



Andrea C. Ruiz Sorrentini, B.A.
Community & Social Change
Assessor – JUEGA Study

“I am truly enjoying my experience in the Community and Social Change master’s program thanks to the conversations with my outstanding colleagues, the education from my experienced professors and the great opportunities of networking here in Miami. This program has provided a space for understanding the view of Community psychologists towards our societal problems, and for preparing us to become active social leaders that will transform our societies. Next semester, I hope to get more involved in academic, extracurricular and volunteer activities, and mobilize all the innovative and helpful resources at UM.”

Andrea Ruiz is originally from Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. In 2013, she began her career as an activist and researcher at the University Institute for Community Development (UICD) where she conducted a Participatory Action Research (PAR) to understand the experiences of community leaders living in underserved and marginalized communities in the west coast area of Puerto Rico. This past year, she worked at ESCAPE Center for Family Strengthening as a facilitator and counselor for women who have been victims of domestic abuse. Andrea is an active member of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), and the Puerto Rico Psychology Association (APPR), organization from whom she received the Student Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. She currently works as a study assessor in JUEGA, a study conducted by Dr. Anne Norris from the School of Nursing and Health Studies at UM.



Nicolas Navarro

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“I joined the Community and Social Change Master’s Program directly after graduating and receiving my B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology. While I was hesitant about participating in further education without grounding my feet in actual work experience, this program was able to offer me some of those opportunities that I thought I was foregoing by pursuing my M.S.Ed. This program encourages you to use the skills you learn in the classroom actually in the field, providing countless networking opportunities and course that are themselves directly involved with communities. The schedule of classes allows for me to spend part of my time volunteering for The Children’s Trust with the Youth Activism Committee, part of my time participating in the CRECER research program mentoring youth in the Kulula Project, and part of my time working for an actual paycheck. Somewhere amidst volunteering, exploring Miami, and working, I study innovative approaches to social problems and how to make lasting change.

Currently, I am on track to joining the Peace Corps in 2017 and have countless ideas of where to go from there. I would like to improve the organizational and administrative structures of community based organizations, and gain a broader understanding of how these systems function. Whether I am pursuing social entrepreneurship endeavors, providing direct services to the kiddos I love mentoring, or advocating for institutional change, this program is giving me the tools I need to approach social change with confidence.”



Wendy Jordana Moore
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“As a graduate of the Human and Social Development program at UM, I saw pursuing my master’s in Community and Social Change as a complementary next step. Completing a thesis was the most enriching piece of my experience—providing further opportunities to work closely with faculty that adequately prepared me to pursue doctoral training. During my graduate work, I began to think deeper about the transitions of immigrants and refugees through reflecting on the experiences of my adult family members. In the first course of my master’s program in Community & Social Change, I tried to write about the plight of work for Latinos in the U.S., especially those who were highly educated, but I found little research on the topic. As a result, I decided to utilize my membership in the Miami Cuban community to begin telling those stories. I focused my master’s thesis on the experiences of Cuban doctors attempting to integrate in to the U.S. medical field in hopes to create a preliminary understanding on their process, as well as gaps in the overall system.”

Wendy was born in Havana, Cuba and migrated to Miami, FL at age six. She graduated with her B.S.Ed. from the University of Miami in 2013 with double majors in Human and Social Development (Community Track) and Psychology. She graduated from the CS&C program in December 2016 and currently works with a local non-profit in Nashville, TN. She plans to pursue further work with immigrant and refugee communities by pursuing her doctorate in the near future. Access to a full copy of her thesis is available on the UM Scholarly Repository: http://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/oa_theses/645