

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2017

THE HONORS COLLEGE



DEAN'S NOTE

Lesley A. Northup

This issue of *Summa cum Laude* continues the inspiring story of the Honors College at FIU and the amazing people—students, staff, faculty, and supporters—who comprise its fabric. In it, we announce the culmination of over a decade of efforts to acquire an integrated home for Honors, a place where students can live, learn, play, study, seek advice and support, engage in exciting programs, and otherwise grow to become all that they dream to be. Today, we have a vision for that Honors College home, thanks to the leadership of President Mark Rosenberg, the support of Provost Kenneth Furton, and a collaboration with Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lunsford.

In this new home, the College can vastly expand its pedagogical innovations in problem-based learning, its exhilarating lab for student-generated innovation and entrepreneurship, and its promotion of advanced research for undergraduates, along with opportunities for student forays into the wider world through study abroad, a spectacularly successful internship and job placement center, and an emphasis on the importance of the arts in a life well lived. In this new home, we can establish the close community so hard to achieve in a huge university—a place for discussion,

friendships, mentoring, shared experiences, and the many other advantages that we know lead to better student learning outcomes and professional success. And here, each student—no matter what trials and difficulties lie in the past—can be known, appreciated, and helped to forge a hopeful and successful future of her or his own making.

Honors at FIU is first and foremost about its people, not its bricks and mortar. But in the same way a new house brings together members of an extended family and provides a home for memory to take root, relationships to flourish, and values to be shared, our new home will anchor and foster the values the Honors College has always embodied: integrity, excellence, lifelong learning, engaged citizenship, decency, leadership, and grit. Our students, already smart and motivated, can aspire to and become, in Gandhi's famous words, the change they want to see in the world.

We invite you to be part of this exciting paradigm shift in the story of the Honors College family. Join us in making our new house a home for the whole Honors community, and celebrate with us as more and more students reap the benefits of an extraordinary education.

My deepest gratitude goes to Eduardo Calero of Stantec, Inc., and Griffin Morris of DS Architecture, LLC, for the layout and renderings of the proposed new Honors College administrative center.

Student editor: Jenyer Paez
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I AM JOEL GREENUP

Sixty-three surgeries. Confinement in a wheelchair. Ten years in a dysfunctional family. Years of struggling with depression. Seven months of contemplating suicide. One goal.

Life has certainly dealt me an interesting hand of cards, starting with the spina bifida I was born with. It has been extremely difficult to keep my eyes on the prize, but I am confident that one day I will become a successful neurosurgeon. I want to live long enough to tell others my story and to demonstrate that medicine is not only a science, but also an art.

While overcoming adversity, I've had the opportunity to stretch my wings as an innovator. Recently, some Honors College friends and I participated in the Smart City Hackathon, where our mobile app connecting animal shelters, adopters, and stray animals won first place. Through the Honors College ARCH program, I was able to do research into Alice in Wonderland Syndrome, a cute name for an awful, migraine-connected, disorienting neurological condition that I deal with constantly. My research applied chaos theory to the disorder.

I can also proudly say I am currently working on developing a research program with Nicklaus Children's Hospital for Honors students. Most recently, the Honors College gave me a scholarship to go to McGill University's Montreal Institute of Neurology as a potential candidate for graduate school and a doctoral degree in neuroscience. There, I will also be able to reconnect with my mentor to observe his work and evaluate the research I might be able to do with him as a grad student.

The Honors College is a welcome home away from home for me. Much of my life I spend in the College's Innovation Center with other students, working on new ideas. There I have been mentored, motivated, comforted, befriended, and found a family. Last week, a group of us came in among the top ten at a hackathon at Johns Hopkins University with a project we designed in less than a week and produced on the Honors College 3-D printer—a working artificial leg, controlled by computer, that can actually move my legs and one day enable me to walk. ■

“
While **overcoming adversity**,
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stretch my wings as an innovator.”

Growing up, I was always the quiet kid who sat in the back of the classroom, followed the rules, and got good grades. When I was a senior in high school, I was under enormous pressure to apply to and get accepted into an Ivy League or other prestigious school, since I was part of a dual enrollment program with high academic standards and expectations. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, and I wasn't convinced that I wanted to be an electrical engineer, but at the time, I didn't see myself studying anything else, so the main topic of my college application essays was how I wanted to make a positive impact on the world through engineering. I applied to Georgia Tech, UF, MIT, and FSU. FIU was just a "safety" school, a last resort in case of disaster. In the end, I was accepted at almost all the schools I applied to.

Then someone came to my school to tell us about FIU's Honors College. Suddenly I realized I didn't just want to study physics and circuits and nanotechnology. As I checked out the Honors courses, I became more and more interested not just in learning, but also in how we learn and why we learn. So I chose the Honors College at FIU. I chose it because I didn't want to be a master of just one thing. I had always been intrigued by multiple areas of study, such as philosophy and psychology, but since careers in those areas didn't seem very lucrative, especially to my parents, I stuck to my story of wanting to be an electrical engineer. But the idea of being interdisciplinary called out to me more than focusing on just one field. After all, isn't this whole journey we call life interdisciplinary? If you really want to succeed in the "real world," skills in multiple areas are required.

Choosing the Honors College was one of the best decisions I could have made. Its courses always had me mind-blown and wondering how such compelling classes could mix all sorts of subjects together. And it wasn't only the academic side of the Honors College that won me over, but also the community aspect. The Honors College made it easier for me to feel at home, and created confidence in me. I wasn't the quiet kid sitting in the back of the classroom anymore; now I was the student that always sits in the front and has his phone on silent because he's so eager to learn. The Honors College excels in making students want to learn and want to become engaged.

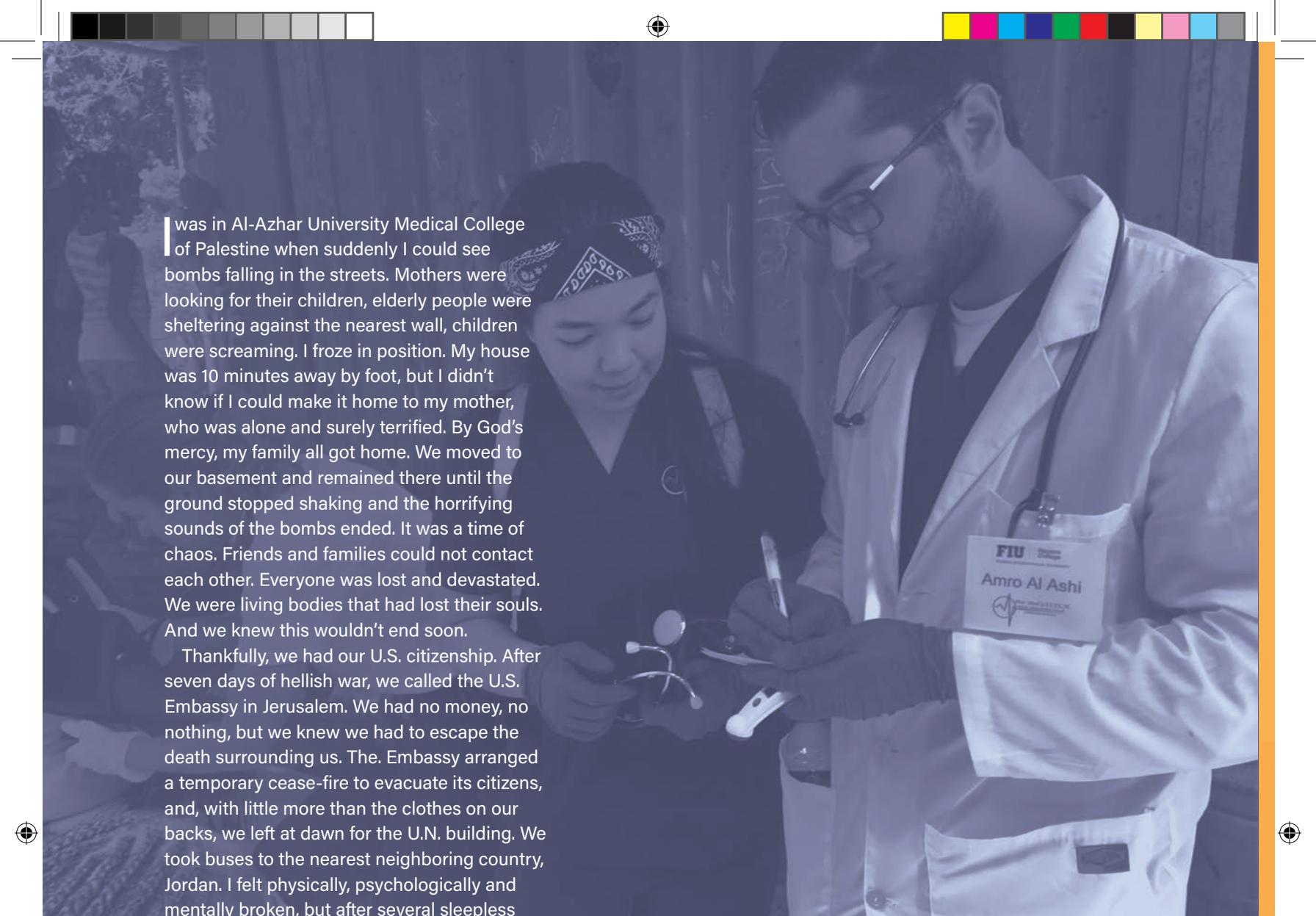
Going through the motions, like I had been doing with my engineering major, was simply not enough at the Honors College. It demanded passion and confidence and work ethic in each of its classes. And so, with the advice and support of my Honors advisors and friends, I have just changed my major to what I am truly passionate about—athletic training and sports science. Now I can hardly wait for my career to begin. The Honors College has made a huge impact in my life and I consider myself very lucky to be a student and lifetime fan of the Honors College. ■

“
If you really want to succeed in the “real world,” **skills in multiple areas are required.**”
”

I AM **JORGE
TORRES**

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

3



I was in Al-Azhar University Medical College of Palestine when suddenly I could see bombs falling in the streets. Mothers were looking for their children, elderly people were sheltering against the nearest wall, children were screaming. I froze in position. My house was 10 minutes away by foot, but I didn't know if I could make it home to my mother, who was alone and surely terrified. By God's mercy, my family all got home. We moved to our basement and remained there until the ground stopped shaking and the horrifying sounds of the bombs ended. It was a time of chaos. Friends and families could not contact each other. Everyone was lost and devastated. We were living bodies that had lost their souls. And we knew this wouldn't end soon.

Thankfully, we had our U.S. citizenship. After seven days of hellish war, we called the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. We had no money, no nothing, but we knew we had to escape the death surrounding us. The Embassy arranged a temporary cease-fire to evacuate its citizens, and, with little more than the clothes on our backs, we left at dawn for the U.N. building. We took buses to the nearest neighboring country, Jordan. I felt physically, psychologically and mentally broken, but after several sleepless days, we made it to my grandfather's house there. At that moment I was born again.

I challenged myself to never give up. Even though my past life was over and completely shattered, I decided to move on and continue my education. Eventually, we were able to collect enough funds from family members in Jordan to make it to the land of freedom and new chances.

Determined to restart my life, I applied to FIU and was accepted into the Honors College, which gave me an emergency scholarship. I still face financial challenges every day, but I know that the hero is the one who never gives up. When I was desperate for assistance to attend FIU, the Honors College was there for me. Now, on my way to becoming a doctor, I have learned that many people are in real need of help. We must reach out to them, as the Honors College did for me. It is important for us to hear each other's stories, and I thank Honors for giving me the opportunity to tell you mine. ■

I AM AMRO AL ASHI

“ I challenged myself to *never give up.* ”

I AM ARI SERNAK



Intercultural dialogue is the **best guarantee** of a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.



Perhaps backpacking across Asia and the Middle East and jumping out of planes with the Israeli army prepared me to leap at the chance to travel to Azerbaijan this summer, even with a layover in Istanbul just weeks after the terrorist attacks of June 28th. Most of my friends thought I was crazy to go, yet nothing was going to stop me from participating in the International Summer University for Intercultural Leadership. I was very fortunate to be one of only two students from FIU selected for this program, studying migration and the future of intercultural relations. Nominated through the good graces of Professor Tudor Parfitt of Religious Studies and the support of the Honors College, I remember how happy I was when I received the acceptance letter.

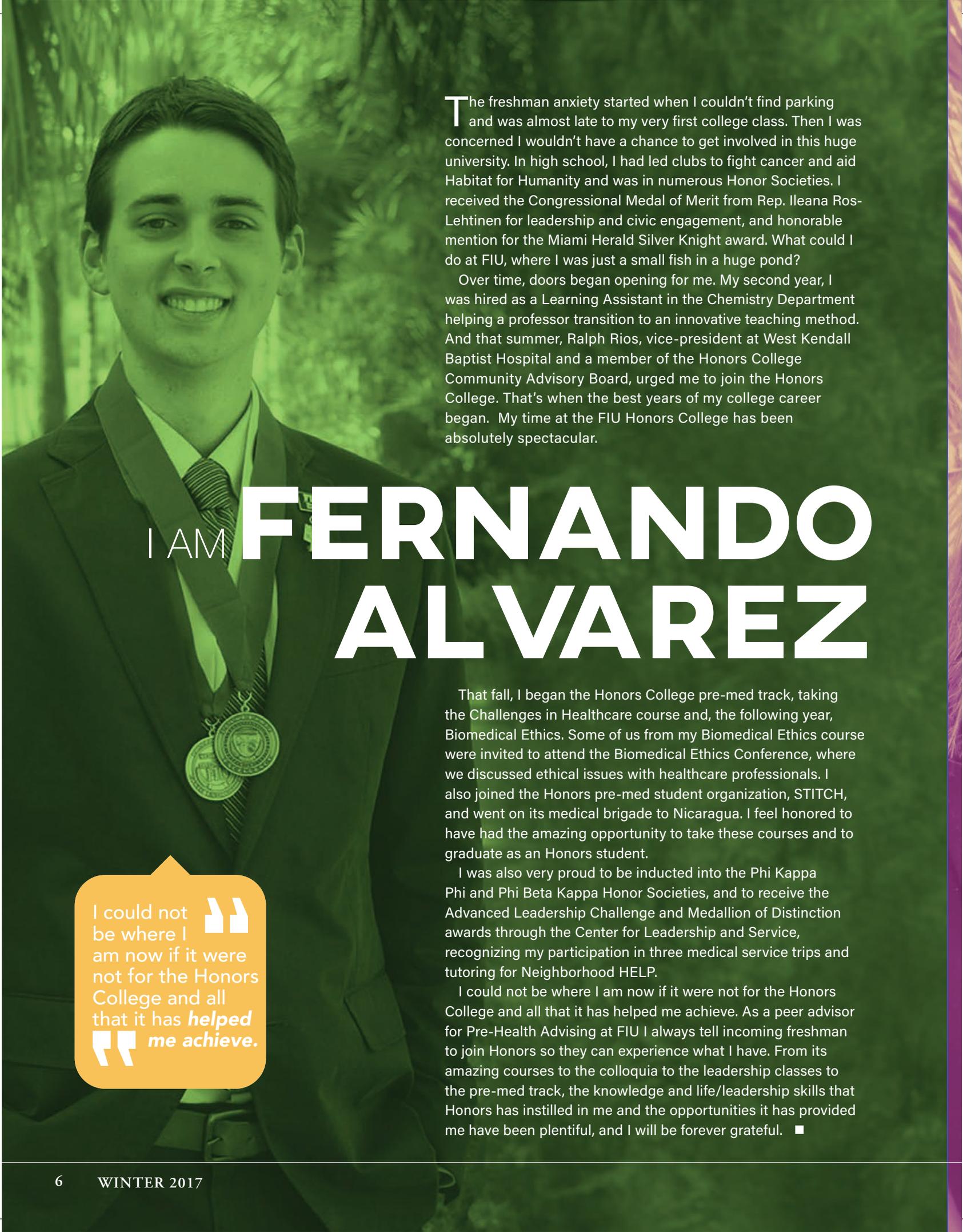
I arrived in Baku a day before the program started and walked around the old city and its surroundings, amazed at the beauty of the city and the friendliness of the local people. The next morning we had an induction ceremony for the 55 participants from around the world, then we all headed to Kuba, the city where the program was held. Typically, I spent the days participating in cultural activities, drinking countless cups of tea, attending lectures with distinguished professors, working on a research project, and fitting in a little partying.

One day, we took a trip through the Caucasus Mountains and arrived at a place called the Red Village, where a people known as the Mountain Jews live. I was surprised to see Jews living there and later learned that they have done so since the 5th century CE. I was also fascinated to see how their traditions had diverged from common Jewish practice. For example, when entering the synagogue, people take off their shoes—something I had never seen before.

My biggest take-away from this program, aside from the everlasting friendships I made, is that intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. More people like the friends I made should step forward—people willing to accept cultural differences, live together, and build bridges to make this world a better place. This project was definitely much more than just a study opportunity; it was a group of exceptional people willing to learn from each other and work together for positive change.

Azerbaijan is a beautiful country with wonderful people. I thank the Honors College for my time there, an incredible experience that I'll remember for the rest of my life and keep in my heart forever. ■





The freshman anxiety started when I couldn't find parking and was almost late to my very first college class. Then I was concerned I wouldn't have a chance to get involved in this huge university. In high school, I had led clubs to fight cancer and aid Habitat for Humanity and was in numerous Honor Societies. I received the Congressional Medal of Merit from Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for leadership and civic engagement, and honorable mention for the Miami Herald Silver Knight award. What could I do at FIU, where I was just a small fish in a huge pond?

Over time, doors began opening for me. My second year, I was hired as a Learning Assistant in the Chemistry Department helping a professor transition to an innovative teaching method. And that summer, Ralph Rios, vice-president at West Kendall Baptist Hospital and a member of the Honors College Community Advisory Board, urged me to join the Honors College. That's when the best years of my college career began. My time at the FIU Honors College has been absolutely spectacular.

I AM FERNANDO ALVAREZ

That fall, I began the Honors College pre-med track, taking the Challenges in Healthcare course and, the following year, Biomedical Ethics. Some of us from my Biomedical Ethics course were invited to attend the Biomedical Ethics Conference, where we discussed ethical issues with healthcare professionals. I also joined the Honors pre-med student organization, STITCH, and went on its medical brigade to Nicaragua. I feel honored to have had the amazing opportunity to take these courses and to graduate as an Honors student.

I was also very proud to be inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Societies, and to receive the Advanced Leadership Challenge and Medallion of Distinction awards through the Center for Leadership and Service, recognizing my participation in three medical service trips and tutoring for Neighborhood HELP.

I could not be where I am now if it were not for the Honors College and all that it has helped me achieve. As a peer advisor for Pre-Health Advising at FIU I always tell incoming freshman to join Honors so they can experience what I have. From its amazing courses to the colloquia to the leadership classes to the pre-med track, the knowledge and life/leadership skills that Honors has instilled in me and the opportunities it has provided me have been plentiful, and I will be forever grateful. ■

I could not be where I am now if it were not for the Honors College and all that it has *helped* me achieve.

My future path was meant to be a very different route before I joined the FIU Honors College. Although I am Chinese, I was born in Nerja, Malaga, Spain, where my family had immigrated. The second oldest of five children, I lived with my family in Spain until I was three, when I was sent to live with my grandmother in China. This was done so my parents could save money, and so that I would be properly trained as a traditional Chinese woman.

When I was seven, I returned to Spain, where my parents had opened a restaurant. As I grew older, they decided that I did not have the intelligence or skills to have an independent career and was better suited to being a conventional Chinese wife. They arranged a marriage for me with a man I did not love, or even like.

Then, my life took a totally different direction. My older sister, who had been allowed to become a graphic designer, had a friend in Florida who arranged for me to come to America with the goal of learning English. My new friends helped me find my way to FIU, where I joined the Honors College and majored in International Relations, a logical choice since I spoke Spanish, Mandarin, several other Chinese dialects, and French. It was difficult learning another new language, but I was determined and persistent. Honors professor Mary Lou Pfeiffer was a mentor and friend as I made my way through the U.S. educational system. As I learned English, I became more articulate and self-confident. I studied at the BBC campus and eventually became the SGA president there.

I often gave public talks in my newly adopted language.

After graduating from FIU, I have pursued the path I have chosen for myself and that the Honors College made possible. I first worked at the China Latin America trade center and now am with the management team at the Bite Squad food and restaurant delivery company. So far, I am happily single. ■

I AM
**FU ZHOU
WU**

“ I was **determined** and persistent.”



I AM HOME!

Honors Building Will Create Unique Community

A close-knit community of friends who can accompany Joel so he can travel where his dreams take him. A safe haven in a new country for Amro. A chance for Ari to work toward making the world a better place. An alternative to an oppressive life chosen for Fu by someone else. A first and best choice for Jorge. A place for Fernando to shine. An option for our students who live in cars. A hotbed of creativity, where collisions of ideas constantly create new ones. An incubator for global understanding. An innovation accelerator. A celebratory center for the arts. A problem-based solutions center.

All this and more will now be available to FIU's Honors students as they move into our new home in the Honors

College building at Parkview Hall. After years of working toward this day, we will soon offer our students a cohesive living-learning community, where they will get the best in mentorship, co-curriculum, networking, counseling, internship and job placement, and recognition throughout their years in the Honors College.

The Honors College building will house all interested Honors students and, eventually, the advisors, career counselors, programs, and staff that comprise the College and its dedicated staff. As we build our endowment to provide housing scholarships to defray the cost of living on campus, more and more students will be able to benefit from this exciting new opportunity.



What it is

Only two years old, Parkview is the Maidique campus' newest and most striking residence hall. In a unique collaboration between the Honors College and the Department of Housing and Residential Life, Parkview Hall will now be the Honors College building. It houses about 620 students, with open plazas underneath that can be built out to accommodate administrative spaces that will eventually let us consolidate the entire College in one exciting space.

Why it's so important

First and foremost, the Honors College building will provide the home and living-learning community our students need and deserve.

So that they can afford to live there, the building gives us the opportunity to raise funds for an endowment that will enable us to provide scholarships to help students pay their housing costs.

Having our community in our own building will also boost student success, a key measure for state funding. We know that students do better when they live on campus. And Honors students are much more successful in dedicated honors housing—for example, they graduate faster. One reason for this success is that an Honors building creates a unique and

close-knit community that counteracts the isolating effect that can occur at a large, multidisciplinary university and provides opportunities for students to experience creative interactions that strengthen and enrich the learning experience.

Academically, the building will provide otherwise hard-to-find seminar-sized classrooms and study spaces that will allow our students to work on the collaborative, innovative projects at the core of our curriculum, along with active lab spaces where they can take their nascent ideas to the next level. Moreover, proximity to advisors and faculty will encourage students to take advantage of the support staff and resources the College offers.

No less important is the powerful recruitment tool that the Honors College building provides as we compete with other universities for excellent young scholars. We already know students love living in this state-of-the-art complex, FIU's top housing choice; now we can use it to boost the critical metrics the state requires while building FIU's prestige and quality.

In the past, we have found that having all our students in a common space allows us to provide:

- sophisticated and exciting programming
- one-stop services
- collaboration spaces
- dynamic interactions of curriculum and housing, and
- increased attention to engagement, leadership development, and ethics education

Among the many other advantages of this dedicated home for Honors are that it will:

- foster student pride and prestige
- provide gathering space for academics, campus life events, and community outreach
- allow experiments with new pedagogies
- build mentoring relationships
- demonstrate the university's commitment to excellence
- foster the goals of the *FIUBeyondPossible2020* Strategic Plan
- build alumni affinity
- affirm the College's role as the hub for undergraduate educational preeminence at FIU

In short, this new building will revolutionize Honors and undergraduate education at FIU. And it will revolutionize lives.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help our students afford to live here!

Most of FIU's students, like Joel and so many others, cannot afford to live on campus, so they commute from their parents' homes. This costs them hours of lost time in already overscheduled days, as well as the expense of maintaining and running a car and the time to participate in the student life that we know leads to academic success.

As our endowment and ability to subsidize housing grows, we can provide scholarships that allow students to stop taking outside jobs and concentrate on their studies in an exceptional learning environment, leaving time for full class schedules, internships, the college experience, and timely graduation.

As more students live on campus, FIU's former image as a commuter school will be increasingly replaced by a vibrant picture of the major research university it is today, enhancing the value of an FIU degree and of our South Florida community.

Our new home needs a name, and it can be yours!

Our students need the support your naming gift will provide as they choose the myriad benefits of living on campus. In gratitude for your generosity, we invite you, your family, your company, or your foundation to add your name to our building, to a space associated with it, or to one of our cutting-edge programs.

Your generous contribution will have a direct and immediate impact!

Your gift will build an endowment to provide housing and other scholarships for tomorrow's young leaders, offering them a prize like no other—a top-of-the-line education. It will help finance cutting-edge programs, many unique to FIU's Honors College. It will provide desperately needed operating capital so we can provide the services that make our students so successful. And it will help lift FIU into the ranks of Florida's top public universities.

Put your name on excellence!

When you give to one of the premier honors colleges in the country, you are announcing your commitment to the highest possible standards in undergraduate pedagogy, innovation, research, and engagement. You are visibly endorsing the College's ethical policy that "the term 'honor' refers both to academic accomplishment *and* character." You are joining what President Rosenberg calls "**the center of undergraduate academic excellence at FIU.**"



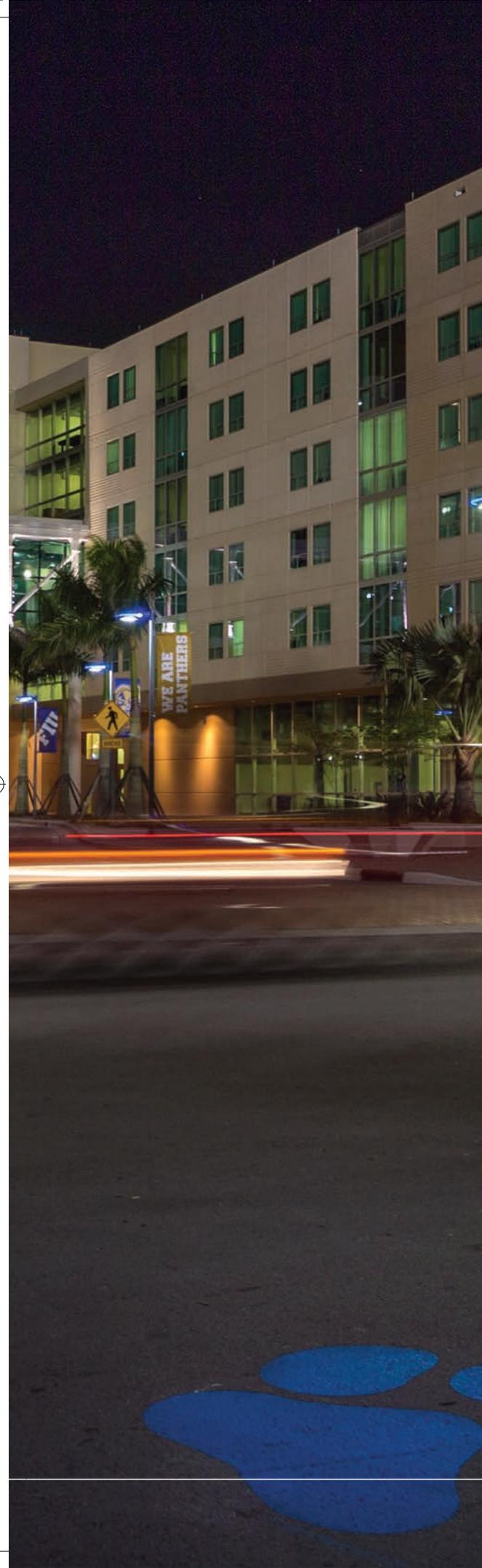


NAMING

Opportunities

The Honors College is pleased to offer a wide range of opportunities for donors who wish to have their gift memorialized by naming the College itself, the Honors College building, spaces in or near the building, and signature Honors programs. The values associated with these naming possibilities range from seven figures down to the smallest, but still deeply appreciated, gifts.

Building options include the building itself, two individual wings, the Great Hall, the Sky Lounge, the glass walkway, the lobby, student lounges, and study rooms. Other opportunities include the beautiful plaza under the Sky Lounge, the peaceful quad bordering the east wing, the new jogging path around the beautiful Nature Preserve, and the parking garage. We have also established an active learning classroom in nearby Everglades Hall that needs a name and updated tech equipment.



The top-flight programs and services that can be named:

- **The Advancement Lab** provides an innovation maker space for students, with access to emerging prototyping, design, and collaborative technologies and software. The lab is always bustling with student entrepreneurs, designers, and out-of-the-box thinkers, one reason why Honors is at the center of FIU's Changemaker Initiative. The lab is continually in need of upgraded equipment and software as technology changes.
- **The Career Center** brings together employers and students to fill jobs and internships. It also provides interview and resume prep. How is our career center unique? Every student who wants an internship gets one! We actively solicit opportunities from top employers to meet student skills and needs. Helping each student individually, as we do, requires multiple dedicated staffers.
- **ARCH** (Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors) leads FIU in promoting and presenting undergraduate research, soon to be a key state metric. In addition to mounting the annual Conference of Undergraduate Research at FIU (CURFIU), it places students with faculty mentors, enables students to present their findings at conferences around the world, and helps keep top young researchers at FIU for grad degrees.
- **Summa cum Laude**, our multiple-award-winning magazine (you're reading it now), keeps all our alumni and friends informed of the exciting work we're doing and the achievements of our students, and helps keep Honors front and center in the University and the community. As you can imagine, it's a costly part of our essential outreach.
- **Study abroad** in Honors has taken our students to Spain, the Peruvian Amazon, Italy, Costa Rica, France, Vietnam and Cambodia, South Africa, and now Japan. Honors students who have studied abroad always find it to be the most meaningful experience of their college careers. Sadly, only a small percentage can afford to go unless we can help them with scholarships.
- **HEARTS** (Honors Education in the Arts) takes students to plays and dance performances, to art galleries and exhibits, to concerts and operas. It also takes them on an unforgettable week-long arts-focused trip to New York City—if they can pay their way. We could help them go with a scholarship fund.

These and many other opportunities are available to you should you wish to associate your name or that of your firm with the students and excellence that are the Honors College.

For more information on naming opportunities and suggested gift amounts, please visit our website at honors.fiu.edu/naming or contact Isabel Green at igreen@fiu.edu.



PROFILE

UPTECH

By Jonathan Viera

Project Panther LIFE provides students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to experience college life and work toward future employment. Students obtain work experience in the University and the local community. I have worked at the Honors College as a multimedia production and information technology assistant for the last four years.

Before graduating from Panther LIFE in August 2016, I decided to start a program of my own—Honors College upTech. The reason was very simple. I wanted to create something that FIU didn't offer--a chance for students with different abilities to learn about business, research, and technology in a small, nurturing environment. I wanted them to experience what it is like to be an entrepreneur, technical professional, and communicator while striving to become more self-sufficient.

upTech started this summer. The students were also participants in Panther LIFE's Summer Residential Program, which allowed them to live, cook, and study on the FIU campus away from their families and on their own. I felt this was a perfect opportunity to start the program.

My objective was to have them design a project presentation based on a business or other idea while learning the steps it takes to create the presentation and project. They were encouraged to explore various technologies, including 3D printing, micro-computing, computer maintenance, and filmmaking. They used the 3D printer with CAD modeling software to test out ideas, practiced disassembling and installing computer hardware, and conducted video interviews and edited short clips using iPads and iMovie software. They even tinkered with



Jonathan Viera

micro-controllers to learn about currents and LED lighting.

Students learned independently, but also got personalized mentoring from Honors students who guided them through the entire process. They also had career development, research, and communication skills workshops.

I learned so much as supervisor of this new program. Some moments were challenging since this was my first time as a leader. Fortunately, the Honors College and Panther LIFE helped me along the way with guidance and support. It was a successful first time. I know the students will use this opportunity to grow academically and professionally. Maybe some will present their projects at a conference or start a business. I am very motivated to make that happen. ■

Jonathan Viera graduated from Project Panther LIFE on August 9. He is now employed in the Honors College. His article, "My Panther LIFE Experience in Gaining Employment," was recently published by thinkcollege! Another Panther LIFE student in the program, Marcus Figueroa, is now learning 3D modeling using the professional software Solidworks at the Honors College, and is a peer mentor in the upTech program.



DIPLOMACY

DIPLOMACY LAB WORKS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

By Hannah Batista

Diplomacy Lab was started in 2013 by Prof. Brian Fonseca of the Green School of International and Public Affairs and the Honors College. Established by the Department of State as a way to connect with academia and use the skills of up-and-coming professionals, the program lets students investigate and propose solutions to current world problems. At the conclusion, students may present their recommendations to State officials.

FIU was one of the original pilot schools testing this program, which has since expanded to nineteen universities. The Honors College took on the challenge of implementing the innovative course. In the year-long class, students divided into teams that studied four different projects, including how mobile technologies can impact the rule of law in countries such as Afghanistan and Malaysia, and investigating extremism in the African Sahel. Fonseca gives students considerable freedom in researching their topics, guiding rather than lecturing.

What senior John Cervera enjoyed most was the team-based approach to research. "You can imagine the scope of ideas and perspectives in a room full of Honors Students," he remarked. Focused and determined, the students took ownership of their projects, turning out reports that earned the praise of the State Department officials who reviewed their results.

Students also took part in the first annual Wonk Tank, a competition hosted by the State Department to bring the best and brightest young minds to D.C. to present policy pitches. Two lab students, Eshrat Nikrooye-Asli and Laura Ortiz, were semi-finalists, and Eshrat was one of only four national finalists. She presented a pitch for combatting the illicit narcotics trade in the Middle East by getting key regional powers, such as Iran, the U.S., and Russia, to work together.

Diplomacy Lab shows what can be accomplished when Honors students combine hard work, intelligence, innovation, research, and drive to impact the world. ■



Honors goes to Washington.



INTERNSHIP



INTERNING OUT OF THE BOX

By Raina Walker and John Simpson

For college students, several assets are essential to better your chances of employment and success after graduation: an exceptional GPA and glowing recommendations, of course, but the edge that will distinguish you from the competition is a socially conscious internship. In a world where college degrees are the status quo, an internship is the “golden ticket” that can put you over the top. An internship provides invaluable skills and experiences that can only be learned hands-on in a real-world setting.

Unfortunately, interns are often given menial office jobs, which has resulted in negative perceptions of internships.

Juliana Ruiz, Founder and President of BryteBox Consulting, remembers this well: “In college, I had an unpaid internship in a public relations firm, and was given insignificant tasks that did little to further my hands-on experience in the field,” she says. So when it came time to brand her own firm, “Our team was determined to carve out a unique opportunity for student interns, in which they could play a key role in the analysis and development of a brand.”

We were fortunate to be the interns chosen for this new program. Both Communications majors, we learned of the opportunity through the Honors College’s Career Center, and were placed through the enthusiastic advocacy of Center Director Isabel Green. We were

excited to find a valuable, “outside-of-the-box” opportunity with BryteBox as they worked on rebranding their multi-service marketing, communications and business development firm.

From the start, we participated in multiple-day brainstorming sessions that included endless coffee, working lunches, giant post-its, and a dry-erase board that covered an entire wall. We worked side-by-side with BryteBox’s leadership team, including President Ruiz. Our team performed an extensive SWOT (strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, threats) analysis on the company, discussing the delta between desired and current perceptions of the brand and mapping a strategy for aligning the two. Brand characteristics, attributes, voice and tone were identified. We led the comprehensive competitive analysis, assisted in compiling external data, and contributed to the development of the new brand’s messaging. We were able to play first-hand roles in an illuminating business process, contributing insight while simultaneously absorbing the knowledge and experience of seasoned entrepreneurs and business people.

As students struggle to find opportunities that will add true value to their educations, the unconventional internship offered to us by BryteBox models the kind of internship that allows genuine involvement, learning, personal development, and employability.





MARC U*STAR Fellow **Ricardo Perez Dulzaides** won an Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Biology at the 2016 College of Arts, Sciences and Education Awards Ceremony.



Vanessa Berrios received the Kaplan Prize at the 2016 Student Life Awards. The biological studies major is involved with Special Olympics Miami and interns with the Student Government Association, among her many activities. She is a graduate of the Academy of Leaders program, and a current Golden Dazzler. She plans to attend medical school.



Joanne Ling, a junior majoring in public administration with a focus on Asian language and culture and a member of the Model U.N. team, has been given the Dean's Excellence Award as the most outstanding Honors student of the past year at the annual Honors Convocation. She was also selected to be part of the inaugural Capital Leadership Experience program. The internship program exposed her to networking events, alumni mentorship, career development, and briefings with high-profile leaders. Her interests include advocacy for disenfranchised groups, LGBT rights and public health concerns in the United States and abroad.

Bryan Diaz has been featured in the CHCI-United Health Foundation Newsletter as the recipient of a Foundation scholarship to intern at the Varadero Medical Center in Miami. The Foundation awards \$1000 to interns who successfully complete 80 hours of work. Bryan shadowed doctors, took vital signs, and spent time with patients. "Being part of the CHCI-UHF scholar intern program has been one of the most amazing and life changing things that has happened to me," says Bryan.



Patrick Foucauld participated in a summer internship program in Spain through the OHL School of Construction, networking and immersing himself in the culture. Check out his blog at <http://ohlinternship2016.tumblr.com/>



Gladys Levy, an International Relations major with a minor in Education, is the founder and owner of CISCA's Sweet Spot, baking delicious cakes and cupcakes. The young entrepreneur plans to

acquire baking and pastry certifications, and open a storefront bakery. "The aspect I enjoy most is to decorate. My creativity really comes into play when designing and decorating cakes and cupcakes,"



Political Science and International Relations major **Sarah Terrazas** worked this summer at the FIU Office of Governmental Relations in Washington D.C. as the Federal Relations Intern. Through this experience Sarah hopes to strengthen FIU advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, in Miami, and beyond.



Anna Seerey, our high school sophomore taking all FIU courses, is one of only two students recommended by FIU and accepted by the Chinese government for a year of study abroad in China. Anna will be attending the Institute for International Studies at Nanjing University on a full scholarship. **Jana**



Nudelman has also been accepted by this prestigious program, and will be studying at the College of Advanced Chinese Training at Beijing Language and Culture University next year.

Sameer Shaikh has been chosen to participate in the ASM Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, an opportunity afforded only the best and the brightest rising young scientists. The prestigious award funds a minimum of 10 weeks of summer research with a stipend of \$4000 and \$500 for travel to the ASM Microbe Meeting. As a fellow, Sameer developed his own microbiology research project for presentation at the meeting.

New Honors Panther **Anna Tuttle** was recently honored as one of the torchbearers for the annual "Passing of the Torch of Knowledge" at Freshman Convocation. Anna started taking FIU dual enrollment courses at 13 and now, at 16, has already earned 30 college credits. An accomplished musician, she is also an advocate for youth who are vulnerable to sex trafficking, and has raised thousands of dollars toward awareness campaigns. A third-generation Panther, she is a Presidential Scholar majoring in Hospitality Management.

Aly Siblesz won Second Place in the FIU Creative Writing contest with a poignant piece about her Cuban grandmother. Aly is a double major in History and International Business, and is a Learning Assistant for Professors Espinosa and Peterson.

NOTES

HONORS



John Bailly's Aesthetics & Values class participated in its most ambitious project yet with a site-specific work by artist Randy Burman. Burman's project, "Poems to the Sky," seeks to raise awareness of the importance of education and literacy through the placement of poems in unexpected places. The project was part of O, Miami's Festival of Poetry, funded by the Knight Foundation to expand and advance literary culture in Miami. The artwork put FIU at the forefront of this internationally-recognized festival as Honors students helped paint Burman's poem on top of Parking Garage 5, where it could easily be seen by planes approaching or leaving Miami International Airport.

John Bailly's

France study abroad program was featured on France Culture, France's most notable radio station. The podcast, available in French at <http://www.franceculture.fr/emissions/le-magazine-de-la-redaction>, included Bailly's summary of the program, commentary from Honors Faculty Fellow Alfredo Garcia Mora on the election, and student interviews.



This year's **ENRICH** community-based research course focused on four constructive projects that benefitted our neighboring city of Sweetwater and the UniversityCity partnership. These included an analysis of the citizenship classes offered in the City, assessing aspects such as location, frequency, curriculum, material, and participant satisfaction, and participants' readiness to successfully navigate the citizenship process. Ultimately, students partnered with two non-profit organizations (and with the City of Sweetwater) to organize a citizenship drive and obtain citizenship kits.



Honors pre-med students teamed with students from the medical and dental schools of the Universidad Iberoamericana to work in different community health centers this spring. They focused on education at Hacienda El Rosario Estrella and worked with the dental center Dominic Savio. They also visited the Community Medical Center in Barquita, which serves a low-income and vulnerable population. In the Falklands, they took blood pressures and assessed the weight and nutritional status of children. They saw over 200 patients in rural communities in the country.



NOTES FACULTY



Janet McDaniel has been appointed by the Governor to a three-year seat on the Family Care Council of Florida (FCCF) in recognition of her ardent work on behalf of families with children on the autism spectrum. She was also the recipient of this year's Faculty Teaching Adjunct Award, the university's top honor.



Pioneer Winter appeared this August on WPBT2's "Art Loft Curator's Collection," featuring his dance pieces "Gimp Gait," "A Love to Last 13 Hours," "Sirens in Space," "Host," and "A Proper Marriage."



Mary Lou Pfeiffer has been featured along with others in an article on the Vice Provost's Council for the Biscayne Bay campus. The Council, composed largely of members of the external community, uses its influence and impact to bring attention and resources to the campus and its students. Pfeiffer, a long-time advocate of the campus, has worked tirelessly to promote classes, student life, fundraising, and other advances for the benefit of BBC.



Professor H. Scott Fingerhut has been appointed chair of the Florida Bar Criminal Procedure Rules Committee, his second term as chair. In recognition for his work in criminal defense, Fingerhut was re-selected for inclusion in the 2016 edition of Best Lawyers and re-rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. At the FIU Barristers' Ball, he was also voted Professor of the Year, in addition to receiving the Pioneer Award. Fingerhut is Assistant Director of the FIU Law Trial Advocacy Program, and teaches trial advocacy, pretrial practice, and criminal procedure in the Law School. For Honors, he teaches the popular "Observing Ourselves" seminar, and serves as the Director of Prelaw Programs and advisor to the PATH pre-law student organization.

The Amernet String Quartet recently finished a season of concerts and master classes at Fresno State University, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, the University of New Mexico, the University of Tampa, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Bowdoin College, among others. In South Florida, they appeared at the New Music Miami Festival and completed their inaugural series at the FIU Jewish Museum of Florida. In the summer they toured in Israel and at the Sunflower Festival in Topeka, Kansas.



Cecile Houry has been selected as a winner of the 2016 Spirit of Service Learning Award by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida, based on the work done by students in her class Engaged Research in the Community through Honors (ENRICH). She has also had a chapter published in the edited volume *Continuity and Innovation in Honors College Curricula*, recently published by Rowman and Littlefield.



John Bailly's work, "Je suis Charlie," was featured at The Index Gallery's Instalike or Not? one-night interactive exhibition event on September 24.

In Memoriam

Longtime Honors College benefactor **Harvey L. Young, 78**, passed away peacefully in his home in Miami on July 25. The owner of several luxury goods boutiques, he was passionate about education and founded the Harvey L. Young Family Foundation to support scholarships and other worthy causes. We at the Honors College and the many students he helped are deeply grateful for his generosity and mourn his passing.



NOTES

ALUMNI

Nalisa Saati '10

Saati is helping at-risk students in Miami-Dade make strides toward success as program director of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League. She focuses on recruiting in schools in lower-income neighborhoods, where her efforts to give students a greater sense of agency and hope can have the greatest impact. The league provides mentors, tutors, scholarships, and other assistance.



Hanadys Ale

'08, a graduate of the first class of FIU's School of Medicine, completed her last year of residency at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and is now the first fellow in the hospital's Allergy and Immunology Fellowship. She was recently lauded by FIU Med School Dean John Rock in an op-ed piece for the Miami Herald.

Kali Chiapetta, '16, has been accepted into Georgia Tech's Master's in Biomedical Innovation and Development program.



Hellen Rivas '16, is now an associate producer at NBC Universal Media.



Antonina Kulchitskaya, '11, took second place in the Social Sciences Category at the Statewide Research Symposium with her presentation on "The Four Problems of Mind-Uploading." Antonina worked for the Honors College at BBC and was an active member of Alpha Sigma Tau.



Sarena Bahad '10, has launched a new Snapchat channel, @WomenInTech. Every weekday, the channel will profile a woman from around the world in the tech community, talking about what she's working on, answering questions, and sharing insights and advice. Sarena is also working with Honors professor and South Florida entrepreneur Wifredo Fernandez.



Stephanie Victoria '16, has been offered a job through the Americorps VISTA program to work full-time for the Earth Ethics Institute at Miami-Dade College. At EEI, she will be facilitating the creation of service-learning opportunities for students through community partnerships.



Jairo Pava '11, graduated this spring with an M.S. in Computer Science from Columbia University. A software test engineer at Ultimate Software, he also will start teaching part-time at FIU in Fall 2016.



Yasnay Montalvo '11, is a Program Coordinator at ASSETS Small Business Solutions, part of Branches. ASSETS helps small businesses tackle challenges, grow and create jobs. One of her initiatives is to recruit students to work with the small business community.



Elsa Jaramillo and Pablo Velez '95, found the Honors College to be truly life-changing. They met in Honors, became BFFs, graduated from UF law school, and are now married with beautiful daughter Paola. Elsa is the Human Resources Director for the City of Coral Gables. An adjunct professor in FIU's master's of public affairs program, where she teaches human resources management and policy as well as collective bargaining in the public sector, she also has been asked to join the FIU MPA Advisory Board. Pablo is an attorney in the Miami City Attorney's Office.



Tatiana Pandiani '13, directed Princeton's Summer Theater 2016 opener *Assassins*, written by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman. Pandiani received her Master's in Fine Arts at Columbia after graduating from FIU with a bachelor's in Theatre.

Worlds Ahead Graduates

As in previous years, several Honors students were among the “Worlds Ahead Scholars” singled out by President Rosenberg for special recognition at Commencement.



Taphenes Koroma, Bachelor of Business Administration

Taphenes, a tennis player who has represented Trinidad and Tobago internationally, earned the International Freshman Scholars Award. With a part-time job and six or more classes a semester, her grades still won her the Florida-Caribbean Institute Tuition Waiver. Taphenes has proposed a new one-stop shop where students can receive continuous support throughout the first difficult semester of college.



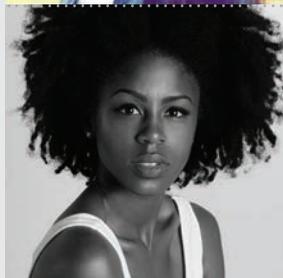
Edmundo Barriga, Bachelor of Physics

After leaving most of his family in Mexico to come to Miami, Edmundo graduated from Miami Beach Senior High in the International Baccalaureate Program, earned an A.A. in Miami Dade College's Honors program, then transferred to FIU. Here, he has worked on groundbreaking nuclear physics research for the GlueX Experiment at Jefferson Lab in Virginia, mapping the spectrum of a new family of particles called hybrid mesons.



Katherine Larson, Bachelor of English

Katherine's diverse interests include poetry, art, music and math, but particularly engaging with people and helping others. The daughter of Religious Studies professor Erik Larson, she has always felt part of the FIU community. She served as a resident assistant for three years, volunteered as a tutor at the Li'l Abner community center in Sweetwater, and played in FIU's Marching Band, graduating magna cum laude.



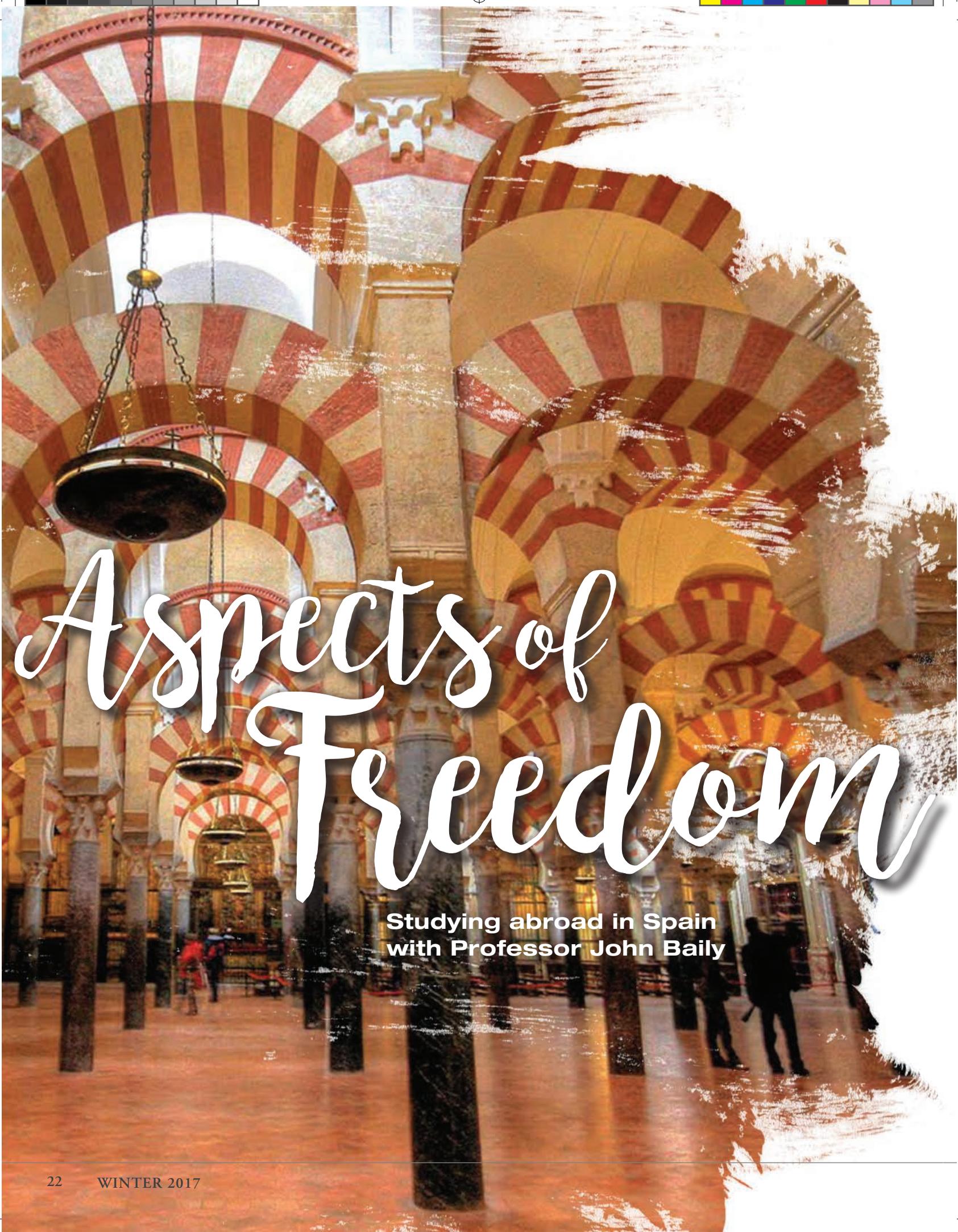
Lachelle Walthour, Bachelor of Public Relations

An entrepreneur already at 20, Lachelle founded “A.R.T. LIVE: A Reason to Live,” a quarterly multimedia event for fledgling artists, poets, filmmakers, and musicians to showcase their talent. She then started FulCircle Services, which provides photography, videography, and social media services; event planning; and portfolio assistance and runway training for models. She also works with the Jason Taylor Foundation as a teaching artist and hosts a web series with Creativ magazine called “Live with Lola.”



Beyssa Buil, Bachelor of Religious Studies

Beyssa Buil always suspected that she was different. In elementary school, she was routinely pulled from class for occupational therapy, where she learned to use scissors and tie her shoelaces, and was often subjected to bullying. It was not until she attended Miami Dade College that she learned she had a cognitive disability. When her son London was diagnosed with autism, Beyssa saw history repeating itself and found her calling. Today, she is a special needs advocate, providing support to families and working to change policy. With persistence and dedication Beyssa graduated with a 3.9 GPA, a Phi Beta Kappa key, and several honors. She will attend seminary to earn an M.A. in Pastoral Care and Counseling and become a Buddhist chaplain.



Aspects of Freedom

Studying abroad in Spain
with Professor John Baily



“I began to examine the different aspects of freedom in the United States and Spain when I saw La Giralda in Sevilla. La Giralda has an immediate connection to Miami because both the Freedom Tower as well as the Biltmore Hotel were inspired by it.”



By Allison Vargas

La Giralda, a bell tower of the Sevilla Cathedral, includes parts from many cultures. Stones with Roman inscriptions were used to build the original Moorish minaret before the mosque was turned into a church during the Reconquista.

The Freedom Tower, on the other hand, was used in the 1960s to process, document, and help Cuban refugees fleeing Castro’s regime. The tower is now a symbol of hope and freedom.

I found it interesting and ironic that a tower that is the product of cultural and religious conflict is the inspiration for a tower representing freedom across an ocean. However, in the case of both towers, conflict brought about cultural blending. La Giralda itself is the product of cultural blending, while Cuban and American culture began blending at the Freedom Tower. Although the towers have very different histories, they have had parallel functions in the merging of cultures.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Religion plays a huge role in Spanish history and identity—so much so that it would be illogical, even impossible, to visit Spain and not visit the amazing cathedrals and churches, regardless of your own religion.

The difference in the history of religion in the United States and Spain is starkly obvious: the U.S. has always supported religious diversity and tolerance, while Spain is the product of religious control.

Here is a brief history lesson to explain.

Both the Reconquista and the Inquisition established Christian dominance in Spain. During the Reconquista in the Middle Ages, Christian armies conquered the Moors, and the Moors were driven out of Spain. Spain became united under Catholicism by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, which led to the Inquisition. During the Inquisition (1478-1834), anyone non-Christian, especially Jews, was punished. Later, during the Franco era, Catholicism was the only religion allowed legal status. The government passed laws supporting Catholic teachings, and Catholic religious education was mandatory in schools.

Today, most Spaniards identify as Catholic, but religion has become more of a tradition than anything else. There are still remnants of Spain’s authoritarian religious history, however. Cities like Toledo and Sevilla have a “Juderia” or Jewish neighborhood, although no Jews reside in it. To me, the signs of the Juderia are more like gravestones than neighborhood labels. I

personally did not see a single synagogue or mosque that had not been converted into a Catholic church. During my entire time in Spain, I saw only one other church among the countless Catholic churches—a Scientology church.

The lack of religious diversity in Spain stands in stark contrast to the United States, where you may stumble upon a multitude of different places of worship in any town. However, the U.S. is not impervious to religious discrimination, and it is not unique to Spain. Also, although both countries now claim separation of church and state, religious ideologies constantly permeate politics. In Spain, this separation is difficult, given its history; but in the U.S. it is notable that religion plays such a large part in a country that has always had a separation of church and state, and that it is even referred to as “one nation under God”.

SEXUAL FREEDOM

As I have studied in Spain, I have become aware that the level of conservatism is different than in the United States. The U.S. is actually more sexually restrictive, a reality that was blatantly obvious, especially on the beaches.

At Barceloneta and the beach at Sitges, women of all sizes and ages



are commonly topless. In the U.S., topless women at a beach would most likely receive stares and even sexual harassment. In Spain, breasts seem to almost be completely desexualized, and toplessness at the beach is regarded as the norm.

Another less in-your-face, but still apparent, way in which Spain is less conservative than the U.S. is the view on homosexuality. I first began to consider this distinction on the day of the Orlando shootings. On that day, the Real Casa de Correos, a building located in Madrid, hung gay pride flags with a black ribbon on them in solidarity. After seeing these flags, I felt proud to be in a country that was standing with American citizens and the gay community. I further noted the difference in views on homosexuality after seeing several gay couples together. Although this is just as frequent in Miami, I did not notice any glares or harsh looks in Spain. These observations led me to do a little research. I found that, according to Pew Research Center, 91% of Spaniards are accepting of homosexuality, while only 60% of Americans are. Furthermore, Spain legalized gay marriage in 2005, while in the U.S., it has only been legal since 2015.

In light of the historical role of religion in these countries, the different attitudes on sexuality are ironic. It is almost paradoxical that a country so dominated by Catholic and conservative ideals legalized

such a liberal statute a decade before the U.S. However, it is also relevant to note that the Pew Research Center also found that half of Americans deem religion to be very important in their lives, while less than a quarter of Spaniards do. Needless to say, Spain's societal attitudes have evolved rapidly, and in my opinion, for the better. I only hope that American attitudes undergo a similar evolution in the near future.

FREEDOM IN CELEBRATIONS

By a stroke of luck, we were fortunate enough to be in Barcelona for the celebration of the Nit de San Joan on June 23rd. I had never heard of this holiday, or what it commemorated, before. My curiosity led me to a swift Google search. I quickly learned that the holiday has pagan origins, and long predates the introduction of Christianity. It is a celebration of the summer solstice, and the Catholic Church later combined it with the birth of St. John the Baptist. Bonfires and fireworks are at the heart of the festivities; the flames are believed to frighten and dispel evil spirits abroad on this night.

Before actually witnessing the celebration, I expected it to be similar to the American Fourth of July, which I associate with fireworks and bonfires on the beach; so when I learned that the Nit de San Joan was celebrated similarly, I imagined them to be alike. Well, it was nothing like the Fourth of July.

There was no part of Barcelona that did not have people out celebrating.

Throughout the city, music was playing and fireworks were shooting. These fireworks displays, though, were like nothing I had ever seen. You did not watch them up in the sky while sitting in awe. Instead, they were detonating right

beside you in the hands of people dressed up as devils—odd, I thought, for a holiday that celebrates a saint. Although being in such close proximity to fireworks is dangerous, the excitement and thrill in the atmosphere gave me an adrenaline rush that made me completely forget the potential risk.

Participating in this unique celebration really focused my attention on the differences between the U.S. and Spain; a celebration like the Nit de San Joan could never exist in the U.S.; the U.S. imposes too many restrictions! A celebration consisting of fireworks and bonfires would never be allowed to extend throughout a U.S. city. There would be regulations on the beach in the name of environmentalism, regulations on the streets in the name of safety and noise control, and regulations throughout the city in the name of keeping the festivities small enough for the police to control.

What the two countries do have in common, though, is that they have lost sight of the meaning behind their celebrations. The Nit de San Joan felt like an excuse to drink and party, not really to celebrate St. John the Baptist. Similarly, St. Patrick's Day in the U.S. has little religious meaning and now centers on drinking and partying.

FREEDOM AND TECHNOLOGY

In no way is either Spain or the United States more technologically advanced than the other, but the use of, and importance placed on technology, is slightly different. Two applications of technology that I found to be unlike when comparing the countries were transportation and cellphones. These two technologies can either be used in society to augment freedom or to restrict it.

Throughout my time in Spain, there were perhaps only two occasions where I used a taxi to commute. On all other occasions, we either walked or used public transportation to get around, which seem to be the more popular transportation methods. This



Photo courtesy of John Bailly

is a pronounced difference when compared to the most common method of transportation back home in Miami: driving.

Transportation in Miami, in fact, restricts our freedom. I can probably count on my two hands the number of times I have used public transportation in Miami, and I am willing to bet that most other Miami locals can say the same. This heavy reliance on cars leads to our infamous traffic problems. People waste countless hours of their lives in traffic, an issue that the average Spanish citizen would never encounter. Spain's substantial use of public transportation allows for virtually no time spent wasted commuting, as well as an overall more positive commuting experience.

Cellphones are another technology that appears to restrict people in Miami more than in Spain. My reasoning for this claim lies in the observations I made while eating out at restaurants. In Spain, people at restaurants were always fully engaged in conversations with each other, and never on their cellphones. In Miami, the opposite holds true. Back home, it is rare to see people not check their phones at least once during a meal. But cellphones are not the only culprit. Some restaurants in Miami, like Chili's for example, have tablets on every table that offer games, which further socially withdraw people from what should in reality be a social event.

So when considering transportation and hand-held devices, Spain seems to be doing a better job at using these technologies to improve lifestyles, rather than hinder them.

FREEDOM AND CONFLICT

There is a complicated relationship between conflict and freedom. Conflict threatens freedom, but it is also sometimes needed to gain or keep freedom.

Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* depicts the bombing of that city during the Spanish Civil War. Seeing this massive

work of art at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid was extraordinary; the painting caused me not only to appreciate Picasso's one-of-a-kind genius, but also to reflect on what it depicts. The combination of Picasso's artistry and the compelling meaning of the piece makes it my favorite painting of the trip.

The artwork is a universal symbol warning against the suffering and devastation of war. For this reason, a copy is displayed in the United Nations Building in New York. This fact led me to directly link the U.S. and Spain once again as I researched the willingness of both countries to use military force. I found that three-

quarters of Americans agree that it is sometimes necessary to use military force to maintain order in the world, while narrower majorities of Spaniards share the same view. Furthermore, when asked whether their country should have UN approval before using military force to deal with international threats, only 45% Americans agree, compared to the 74% of Spaniards who do.

This difference in opinion may be due to Spain's more direct connection to the pain and horror of war on its home soil. Perhaps the U.S. is more focused on the use of conflict to foster freedom, while Spain is more aware of the suffering conflict causes. ■



La Guernica
Pablo Picasso

SPRING 2016

Salomon Ahumada
Victoria Albert
Fernando Alvarez Jr.
Catrease Ancion
Richard Arana
Steven Arce
Alexis Arenal
Jennifer Baker
Edmundo Barriga
Kaina Bellegarde
Diana Bermudez
Sophia Boucher
Thomas Branchetti
Hannah Brankin
Beyssa Bul
Michelle Cano
Alexandra Catena
Michelle Cavalaris
John Cervera
Amanda Comesanas
Ileana Corsi
Khristen Cotterell
Taylor Cox
Nisha Cunningham
Ekson Dacius
Ricardo Delgado
Marie Desir
Christian Dougnac
Alexander Dudley
Cindy Duenas
Natalia Duran
Michael Elias
Dominique Espinosa
Franchesca Espinosa
Gabrielle Estevez-Inoa
Jenny Estinville
Jainette Fernandez
Andy Fernandez
Paula Fernandez
Claudia Fernandez Garcia
Janelle Fleites
Yisel Frometa
Jorman Garcia
Gabriel Garcia Barrera

Elizabeth Garcia Kokareva
Yeendy Gil
Maria Emilia
Gonzalez Haesler
Maria Eugenia
Gonzalez Haesler
Daniel Haydar
Erin Heath
Andy Hernandez
Brenda Izquierdo Valenzuela
Sony Jean
Randy Juste
Taphenes Koroma
Daniel Lambert
Alissa Laroche
Katherine Larson
Maniel Lastra
Jiali Lei
Tanya Leonard
Carolina Liriano
Natalie Liscano
Juan Loayza
Jorge Lopez Perez
Jennifer Luis
Christian Marrero
Jennifer Melo
Gianfranco Molfetto
Daniela Molina
Nicole Montero
Enelys Moreno Hernandez
Stephanie Morris
Joelle Mouhanna
Jennifer Narvaez
Maria Noriega
Monica Nunez
Marta Ojeda
Sara Oramas
Laura Ortiz
Michelle Ozaeta
Jennifer Paz
George Pearson
Maria Pelegrin
Kathryn Pena
Caroline Perez

Whitney Perez
Ricardo Perez-Dulzaides
Jessica Pinon
Meilyn Planas
Nicolas Polignan
Jacquelyne Prieto
Joey Rafaeli
Thomas Raine
Janelle Ramcharan
Tiffany Rey
Hellan Rivas
Maria Sol Rivera
Christina Rodriguez
Maria Rodriguez
Yvette Rodriguez
Jennifer Rodriguez
Laura Rojas
Yanet Ruvalcaba
Daniel Santos
Alfredo Sarduy
Gisselle Sensebe
Carlos Serrano
Michelle Sfeir
Raquel Sossa
Jenelly Sotomayor
Sebastian Suarez
Adrian Suarez Avila
Alessia Tacchella
Michelle Theurer
Rachelle Tobkes
Talia Torbica
Rosemary Trewin
Anthony Tuzzolo
Steven Unger
Jonathan Urta
Kassandra Valdes
Roxana Vargas
Stephanie Victoria
Andres Villa
Rebecca Villalba
Jervon Wright
Pilar Zaldivar
Evelyne Zapata

SUMMER 2016

Crystal Abreu
Azelyn Alfonso
Dez Rae Camoy Allen
Indra Alvarez
Romina Angelelli
Marsha-Lee T. Ashworth
Francisca Backenstross
Nelsie Esther Berberena
Kendrick Anthony Bernal
Laura Betancur
Shandon Terrion Bowman
H Nicole Bramblett
Sasha Brigante
Alexandra Castillo Escobar
Andre Roland Desruisseaux
Andreina Diaz
Danté A. DiGiacomo
Carmen Echavarria
Cory Alan Fairfield
Paula Fernandez
Laura Estelle Flegeau
Dayan Garcia

Lourdes Garcia
Catalina Garzon Vargas
Rachel Glenn
Bianca Alexa Gutierrez
Elizabeth Maria Hernandez
Daniela Hernandez Perez
Juan A. Ivich Ostler
Cyan Jean Baptiste
Andrea Del Pilar Jo
Ashley Megan Juan
Giselle Latorre
Andrea Carolina Macias
Idelis Martinez
Victoria Mason
Tatiana Lee Menacho
Franco Franco Mirabal
Gretert Montano
Lylybell Oramas
Nathalie Pelaez
Danaris Pichardo Rey
Anthony Placeres
Blas Christian Prieto

Lauren Quevedo
Jodi-Ann Angelique Richards
Gretel Rodriguez
Penelope Esperanza Rodriguez
Racquel Remaliah Rose
Kaira Victoria Sanchez
Jakob Schwanitz
Samantha Suzanne Smith
Sharon Soprano
Kelly D. Spence
Tiyada Kate Sritrakul
Jose Urbina
Rabiya Usman
Isamar Vilanova
Manuela Victoria
Vitora Rodriguez
Ifrah Waheed
Jennifer Pereira Weitzel
Syeda H. Zehra

HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES