—art that makes us think, that challenges everyday assumptions, that pushes understanding, awareness, and insight. The students learn not only how to view and appreciate art, but how art can be a voice for social commentary. In the process of putting up the show, they also learn the fundamental tools of good business—fundraising, organization, teamwork, decision-making, working within restrictions.

For the first time, the show moved this year to the main exhibition space at FIU’s Frost Museum—an achievement reflecting the quality of the show and the faith Frost Director Carol Damian has invested in it. Another first was the largest attendance ever at the opening reception—over 1000 people came to celebrate and view the show.

As ever, President Rosenberg was among the first to view the exhibit, which impressed him so much that he asked the students to provide a private tour for Superintendent of Miami-Dade Public Schools Alberto Carvalho and the FIU Board of Directors.

Honors A Cappella Choir

After a first-year seminar last year when 400 students were asked to stand and chant a cappella with the music of Hildegard of Bingen, lightbulbs flickered over the heads of student Kamila Manzueta and Professor Janet McDaniel. The Honors College A Cappella Choir was born. With Manzueta as student director and McDaniel as mentor, fundraiser, and organizer, auditions were held for student singers. So many showed up that the initial plan for a small group was revised to include 16 members (four each of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses). They chose the name HEARTBeats, using the name of the College’s advanced arts program--HEARTS (Honors Education in the Arts).

Since then they’ve been invited to sing at a reception where the French Consul awarded WWII Veterans the Legion of Honor, then subsequently for another French Embassy event. They opened the FIU vs. Wagner football game and performed three pieces at the Honors College Convocation. They performed a WWI song cycle at the Wolfsonian Museum, and were invited to be the opening act for Jay Leno at the Arsht Performing Arts Center (sadly, they had to decline, since their repertoire was not yet varied enough). They will sing again at this fall’s commencement ceremony.

Members include Joshua Apisdorf, Carolina Brea, Juan Brizuela, Gabriel Coto, Daniela DuQuesne, Eric Duran, Jackson Fadely, Kamila Manzueta, Erin McNulty, Olivia Napper, Mailin Oliva, Jessica Perez, Lourdes Pomar, Michael Regalado, Ricardo Salafia, and Andres Sola.

HEARTS is Pulsing

Honors Education in the Arts—HEARTS—has really blossomed this year. Last year, over 680 students took advantage of opportunities to attend cultural events for free or at discounted prices—half again as many as the year before. This year, even more activities are planned, including at least a semi-annual trip to the new Perez Art Museum of Miami.

At the same time, students have generated multiple exciting new organizations for exploring the arts. On the music side, in addition to the flourishing a cappella choir, there is now a saxophone quartet, led by student Justin Merwitzer, and a nascent Honors orchestra. A poetry group, headed by Honors Coordinator Adam Gorelick, has been meeting regularly, and member Pam Lopez presented a sample of her dynamic slam poetry at the Honors Convocation. The book club, led by Honors Fellow and Librarian Cynthia Dottin, is growing so quickly that a clone group is being considered. New Fellow Rebekah Schulz is mentoring a drama club, and the photography group has already shot Honors events under the direction of Honors Student Assistant Evan Burr. And on the drawing board is a new fashion club.

The driving force behind HEARTS has been Coordinator Luli Szeinblum, whose commitment and energy have influenced students and faculty alike. She herself leads the club in the area closest to her own heart—film.
...with the Arts

Four of the artists in the FIU Honors College Art Collection were represented at the Kontempo grand opening in September.

From November 15 through December 10, leading into Art Basel, the NextGen project will be commenting on the environment in an exhibit of provocative "nests" on the Frost Museum lawn.

With the help of Coconut Grove Bank VP and Community Advisory Board member Ruth Jimenez, Jorge Deredia's sculpture now adorns the entry to the FIU president's house.

Honors students perform at community events.

Students enjoy a Soho Art Walk.

Martin Margulies discusses his art collection with students.
Attn: Employers

We’ve got the people you need!

Everyone knows that Honors graduates are providing employers in South Florida and beyond with the best young talent out there. Now you can work hand-in-hand with the College to find, train, and hire the perfect person to grow with your organization.

For several years, research has been accumulating that employers want new hires with “soft skills.” While technical information can be taught fairly quickly in today’s companies, it takes longer to impart habits of mind that distinguish exceptional young talent. Fortunately, the Honors College has four years to instill highly sought qualities in its students: applied intelligence, creativity, poise, communication, character, teamwork, and multi-disciplinary problem-solving. When they’re finished with Honors, they’re ready for you.

The other key ingredient in a top new hire is experience. You can provide that by hiring bright young Honors interns, mentoring them and giving them the background they need to be competitive and successful. Across the country, universities and corporations are realizing the value of giving students practical training in real-world situations. Most of our students already have considerable work experience, but nothing is as valuable as the intentional grooming provided by an organized internship.

To facilitate getting our exceptional young people into the right positions, the Honors College has created a unique Career Services Office (CSO), a one-stop-shop for identifying and placing workforce-ready interns and employees. When the new website is up and running by mid-fall, the CSO will offer our students workshops, fairs, networking opportunities, and resume services to prepare them for the workplace. In concert with employers, it will provide up-to-the-minute internship and job openings and an online mechanism for applying for and reporting on those experiences.

At the same time, employers will be able to advertise for interns and easily post positions. The CSO will work directly with employers to find the right person for the internship or job, pre-screening applicants and providing downloadable resumes and student information. Simple forms will make the process quick and painless.

In Honors, we know that what students learn in the classroom is only part of what they will need when they leave the campus. Our goal is to enable the best and brightest to also be the best prepared and most highly skilled.

Can you take on an Honors intern or employee? Can you afford not to?
Thinking Outside the Box

CAB member Alex Mantecon comes up with a beautiful building and a bountiful scholarship

By Alexandra Brown

When Honors alumnus and Miami real estate developer Alex Mantecon envisioned a huge mural displayed on the front of his new East Coast Building, he turned to the Honors College with a revolutionary idea. Rather than commission a renowned local artist for the job, Mantecon asked the College to enlist students as artists. It was a tall order: How would our students be able to create the kind of professional quality art the building demanded? Instructor and artist Gretchen Scharnagl volunteered her second-year Honors class to create the mural. The sophomores in her class were a bit stunned—doing an art project was the last thing they expected as an assignment, especially since most of them had little to no experience in art. How could they design a major urban art project?

Scharnagl’s answer to the problem was both productive and savvy. She divided the class into small groups and set up a competition. Mantecon envisioned a mural that would represent Miami, particularly the Miami River, which the building faces. So the project began with a total-immersion quick course on the history, ecology, and importance of the river. A guided boat tour, chartered by Mantecon, let the students physically experience the river and its environs while also giving them the chance to discuss with Alex what the river meant to him and to his future building. Guest speakers, such as renowned environmental artist Xavier Cortada, helped the students find inspiration.

During the project, the students involved learned a great deal about the ecology and history of Miami, the generation of quality art, and even construction.

With all the research done, the student groups began working on their pieces. The pressure was on! Only one work would be chosen and each group was eager to have its piece blown up into a 70’ x 30’ mural on the front of a building along the Miami River.

A panel of five judges, including Mantecon and Scharnagl, studied the designs; they reported that singling out just one artwork was very difficult because of the high quality of all the work. Finally, however, a winning mural was unveiled at a celebration in the Graham Center Gallery.

The first-place group created their piece with the history and nature of the river in mind. Embedded in the mangrove roots that surround the picture are patterns from the Tequesta Indians, symbolizing how their rich history is still inherent in the nature of the Miami River today. A branch reaching out into the center of the painting contains 29 leaves, which represent the 29 pipes that were used to dredge the river in the past. Leaves were chosen rather than sewer pipes to acknowledge the efforts made to clean up the river and bring it back to its natural state.

The mural will be enlarged and displayed on the building by 2015 and should stay there about three years, during which time students Alexandra Brown, Ifrah Waheed, Abel Suarez, and Andres Sola will be able to proudly show their creation—one of the largest artworks in the city—to family and friends simply by driving across the
Flagler Street bridge. The dramatic display should compliment the fine-dining rooftop restaurant also planned for the building.

Mantecon, who is delighted with the results of the competition, is considering repeating the process again in a few years, creating an ever-changing art display on the building’s façade.

Even more importantly, the success of the unusual collaboration prompted Mantecon to fund a generous new scholarship for first-generation Honors students, helping to ensure a steady stream of artists—and engineers, bankers, contractors, and other partners—for the future. Scharnagl says that “the marriage of students with public art is groundbreaking in its democracy.” The resulting benefits of this project to everyone involved, as well as to future students, are a ringing testimonial to that vision.
Syeda Sahar
Naqvi
From Pakistan, With Passion

By Adam Gorelick

Frequently, childhood hardships can leave people embittered or defeated. But that has certainly not been the case for Syeda Sahar Naqvi. Her father labored tirelessly for a decade, working for an airline in Saudi Arabia, to pay for family members to move from war-torn Pakistan to South Florida one at a time. Emigrating at 14, Sahar determined to become an engaged citizen of the world.

Sahar describes her early Florida high-school self as shy and quiet. A pivotal moment of finding her voice came one day when she stood up to correct a teacher whom she loved and respected. Despite months in class, the teacher kept calling her “Sandra.” “My name is Sahar!” said the quiet girl from somewhere else. After that, she began connecting with her peers, joining the International Club and the National Honors Society.

After graduating from high school, Sahar jumped head-first into the workforce. Her first job was as a cashier at a Publix supermarket, but she quickly began a budding career as a financial specialist at local financial institutions. She ascended from part-time teller to floor supervisor to Senior Branch Representative and personally oversaw the opening of three branches for Eastern Financial, and she points to her experience in the banking industry as an important step in her growth and development. Benefitting from the mentorship of excellent managers, she was able to hone her skills in leadership, responsibility, sales, customer service, and communication.

Nonetheless, something was missing. So Sahar made the decision in 2008 to go back to Broward College and take her academic career seriously. Graced with a joyful willingness to learn, she wanted to “start over the right way” and worked hard to master the needed skills. She enrolled in the lowest possible levels of English and Math courses for no credit and built from there. After being named to the All USA Bronze Scholar Coca-Cola’s Academic Team, she transferred to FIU in Fall 2012.

Sahar admits that at first she was “lost in a sea of people” at FIU, but she soon joined the Student Ambassadors Program and got involved with Women Who Lead through the Women’s Center. She traveled with a group of Honors College students to Nicaragua’s Isla de Ometepe for a week-long reforestation project as part of FIU’s Alternative Breaks program. She also participated in the Advanced Leadership Challenge, earning a medallion for her leadership in civic engagement. And along the way, she earned a McNair Fellowship, a Gilman Scholarship, and an Advance Research Grant.

An academic turning point occurred for Sahar in Elizabeth Hanley’s Honors College course, Creative Non-Fiction: The Personal Essay, Oral History and Other Wonders. The course required what Sahar referred to as true courage to honestly write about painful and often repressed memories. Sahar prepared a documentary about domestic abuse with an accompanying essay, and something clicked for her. Suddenly she found it thrilling to research and support thoughtful analysis on topics about which she was passionate. Her studies took on a sense of purpose and direction, an inner fire that burns still.

Choosing Religious Studies as her major, she found conscientious mentors and this summer was selected to represent FIU at the International Summer University for Intercultural Leadership in Berlin, where top students and faculty from around the world cultivate peace, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue.

Sahar’s ARCH undergraduate project involved hands-on research and community service initiatives in her native Pakistan. In the summer of 2013 she started a foundation to confront the active genocide of the Shia minority there. While she intended to work on improvements in the country’s education resources, she was at times drawn into the role of first responder. When she returned in the summer of 2014, she worked on developing an interdisciplinary approach to leadership development that included critical thought, creative arts, and confidence building. An advocate for women’s empowerment, she volunteers for the No More Tears Project, a non-profit organization that rescues domestic violence victims, and serves as a life coach for Muslim women at various organizations in South Florida.

Graduating this spring, Sahar was the top-performing student in the Department of Religious Studies. She was inducted into Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for religious studies and theology. She plans to complete her master’s degree as part of FIU’s 4+1 program, expanding her research to other countries, including Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. Sahar intends to conduct leadership workshops and work with educational organizations in Pakistan to help child victims of violence.
At every FIU commencement ceremony, President Mark Rosenberg handpicks students from many nominations to represent the best of FIU’s graduates. In this year’s spring and summer commencements, eight Honors students were picked for this prestigious recognition. Let us introduce them to you. You’re likely to hear these names again.

**Arian Sheremeti**  
Management Information Systems  
College of Business Administration

Arian Sheremeti earned a 4.0 GPA, works in FIU’s Human Resources Department and volunteers on behalf of the Honors College. A native of Kosovo in southeast Europe, Arian fled to England when war broke out. Eventually, his journey took him to Canada, then Miami.

Despite challenges—last year he lost his father to cancer—this spring, he graduated with a bachelor’s in business administration, with a major in management of information systems. He also received a Certificate in Business Intelligence. He has been accepted into the M.S. in Management Information Systems at FIU’s College of Business, on full scholarship. His interest lies in Big Data and he hopes to one day start his own business.

Arian is focused on giving back, volunteering during National Parkinson Foundation day and in the Model United Nations program. He hopes one day to help Kosovo become a vibrant part of the European economy.

**Maximilian Staedtler**  
International Business  
College of Business Administration

While maintaining a 3.99 GPA, Max led competitions and charitable efforts; taught, recruited and researched; and mentored fellow students as they reached for high goals. His team took first place in Google's 2011 Case Competition, and made an impressive showing at the Clinton Global Initiative’s HULT Social Entrepreneurship Competition, where his undergrad team placed ahead of MBA teams from Yale and Duke.

He served as president of ENACTUS at FIU, the social entrepreneurship organization, led volunteer efforts in Honors, and served as a resident assistant. He was president of the Phoenician Investment Fund, leading efforts to teach students what they needed for job interviews and coveted internships at top New York firms.

After two New York Goldman Sachs summer internships, Max was selected as Goldman Sach’s first Campus Ambassador for FIU, and joined the firm full-time after graduation.

**Neda and Vida Kalhor**  
Health Services Administration  
Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Neda and Vida Kalhor were born in Iran, and share early childhood memories of air raid sirens and people running frantically to safety. When their mother, a 13-year veteran in the Iranian air force, asked for a discharge, she was told she was “married to the military and would never be dismissed.” So their parents chose to leave Iran and seek refuge in rural Germany, hoping for a safe environment to raise their daughters. Instead, they were met with hostility, and their home was actually burned. Bravely, they relocated to Miami.

Turning their horrendous experiences into a positive, the sisters have volunteered their time generously to causes such as mentoring with the Broward County School Board, and raising funds for indigent women in Colombia and a literacy program and library at a local preschool.

This spring, they received their bachelor’s degrees in health services administration, moving towards their dream of opening a free clinic for people without insurance or Medicaid.

**Syeda Sahar Naqvi**  
Religious Studies  
College of Arts & Sciences

Born in Pakistan, Syeda Sahar Naqvi immigrated to the United States to escape a volatile political and religious environment. She pursued a degree in religious studies at FIU, was a McNair Fellow, and conducted fieldwork in Pakistan. For more on this extraordinary young woman, see the Student Profile in this issue.

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Know a brilliant high school student who should join the Honors College?  
Contact Rachelle Metcalfe at:  
305-348-4100 or Rachelle.Metcalfe@fiu.edu
Jordan Guedes

Psychology and Gender Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

Jordan Guedes majored in psychology and women’s and gender studies, with minors in religious studies and art history.

His research looks at the negative health outcomes associated with risky sexual behaviors among minorities, including women and the LGBTQI community. He was a research assistant team leader in Professor Asia Eaton’s Power, Women and Relationships Lab. In 2013, he was the first male recipient of the Elaine Gordon Scholarship in Women’s Studies.

Jordan is now pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at FIU. He then plans to earn a Ph.D. in Human Sexuality and establish a career as a therapist and practitioner in the area of sexual and relationship health.

Anggie Ferrer

Biological Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

Anggie Ferrer immigrated to the U.S. at age 11 with her mother, a single parent who worked in a factory to support them.

After graduating from high school, Ferrer received a full scholarship to attend the Honors College at Miami Dade College. During her time there, she was elected director of fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, served as a math tutor and was also a volunteer in the biology and chemistry laboratories.

At FIU, the biology major has conducted research in the lab of biomedical engineering professor Jorge Riera, exploring the role of calcium activity on lesions known to cause epileptic seizures.

Ferrer has presented at major research conferences and published one paper, and has two manuscripts in progress. She received two competitively awarded research fellowships (H2G and MBRS RISE) and was nominated for a scientific paper prize at one of the largest reproductive medicine meetings in the world.

Outside the lab, Nicole founded Project Hope FIU to raise money for cancer patients who could not afford to pay for their treatment. [See more on this effective outreach in Student Notes].

Over the next two years, Nicole will be conducting clinical research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where she was awarded a prestigious post-baccalaureate research position through the NICHD Developing Talent Scholars Program. She plans to pursue both medical and doctoral degrees and advance the field of reproductive medicine.

Nicole Millan

Biological Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

Nicole, a pre-med student, has conducted advanced research on issues affecting fertility and reproductive biology. She has presented her work at international scientific meetings, published one paper, and has two manuscripts in progress. She received two competitively awarded research fellowships (H2G and MBRS RISE) and was nominated for a scientific paper prize at one of the largest reproductive medicine meetings in the world.

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Sean Bari

Accounting
College of Business Administration

To help support his family, immigrants from Uzbekistan and Ukraine, Sean Bari worked at Cold Stone Creamery for 30 hours a week since he was 16. During that time he earned an A.A. from the Honors College at Miami Dade College and now his bachelor’s from FIU, where he achieved a 3.92 GPA. Now Sean is the general manager of two Cold Stone locations.

Sean, a member of Beta Alpha Psi Honors Society, has throughout college mentored elementary students from lower income households. He was featured in a Miami Herald article about students who successfully transfer from a community college to a state university.

Sean is now working on a master’s degree at FIU’s School of Accounting. Following a successful internship at PriceWaterhouseCoopers this past spring, he accepted a position as an audit associate next year when he finishes his master’s.
**Alumni Notes**

**What are they up to?**

Pablo Currea, '13, has been hired as a full-time Program Assistant in the Honors College. Currea, who made news while filming news in Papua New Guinea last year, is also working with Associate Dean J.C. Espinosa on an experimental course called “The Middle Circle.”

Daniel Anzueto, '10, is now Assistant Director of Member Engagement and Regional Initiatives at NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

Ganavya Doraiswamy, '12, now a Valencia campus post-graduate fellow, singer and dancer who was born in New York and raised in Southern India, delivered a TEDx talk in August on “Entrapped Words—Creativity in Context.” In the talk, she drew on her experience working in a prison to posit that creativity is born of necessity, and to address how it can be used to solve problems. Her talk can be viewed on YouTube.

Frandle Julien, '11, who is now studying at FIU's College of Law, was honored with a scholarship at the Haitian Lawyers Association Scholarship Gala. He also writes on Haiti for the *Miami Herald*.

Javier Navas, '13, first interned in the mayor's office in Sweetwater, then at FIU's Washington office, and is now Administrative Assistant to the Mayor of Sweetwater.

Tiffany Kilby, '12, has graduated from FSU's Panama City Applied Behavior Analysis program, and is now a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. See her new venture in sharing information about human behavior at TheBehaviorStation.com.

Jessica Mora, '13, majored in Biological Sciences and minored in Psych. She volunteered at Kendall Regional Hospital and shadowed two physicians, preparing for medical school and a career as a cardiothoracic surgeon. Recently, she wrote to the Dean, saying, "I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate everything the Honors College has done for me, from the education that I received to everything I learned through community events and Honors Hours. I am truly glad that I took the opportunity to join Honors as it has helped me grow into a scholarly, disciplined student. Throughout my journey through medical school and my career, I hope to always take with me the values and principles that I have learned here in the Honors College. I plan on being an active alumna and to help other Honors students to reach their upmost potential. Thank you for the beautiful honors graduation ceremony; it feels good to be rewarded for all that I have sacrificed and accomplished."

Omar Santos Baez, E.I., '11, is now Roadway Project Engineer at Dragados USA, Inc. Omar is a former Honors student assistant.

**Honors Wows at BCI Symposium**

By Nicole Millan

Honors biology majors made a terrific showing at the 16th annual Biomedical and Comparative Immunology (BCI) Symposium conference. Richard Barrios won first place for his research on dysfunctional mitochondria, and Aneyesis Gonzalez also took first-place in the poster category. Second place in this category went to Adrian Gonzalez.

The second-place award for undergraduate research went to Liana Apolis, for her work on using the plant Bucida buceras in conjunction with clinically-relevant antibiotics to help treat Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections.

The symposium was supported in part by a program grant from the National Institutes of Health, FIU offices and colleges, FIU’s Comparative Immunology and Q’BIC clubs, and corporations. The sponsorships helped provide students with free registration and paid for conference costs. The Honors College participated as a sponsor. Over $8000 was also raised by students to cover additional costs.

Honors student Nicole Millan, President of the Comparative Immunology Club, served as the Assistant Coordinator for the Symposium, and Amanda Vaccarella served on the Organizing Committee. Several other volunteers from the Honors College provided critical assistance, continuing what has become a tradition.

**WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?**

Share your story at [honors.fiu.edu/share](http://honors.fiu.edu/share)

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*Summa Cum Laude*
**Student Starts Cancer Support Project**

By Nicole Millan, President of Project Hope FIU

On August 12, 2008, my mother was diagnosed with stage three Breast Cancer. She has been cancer-free for about two years already, but I remember feeling scared and unsure whether the treatment would work. This memory was the motivating factor for the creation of a Project Hope organization at FIU.

Cancer treatment is one of the most expensive of all medical therapies. Project Hope raises funds to help patients pay for treatments. After creating a team of ten of my peers to serve as officers, we organized fundraisers and planned for the future. To raise the money, we hosted garage sales and a date auction, had restaurant benefit nights at Chic Berry Frozen Yogurt and Sir Pizza in Kendall, received sponsorships from private businesses, and produced a fashion show on Miami Beach. This event, with over 450 attendees, was our largest fundraiser and biggest challenge. Since we were not fashion students, the event called for major creativity on our part. Two bands donated their time to perform, a chef prepared several hundred hors d’oeuvres, and two fashion designers and two boutiques each lent us garments for models to wear. Lighting, food, advertising and music were all individually donated as well.

Through the efforts of Karen Jorge, Gilda Portalatin, Cristina Guerra, Christopher Emerson, Laura Diaz, Madhavi Ramdan, Stephanie Guzman, Alberto Menacho, Melanie Martinez, and Claire Kinnard, we brought awareness and raised $12,000, which was donated to *La Liga Contra el Cancer*. 

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**Student Notes**

**Brian Matilla**'s paper on *Convection Initiation Along the Rocky Mountain Front Range* is being published in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research Proceedings. The paper resulted from research the young meteorologist conducted at the University of Colorado at Boulder last year. His poster on model forecasts vs. real observations in weather forecasting has been accepted for the American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting in Phoenix in January.

**Cara Whitney** recently replied to a university-wide call for marketing help. Ricoh@FIU, FIU’s copy, print, pack, and ship center, asked students to submit proposals to help market itself to students, faculty, and staff across MMC and BBC campuses. Cara, a Dietetics & Nutrition major, created a full marketing campaign, complete with ideas for social media, public relations, and a total website redesign. Cara was one of two student winners selected to receive $2,000 in scholarships.

Journalism major **Frank Carrasco** and **Christina Lucille Kuryla**, physics major, were among only twelve FIU students selected to apply for the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) program. The White House will soon be interviewing these top candidates after a nationwide search. Fellows will apply their innovative and entrepreneurial skills to projects in three major areas: data innovation, modernizing the veterans’ experience, and experiments in crowdsourcing.

**Jena Delaney**, a Journalism and Mass Communications major, recently was awarded a $16,000 scholarship from the Miami Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

**Juan Gilces**, a junior in international relations and political science, had the opportunity to visit Israel under the auspices of the non-profit Taglit-Birthright. With a local guide, he explored historic, beautiful, and heart-rending sites, sometimes from the back of a camel.

**Camila Alvarez** and **Natalie Edgar** have expanded an Honors research project they began into “Right to Wynwood,” a film that “explores the causes and effects of gentrification in Wynwood.” The film features interviews with “developers, gallerists, artists, community leaders, and members of the local Puerto Rican population,” focusing particularly on the use of street art in marketing the gentrification of the area. In their words, “It’s a story about Miami in every way possible, from art to culture to economy to community.”

**Jose Lapitizondo** is the first-string punter on FIU’s resurgent football team, using a rugby kicking style.

**Gareth Pearson** and **Andrea Macias** both spoke eloquently at this fall’s Freshman Convocation. Each talked without notes for about five minutes of the advantages and opportunities to be found at FIU.
Faculty Notes

Whitney Bauman, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, has published two books this year. Developing a Planetary Ethic and Science and Religion: One Planet, Many Possibilities. He has also published three scholarly articles and a blog piece available at http://ecothero.org/2014/09/the-challenges-of-global-environmental-awareness/. He has also been chosen to work at the Ernst Haeckel archives in Jena, Germany to research his next book on the religious foundations of modern ecology.

Professor Leonard Elbaum knows a great deal about his field, physical therapy, and teaches it in his Honors seminar, “Walk, Don’t Run.” But his real passion is music. A master of multiple instruments, he is now recording “dance club stuff, tv commercials, and video games.” He also works with singer Migz. Listen to some of his work at http://vimeo.com/35890400.

Professor Peter Machonis has won the Faculty Senate’s prestigious Excellence in Teaching Award for the second time. Machonis’ innovative course, “The Everglades: From Beginning to End?” has long been a cornerstone of the upper-division Honors curriculum.

Aileen Marty, epidemiologist in the College of Medicine and participant in the Honors pre-med seminar “Issues in Healthcare,” has returned from a month in West Africa helping in the fight against Ebola at the behest of the World Health Organization. A former Navy doctor, Marty has traveled to over 50 countries treating diseases like leprosy, dengue, malaria and Ebola.

Evan Northup, Associate Instructor, is the Chair of FIU Homecoming ’14. She serves on the Women’s Leadership Council of Switchboard Miami and is a Pillar Trustee member of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. She has also become the faculty advisor for the campus chapter of Smart Girls.

Gretchen Scharnagl, who has served as a visiting instructor for 5 years, has now been hired as a full-time permanent instructor on a joint appointment with the College of Architecture and the Arts. Though housed in the Honors College, Scharnagl will split her time between the two colleges.

Pioneer Winter, Honors alumnus, holder of two FIU degrees (B.A., MPH), and now an Honors Fellow, was a 2014 winner of the prestigious Knight Foundation Arts Challenge. His project will engage local choreographers in creating free, site-specific work in non-traditional spaces. He is teaching an upper division Honors course this year, “Public Health, Public Works.”

Honors Senior Instructor Mary Lou Pfeiffer has been invited to participate in a panel on the 7 Deadly Sins at the Humanities and Educational Conference in San Francisco.

The Office of Study Abroad has awarded Honors Senior Instructor John Bailey the 2013-2014 Study Abroad Award for dedication and commitment to FIU’s study abroad programs.

Native American Project

Students from the Amazon Program were honored by a visit from Lee Tiger of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida. Tiger spoke of the history of the Miccosukee in the context of the Native American experience. He shared stories of growing up as a musician in the California music scene in the 1960’s, and later in the Florida Everglades, and of being involved in the promotion of Native American culture for the last thirty years. He invited students to participate in his latest endeavor, the creation of DiscoverNativeAmerica.com, a communication and educational website. The idea, inspired by his father, Buffalo Tiger (a former tribal chairman), is to bring together in one place information about events, culture, and history of all Native Americans. To help with the project, students from the Amazon Program will bring back information, recordings, and artifacts they collect working with the Native South American Yagua peoples of the Peruvian Amazon.

Menasche Inspires

David Menasche has incurable brain cancer. He also has talent, determination, and sheer guts. Once told of his worsening condition, the beloved and inspiring English teacher used GoFundMe to set out on a cross-country tour to visit former students, see the Pacific Ocean, and document the experience. Menasche brought his deeply moving story to FIU at a lecture the Honors College co-sponsored with the College of Business’ Center for Leadership on September 23. Tickets to the event at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center were gone virtually overnight. The 40-year-old former Miami High educator talked about discovering life’s greatest lessons on his “vision quest” as he lost mobility and his eyesight.
The Honors College hosted the Fourth Annual Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (FURC) in February. FURC 2014 was the largest multi-disciplinary undergraduate research conference ever held in Florida, with over 550 students from 26 Florida public and private colleges and universities. They presented their work in professional poster form in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Recruiters from over 40 graduate and professional schools from both U.S. and overseas universities—including the University of London, Columbia, Cornell, Emory, Ohio State, RPI, and Notre Dame—came to recruit for their programs, as did FIU’s own colleges. Recruiters were very impressed with the turnout and quality of these top undergraduates.

Lakshmi Reddi, Dean of the University Graduate School, served as the keynote speaker at the banquet the evening before the conference.

Here in Paradise, there is a lot to sing about: Balmy nights. Surf and sand. No state income tax. There is also a lot to complain about: Clueless drivers. Gridlocked highways. Rising sea levels. Rising insurance rates.

When Honors Fellow and Wolfsonian Museum Assistant Director Regina Bailey learned of a worldwide trend for “complaints choirs”—groups of singers giving voice to their gripes—she figured Miami was the ideal place to expand the movement. The Wolfsonian had chosen “the positive side of complaining” as its Power of Design theme this year, and the choir fit right in.

Continuing a longstanding partnership between the museum and the Honors College, Bailey enlisted a cadre of Honors students and FIU music professor Mark Aliapoulis, then launched an FIU Complaints Choir whose performance can be observed on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVtQorhH4qU

The students first surveyed their peers for common gripes, accumulating over 500 responses. These were whittled down to a manageable few dozen, then set to music, of a sort. Why? Bailey suggests that the choir is a form of gentle and creative protest. Moreover, her Honors volunteers went beyond just listing people’s taste in whines. They also asked the students they interviewed to offer solutions as well as problems, eliciting genuine concerns over issues like climate change, domestic violence, poverty and world hunger. Our students are clearly thinking globally while acting locally.

Recently, Artist-in-residence Leonor Anthony was thrilled to be presented by Mayor Tomas Regalado with a proclamation from the City of Miami, thanking her for her “outstanding contributions to the elevation of creative expression” and particularly for her work with the Honors College. She also was a featured artist in the Flor500 exhibition sponsored by FIU’s College of Architecture and the Arts. To cap off the month, her artwork is the face of this year’s Chapman Partnership’s Illuminations Gala benefitting the homeless.

FIU Honors College Hosts Huge State-Wide Research Conference

Honors Students Create Song from Wrong for “Power of Design” Festival

Artist-in-Residence Leonor Anthony racks up honors
Cuban-American Author Ana Menéndez Wins Torch Award

Prize-winning columnist and accomplished author Ana Menéndez has one more prestigious award to add to her collection. Menéndez was honored at Florida International University’s 13th Annual Torch Awards Gala as the award recipient for FIU’s Honors College. Torch Awards, the highest honor given to an FIU graduate, are presented to those who exemplify the best of the university and have had a positive impact on their profession, the community, and the world.

The daughter of Cuban exiles, Menéndez worked as a journalist for 18 years, both in the U.S. and abroad, including as a prize-winning columnist for The Miami Herald. As a reporter, she wrote about Cuba, Haiti, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and India, where she was based for three years. She is the author of four books of fiction, including In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd (2001), which won the New York Times’ notable Book of the Year designation and a Pushcart Prize. After teaching creative writing at Maastricht University, in The Netherlands, Menéndez has now returned to Miami, where she is completing her next book.

Menéndez reflects on her years as an FIU Honors College student and recalls the supportive faculty and her wonderful colleagues. The program and her Honors professors, she says, widely contributed to her success. “I’ll never forget Professor Caryl Grof persuading me to go to graduate school. It had never occurred to me to continue my education.”

President Barack Obama Chats Up Honors Student

President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, stopped by Coral Reef Senior High School this spring to discuss financial aid with graduating seniors. Under an FIU flag, the president spoke informally with the students. First Lady Michelle Obama turned the discussion over to the students as she asked about their plans after graduation. “I got accepted to FIU Honors….for chemistry,” said Jennifer Socarras-Garcia. The President congratulated her on her achievement. The student went on to say that she hoped to attend UF’s dentistry school following her graduation from FIU. The President offered encouraging words of support. “Excellent. Of course you’re going to get there. No doubt about it.”

Loving Cities

Renowned author Peter Kageyama discussed the essence of his book, For the Love of Cities, with an enthusiastic audience of Honors students this September. Kageyama has travelled the world learning and speaking about developing communities and creative industries. His provocative talk suggested that we should make our cities more “lovable,” not merely functional. The creator of the series of Creative Cities Sessions, Kageyama brings together urban art, recreation, and design to re-vision our all-too-sterile urban spaces. His book is a staple of several Honors seminars.
Honors College ramps up

Dinner with Future Leaders

In the month of September, three corporations individually participated in FIU Honors College’s Dinner with Future Leaders, an experience that brings companies and students together for conversation in a small, intimate setting.

**Baptist Health Systems**

Ralph Rios, Vice President of Professional Service at West Kendall Baptist Hospital and also an Honors College Community Advisory Board member, invited members of the Honors organization, STITCH, for dinner and conversation about the health industry.

STITCH, Students Taking Initiative Through Collaboration in Honors, is an Honors-exclusive organization designed to provide top achieving pre-med students with practical training in the medical field.

Students arrived at West Kendall Baptist Hospital and were then taken to the impressive Executive Boardroom on the second floor. Rios led a discussion on healthcare and Baptist initiatives, which kept students engaged and asking questions for over an hour.

Of great interest to the students were shadowing opportunities and ways to be hands-on in the industry. As members of the Honors College at FIU, students do have access to such opportunities through FIU’s partnership with Baptist Health.

**Procter & Gamble**

Procter & Gamble contacted the Honors College in hopes of meeting bright students to bring on board as interns, with the ultimate goal of offering full-time positions after graduation. Through their enhanced Career Services program, the Honors College targeted students based on their majors and year, at the request of Procter & Gamble.

Honors students eagerly responded and joined company leaders at Dave & Busters at Dadeland Mall. Executives and students sat together at a single, long table and discussed everything from Procter & Gamble to class curriculum to future travel plans. Following the meal, the event continued with games of pool and more conversation.

Procter & Gamble will return to campus in a few weeks to formally interview finalists for internships.

**Chrysler Group**

Mid-September, Chrysler Group paid a visit to the Honors College to meet engineering, design, and business students, and held a conversation about internships. Chrysler executives hosted lunch for 20 targeted students in the Honors College conference room while delivering a presentation about the company and the different opportunities they provide.

Students gained perspective on the magnitude of the organization and what it takes to be a part of it. Following the event, Chrysler provided information on how to break into the industry by applying for one of their exclusive internships.
Honors Giving

First Generation Scholarships: Bringing Education Within Reach

The Honors College is the proud recipient of several new First Generation scholarships. These scholarships, which are matched 100% by the State of Florida, are awarded to needy students neither of whose parents have earned a bachelor’s degree. First generation students, over 90% of them members of a minority group, represent over 50% of undergraduates at FIU.

Each gift of a First Generation scholarship is effectively doubled by the state match, so this is a great way to give. Through the generosity of an increasing number of Honors College friends, we have been able to provide key scholarships to worthy students. We would like to acknowledge the following donors for their dedication to educating and empowering first generation students to succeed:

- Jose Marti Foundation, Jose Marti First Generation Scholarship
- Pamela Silva Conde, Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship
- Alex Mantecon, MV Real Estate Holdings Scholarship
- Rachelle and George Metcalfe, Galindo-Metcalfe Scholarship
- Luis Masieri, Luis Masieri Scholarship

Pan American Round Table

For the fifth year in a row, the Pan American Round Table has selected only incoming Honors College transfer students to receive their scholarships. The Round Table is a women’s organization founded in 1916, which promotes mutual understanding, friendship and democracy among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. The gifts were awarded at a small, charming ceremony where the members of the organization and the students get to know one another. The Round Table members are sincerely passionate about helping these up-and-coming young women fulfill their professional dreams. Three incoming Miami-Dade College transfer students were the recipients: Camilla Ceballos, Susel Oded Diaz, and Indra Alvarez. Each of them was awarded $1,000.
Alumna Staff Member gives $100,000

Honors Assistant Director of Enrollment Services Rachelle Metcalfe recently gave the College a $100,000 planned gift. Metcalfe, 27, graduated from the Honors College in 2008 and began working there that same year. As both an alumna and an employee, she was delighted to find an opportunity to give back in a big way.

A large portion of her donation will go towards scholarships for first generation students – students who are, like she is, the first in their family to attain a college degree.

“The Honors College has had such an incredible impact on my life,” says Metcalfe, “from the amazing professors who took the time to get to know me and help me succeed, to the unbelievable opportunities the College provided to help me develop into a well-rounded person.”

Metcalfe, who received her Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and plans on pursuing her Ph.D. at FIU within the next couple of years, joked, “I just can’t stay away. This is my second home.”

Metcalfe’s philanthropy is a result of her lasting loyalty to the University and the Honors College. Her generosity has already had a great impact, inspiring other staff members to donate to the College as well. “As a first generation student, my hope is that I can make a difference in the lives of some of these extraordinary students, while inspiring others to do the same,” says Metcalfe.

Metcalfe and her husband, George Metcalfe, are always looking for ways to continue to give back to Honors. “He’s a terrific support,” says Metcalfe. “The more we can put into this University, the more it’s going to benefit everyone around us.”

The Honors College is proud to announce this year’s scholarship winners:

**Jordan Castellon Ricardo Scholarship:**
Juan Zalazar
Maria Daza

**Honors Excellence Scholarship:**
Andrew Bowyer
Elizabeth Marshall
Jose Laphitzondo
Phylícia Kirk
Victoria Grant
Milagros Munoz

**Harvey L. Young Family Scholarship:**
Adriana Sirven
Cosette Pulido
Kamila Manzueta
Sarah Terrazas

**Sarah R. Gaylord First Generation Scholarship:**
Morits Luik

**Jose Marti First Generation Scholarship:**
Farmika Then
Gabriela Gomez
Jennifer Weitzel
Lourdes Garcia

**Lucille E. Snaith Memorial Scholarship:**
Amy Diaz
Bryan Diaz
Rakel Harrigan
Samantha Rodriguez
Vidia Gokool

**Bitzin Sumberg Scholarship Damion Dunn:**
Tidjan Simpson

**Sheri Anne Graham Scholarship:**
Johanna Arab

**Gerald C. Grant Jr. Scholarship:**
Elaysha Powell

**Grocery Manufacturer Representatives Scholarship:**
Daniel Lambert

**Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship:**
Eric Duran
Johnathan Williams

**W. T. Jerome III Scholarship:**
Rachel Young

**Barbara Bader Scholarship:**
Cara Whitney
Cameron Downing

We guide. You decide.

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