



THE FLORIDANUS

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2013

AVC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Volunteers Needed to Advise Collegiate Officers

Happy new year, brothers! Here's wishing you and your families all the best in 2013. It should be an exciting year for Florida Nu as the Chapter builds on its success from 2012. Our brothers welcomed 47 new members in the summer and fall recruitment periods. The Chapter also raised \$3,000 for the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis and awarded \$2,000 during the Balanced Man Scholarship reception. We also brought home a third Sports Cup in four years and are in the running for the award again this season.

In our fall 2012 edition of *The Florida Nus*, **Tom Jelke '90** noted that the Alumni Volunteer Corporation (AVC) would be restructured and would take on a more active role in mentoring our undergraduate brothers. As part of this

process, we welcomed **Frank Peña '99** and **Joaquin Urquiola '88** to serve as AVC executive board members. Frank is the vice president of programming, while Joaquin will be our treasurer. Both have passion and enthusiasm for Sigma Phi Epsilon, FIU, and the South Florida community. I have no doubt that they will be great mentors and advisors to our undergraduate officers and brothers.

I'm also pleased to announce that **Anthony Gonzalez '08** has agreed to serve as the Chapter advisor. Anthony completed his first two years of undergraduate coursework at FIU before transferring to UF, where he earned a bachelor's degree in advertising and a master's degree in management. He lives in South Florida and works for Turner Broadcasting.

In the coming weeks, the AVC will add more executive board members to focus on mentoring our vice presidents of recruitment, development and communications, and chaplain. Our goal is to ensure that we have at least one advisor for each position. If you are interested in joining the AVC executive board, or are willing to serve as a mentor to an undergraduate, please contact me.

The AVC is also preparing to host alumni gatherings throughout the year. Toward the end of this semester, we will host an alumni and family picnic with food and refreshments and activities for kids. Information on the event will be posted on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages and will also be sent out via e-mail. This will be another excellent opportunity to reengage with brothers you may have lost contact with over the years. We hope you will attend and bring your families along.

Fraternally,
Michael A. Hernández '04
m_hernandez9282@yahoo.com

INSIDE:

WELCOME, FALL
NEW MEMBERS

2

URQUIOLA '88
GIVES BACK

3

NEW FLORIDA
NU WEBSITE

3

ALUMNI NEWS

4

FLORIDA NU CARRIES MOMENTUM FROM FALL SEMESTER TO SPRING

The Florida Nu Chapter improves every day through grades, scholarships, membership, philanthropic events, and alumni relations. This year will be a great one for Florida Nu, and we expect to not only exceed expectations but to set the example for the next generation.

The Chapter G.P.A. has progressed tremendously. Members are aware of the importance of scholastic achievements and have seen our vision as a Chapter, understanding that to get the Buchanan Cup our grades need to rise year after year. We have also made a conscious effort to recruit more balanced men.

The highlight of the fall semester was our annual philanthropic event, Fashion Show, benefitting The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Florida Nu raised \$3,000 for The Miami Project, a creation of the Buoniconti Foundation.

(Continued on page 2)



Joey Harris '15, Robby Coen '14, Nick Nisenbaum '15, Andres Hermida '15, Michael Somma '15, Jose Cano '15, Daniel Siclait '13, Christian Mirabal '14, Rodrigo Ferrando '15, Daniel Ricciulli '16, Daniel Bertot '16, and Daniel Rodriguez '16 attended FIU's Trail of the Torch in August.



FLORIDA NU CARRIES MOMENTUM

(Continued from page 1)

This spring we will again host the SigEp Block Party, where last year **Tal Shemesh '14** and **Guilherme Villar '14** were the leaders in fundraising. Block Party aids our efforts for The Miami Project and is also the event where we crown our Queen of Hearts, the lady who is the face of our philanthropy.

Not only has this Chapter made great accomplishments in academics and service, but the sports realm is always one to remember as well. After winning the softball championship and placing second in the volleyball championship we hope to win our fourth Sports Cup in the last five years.

Florida Nu is very excited for recruitment as every year the number of men recruited goes up. Through our efforts in the fall Florida Nu recruited 47 new members and we are growing in both quality and quantity. Our new members exemplify our motto of Balanced Men, with dedication to academics, philanthropy, and health. We will maintain this foundation, recruiting new members who share our vision.

Last year, we started an event called Read-a-thon. This event takes place at Rockway Elementary School and was created by **Jeffrey Hernandez '14**. Members go to Rockway and read books to the students for the whole afternoon and it is an enriching experience for everyone. We look forward to repeating it this semester. As for fundraising events, a new idea is in motion. We have asked all new Sigma classes and this to create an idea for a fundraiser of their choice and to implement it.

Our fall scholarship event was a huge success. At the Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet \$2,000 was awarded to outstanding high school men who achieved balance in their lives through scholastic achievement, social involvement, and athletic ability. The best part of this event is that parents get to come with their young men and really see what SigEp is all about. We thank our parents and alumni, especially **Tom Jelke '90**, for donating their time and money to help this event come true.

This Chapter is headed in the right direction and is not slowing down. With all the upcoming events there is no doubt that Florida Nu will be within reach of what we fight so much for: the Buchanan Cup. It's great to be a SigEp!



Fraternally,
Caio Muharram '14
Chapter President
president.flnu@gmail.com



Brothers volunteer at the Pretty Muddy Women's Mud Run. From left: **Mauricio Perlaza '15**, **Anthony Fernandez '16**, **Ale Narciso '16**, **Angelo Navarro '16**, **Carlos Blanco '15**, **Stefan Bahad '16**, **Julian Bruna '15**, **Peter Cirera '16**, **Nick Armbrister '16**, and **Daniel Sojo '16**.



Florida Nu secured the championship title in intramural softball. Back row, from left: **Jim Cloud '13**, **Darian Salazar '16**, **Michael Somma '15**, **Albert Gonzalez '14**, **Ryan Hutchinson '16**, **Jonathan Beckett '13**, **Carlos Blanco '15**, **Gabriel Montiel '13**, and **Jose Cano '14**. Front row: **Daniel Vinas '16**, **Julian Alvarez '15**, **Victor Cereijo '16**, and **Chris Guzman '16**.

Welcome, New Members

FALL MEMBERS

Anthony Alfaro '16
Miami, Fla.

Erol Alpalson '16
Miami, Fla.

Joseph Ammar '16
Surfside, Fla.

Robert Argrimonis '16
Tampa Bay, Fla.

Nick Armbrister '16
Miami Shores, Fla.

Stefan Bahad '16
Ealing, London, England

Robert Barreras '16
Miami, Fla.

Robert Behar '13
Miami, Fla.

Richard Beltran '15
Miami, Fla.

Carlos Blanco '15
Miami, Fla.

Julian Bruna '15
Miami, Fla.

Peter Cirera '16
Miami, Fla.

Joel Clarke '16
Delray Beach, Fla.

Rondell Daniels '16
Miami, Fla.

Anthony Fernandez '16
Miami, Fla.

Garret Fortner '16
Miami, Fla.

Christopher Guzman '15
Miami, Fla.

Quentin Harrison '16
Cameron, Mo.

Ryan Hutchinson '16
Long Island, N.Y.

Anthony Lopez '16
Miami, Fla.

Eddie Makarevich '16
Weston, Fla.

Ale Narciso '16
Miami, Fla.

Angelo Navarro '16
Miami, Fla.

Mauricio Perlaza '15
Miami, Fla.

Colin Porter '16
Sarasota, Fla.

Darian Salazar '16
Miami, Fla.

Daniel Sojo '16
Miami, Fla.

Jeffrey Torres '16
Miami, Fla.

Charlie Vallejo '16
Miami, Fla.

George Vallejo '16
Miami, Fla.

SPRING MEMBERS

Jose Arastia '15
Havana, Cuba

Jon Barquin '16
Miami, Fla.

Julien Bruhy '16
Paris, France

Dave Cajuso '15
Miami Lakes, Fla.

Kevin Chanez '15
Mexico City, Mexico

Walter Diaz '14
Montgomery, Ala.

William Ferguson,
NC Iota '15
Tampa, Fla.

Gilson Ferraz '16
Framingham, Mass.

Jose Guzman '15
Wilmington, Del.

Joey Hernandez '15
Homestead, Fla.

Joe Kirinic '16
Seaford, N.Y.

Jereth Kirkland '16
Long Branch, N.J.

Bryan Osbourne '16
Lauderhill, Fla.

Refha Petry '14
Curitiba, Brazil

Christian Viera '15
Miami, Fla.



New Florida Nu Website Up and Running

*Brothers, Register Today
for Full Site Access*

The new Florida Nu website, www.sigepfiu.com, is the brainchild of **Robert Grimal '13**. He wanted one site that could operate as an information source for members, alumni, parents, potential new members, and guests. What he helped create was a lot more.

The website, hosted by ChapterSpot, serves as a comprehensive information portal for the Chapter (think Facebook, e-mail listserv, polling place, dues collection service, and a calendar organizer all wrapped into one). The site will also be a great communication source for alumni.

Aside from news and updates, ChapterSpot also allows the AVC to send targeted e-mails to alumni, keep an updated database, and help in any future fundraising activities. To get the most out of the website as a communications conduit, be sure to register by going to the website and clicking on the alumni tab. You will find the alumni registration form on that page.

2013 Chapter Officers

President

Caio Muharram '14
president.flnu@gmail.com

V.P. Programming

Ciro Trombetta '14

V.P. Development

Rey Valdes '13

V.P. Finance

Adrien Van Poperinghe '14

V.P. Recruitment

Andres Hermida '15
aherm006@fiu.edu

V.P. Communications

Robert Behar '13

Chaplain

Robert Coen '14

JOAQUIN URQUIOLA '88 GIVES BACK TO FRATERNITY, COMMUNITY

As one of the founding members of Florida Nu, **Joaquin Urquiola '88** has an even greater bond with the Fraternity. In January 1986, he and 46 young men proved their worth and were accepted as members of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "I remember our first banquet when we realized it was actually coming to fruition," he shares. "I will always cherish that I was part of that select group."



Given that Florida Nu was founded when Joaquin was a junior, his time with SigEp was shorter than most, but he says that doesn't limit the number of memories. "There are hundreds of stories," he laughs, adding that the funniest memory is of the road trip to their first Conclave in New Orleans. The 12-hour trek resulted in a hefty speeding ticket for Joaquin but he says the experience was worth every penny.

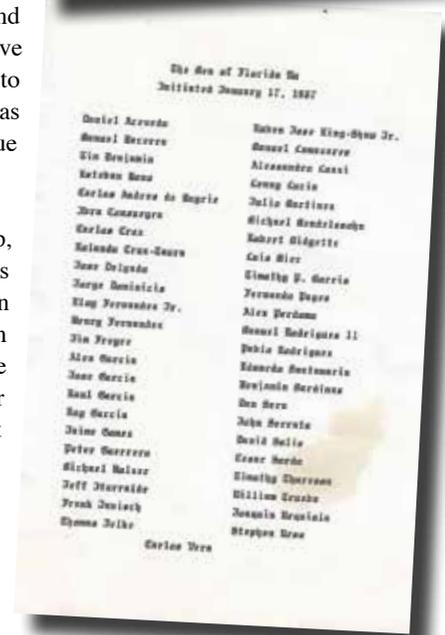
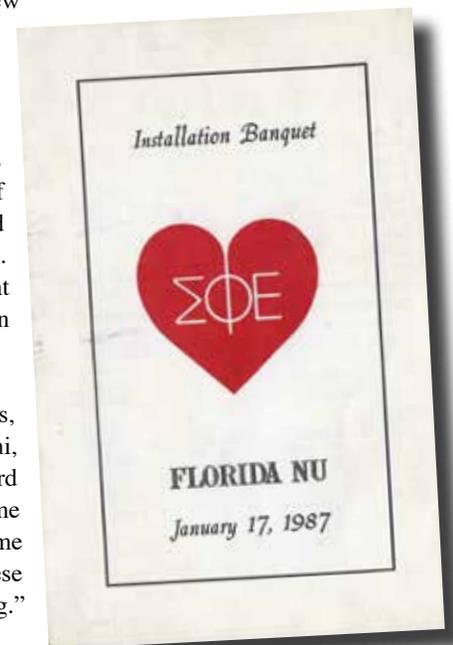
Among the memories were experiences and lessons of leadership and organization, and the importance of giving back. "As a member of the Fraternity we did things for the school and Chapter. We made sacrifices. And as a young person, that was all we knew. It taught a different perspective of life and that carried forward in my career."

Joaquin devotes his time to several organizations, including Florida Nu's AVC, YMCA of Greater Miami, Banyan Community Health Center, and Switchboard of Miami where he serves as chairman. "It makes me feel good to give back; that's why I do it. It makes me feel good to know that I can provide value to these organizations with my skill set. It's what keeps me going."

Joaquin is proud to support his community, school, and Fraternity. "They've given me so much, so it's why I've given so much back," he says, giving specific credit to Florida Nu. "One of the best decisions I've ever made was to join the Fraternity, no doubt. I want to help continue those bonds and strengthen the network for the future."

Treasuring the friendships he's made through SigEp, Joaquin stays in regular contact with his brothers. He says that it hasn't always been easy, but they all have made an effort over the years and it's nice to attend events, such as the 25th anniversary dinner, to catch up with those he doesn't see as often. "I think it's important to never lose sight of where we came from. We're more than just friends, we're brothers."

Joaquin and his wife reside in Coral Gables, Florida, with their 14-year-old son. He is a partner at Goldstein Schechter Koch, an accounting and consulting firm in Coral Gables. E-mail: joaquin.urquiola@gskcpas.com



THE FLORIDA NU

Florida Nu Alumni
247 SW 8th Street, #830
Miami, FL 33130

Address Service Requested

PERMIT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570



(Above) Caio Muharram '14,
George Arango '15, Jonathan
Gomez '13, Jonathan Costa
'15, Anthony Fernandez '16,
Juan Parra '14, Daniel Vinas
'16, Matthew Chica '16,
Daniel Bertot '16, and
Angelo Navarro '16

(Left) Robert Behar '13 raised
more than \$500 for cancer
research by riding
100 miles in the Dolphin
Cycling Challenge.



ALUMNI COMMITTED TO FLORIDA NU Meet Your AVC

PRESIDENT



Mike Hernández '04

Miami, Fla.

VICE PRESIDENT



Frank Peña '99

Miami, Fla.

TREASURER



Joaquin Urquiola '88

Coral Gables, Fla.

CHAPTER ADVISOR



Anthony Gonzalez '08

Miami, Fla.

ALUMNI NEWS

Richard R. Robles '93 resides in Miami, Fla., and is the president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association in Florida. He founded the organization in 2003. E-mail: robles@roblespa.com

Luis E. Collazo '95 is an administrator for Palm Breeze Assisted Living Facility in Hialeah, Fla. In 2012 he received the Sid Rosenblatt Excellence in Leadership Award from the Florida Assisted Living Association and the Senior Advocacy Award from Mayor Michael Pizzi. E-mail: lcollazo@aol.com

David C. Hernandez '08 lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with his wife, Natalie. David works in research and development for large electric motors where he develops new product lines. Outside of work, he enjoys weight lifting and recreational sport leagues. E-mail: dhern029@gmail.com

Charles J. Stack '11 completed his graduate degree and works at World Fuel Services in Florida. He plans to take the CPA and CFA exams this year. E-mail: stack.charles@yahoo.com

Visit Us on the Web

Reconnect with your Florida Nu brothers and stay up to date on all the latest Chapter events by visiting our LinkedIn and Facebook pages or the newly developed Florida Nu website.



LinkedIn: Search for Sigma Phi Epsilon FL Nu Chapter

Facebook: Search for SigEp Alumni (Florida Nu Chapter)



Florida Nu Website: www.sigepfiu.com