

The Florida International University Honors College Review

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Spring 2011 | Volume 1, No. 2



Arts and
Culture at
Honors

SPRING 2011

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The Florida International University Honors College Review

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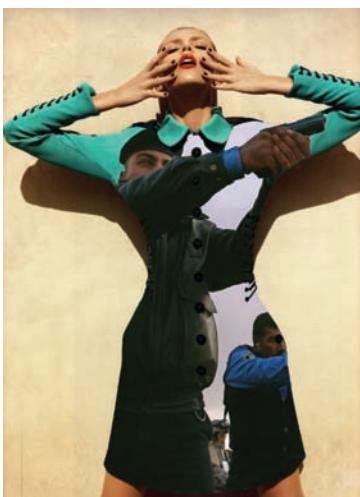
Welcome to the second Summa cum Laude, the magazine of the FIU Honors College! You may think that Honors students all plan to enter medicine or law or business, but in fact our students, faculty, and opportunities are incredibly diverse. Honors grads go on to successful careers not only in the professions, but in a wide variety of fields. Moreover, our curriculum and other offerings specifically aim at helping our students become not only subject matter experts, but also young leaders who are truly citizens of the world.

This issue focuses on a key component of that eye-opening education—arts and culture. The Honors curriculum intentionally integrates the arts into courses and extracurricular activities. From creating and installing a major art exhibition to attending local concerts to winning prestigious awards for their creativity, Honors students are making their mark in performance, writing, and the fine arts, both here at FIU and as they develop their work after leaving the campus.

In these pages, you will learn more about the College's commitment to the arts, and meet some of our accomplished and talented graduates. Exciting things are happening at the Honors College. Join us in celebrating the arts and culture!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Lesley A. Northup
Interim Dean



Cover Art
Blowjob, 2009
Rosemarie Romero

Change of address information: Please send updated address information to The Honors College, DM 233, Florida International University, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199 or by e-mail to hcalumni@fiu.edu

Letters to the Editor: Share your news, ideas, and stories with us and our readers. *Summa Cum Laude* welcomes letters to the editor by e-mail to hcalumni@fiu.edu, by fax to 305-348-2118 or by mail to *Summa Cum Laude*, The Honors College, DM 233, Florida International University, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199.

In this Issue

04 Aesthetics & Values

Learning how the classic components of art evolve and map social change

07 How can I improve my memory?

Learn some hints on how to improve your memory straight from Bennett L. Schwartz's new book, *Memory: Foundations and Applications*

08 Our Alumni Artists

The Honors College gave flight to these artists by providing critical thinking skills needed to develop style and innovation

13 Honors News

Worlds Ahead, ARCH,
Sweetwater Reforestation Day,
NCHC

22 Ana Menendez

Author, Journalist and Fulbright scholar

25 What are they up to?

Alumni Notes

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Spring 2011 Issue

Aesthetics & Values

By Kathleen Paz, Kelly Knight and Corey Ryan
Photographs by Aesthetics & Values Students

What class can you get away with reading a book called *On Bullshit*, having your own film festival, discussing the works of controversial artists like Robert Mapplethorpe, and coordinating an art show at the Frost Art Museum? The answer: Aesthetics & Values.

While the Aesthetics and Values class may not teach students hundreds of years of art history in two semesters, it does a formidable job of unhooking the velvet rope by offering students the opportunity to examine art up close, look beyond the surface and ask

questions about intention, meaning, and the role of art in society. At the same time, each year it trains sixty or so students—few of them art majors—in teamwork, event organization, business principles, and the inner workings of a key cultural profession.

Aesthetics and Values sprang to life from the fertile brain of Honors Fellow and Professor John Bailly in the fall of 2005. The class of 2006 comprised only 23 students who embarked on a path-making adventure that would set the stage for what is now an annual exhibition that

attracts the very best artistic talent in South Florida. From its initial showing at the Green Library, the exhibit has now grown in size and recognition to be housed at FIU's prestigious Frost Art Museum.

Each year, Bailly takes his students through a journey of discovery, showing how the classic components of art evolve over time and map social change. Much of the class takes place beyond the classroom, as students explore art museums, galleries and collections, art fairs, and Miami's design district.

This year, Jairo Pava, an A&V alumnus and member of the Aesthetics and Values Advisory Board, created a project for the class entitled "Art as Text," based on the "Place as Text" methodology. For the project, students applied what they learned to real-life scenarios. That meant traveling to Wynwood during Art Walk. Groups were assigned galleries, where they explored the arrangements, conversed with art lovers, and met with gallery owners to discuss what it takes to host an art exhibition.

In preparation for the exhibition, ten groups of students each research and contact a locally based artist with an offer to participate in the show. Each group meets with its chosen artist, studying the artist's work and methods, and deciding on the pieces that will be used in the show. Students write a thorough research paper on the artist's life and work, as well as prepare his/her art for the exhibit. Students divide themselves into committees such as fundraising, public relations, and installation to get the job done.

The impact of the exhibition on both the FIU and artistic communities has been well documented, but even more important is the impact it has had on Honors College students. Here, then, is A&V in their own words.

Luz Paiz, Accounting and International Business major, A&V 2011

I chose to take Aesthetics and Values because it's what the Honors College is really all about. I wanted to take a class that was like none other. It's really great knowing that if I'm asked, "What did you do in Honors class?" I can say "We went to MAM to see their exhibition, New Work Miami 2010," or "In class we talked about censorship and obscenity in art." Have you ever heard of the



work "Piss Christ?" So many topics that we've covered in this class have led to discussions that I would have never imagined having. It's amazing.

Michelle Montesino, Business Management major, A&V 2010:

I've always been interested in the arts and this course further enforced my passion for it. My twin sister Alexandra is doing exactly the same thing. Our involvement in the arts before taking the class was through ballet and modern dance classes when we were much younger. Our art consisted of dancing to different types of music and expressing ourselves through movement. When it came to visual and other forms of art, I enjoyed the works that were aesthetically pleasing, ignored the ones I didn't understand, and with others, wondered what in the world the artist was thinking when the work was created. However, it wasn't until I enrolled in this course that I realized how much I was missing. I quickly learned that art comes in various forms and that appreciation should extend to the uniqueness and new outlook it brings to the table, the message it sends to the audience and the reaction it seeks. Within the diverse and broad realm of

"contemporary art," an individual can create and experience art in what seems an endless number of ways.

Darlanne Martinez, Psychology major, A&V 2011

I love art, plain and simple. I grew up surrounded by paintings and sculpture, artists and poets, and Friday Gallery Nights in Coral Gables when my father owned a fine art gallery. I chose to take Aesthetics and Values because I knew the class dealt with art and with making an art exhibition. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that 60-70 students would curate an art show with some of Miami's most elite contemporary artists with only guidance from our instructor and the Frost Art Museum staff.

The most difficult aspect of putting together the exhibition is communication and trust. In order for the exhibition to be successful, we have to get to know each other, learn to communicate better, and above all trust in the abilities of others so that we can work together.



I believe this will be the best class I ever take. It has rekindled my love for the arts, which is something that I had lost for many years. To be able to curate an entire art exhibition is an HONOR. To even have the opportunity to take this class is an HONOR. Not only do I hope to take from this class a greater appreciation of the arts, but I will also have an experience that will last for a lifetime.

**John Paul "Pablo" Currea,
Psychology major, A&V 2011**

My team made T-shirts and sold them on a street corner in Wynwood to raise money for the exhibition. Our classmates helped out and we did the whole street vendor thing.

I've never done anything like that, and having my friends around made it lots of fun. Another favorite time was volunteering at the Margulies Collection during Art Basel. I saw masterpieces, contemporary and classic, and got the opportunity to meet fascinating people like Martin Margulies, and the director and curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

**Alina Mateo, Chemistry major,
A&V 2011**

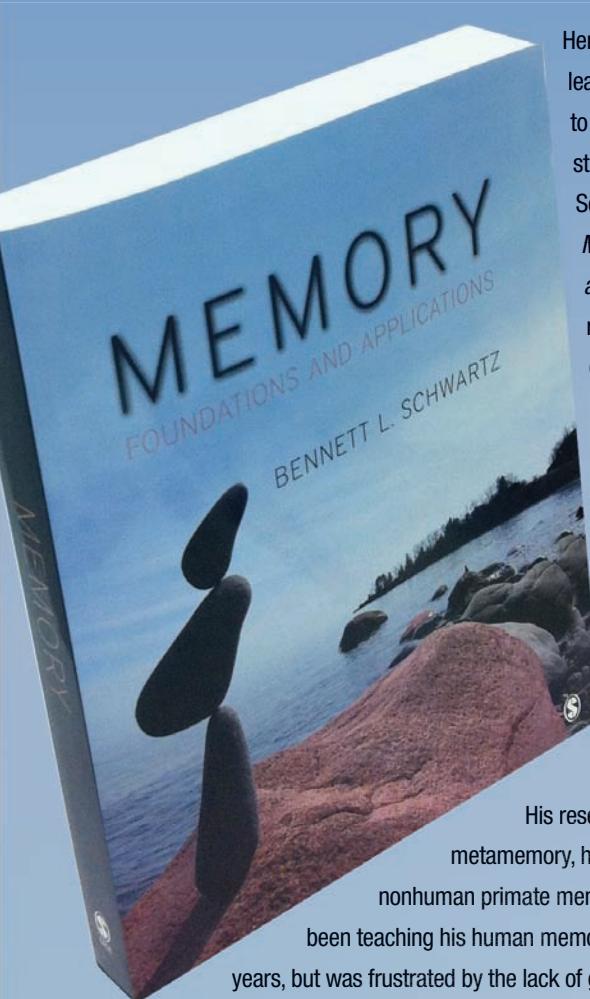
With this class, I have been exposed to a brand new part of Miami. I had never heard of the Wynwood Art District or Art Basel, yet I'm attending these events, and they're blowing my mind. This class has provided me with an opportunity to leave

the world of chemistry for a bit and drown in the world of art and history. Even with the stress, I'm enjoying what I'm doing. This class has made me realize that art is fundamental to human life in many aspects.

This year, the Aesthetics & Values Exhibition 2011 will run from March 23 through April 17 at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum, located on the MMC Campus. The opening reception will be held March 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. Ten confirmed artists will be showing their remarkable and unique artworks in the show: Daniel Arsham, Jose Bedia, Ivan Depena, Jacin Giordano, Fabian Pena, Karen Rifas, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, John Sanchez, Jen Stark and Antonia Wright. □



HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY MEMORY?



Here is your chance to learn some hints on how to improve your memory straight from Bennett L. Schwartz's new book, *Memory: Foundations and Applications*, the result of over 20 years of research. Schwartz is a professor of Psychology and Fellow of the Honors College at FIU. Raised on Long Island, New York, he earned both his Bachelor's degree (1988) and Ph.D. (1993) from Dartmouth College.

His research focuses on metacognition, human memory, and nonhuman primate memory. Schwartz has been teaching his human memory course for over 20 years, but was frustrated by the lack of good texts. His solution resulted in a volume which is being used as a standard textbook at many leading universities.

It is hard to imagine an aspect of the human person more fundamental than memory. Without a functioning memory, all other cognitive functions--perceptions, learning, problem solving, and language, would be impossible. Emotion itself is informed and influenced by memory. Without a functioning memory, social interactions such as play, relationships, and work would be chaotic at best.

"When I teach memory, the most common question students ask is, 'How can I improve my own memory?' However, textbooks seldom address this topic. Students learn about memory models, theories, a great many experiments, neuroscience, and the brain. These are all important to understand how memory works, and are well covered in my book, but it is also designed to instruct students on how to apply these concepts to their everyday lives."

Schwartz's book devotes the whole last chapter to scientific and theoretical principles of memory translated into practical areas to which people can apply knowledge about human memory--such as study skills. Schwartz emphasizes that memory improvement does not come for free—it requires work and intelligence. There are clearly individual differences in the ability to learn, process information, and remember it later, but even the most intelligent and gifted must work to learn. Here are some memory improvement methods you can incorporate into your daily life, work or education:

- Spacing effect or distributed practice: Space your study over time—don't study all at once.
- Think of learning as work: There is no magic bullet for memory. Good memory requires hard work.
- External cues can help: Structure your environment to help you remember.
- Practice, practice, practice: Train your working memory. (Remember those math tables?)
- Organization: Apply meaningful categories to information you want to learn.
- Retrieval cues: Create powerful retrieval cues.
- Memory diary: Record events from your life every day.
- Close your eyes: This allows you to recall more details from episodic memories.
- Memory conversations: Have frequent discussions with young children about past events to promote later recall of those events.

Memory, Foundations and Applications

Bennett L. Schwartz

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HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI ARTISTS

“Art is born of the observation and investigation of nature.” – Cicero

You want your major to be what? Many people do not see the practical use of majoring in art. Here at the Honors College we say “Bring it on!” The student-artists at the Honors College have nurtured their curiosity and immersed themselves through the creative spirit at the Honors College. The innovative and unorthodox teaching methods inspire originality and the artistic process unique to each individual. The Honors College gave flight to these artists by providing resources and the critical thinking skills needed to develop style and innovation. Throughout the years, Honors students have embraced the artistic spirit and put it to work.



On Display, 2008
Oil on board
Courtesy David Nolan Gallery

Victoria Gitman (1996)

Take another look at Victoria Gitman’s paintings. Yes, they really are paintings. It takes a while to realize that these vintage purses are not real but painted images. Gitman’s new paintings of beaded purses, part of her series “On Display,” play with the distinctions between art and design and sartorial and artistic style. The full frontal “portraits” of purses are meticulously painted, bead by bead and thread by thread, and they take three to four months to complete. The painstaking labor involved in the making of these representations echoes the work involved in the actual hand-beading of the purses, a kind of re-enactment in a new medium.

Gitman joined the inaugural class of the Honors College in 1990 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and a Bachelor of Fine

Arts degree in Visual Arts. Since then, her paintings and drawings have been featured in numerous exhibitions. Her works are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York as well as in FIU’s own Frost Art Museum.

Gitman’s labor-intensive paintings and drawings have strong conceptual undercurrents—they play with embedded notions of gender, beauty and style in the history of Western art—and she credits the Honors College with introducing her to much of the conceptual thinking that later influenced her works. “The Honors College not only introduced me very early on to the writings of key contemporary theorists, it also posited a way of thinking that became essential to my artistic practice: an interdisciplinary approach that weaves connections, seeks patterns, and questions basic assumptions about the world. I had the great privilege of being mentored to be more than a critical thinker: to re-imagine our worlds.”



Daniel G. "Danny" Pino (1996)

A graduate of the Honors College in 1996, Danny Pino has been making headlines on film, television and stage for years. Pino is known for his versatility playing roles as diverse as Desi Arnaz in *Lucy* and as Mexican druglord and serial rapist Armadillo Quintero on FX's *The Shield*.

In 2002, Pino starred in London's West End Theatre in a summer production of "Up for Grabs," appearing opposite Madonna, who personally selected Pino to be her co-star. He has also appeared in Andy Garcia's evocative *The Lost City* and *Flicka*, which featured Tim McGraw. Pino also starred in the hit CBS series *Cold Case*, where he played Detective Scotty Valdes. In between his appearances in television and the theater, he found time to return to Miami to perform on stage, most recently starring in *Havana Bourgeoisie*, a play about the volatile politics of the first years of the Cuban Revolution.



Ana Maria Lagasca (1999)

From the moment she enrolled in the Honors College, Ana Maria Lagasca knew she wanted to pursue an acting career. "It certainly was a place that supported my endeavors and where I really began to know that I would be pursuing acting as my profession—seriously," said Lagasca. For her Honors College independent study project, she interned at the VH1 cable channel in New York. It was there that she got a behind-the-scenes look at the entertainment industry. She also credits Honors College Professor Bill Beesting for playing an instrumental part in her progress as an actor and student.

Shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from FIU, she moved to Los Angeles and almost immediately started getting work in television and film. She made her film debut in Esmeralda Santiago's *Almost A Woman* for PBS Masterpiece Theatre in 2002. She has several co-starring credits in television programs, including the *X-Files*, *NCIS*, *ER*, and *NUMB3RS*. She also enjoys using her vocal skills (she is a classically-trained mezzo-soprano) and her multilingual proficiency (in English, Spanish, and Italian) for voice-over work in films, video games, commercials and translation projects. She even exhibited her dancing skills for a "Designate a Driver" television campaign. The majority of her acting time is spent in theatre productions. Last year, Lagasca starred in a play about African American poet Langston Hughes and Cuban writer Nicolas Guillen at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood, California. She received glowing reviews from the local arts press for her multiple roles (portraying Hughes' mistress and the wife of Guillen) in the play. She is currently auditioning for new television programs for the pilot season in Los Angeles.

Thais Reiss (2005)

Although currently working in the corporate world, Thais Reiss has always been passionate about music and the arts. At age 6, she started her music education in theory and piano. She undertook vocal training and composition in 2002 with Loren Oliveira, who then invited her to join the *Brazilian Voices*. Her Brazilian background drew her to join the group, a women's vocal ensemble that performs at community cultural and philanthropic events.

"I've always loved performing," Reiss says, "and I'm especially proud to be part of the organization's Culture & Educational team. The group breathes life into culture with this theatrical and musical journey through a modern, contemporary Brazil."

Reiss has been participating in *Brazilian Voices* annually for the past four years.



Lysistrata, 2009
Rosemarie Romero

Rosemarie Romero (2009)

Honors College alumna Rosemarie Romero is a successful artist today who credits two Honors College professors for inspiring her. "I believe my experience with the Honors College contributed a large part to my success as an artist and independent curator, especially Professor John Bailly's class, Aesthetics and Values." [For more on the A&V class, see page 4 in this issue.] "This class taught me about critical issues in art and how to research, curate, and organize a professional on-campus exhibition of contemporary Miami artists. In addition, fieldtrips exposed me to the Wynwood Miami art scene and amazing local art institutions, which has helped me tremendously in my career as an artist."

One of Romero's widely popular exhibitions focused on the impact of war. "J.C. Espinosa's class, Art of War, was about the representation of war through art, pop culture, music, and propaganda. I used this class to further research the issues related to the content of my work. The course deepened my critical thinking skills and it exposed me to mind-blowing topics, books, and films I'd never heard of before. I have to say, these two Honors College classes were the most significant to me during the 4 years I studied at Florida International University."

After graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art from FIU, she became a working artist, curator, and art teacher. Currently, Rosemarie is working as a teaching assistant in a studio while completing her MFA at the University of Florida in Creative Photography. Her work in decollage and photomontage deals with the semiotic deconstruction and critique of pop culture, politics, and transience within a consumer society. She has won several awards and grants in the arts, and has exhibited work in numerous venues in Miami, including the Frost Art Museum, The Bakehouse Art Complex, Art Center South Florida, Scratch DJ Academy, and a solo exhibition at the World Erotic Art Museum in South Beach.

Installation 7: (Roadside Okeechobee), 2009
32 Beer Bottles on Suspended String
Sergio Rioseco

Sergio Rioseco (2010)

Sergio Rioseco graduated from the Honors College in 2010 earning a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art and Art History. Due to the interdisciplinary flexibility of the Honors College he would often opt to create art rather than the usual written assignment. The out-of-the-classroom course on the Everglades gave him an opportunity to experience the natural environment in a new and engaging way. He learned to create art pieces with all kinds of found objects, "an experience I could not have had on my own." He would collect urban waste found on the site and compose it



in an eccentric and eye-catching manner, often mimicking naturally occurring motifs on the site. "Sometimes I would use found trash, such as pieces of ceramic plates or empty beer bottles. On other occasions I chose strictly natural objects including vines, leaves, tree bark and rocks. I always arranged the objects in accordance with classic art elements." Line, color, and especially composition allow these installations of nontraditional objects to transcend the mundane and evoke a feeling of fine art. "Just as with fine art, the subtle privileged beauty of the Everglades can only be experienced by those who really "look." "Art is thus not an object, but rather a way of seeing or experiencing." Sergio affectionately credits the Honors College and its unique brand of unorthodox teaching for turning him onto this form of art.

Crystal Sepulveda (2008)

Crystal Sepulveda is a performing artist, movement educator, experimental writer and choreographer. Her academic and artistic interests grapple with conceptualizing the notion of place and the lure of the encounter entangled and embedded within public, private and imaginary terrain.

Her enrollment in Aesthetics, Values and Authority in the Mediterranean was a valuable and critical experience. Researching from a critical dance studies lens, Sepulveda wrote *Public Spaces of Antiquity in Italy: The Relationship between Time & Space in the 'Monumental' Piazza*. Mentorship by Honors professors John Bailly and J. C. Espinosa has been vital to the choreographic process of her earlier works, *Nervending* and *Iris*. The experimental soundscape for *Iris* – a work in progress – was Espinosa's musical composition *Wind Walking*. Countless talks on the process of *Nervending* with John Bailly, including a close study of his paintings, shaped aspects of the choreography.

Professionally, Sepulveda has performed her work abroad in Regello, Italy, and Tijuana, Mexico, and throughout the United States. Some of her most significant performances and collaborations were in *Stop Look & Listen, Iris* (2008), *The Blue Ribbon* at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art, *Go Dog Go* at the Florida Dance Festival (2008) and *Globotica* at the Centro Cultural Tijuana, Mexico (April 2010).

She is currently pursuing an MFA in experimental choreography at the University of California, Riverside. She is a teacher's assistant in UCR's Dance Department, a recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship award and a Fellow of UCR's Gluck Fellows Program for the Arts, where she teaches the art of dance-making, improvisation and performance to local school students in Riverside, CA. Crystal's current work in progress, *Fluid Mechanics*, will premiere at the Culver Center for the Arts in Downtown Riverside, CA. □



Ernesto Fernandez

Ernesto Fernandez is a senior graduating from the Honors College this spring with a double major in Music Performance and Music Education. A talented flutist, he was born in Havana, Cuba in 1989 and began his music studies at the age of six. In 1996, he moved with his parents to the Dominican Republic where he continued his education and performed in numerous venues including a jazz concert at the invitation of famed flutist Nestor Torres. Ernesto and his family moved to Miami in 2002. Two weeks after arriving in Miami, Ernesto was invited to perform in a Latin Jazz Festival with artists such as bassist Israel Lopez "Cachao," and others.

After graduating in the Top 10 of his class at South Miami High School,

Ernesto entered FIU with a full scholarship in August 2006 after being admitted to the Honors College. He studies with adjunct professor and Florida Grand Opera Principal Flutist Elissa Lakofsky.

"The Honors College helped me expand my horizons and my vision, and taught me how to think outside the box and be open to different ideas, even if they go against my values. It taught me how to evaluate and discuss things in life, and to accept difference in the world. It taught me integrity. It helped me become an all-around, exemplary human being."

Ernesto is currently deciding whether to go to graduate school at the University of Michigan or the University of Miami.

Daniel Yellin (sophomore)

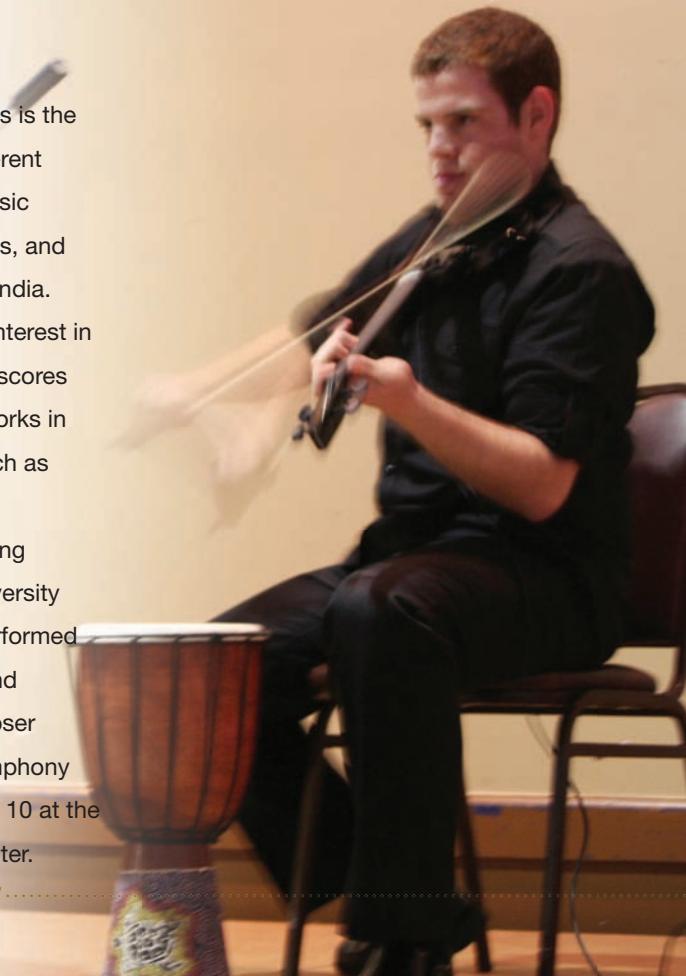
Honors College sophomore Daniel Yellin is a percussionist and violinist pursuing bachelor's degrees in the areas of music performance and technology. He has been involved in the arts since 4th grade and participated in the marching band at John A. Ferguson Senior High while performing with various independent percussion groups at state and national levels.

Daniel's band, which includes fellow Honors College student Ayman Elyasin, has performed at the Honors College convocation for the past two years. They've won the "Miami's Got Talent" competition and performed for the Sweetwater Elementary Fine Arts Showcase, in addition to collaborating with belly dancers on Middle Eastern pieces.

One of Daniel's main pursuits is the exploration of music from different cultures, such as Gamelan music from Bali, West African rhythms, and Hindustani music from South India. Additionally, he has taken an interest in studying film and video game scores and has composed his own works in electronic music programs such as Max/MSP and Ableton.

Daniel recently won the Spring 2011 Florida International University Concerto Competition and performed the Concertino for Marimba and Orchestra by American composer Paul Creston with the FIU Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, March 10 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

.....The Honors College Review.....





ARCH

The Honors College research program, previously known as the Student Research and Artistic Initiative (SRAI), has long paired faculty with students who shared similar research interests. Now renamed Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (ARCH) the program encompasses nearly every academic discipline and artistic endeavor, offering graduate-level supervised research and creative projects and hosting the annual ARCH undergraduate research conference.



Worlds Ahead Event

FIU's Worlds Ahead event on Tuesday, November 2, was an affirmation and celebration of the many ways in which FIU is "worlds ahead." The Honors College-Sweetwater partnership was among four Worlds Ahead programs chosen to showcase FIU's accomplishments. "Inspiring Real Change: The FIU Honors College Partners with Sweetwater" video showed Honors students making a difference in the lives of Sweetwater residents through free tutoring, exercise programs, athletics, and computer training for senior citizens. See this inspiring video at <http://www.fiu.edu/spotlight/sweetwater.htm>



Bailly Receives FIU's Top Teaching Award

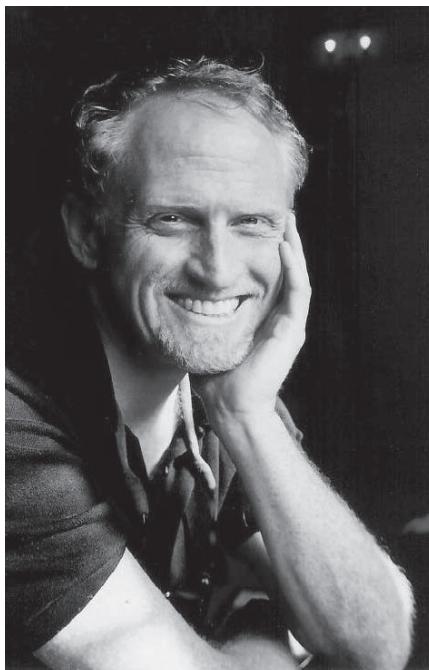
Honors College Professor John Bailly received the highest academic teaching award from FIU—the Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching--on September 7th at the annual Faculty Convocation, a ceremony to kick off the new school year and recognize the accomplishments of the University's faculty. As an Honors College instructor, Bailly established the course that annually produces the Aesthetics & Values Exhibition of art, which has earned national recognition. A&V students have presented their innovative work at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference every year since 2007. The students have also curated and participated in special projects in a variety of venues. Bailly is also responsible for introducing the popular and successful Reacting to the Past program into the Honors curriculum. Dynamic, creative, and charismatic, Bailly regularly has waiting lists of students for his courses.



Sweetwater Reforestation Day

This fall at Beasley Linear Park in Sweetwater, Honors College students were asked to become conquistadores for a day. "I hereby reclaim this land for nature," they announced, using the slogan of the Reclamation Project of the Miami Science Museum. With a grant from the Arbor Day Foundation, sponsored by Toyota, Honors College students planted a variety of native trees along the park's canal and celebrated the University's second year in the Tree Campus USA program. Working with Community Advisory Board member Juan Vila and his landscaping firm, Vila and Son, some thirty Honors College students volunteered to dig and plant the trees. The project was part of the ongoing Honors College-Sweetwater Partnership.

Colloquia



Campbell McGrath

The Honors College's first of three fall semester colloquia featured award-winning poet and Phillip and Patricia Frost Professor of Creative Writing Campbell McGrath. His presentation included selected poetry readings from his book *Florida Poems*. McGrath, a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" recipient, writes poetry dealing with American popular culture and history.

McGrath is the author of eight volumes of poetry, including *Shannon: A Poem of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (Ecco Press, 2009), an epic poem of the American West. His poetry has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, *Harper's* and the op-ed page of the *New York Times*, as well as in dozens of literary journals and quarterlies and over forty anthologies. His awards include Guggenheim Foundation Fellowships, the Kingsley Tufts Prize, and a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress. He has taught at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, and for the last seventeen years at Florida International University.

Colonel Lettie Bien

Attorney, businesswoman, war veteran and community advocate Colonel Lettie Bien delivered her talk, "From Pom-Poms to Combat Boots: A Journey of Risk and Reward" on November 9th as part of the Honors College Colloquium series. Colonel Bien served her country as an Army officer in Intelligence and Special Operations for 30 years. Her distinguished career included tours as the West Point Admissions Officer in South Florida, as a Civil Affairs Battalion Commander, as the Relocation Director for the U.S. Southern Command, and as a Policy Officer in the Pentagon. She served two tours in Iraq in high-level government positions. Among her many service recognitions, she is the recipient of the Distinguished Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.



Michael Heithaus

Michael Heithaus, Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the FIU Marine Science Program, delivered the second colloquium of the fall semester on November 1, 2010, at the BBC campus. His topic was "Using Technology to Reveal the Lives of Marine Animals." Before coming to FIU in 2003, he was a staff scientist at the Mote Marine Laboratory's Center for Shark Research, where he worked with National Geographic's Remote Imaging Department. The department is famous for conducting research using the "Crittercam," an imaging device attached to the backs of animals for detailed study of their daily lives. He has been involved in the production of more than a dozen natural history documentaries and works with National Geographic in its educational outreach programs for middle and high school students. He has dozens of publications. In addition to teaching and research duties, Heithaus is the director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society within the College of Arts and Sciences at FIU.

NCHC 2010- Kansas City



National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Kansas City

The NCHC is the professional association of undergraduate Honors programs and colleges. NCHC provides support for institutions and individuals developing, implementing, and expanding Honors education through curriculum development, program assessment, teaching innovation, national and international study opportunities, internships, service and leadership development, and mentored research.

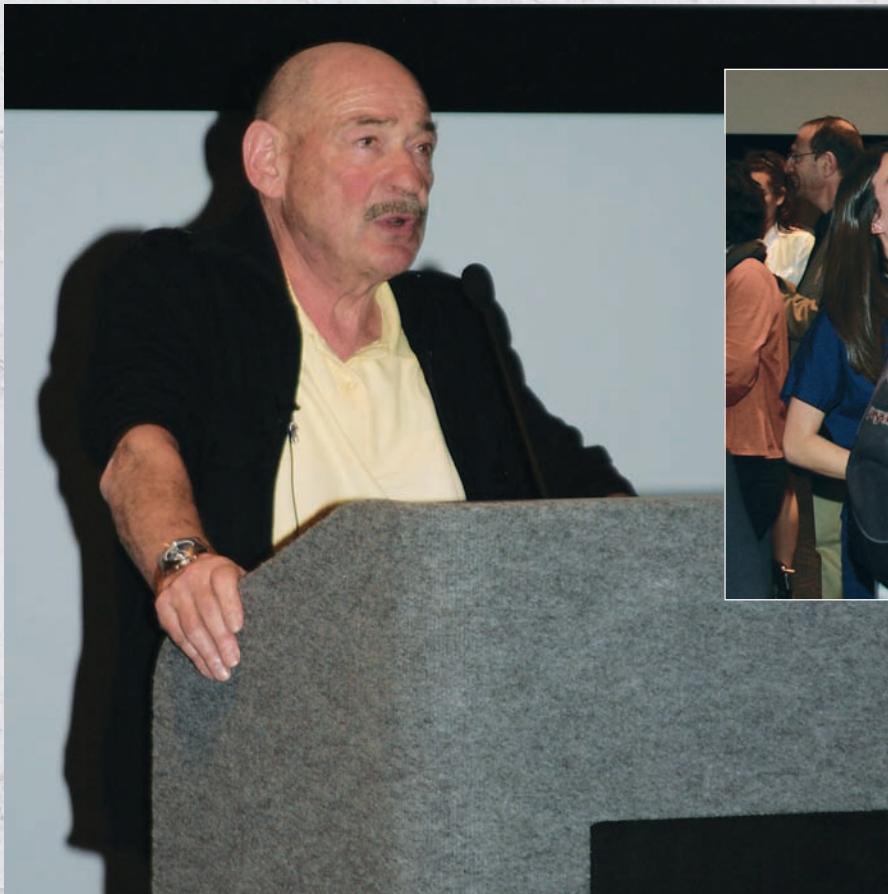
Every October, the Honors College sends staff, faculty members, and students to the NCHC conference, where students present juried papers and other submissions. This year, four faculty members (Peter Machonis, Devon Graham, John Bailly, and Cecile Houry) and three students (Michelle and Alexandra Montessino and Jairo Pava) attended the conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Machonis and Graham

facilitated a City as Text event, one of the most popular NCHC programs. They also serve on the Committee on Honors Semesters. Cecile Houry sat on the International Education Committee. Bailly offered a mind-bending art workshop.

The Honors College was well represented by student presentations, including a recreation of a provocative performance art project called "Face Act" using the face of volunteer Cecile Houry. "Pulling, Poking and Pinching Her Face: Honors and Contemporary Art" was presented by Michelle Montesino, Alexandra Montesino, and John Bailly.

Art Basel Miami Beach is the leading contemporary art fair in the US. The fair and the accompanying satellite fairs represent a comprehensive review of global artistic developments. The FIU Honors College utilizes the fair as a unique pedagogical setting for students to test avant-garde ideas. During the

2009 fair, three students were invited by Finnish artist Pia Lindman to be active participants in her performance, "Face Act." Lindman allowed the students to use her face as their stage, pulling, poking, and pinching her face to create the corresponding facial expressions for a series of controversial statements, thereby examining both expressions and the authenticity behind them, exploring and deconstructing several traditional boundaries. The students discovered that performance art liberates art from the limitations of physical objects. The distinctions between artist and audience and learner and subject vanished as the students became part of the work themselves. The performance also challenged the idea of the traditional classroom, as learning occurred primarily by interactions in alternative settings, with the instructor serving primarily as facilitator rather than lecturer. □



Holocaust Survivor Joseph Weismann

The Honors College hosted a special lecture with Holocaust survivor Joseph Weismann on January 25th at the new 400-seat SIPA auditorium on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Weismann discussed his harrowing experiences as an 11-year-old boy during the round-up and internment of thousands of Jews in the Velodrome d'Hiver in Paris by French police on July 16, 1942. He called his talk a "testimony" and proceeded to detail the calamity witnessed at each step of the internment process. The graphic nature of this testimony left many audience members in shock. The hour-long question and answer session that followed the talk was equally

enthralling. Students asked him probing questions about the reasons for the round-up and who is ultimately to blame for these events. Weismann answered with the frankness and conviction of an 80-year-old man who still has a clear memory of the politics involved before and after the round-up and of the criminality of the French police. In the end, Weismann pointed out that he wanted his story, repressed for many years, heard and discussed today among his French countrymen. He mentioned how he hopes the popular French movie, *La Rafle* (*The Round Up* in English), based on his childhood experience of these events, will help re-write a forgotten chapter

in French history. He also discussed how the anti-minority group fervor and youthful discontent emerging in present France troubles him. He concluded his lecture with a poignant statement: "Never accept the unacceptable."

Weismann, who boldly escaped from an extermination camp, is one of the few French children to have survived the mass deportation of Jewish families. He currently resides in Le Mans, France, where he is vice-president of a Jewish community group. Weismann also is a frequent guest speaker in local schools and French television, discussing his legacy as a witness to this troubling period during World War II. □

Anya Kamenetz



This year's Honors College Excellence Lectures explored a common theme—learning outside the college setting. Author Anya Kamenetz delivered the fall 2010

Excellence Lecture on October 14th to a room packed with over 200 Honors College students and guests. Her talk was based on her new book, *DIY U: Edupunks, Edupreneurs, and the Coming Transformation of Higher Education*, which discusses how technology is disrupting tradition-bound universities. In her speech, Kamenetz emphasized how people from many different disciplines are bypassing higher education to learn specific job skills. She stressed how the proliferation of free online resources, such as training videos and college courses, is creating a paradigm shift from traditional forms of pedagogy. She ended her lecture by stating these technological tools, along with the job networking capabilities of the internet,

make it possible for people to get jobs and not ever set foot in a university.

Kamenetz was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by the *Village Voice* for her featured series, which later became a highly regarded book entitled *Generation Debt: The New Economics of Being Young*. The book, written when she was just 24, drew national media attention and passionate online debate with its argument that young people are facing unique and unprecedented economic challenges. As a "Millennial Generation" expert, Kamenetz is sought after by major media outlets for her compelling insights into generation-specific issues, ranging from technology and social networking to career engagement opportunities in the new green economy. □

Aryeh Rubin

The spring 2011 lecture featured businessman and philanthropist Aryeh Rubin at both the Biscayne Bay and Modesto A. Maidique campuses on February 16th and 17th, respectively. Rubin's lecture, titled *Things I Wish I'd Been Taught in College*, addressed some of the essential life lessons he learned after graduating from college that led him to a successful professional and personal life. These lessons included establishing your priorities, determining how you view and respond to economic issues and pressures, self-trust, entrepreneurship, activism, relationships, beliefs, and mental and physical health. He discussed certain life experiences, such as the mistakes he wished he could have avoided, to let the student-

dominated audience know that learning doesn't stop after college. He pointed out the use of technology to help you create a more fulfilling life. For instance, he demonstrated how a lot of his down time is spent listening to online lectures and watching online documentaries.

Rubin is the founding partner and managing director of The Maot Group, an investment company. He founded the firm in 1991 with the mission of creating a well-diversified investment group that operates responsibly and ethically. He is the editor of the recently published book *Jewish Sages of Today* (Devora Publishing, 2009). His opinion pieces and articles have appeared in *The Jewish Week*, *The Jerusalem Report*, and *The JOFA Journal*. He has been



profiled in articles in several publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Daily Business Review*, and *The Jewish Star Times*. □



Espanolaphone, Alexander Z. Kruse



Regina Bailey
Assistant Director of the
Wolfsonian and Honors
College Faculty Fellow

Since this last January, nearly 200 first year students from Florida International University's Honors College have come to The Wolfsonian Museum and library to get started on a semester-long project to investigate the social, political, and cultural context of a museum object of their choosing. In addition to guided tours of the gallery floors and the exhibit in the library foyer, these students also received an orientation to the rare books and special collections library. Afterwards, they were invited inside to see at close hand some of the rare materials laid out on the tables of the main reading room.



THE WOLFSONIAN AND THE HONORS COLLEGE

The Wolfsonian-FIU is a museum, library and research center with a focus on art and design. The Wolfsonian collection consists of over 120,000 pieces from the period 1885 to 1945. The Wolfsonian's collection is an exceptional resource for teaching and research. Encompassing fine art, decorative art, industrial and architectural design, political propaganda, and rare books, journals, and ephemera, and drawing primarily from the modern era, The Wolfsonian's holdings can sustain scholarship and stimulate learning across a range of disciplines and a great variety of humanities themes. The museum's overarching goal for its second decade as a part of the University is to develop programs that will make its collection a catalyst for building complementary areas of academic strength at FIU. Its partnership with the Honors College has been one of the primary means by which this is happening.

The Wolfsonian and the Honors College mirror each other in their multidisciplinary approach to learning and research. The museum looks at objects as

both agents and expressions of change. While these objects can best be understood in the context in which they were created, they illuminate as much about our times as they reveal about their own.

Honors College professors have been taking their classes to The Wolfsonian since the museum was gifted to the University in 1997. Wolfsonian staff members have been guest lecturers in classes, designed specialized tours and workshops for courses, introduced students to object-based and primary source research, and hosted an annual event for the Honors College freshman class. During this time, students have written papers and developed projects based on collection objects and exhibitions, covering a wide range of topics from democracy to the making of pizza. Working with the collection has prepared students to understand the impact of image and object design on the world today.

This year the annual freshman class tour has developed into a semester-long project, giving Honors College freshmen

the unique opportunity to learn to use materials in the collection as a basis for research. The students choose an individual object, analyze its purpose, investigate its social context and message, and identify the artist and his or her aim in creating the piece. The students also must pair up the historical artifact with a more contemporary version or modern variant that shares a similar function in today's society, and to explore the implications of social and technological change over time.

While many of the students will opt for analyzing and describing one of the many fine art objects on view in our exhibition gallery floors, they are encouraged to consider some of the unusual items held in the rare books and special collections library. In addition to holding some 50,000 or so rare and unusual books and periodicals, the library also holds somewhere in the neighborhood of 50,000 ephemeral artifacts, including postcards, mechanical works, games, keepsakes, sound recordings, novelties, packaging, labels, stereographs, calendars, and brochures. □

Invest in the Future Now!

We instill in all Honors students intellectual rigor, unwavering ethical standards, and leadership skills. To be leaders, they know they have to begin to give back to the community that has fostered their education and growth. Honors students have embraced this challenge to become leaders, investing their time, talent, and treasure in the Sweetwater partnership, the Overtown Youth Center, and numerous campus initiatives.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO INVEST IN THEM

Our most crucial needs:

- **A NAMING SPONSOR** for both the College and its proposed new building.
- **STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS** to help deserving students experience another culture and be better citizens of the world.
- **OUT-OF-STATE (and country) SCHOLARSHIPS** to bring the world to Honors.
- **GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP** assistance that we can use discretionarily to help those in most need.
- **UNDEGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS** to advance the skills, knowledge, and passions of students from the beginning of their academic careers.

For information on any aspect of giving to the Honors College, please contact Lili Hernandez at **305- 348- 4100** or email lhernan@fiu.edu



Donor Profile

Helene Graham

Mother Theresa once said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." The Sheri Anne Graham Memorial Scholarship was born out of much love. Helene and the late Murray Graham lost their only daughter, Sheri Anne, to cancer on April 18, 1987, when she was only 36. At the Graham's family business, The Photo Center Stores of South Florida, she was

Vice-President and Director of Advertising. She was a graduate of Barry University in fashion design and merchandising. "Sheri loved designing and shopping. We used to shop together and I miss that," said Mrs. Graham with great sadness. After the loss of her daughter and then her husband of 62 years, Mrs. Graham devoted herself to charitable endeavors.

Sheri Anne was a beautiful, vivacious, outgoing young woman who excelled in skiing, tennis, horseback riding, swimming and photography. Most of all, she enjoyed being with and helping people. Sheri would have been extremely pleased to know her name is being perpetuated to further the education of worthy students. □



Helene Graham with daughter Sheri Anne Graham and husband Murray Graham.



A number of Honors College students have benefitted from the Sheri Anne Graham Memorial scholarship. During a recent Donor Appreciation Luncheon, current scholarship recipient Tatiana Martinez Pandiani had the opportunity to meet and thank Mrs. Graham.



Jacob Hunter, Elgina Cantave, Interim Dean Lesley A. Northup, Gerald C. Grant Jr., Andria Thomas

The Honors College held its first Donor Appreciation Luncheon on October 29, 2010, at the FIU Faculty Club. In attendance were Honors College Interim Dean Lesley Northup; Associate Dean J. C. Espinosa; and Gerald C. Grant Jr., a member of the Honors College Community Advisory Board, the FIU Foundation Board and the donor of the Gerald C. Grant Jr., scholarship. Philip and Euline Seecharan also attended with their son Khaleel, a graduate of the Honors College who, with his brother, has created a scholarship in their name. Grant



Fernando Canizares, Euline Seecharan, Philip Seecharan, Khaleel Seecharan

Scholarship recipients Jacob Hunter, Elgina Cantave, and Andria Thomas enjoyed their lunch with Mr. Grant, who was eager to hear about their accomplishments as Honors students. Seecharan scholarship recipient Fernando Canizares was thrilled to meet his donors and personally thank them for their generosity. Mr. Grant stayed on to attend the Honors College Convocation and hand out the certificates to his scholarship winners. The donors were presented with a Donor Appreciation Award recognizing their contributions to the Honors College.

On October 29, 2010, the scholarship winners of the Jordan Castellon Ricardo scholarship—Kyle A. Weisenberg and Roberto Valdes—met with donors Arturo Jordan, Carlos Castellon and Ed Ricardo at their office in Coral Gables. Associate Dean J. C. Espinosa and Development Officer Lilian Hernandez accompanied them and the partners hosted lunch at a nearby restaurant. The luncheon gave the students an opportunity to meet and talk with their donors and personally thank them. The three accounting firm partners enjoyed their encounter so much they visited FIU on January 19, 2011, where they met all the scholarship recipients and toured the Frost Art Museum. Jordan, Castellon and Ricardo were presented with an award recognizing their contributions to the Honors College. □



Arturo Jordan, Kyle Weisenberg, Roberto Valdes, Ed Ricardo, Jordan Castellon



Ana Menéndez

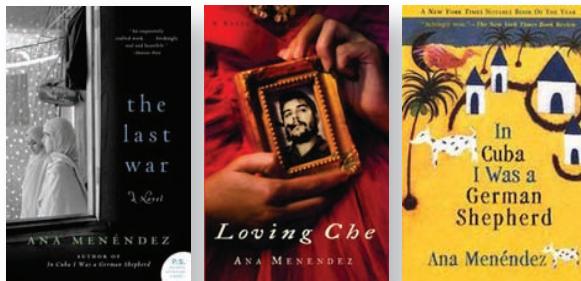
Being able to travel around the world and experience other cultures is just a dream to many of us. But this is the everyday life of alumna Ana Menéndez, author, journalist and a former Fulbright scholar in Egypt. She graduated from the Honors College in 1992 with a B.A. in English. Since 1991 Ana has worked as a journalist in the United States and abroad and most recently as a prize-winning columnist for *The Miami Herald*. As a reporter, she has written about Cuba, Haiti, Kashmir, Afghanistan and India, where she was based for three years.

Ana Menéndez was born in Los Angeles, the daughter of Cuban exiles. She is the author of three books of fiction. *In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd* was a 2001 *New York Times* notable book of the year and the title story won a Pushcart Prize. *Loving Che* came out in 2004 and *The Last War* (2009) was chosen by Publishers Weekly as one of the top 100 books of the year. Her work has appeared in a variety of publications including *Vogue*, *Bomb Magazine*, *Poets & Writers* and *Gourmet Magazine* and has been included in several anthologies, including *Cubanísimo!* and *American Food Writing*. The Honors College is proud to have her among many accomplished alums in the creative fields.

Ana took some away from her busy schedule to share some memories of her college life and career.

How did you end up on this career path?

"While still a student at FIU, I got a part-time job at *The Miami Herald*'s Fort Lauderdale bureau. I compiled a weekly column on traffic news, but most of the job consisted of answering the phone and sorting mail. I was the best mail sorter they ever had! When I graduated from FIU, I got a full-time job reporting for neighbors. I made \$375 a week.



Eventually I left the *Herald* for Orange County, went to New York University for graduate studies and lived and traveled the world while freelancing and writing books. I lived three years in India, two in Istanbul and one in Cairo. At the moment, I'm living in Amsterdam.

I just finished a fourth book, a collection of short stories called *Adios, Happy Homeland!*

Any memorable events that you can recall from the Honors experience?

"Many of them, even though it seems so long ago! I remember an Honors seminar I took on the new-fangled technology of compact discs! It was very eye-opening and wondrous for

a humanities major. I also remember the wonderful colleagues I had in the program (then called the Faculty Scholars Program). And I'm very grateful for the support of the program itself. It was the paid tuition and book stipend that persuaded me to attend FIU. I've always been very frugal!"

What are you most proud of?

"My personal relationships. I am very close to my family and stay in touch with old friends, who mean a lot to me. I recently reconnected with my best friend from elementary school, Niria Leyva."

Do you think the Honors College contributed to your success?

"I'll never forget Caryl Grof persuading me to go to graduate school. She said something like, 'You're too good a student to stop at a bachelors.' It had never occurred to me to continue my education. I really wanted to work and be independent. And that's what I did, at least initially. But she must have planted a seed, because six years later, I left journalism for graduate school."

Any advice for current students?

"Study hard, but don't forget to enjoy the ride. College is really one of the few times in your life when you will be expected and encouraged to devote all your time to the life of the mind. It's an incredible luxury. □

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD NEWS



Ruth Jimenez, Vice President and Branch Manager of US Century Bank, stepped down from her role as the Honors College Community Advisory Board (CAB) chair at the end of her term. She will remain on the board and continue to support the Honors College with the same passion and dedication.

Congratulations to new Community Advisory Board chair Orlando Gonzales and Vice-Chair Honors alumna Tina Vidal-Smith

Orlando Gonzales



Orlando Gonzales works as the Program Manager for SER-Jobs for Progress National, Inc., an initiative to help Americans find

employment, education, and training for healthcare careers. Orlando is a graduate of Georgetown University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in sociology, focusing on community service, race, culture, and women's studies.

Tina M. Vidal-Smith (2004)



Tina Vidal-Smith is currently Chief Operating Officer of Pacer Corporation. A company that acquires and turns around financially distressed

businesses. She graduated from FIU Honors College with a Bachelor's degree in International Business and a Master's degree in International Business in 2004.

The Honors College also would like to thank the following outgoing members of the Community Advisory Board for their dedication and service:

Gerald C. Grant Jr. – Branch Director of Corporate and Individual Financial Planning at Axa Advisors

Juan Vila – President and CEO of Vila & Son Landscaping Corporation

David Samuel Hitt – Vice President of Banco Popular

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?



Mick DiMaria (1993) chose a career that gives him the opportunity to combine business with art. As Creative Director of the advertising firm

72andSunny in Los Angeles, DiMaria applies interdisciplinary and innovative Honors-style thinking every day in his career. "My favorite part of my job is solving tough marketing problems in the most creative possible way," he says. "Watching that work and impact culture and our client's bottom lines is very rewarding,... plus, it's just fun!" You probably have seen his most famous commercial, an advertisement for Carl's Jr. in which Paris Hilton washes a Bentley while eating a burger.

In his senior year at FIU, DiMaria interned at Crispin Porter + Bogusky (then Crispin/Porter) in Miami. He cites it as an inspiring, pivotal experience that set the tone for the rest of his career. Following graduation from FIU, DiMaria moved to Southern California to take an advertising portfolio-building course called The Bookshop in Los Angeles. Over the next two years, he built up his copywriting portfolio and entered his work and won awards in local shows.

DiMaria is grateful that his Honors college professors also served as mentors since several of them were advertising professors and could offer firsthand knowledge about the business. "I learned a little about a lot of things in school. It was a great overview of every department found in an ad agency. And it was then that I decided I wanted to be part of the creative department." To round out his artistic interests, DiMaria is an avid musician and composer.

Congratulations to the Honors College Alumni Torch Award winners!

Three Honors College graduates were recognized at the 10th Annual Torch Awards for outstanding alumni gala on Saturday March 19.



Cesar A. González, Esq. (1997)

Chief of Staff for Representative Mario Díaz-Balart

As chief of staff for Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart, Cesar González is the congressman's chief policy advisor and assists in the implementation of his office's policy objectives, strategies and operating plans. He also oversees the Washington, D.C., office and Miami and Naples district offices. González has worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop immigration reform such as the latest House version of the DREAM Act and is developing legislative strategy for its passage. He recently worked to pass the Legal Immigrant Children Health Improvement Act, and remains involved in numerous committees.



David Cohen, Esq. (1986)

Executive Vice President and General Counsel, New York Mets

A graduate of the accounting program at FIU and member of the inaugural class of "Faculty Scholars" (now known as The Honors College), David Cohen is executive vice president and general counsel of the New York Mets. He serves on the executive management team and oversees legal affairs and human resources. A member of the FIU Alumni Association, the attorney and sports enthusiast has served for more than a decade on the board of directors of Harlem RBI, a baseball and social service organization in East Harlem, N.Y., and served as chairman of the board for seven years.



Alfredo N. Cepero (1988), MAcc. (1990)

Assurance Partner, BDO

Another "Faculty Scholars" graduate, Cepero is a partner with the Miami assurance practice of BDO USA, LLP where he oversees human resources initiatives and on-campus recruiting at FIU and the University of Miami. A community leader, he is the national past president of the Association for Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting and past president of its

Miami chapter. A member of the FIU Alumni Association, he is chairman of the College of Business Dean's Alumni Circle and serves on the advisory board of the School of Accounting.

An Evening with the Arts!

presented by:
Sweetwater Elementary
& FIU Honors College



Save The Date

Join us for
An Evening with the Arts
Wednesday, April 20,
at 7:00 p.m.

Jorge Mas Canosa
Youth Center
250 SW 114th Avenue
Sweetwater

This event includes an art exhibition and musical acts by Sweetwater elementary and Honors College students and a reception.

For questions, please contact Cecile Houry at choury@fiu.edu

Alumni Notes



Alexander Arias (2009), Alex graduated magna cum laude in Political Science and received a certificate in Cuban and Cuban American Studies.

He also participated in the Honors College undergraduate research program, where he completed a thesis on the thought of Jose Marti. Alex was also employed at the FIU Metropolitan Center during his senior year.

He is currently in his second year at the University of Miami School of Law and intends to pursue a career centered around real estate development and transactions. He was recently admitted to the L.L.M. (Legal Master's of Law Program) for

Real Property and Development at the University of Miami, a program that explores subjects like land acquisition, finance, regulation, tax law, construction law, and residential and commercial development. Alex is also currently working at Sovereign Real Estate Group, a firm specializing in real estate transactional services throughout the investment life cycle. He will be spending the summer as an intern at The Related Group, the nation's leading builder of luxury condominiums and one of the country's premier multi-family real estate development firms. While at law school he has also been on the Dean's List, is currently on the Psychology and Public Policy Law Review, and was awarded the CALI Excellence for the Future Award for Torts.



Jamilla Espinosa (2009), graduated from the Honors College with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a minor in Anthropology. She was accepted into one of only 52 spots in

the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at FIU out of about 800 applicants for the Class of 2013. She is also a talented pianist, certified by the National Guild of Piano Teachers, an accomplishment not many people achieve at such a young age. She is dedicated to passing on her love of music, and currently teaches 13 bright youngsters piano—sometimes free of charge to those who cannot afford lessons. “I am thankful for the FIU/Community College Honors Scholarship I was awarded as a transfer student to financially contribute for my classes and books. Of particular importance is the fact that I was undecided in my career path until I took the Honors College class based on “walking” with Professor Elbaum. If it wasn’t for that class I might not be in the DPT program today because that class inspired me to be a Physical Therapist.” □

We are all eager to know what you are up to! Send in your news, updates, and other interesting tidbits to hcalumni@fiu.edu. Any and all stories are welcome—be it news of jobs, fellowships, weddings, births, travels, promotions, and other significant milestones in your life.

Alumni Chapter Board

The Honors College Alumni Chapter Board was formed after an initial meeting in May 2010. The board is actively organizing a number of events to enhance the networking opportunities among Honors College alumni.



President **Jonathan Cameron (2007)** works for the investment management firm Morgan Keegan in Coral Gables. He currently manages the business operations for three financial advisors as a Registered Client Service Associate.



Vice President **Carlos Somoza (1993)** graduated through the FIU Faculty Scholars program, the earliest Honors program at FIU. He holds a J.D. and an LLM in taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. He is a Senior Tax Manager at BDO USA, the world's fifth largest accounting and consulting network. Carlos is a member of the Florida Bar, United States Tax Court and Put Something Back Pro Bono Program of the Florida Bar.



Vice President **Edith Lacayo (2009)** double majored in International Business and Finance. She is currently working as a Customer Service Representative at the Brickell branch of US Century Bank under the mentorship of Ruth Jimenez, USCB vice president and former chair of the Honors College Community Advisory Board.



Treasurer /Secretary **Allison Jade Leonard (2007)** holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting and a J.D. Currently she works as an associate at Patino & Associates, P.A., in Coral Gables, specializing in tort and commercial litigation. Allison also serves as a member of the FIU College of Law Alumni Board.

Board committee members:

Frank Ramos ('93) – Administrative Partner, Clarke Silvergate, P.A.

Jemlys Jager ('05) - Technical Trainer at Power Financial Credit Union

Rocio Perez ('08) – Law student at Duke University

Shark Valley Event

Honors College alumni enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at Shark Valley Everglades National park on Saturday, February 26. Everglades expert Professor Peter Machonis made the event educational and fun for everybody. After the tram tour, the group had a boxed lunch provided by the Alumni Chapter.



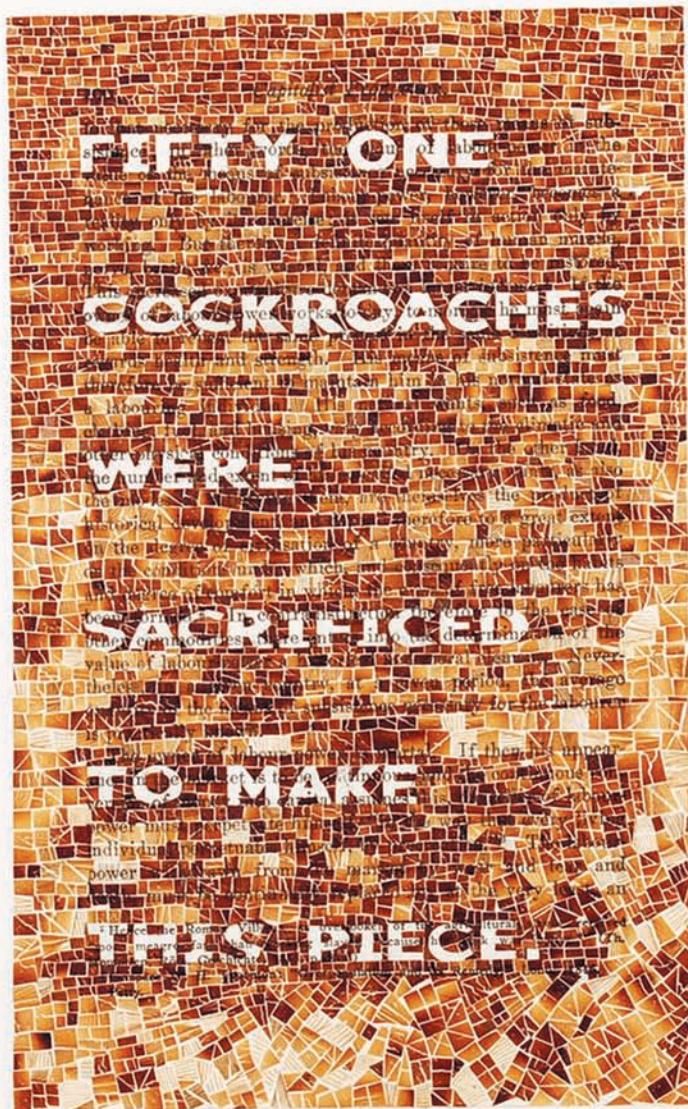
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(Designed by: Camila Alvarez A&V 2011)



Aesthetics & Values 2011

at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

An exhibition organized by
the Honors College at FIU

March 8th - April 17th, 2011

Reception: March 23, 2011
from 6-9 pm

Open to all FIU students!

Fifty-one Cockroaches Were Sacrificed to Make This Piece, 2010.
Collage of cockroach wing fragments and one page from "The Capital" by Karl Marx
on canvas. 20 x 24 inches. Courtesy of the David Castillo Gallery.