School Welcomes New UM President

The School of Education and Human Development welcomes Julio Frenk, M.D., Ph.D., the new president of the University of Miami. “Dr. Frenk is a noted leader in global public health and a renowned scholar and academic,” said Dean Isaac Prilleltensky. “Under his leadership, we look forward to advancing our mission of producing knowledge and preparing the next generation of leaders, researchers, and agents of change in multicultural communities.”

Prior to joining the University of Miami on August 16, Dr. Frenk was dean of the faculty at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. While at Harvard, he was also the T and G Angelo- Poulos Professor of Public Health and International Development, a joint appointment with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

(Story continues on page 2)
New UM President  (from page 1)

Dr. Frenk served as the Minister of Health of Mexico from 2000 to 2006. He pursued an ambitious agenda to reform the nation’s health system and introduced a program of comprehensive universal health insurance, known as Seguro Popular, which expanded access to health care for tens of millions of uninsured Mexicans.

Dr. Frenk was the founding director-general of the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico, one of the leading institutions of health education and research in the developing world. In 1998 Dr. Frenk joined the World Health Organization (WHO) as executive director in charge of Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO’s first-ever unit explicitly charged with developing a scientific foundation for health policy to achieve better outcomes.

He also served as a senior fellow in the global health program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and as president of the Carso Health Institute in Mexico City. He is the founding chair of the board of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. He also co-chaired the Commission on the Education of Health Professionals for the 21st Century, which published its influential report in the leading journal The Lancet in 2010, triggering a large number of follow-up initiatives throughout the world.

Dr. Frenk holds a medical degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, as well as a master of public health and a joint doctorate in Medical Care Organization and in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from several institutions of higher learning. In September of 2008, Dr. Frenk received the Clinton Global Citizen Award for changing “the way practitioners and policy makers across the world think about health.”

He is a member of the U.S. Institute of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and National Academy of Medicine of Mexico. In addition to his scholarly works, which include more than 140 articles in academic journals, as well as many books and book chapters, he has written two best-selling novels for youngsters explaining the functions of the human body.

Prilleltensky Earns National Award for Humor Writing

Dean Isaac Prilleltensky has been honored by the National Newspaper Association for writing one of the best humor columns in the nation. In October, he will receive the second-place award in the “Best Humorous Column, Daily and Non-daily Division, circ. 8,000 or more” category for his articles, which run regularly in Miami Today. “We very much appreciate being able to publish your fine work,” said publisher Michael Lewis.

“I enjoy the writing process, and my livelihood doesn’t depend on my skills as a humorist,” said Prilleltensky, whose columns take a satirical look at important issues, such the controversy over David Beckham’s request to build a new stadium for professional soccer at PortMiami.

Referring to a recent column, “Seal deal for soccer at seaport fast, before the waters rise,” the NNA judges commented, “Planned humor, especially with a lightly sarcastic touch, is difficult to write successfully, but this writer succeeds. It took some thought, as well as a well-developed sense of humor, to come up with lines like these: ‘Beckham is the perfect role model for kids in Miami. He has a hot wife, plenty of tattoos, and his very own brand!’”
Advancing Our Vision

With the arrival of Dr. Julio Frenk, the University of Miami begins a new chapter in its continued commitment to academic and community leadership. Our school plays an important role in that process, in keeping with our long-term vision to be a center of excellence in the study, promotion, and integration of educational, psychological, and physical well-being in multicultural communities.

As you can see in this issue of Perspective, our school’s unique identity is nurtured through the creation of innovative education and community-based research programs. One excellent example is our Dunsphaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being (CEW) Research Center, now under the leadership of Professor Daniel Santisteban, who has focused his work on developing more effective interventions for children, adolescents, and families.

We are also very proud of our students, who continue to demonstrate their leadership skills, while excelling in their studies, both inside and outside the classroom. We know that educating the next generation of teachers, counselors, athletic trainers, exercise physiologists and other professionals is at the core of our mission as part of the University of Miami “family.”

We also thank the many generous donors, sponsors, and partners who support our academic, research, and service programs. Their contributions allow us to engage with individuals, families, schools, and communities on a very meaningful level, multiplying our ability to serve as a vehicle for social change.

As we move into the new academic year, I look forward to advancing our vision of leadership on a local, national, and global level.

Dean Isaac Prieltensky
Dean, School of Education and Human Development
Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community Well-Being

About Our Mark

The School of Education and Human Development’s symbol represents our collective focus on well-being as the core of our mission. The interlocking arcs stand for three basic components of well-being: the educational, psychological, and physical. These three components correspond to the three departments in our school, which are interrelated in their focus on well-being.

The three University of Miami School of Education and Human Development departments are:
• Teaching and Learning (TAL), which fosters intellectual and educational development
• Educational and Psychological Studies (EPS), which focuses on emotional health and psychological factors
• Kinesiology and Sport Sciences (KIN), which promotes physical well-being, fitness, and sport.

To view a short film about the School’s focus on well-being, visit: vimeo.com/52027102
Daniel Santisteban Leads Community and Educational Well-Being Research Center

Under the guidance of Professor Daniel A. Santisteban, the Dunspaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being (CEW) Research Center will support new community-based research, disseminate evidence-based practices, and provide training on a national and international level.

“Our goal is be a center for knowledge and support for scholars and organizations seeking to improve the well-being of youth, families, and communities,” said Santisteban, who became director of the School of Education and Human Development’s six-year-old center in July, after founding director Etiony Aldarondo became provost at Carlos Albizu University.

“The Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation has been very generous in supporting the work of the Center over the years and we will seek to wisely utilize these and other resources that support our work to improve the well-being of all sectors in the community,” added Santisteban, who is a clinical psychologist in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies.

Since earning his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami in 1991, Santisteban has published more than 35 articles and book chapters that focus on culture and immigration processes that impact the family, and on adolescent and family treatment outcomes. In 2013, he received the University of Miami Civic Engagement Award, reflecting his leadership in the field, and in 2004 he received the American Family Therapy Academy’s Distinguished Contributions to Family Therapy Research Award.

Over the past 25 years, Santisteban and colleague Dr. Maite Mena have been working to develop, test, and disseminate family-based interventions that promote healthy development in children and adolescents and prevent and treat behavior problems that can often emerge during adolescence. Consistent funding by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities has supported major clinical trials to identify treatments that work for underserved minority populations.

“After appreciating from a distance the important work accomplished by Dr. Aldarondo and CEW team, I plan to continue to nurture the center’s excellent working relationship with community partners, while expanding our work of the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices to better serve children and families,” Santisteban said. “The CEW is very fortunate to have two very successful partners with unique skills, experience, and talents housed with the center.”

One partner is the Statistical Supporting Unit (STATS-U). Led by Professor Soyeon Ahn, associate dean of research, the STATS-U team supports research by providing statistical and methodological training, grant development, and statistical consultation for faculty, staff, and graduate students at the University of Miami. The team offers a variety of training sessions and workshops, as well as a well-utilized “Help Desk.” Seminars are provided on state of the science methodological issues, such as statistical techniques, causal inference, and statistical software.

Another partner is the Melissa Institute, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is preventing violence and promoting safer communities through education and the application of research-based knowledge. The institute is led by Dr. Frank DeLaurier, executive director; other executives include Trish Ramsay, education director and Dr. Donald Meichenbaum, research director and distinguished professor emeritus.

“In our first year at UM, we had a bit of a learning curve, made much easier by the support that was provided by the SEHD staff and faculty at all levels,” said DeLaurier. “Now we feel like full partners, and we are excited about the possibilities of offering our expertise, as an integral part of the CEW, to students, faculty, and the community.”

Looking ahead, Santisteban said, the CEW will provide expertise, mentorship, and consultation to facilitate the utilization of science-based tools and practices, and serve as a catalyst for change. “Our team will be a bridge between the university and the community, and play an important role in supporting well-being in South Florida and beyond.”

Daniel Santisteban

Soyeon Ahn
KIN Researchers Publish ‘Most Read’ Articles

In the past year, faculty and student researchers in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences’ Max Orovitz Laboratory Complex have published more than 20 peer-reviewed articles on topics ranging from sarcopenic obesity to electromyography.

In early 2015, two of the articles made it to the “Top 25 Most Read Articles” for the past three months in their respective journals.

The first study, “Comparative impacts of Tai Chi, balance training, and a specially-designed yoga program on balance in older fallers” was published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation by co-authors Ni M, Mooney K, Richards L, Balachandran A, Sun M, Harriell K, Potiaumpai M, and Signorile JF. It compared a targeted yoga program designed by the laboratory’s research team to Tai Chi and multi-directional balance training. Results indicated that the newly designed yoga program produced the same improvements in balance for older fallers as these two established interventions.

The second article, “High-speed circuit training vs. hypertrophy training to improve physical function in sarcopenic obese adults: A randomized controlled trial” was published in Experimental Gerontology by co-authors Balachandran A, Krawczyk SN, Potiaumpai M, and Signorile JF. This was the first exercise intervention study that targeted improvements in physical function in older adults with sarcopenic obesity. Sarcopenia is the loss of skeletal muscle mass and function often associated with the aging process.

The study results showed that the laboratory’s unique high-speed circuit resistance training program produced greater improvements in functional performance and lower body power than a standard resistance training program, and did so at a lower perceived level of exertion.

The School of Education and Human Development’s Max Orovitz facility includes the Laboratory of Athletic Training, the Laboratory of Sports Medicine and Motion Analysis, and the Laboratory of Neuromuscular Research and Active Aging.
UM Faculty Play Key Role in Countywide ‘Ethics in Education’ Conference

From high-stakes testing, to engaging disaffected students, to addressing the “win at all cost” attitude, school teachers, administrators, coaches and parents need to make ethical decisions based on what’s right for the child, according to panelists at “Ethics in Education: A to Z,” a May 1-2 conference organized by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

“Ethics is doing the right thing at the right time for the right reason,” said Professor Susan Mullane, director for Sport Administration, Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences in the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), which co-sponsored the conference.

Dr. Marilyn Neff, associate dean of Planning, Communications, and External Relations, SEHD, added, “Ethics is not just a concept. It needs to be put into action in order to change individual and community behaviors.”

More than 200 Miami-Dade County Public School teachers and administrators attended the conference, which began with a Friday evening reception at Storer Auditorium on the UM campus. “As educators, we need to prepare our students for making sound, ethical decisions when confronting their challenges,” said Kenneth W. Goodman, professor of medicine and co-director of UM Ethics Programs, in the opening session.

Baruti Kafele, an award-winning principal and motivational speaker from New Jersey, delivered an inspiring keynote address on “The Intentionality of Ethics in Education.” He spoke of the importance of taking an ethical approach to ensuring that young people have the right mindset to be successful in school.

“Student attitudes matter,” he said. “So, you need to get them excited about learning and their prospects for the future. Staff attitudes and the school climate and culture also matter. Students need to be acknowledged and recognized just for being themselves, as we give them the tools to be even greater than they are today.”

Isaac Prilleltensky, dean of the School of Education and Human Development, professor, Department of Educational and Psychological Studies, and the Erwin and Barbara Mautner Endowed Chair in Community Well-Being, kicked off the Saturday session at Miami Senior High School with a talk on “Fitness and Fairness in Education.”

(story continues on page 12)
Human trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation is a serious problem throughout the U.S., particularly in gateway cities like Miami. Medical professionals, counselors, and law enforcement officers need to be aware of the physical or emotional signs of mistreatment, and take action to help these victims, according to several University of Miami professionals at a May 1 conference at the Student Activities Center on “Human Trafficking: Interrupting the Pathway to Victimization” at the Student Activities Center.

“Human trafficking is a problem that needs to be addressed,” said Lynn Aptman, president of The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention, which she and her husband Michael co-founded 19 years ago after their daughter Melissa was murdered. Now housed at the University of Miami, the institute presented its 19th annual conference, in partnership with the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD).

“We need to have a better understanding of this problem, so that we can be more effective in intervening,” said Ethony Aldarondo, Ph.D., former associate dean of research and director of the SEHD’s Dunsbaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being (CEW) Research Center.

In her presentation, “Social Impact of Human Trafficking: In Our Backyard,” Juhi Jain, M.D., Class of 2015, addressed several myths about “modern-day sexual and labor slavery,” which claims about 20,000 victims annually in the U.S. “Men and boys are just as affected as women and girls,” she said. “Many are homeless runaway children and teens who have a previous history of abuse.”

In most cases, psychological techniques are used to control the victims, so there are no signs of physical restraint or abuse, she said. “Tattoos and even bar codes are used to indicate ‘ownership.’” Jain advised doctors and nurses treating young patients for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), injuries, or malnourishment to ask follow-up questions to see if this might be a case of human trafficking.

“A patient who cannot tell you where she lives, does not make eye contact, or has another person answer the questions may be a victim,” Jain said. “You can call the national Polaris hotline at 888-373-7888 for immediate guidance and to be put in touch with the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force.”

Conference director Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D. Distinguished Professor Emeritus, clinical psychologist, research director and a founding member of The Melissa Institute, spoke on “Approaches to Bolster Resilience in Victims of Human Trafficking: Core Tasks of Interventions.” Other presentations focused on the incidence and impact of human trafficking on victims, as well as the importance of outreach programs for victims.

The Melissa Institute is a non-profit organization located at the School of Education and Human Development that is dedicated to the study and prevention of violence through education, community service, research support, and consultation. The Institute’s mission is to prevent violence and promote safer communities through education and application of research-based knowledge.
Birman Applauds APA’s Anti-Torture Vote

For Professor Dina Birman, the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association (APA) took a major ethical step in voting on August 7 to ban any involvement by psychologists in national security interrogations conducted by the U.S. government.

When Birman, director of the Community Well-Being Ph.D. Program in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies (EPS), was elected to serve on the Council in early 2014, she could not have anticipated being part of this historic event. Then, last October Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter James Risen published a book that documented the APA’s collaboration with the Bush administration on the torture program.

Though these accusations had been made before, in the wake of the publicity surrounding Risen’s book the APA commissioned an independent review to establish the veracity of these claims. The Hoffman Report, released to the public in July, found that the APA’s leadership had colluded with the U.S. Department of Defense to sanction the participation of American psychologists in the torture of prisoners during the war on terror. In early August, at the APA annual convention in Toronto, council members met to deliberate the association’s response.

“It was a very emotional moment for all of us in favor of removing psychologists from any setting involving torture or related interrogation techniques,” said Birman. Professor Guerda Nicolas and several EPS students also attended the historic session to witness the vote and offer support.

As a member of the APA’s Division 27 (Society for Community Research and Action), Birman was on the floor of the APA’s Council of Representatives during the roll-call vote at the association’s annual conference in Toronto. “In my role I spoke on the floor in support of the motion and was one of the council members who requested the verbal roll-call vote to ensure transparency,” said Birman. “My division has fought long and hard for this.”

Although some members continued to oppose the motion that morning, there was only one ‘no’ on the roll-call vote to implement a 2008 vote by the 130,000 APA members to remove psychologists from all settings that operate outside of international law. “It was very powerful and moving to hear the ‘yes’ votes come in and the cheers from the supporters,” said Birman.

The motion, approved by a 156-1 margin, read, in part: “The APA membership has voted to prohibit all psychologists from working at Guantanamo Bay, from the CIA black sites, and any other setting that the UN has declared to be in violation of international law, excepting those psychologists who are performing no task other than offering treatment to fellow soldiers. Please inform psychologists who are performing any task other than offering treatment to soldiers in these settings that they must immediately seek to deploy elsewhere or find themselves in violation of APA policy.”

In 2005 the APA condoned the participation of psychologists at military and CIA interrogation sites – an action that led to mass resignations and prompted others to form the Coalition of Ethical Psychology that has worked through the years to change that decision. “This anti-torture vote should have happened a long time ago,” Birman said. “There is still a lot of work that needs to be done, but this was a most important step.”
A dissertation by Blaine Elizabeth Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, was selected as a finalist for the International Literacy Association’s (ILA) “Outstanding Dissertation of the Year” award. She received a certificate and presented her work with the other eight finalists at ILA’s Outstanding Dissertation Poster Session at its July conference in St. Louis.

Her dissertation, “Urban Adolescents’ Multimodal Composing Processes: A Comparative Analysis of Collaboration, Modal Movement, and Design Perspectives,” was a comparative analysis of how culturally and linguistically diverse twelfth-grade students collaboratively composed with digital tools and multimedia in an English class.

The ILA competition is open to doctoral students who have completed their dissertations in literacy or related fields. The ILA is a global advocacy and membership organization of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 75 countries.

Smith received her Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in 2014. She is a recipient of the Literacy Research Association’s Outstanding Student Research Award and was selected for the Supporting Young Scholars program by the Reading Hall of Fame.

Her research focuses on the digital literacy practices of culturally and linguistically diverse youth in and out of schools, with special attention to their multimodal composing processes and products. A main goal of her work is to develop scaffolded instructional strategies to support the integration of digital literacies in the classroom. She is also interested in the content learning potential made possible through multimodal composition, especially for students who often struggle with print-based literacies. Lastly, her work focuses on developing innovative multimodal methods for capturing, analyzing, and representing youth’s complex digital practices.
Honoring Our Top 2015 Graduates

The School of Education and Human Development honored the following students at the 2015 Awards Ceremony on May 6.

School of Education and Human Development Award for Scholarship
Imani Williams
(not pictured)

Department of Educational and Psychological Studies Award for Scholarship Studies
Madelyn Elia
with Dean Isaac Prilleltensky

Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences Award for Scholarship
Andrew Smith
with Dean Isaac Prilleltensky

Dean's Dozen Honorary Association
Nicole Garcia, Andrew Smith, Francesca Tebano, and Suzette Ikejiani with Dean Prilleltensky and Gina Astorini

Excellence in Student Teaching Award
Shanda Jean Baptiste, Elena Dossett, Michelle Lewis, Adriana Lopez, and Nicole Swanson (not pictured) with Walter G. Secada, TAL Department Chair, and family members

Robert F. Moore Scholarship
Ibis Ballester, Michelle Lewis, Nicole Dasneves, Ariana Ventura, and Alison Satalino (not pictured) with Dr. Secada

Research Honors Program
Lana Chehabeddine
with Dean Prilleltensky
Department of Teaching and Learning

Outstanding Master’s Student in Education and Social Change
Devyn Taylor
with Dr. Secada

Outstanding Master’s Student in Early Childhood Special Education
Michelle Stoppe
with Dr. Secada

Department of Educational and Psychological Studies

Award for Excellence in Human and Social Development – Individual Track
Kevin MacDonald
with Dr. Laura Kohn-Wood, EPS Department Chair

Award for Excellence in Human and Social Development – Community Track
Guerdiana Thelomar
with Kohn-Wood

Carolyn S. Garwood Award for Service
Kirthika Malhotra
(not pictured)

MCCJ Silver Medallion Award
Michael Mattiesen
(not pictured)

Outstanding Master’s Student Award in Counseling Psychology
Zamira Castro Jimenez
with Dr. Kohn-Wood

Outstanding Master’s Student Award in Research, Measurement and Evaluation
Monica Morell
with Dr. Kohn-Wood

Outstanding Doctoral Student Award in Counseling Psychology
Amelia Swanson
(not pictured)

Outstanding Doctoral Student Award in Higher Education
Julia Cayuso
with Dr. Kohn-Wood

Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences

Award for Excellence in Athletic Training
Alec Garcia
with Dr. Arlette Perry, KIN Department Chair
**Ethics in Education Conference**
(from page 6)

Prilleltensky said educational policymakers need to shift their focus away from the blame game ("what's wrong with kids, parents and teachers") and promote strengths, prevention, empowerment, and community change, as the school is doing through its SPEC initiative.

"Rather than reacting to problems, we must do more to prevent them from occurring in the first place," he added. "We must pay attention to fairness and ethics in all the domains of life."

In other Saturday sessions, Neff moderated a lively panel discussion on “Teaching to the Test: When Does It Cross the Ethical Line,” and David Lawrence Jr., Education and Community Leadership Scholar at the SEHD and president of the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, moderated a session on “School Choice and Public Resources: What are the Limits for Charter Schools and Private School Subsidies?”


"Ethics are those values and principles that you can never compromise," said Golden. "In sports, as in business, you have to know your organization’s mission and core values and stand up for what is right."

**Examining Virtues**
(from page 9)

the virtues of kindness and fairness in their lives. This will provide a richer understanding of how virtues operate in individuals’ lives.

“We will also test for the presence of the virtues of kindness and fairness in two experimental studies,” added Fowers. “The advantage of the experimental studies is that we can observe virtue-related behavior instead of relying solely on participants’ self-reports of their behavior. Our results from these three sources of data will provide an unprecedented scientific test of the actuality of these virtues.”
School Launches Partnership with Peace Corps

Graduate students in the School of Education and Human Development can now integrate their studies with overseas service in a new partnership with the Peace Corps Master’s International Program.

Students in the school’s Community and Social Change Master’s Program in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies first complete 30 credits of coursework on campus, then leave to serve overseas in the Peace Corps for 27 months and complete two academic assignments during their service.

“We now have five Community and Social Change graduate students serving in multiple countries, gaining a truly global educational experience,” said Professor Scot Evans, director, Undergraduate Program in Human and Social Development.

The current Community and Social Change/Peace Corps Master’s International students include:

- Shannon Yrle serving in Neijiang, China
- Jasmine Rosa serving in Kavadarci, Macedonia
- Kareen Sanchez serving in Comendador, Elias Pina, Dominican Republic
- Matt Grady serving in Meknes, Morocco
- Danielle Parker serving in Uganda

“It is inspiring to see these courageous students in far off, unfamiliar places applying the practical skills and frameworks they nurtured with us here in the CSC program,” said Evans. “They are taking advantage of this opportunity to engage in social change on an international scale.”

KIN Doctoral Student Receives Outstanding Scholar Award

Christopher Bailey, a doctoral student in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences, received the 2015 “Outstanding Scholar Award” from the American Kinesiology Association for his work on chromium supplementation.

“His meta-analysis made it the premier article on chromium supplementation in the literature,” said Arlette Perry, chair, Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences, adding this is the first time a University of Miami student has received a national award from the association.

The annual scholar awards honor a select number of students from member departments, recommended by department faculty, whose academic and leadership records are distinctive. The awards are intended to recognize and promote academic excellence, to further the professional competence and dedication of academically accomplished students, and to promote kinesiology and its related fields.

Bailey is currently working with Professor Joe Signorile on a study involving nutritional supplementation and exercise in the elderly.
graduation

School of Education and Human Development students, family members, and faculty at the 2015 graduation ceremony on May 8 at the courtyard reception.
Holocaust Institute Provides Teachers With Insights on Anti-Semitic Violence

Seventy years after the end of World War II, anti-Semitism remains a serious problem in Europe. But unlike the dark days of Nazi Germany, hate crimes against Jews draw immediate condemnation, according to one of the nation’s leading Holocaust scholars.

“The response to anti-Semitic violence in France, Denmark, Germany, and other nations has been overwhelming support and sympathy for the Jews,” said Dr. Michael Berenbaum, founding project director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., at the 2015 Holocaust Studies Summer Institute, held June 8-12 at Storer Auditorium.

More than 70 Miami-Dade County Public Schools teachers attended the professional development program, which was sponsored by the School of Education and Human Development, with support from the School of Business, the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, and WLRN Public Radio and Television for South Florida.

“Our teachers benefit from gaining new information and access to new resources, so they can develop their lesson plans and teach the Holocaust properly in keeping with the state mandate,” said Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, institute director and district education specialist, Miami-Dade County Public Schools. “We have teachers who come back year after year to learn from our extraordinary speakers.”

One repeat attendee was Jennifer Levinson, a media specialist at Norman S. Edelcup Sunny Isles Beach K-8. “This program brings in top scholars who share their findings with us,” she said. “In turn, we pass that information on to other teachers. The session on using the Internet for Holocaust studies was particularly helpful in that regard.”

Institute participants also heard firsthand testimony from Holocaust survivors, including Kassenoff, who escaped as a child. Berenbaum also narrated the horrifying testimony of Rudolf Reder, who was one of only two people to survive the Belzec death camp where 500,000 to 600,000 Jews perished.

In his talk on the “Stages to Auschwitz” – the steps that led to genocide – Berenbaum discussed the moral courage that many Jews displayed, even when knowing their fate. He also talked about how a few Jews were able to “hide in plain sight” while living in Nazi-occupied Europe. “One woman learned to laugh out loud in crowds, because people who were Jewish would never call attention to themselves,” he said. “She instinctively used reverse psychology in order to survive.”

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff with Dr. Michael Berenbaum.
More than 120 Miami-Dade rising ninth graders from underserved neighborhoods were able to gain a first-hand college experience this summer, thanks to the University of Miami School of Education and Human Development's partnership with Breakthrough Miami.

“Our rigorous six-week Summer Institute encourages middle-school students to enter, thrive, and graduate from top college-prep high schools and four-year colleges and universities,” said Elissa Vanaver, CEO, Breakthrough Miami, an academic enrichment program. “We value our strategic partnership with the University of Miami.”

Bringing students on campus to build their academic skills with coaches and mentors, who include Breakthrough Miami high school students, has boosted engagement with the program, according to Vanaver.

“Attendance at our summer and Saturday programs has jumped by 67 percent in the past year,” she said. “You can see the excitement on their faces every day. Even more importantly, the institute creates a stronger focus on college readiness. Being able to walk around the university and see the buildings and classrooms helps them to visualize what college will be like for them in just four years.”

Four students in the school’s program for Community and Social Change volunteered for Breakthrough Miami’s “College Bound on the Go” Saturday program. Led by volunteer Stephanie Powell, Claudia Akel, Jorge Mendez, Marleah Paige and Sheryl Saturnino assisted the ninth graders with preparing resumes, writing college essays, and other material.

The school’s partnership with Breakthrough Miami also includes an ongoing evaluation program, led by Guerda Nicolas, a professor and former chair of the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies. “Along with looking at student outcomes, the school’s team is helping us develop best practices, such as an increased focus on leadership skills,” Vanaver said.

In addition, three Breakthrough Miami staff members took teacher education courses last year through the school to build their own skills at the non-profit organization.

Several donors to the School of Education and Human Development have played a key role in creating the partnership with Breakthrough Miami, including the Shepard Broad Foundation, Inc.; the Fernandez Pave the Way Foundation, Inc.; and two UM alumni, Barbara Silver and Donna Genet.

Breakthrough Miami is an eight-year, tuition-free program that serves approximately 1,000 talented students, primarily from public middle- and high-schools in Miami-Dade County. Its College Bound program includes advanced academic support, guidance on college selection, and experiential learning that develops life skills.

Looking ahead, Vanaver said Breakthrough Miami will seek to expose talented young people to careers in education by providing them with teaching internships within the program. “We know there will be a shortage of teachers in the future, so we will be creating career opportunities for today’s middle and high school students.”
Summer Writing Institute Draws Record Number of Teachers

With a record 132 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) participants, the 32nd annual Zelda Glazer and Eveleen Lorton Writing Institute was an inspirational and practical success. Among the comments:

- “Learning to write as a student has been the best way to understand what works as a teacher!”
- “My principal attended the institute years ago and she told me how amazing it was. She was absolutely right!”
- “I learned to use different techniques that will help students abandon their fear of writing!”

Organized by the School of Education and Human Development in conjunction with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the two-week writing institute June 15-26 at Terra Environmental Research Institute, included several noted national presenters. “We had an exceptional faculty for the 2015 workshop,” said Nanette Raska, a University of Miami alumna, who was co-director with Joanie Cobo, assistant principal, Vineland K-8 Center, M-DCPS. A former Miami-Dade County “Reading Teacher of the Year,” Raska recently retired from MDCPS as a language arts curriculum support specialist.

Isaac Prilleltensky, dean of the School of Education and Human Development, was the opening day guest speaker, and institute co-founder Eveleen Lorton (pictured below at left), professor emerita, University of Miami, led several sessions and presented a “Points of Pride” publication for the institute. M-DCPS School Superintendent Alberto Carvalho spoke at the institute’s closing breakfast along with Board Member Larry Feldman.

Other institute faculty members included Dr. Beverly Ann Chin, director of the English Teaching Program at the University of Montana and an internationally recognized leader in English language arts; Ruth Culham, Ph.D., president of the Culham Writing Company and author of more than 40 teaching resources published by Scholastic; and Eric Palmer, a nationally known Denver educational trainer and program consultant on Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys, a K-6 reading program, and Collections, a 6-12 literature program.
YES! Camp

For the past seven summers, the School of Education and Human Development has sponsored the Youth Empowerment Summer Camp, also known as YES! Camp for URGENT, Inc. With the support of the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies, students between the ages of 6 and 12 from Overtown, Liberty City, and Little Haiti, attended the 2015 camp.
Publications and Papers


Strassnig, M.T., Signorile, J.F., Potiampai, M., Romero, M.A., Gonzalez, C., Czaja, S., & Harvey, P.D.

High velocity circuit resistance training improves cognition, psychiatric symptoms and neuromuscular performance in overweight out-patients with severe mental illness. Psychiatry Res. 2015 Jul 8. [Epub ahead of print]

