



# THE FLORIDANUS

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2013

## INSIDE:

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT  
2

ALUMNI UPDATE  
3

UPCOMING EVENTS  
4

## ALUMNI DEDICATE TIME TO FRATERNITY, UNIVERSITY Get Involved and Help Make a Difference in Future of Florida Nu

The fall semester is just beginning but Sigma Phi Epsilon's most important event, Conclave, has already taken place. Florida Nu was well represented with leaders from both the undergraduate chapter and alumni brothers taking part in the celebration. It was an especially momentous time for Florida Nu. **LeRoy Thompson, Missouri Gamma '56**, a former Florida International University College of Engineering faculty member who helped our chapter's founding fathers establish Florida Nu, was awarded our fraternity's highest honor: the Order of the Golden Heart. The Florida Nu Alumni Volunteer Corporation (AVC) worked with the Missouri Gamma Chapter to present Dr. Thompson's qualifications for review. We're proud that LeRoy became the first brother associated with the Florida Nu Chapter to ever receive this lifetime honor.

Florida Nu is also looking forward to continued success by recruiting a new group of young balanced men this September. Meet the SigEps will take place on September 11.

Homecoming and our annual alumni tailgate are also just around the corner on October 12. Please make plans to attend. Our Facebook page will have more information on events alumni and brothers can participate in.

On August 24, our chapter ran another successful Balanced Man Scholarship Program, awarding over \$2,500 in scholarships for incoming freshman males. As always, none of it would have been possible without the generous support and guidance of **Dr. Tom Jelke '90**, brother and member of SigEp's National Board of Directors. We'd also like to thank Brother **Rene Garcia '99**, a Florida State Senator, for participating and speaking with parents and students.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FLORIDA NU BROTHERS CONTINUE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

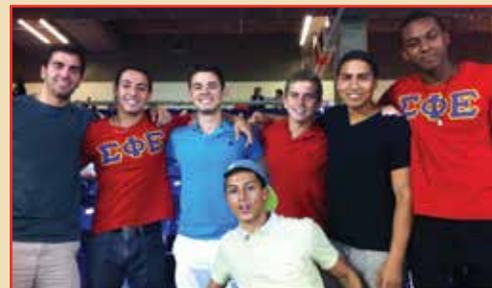
This fall is a very exciting one for our chapter. We have a packed semester of philanthropies, service projects, development events, socials, and alumni functions.

The start of this semester began with our Balanced Man Scholarship program which was a great success. We continue to be focused on recruiting as many quality men as possible. Our chapter continues to grow in quantity and quality thanks to the efforts of Vice President Recruitment, **Andres Hermida '15**. We have been recognized

as a five-star chapter by FIU (one of only two IFC fraternities to receive the honor). We are now top in academics for IFC chapters, second in manpower, and continue to be dominant in intramurals and improving our involvement on campus. Of course, our social calendar is still as fun as ever.

Andres and I had the privilege of participating in two key parts of the SigEp Leadership Continuum. Andres was a part of the Ruck Leadership Institute and I was selected to go on the Tragos Quest to Greece. Only 70 students get to go to Ruck and 12 get to go to Greece so we were in elite company. Andres and I plan on implementing the information we attained during these programs to help shape our chapter into the absolute powerhouse we want to be. The sky is not the limit; the limit is where we want it to be, and with the end of this executive board term we plan on flying way past the sky.

We are looking forward to Fashion Show, Block Party, and Top Model philanthropy events, which will help raise a significant amount of money for the Buoniconti Foundation to fight paralysis. We make a continuous effort to help this organization because we, as a chapter, believe nothing is impossible, not even a cure for



*Brothers attend a Marlins game: Robert Behar '13, Rodrigo Aldorino '14, Daniel Bertot '15, Jeffrey Torres '16, Chase Watters '14, Jeffrey Hernandez '14, and Rondell Daniels '16.*

paralysis. Last year we raised a total of \$3,000 for the foundation. This year we hope to donate much more.

We are also very excited with some of the brotherhood and alumni functions we have coming up, specifically the casino night for the alumni and undergraduate brothers. Check out page 4 for details. We hope to see a lot of alumni at the events.



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



*Brothers at 12th Man Charity Football Cheer Camp for kids with disabilities: Darian Salazar '16, Julien Bruhy '16, Gilson Ferraz '16, Andres Hermida '15, Bryan Osbourne '16, Ryan Hutchinson '16, Robert Barreras '15, Stefan Bahad '16, and Colin Porter '16.*



# ALUMNI DEDICATE TIME TO FRATERNITY, UNIVERSITY

(Continued from page 1)

The AVC has worked closely with the current undergraduate Executive Board to advise brothers on chapter operations, improve cooperation with the AVC, and establish a mentorship program. If you or any brother—they do not necessarily have to be a Florida Nu member—are interested in serving as a mentor for an undergraduate, please contact Chapter Counselor **Sean Gazitua '03** at [sgazitua@wtcd.com](mailto:sgazitua@wtcd.com).

The AVC is also proud to announce that Brother **Alex Zarut '03** has agreed to serve as Vice President for Brother Development. Alex served in that role as an undergraduate in 2002. He relocated to South Florida after spending three years living and working in Washington, D.C. Alex's primary role will be to advise the

undergraduate Vice President of Development, which includes evaluating and enforcing chapter development programs and overseeing ritual. We appreciate his willingness to support our chapter.

Florida Nu brothers are also giving back to Florida International University. Our institution's Alumni Association Board of Directors (AABOD) now has six Florida Nu brothers serving on it. **JC Alexander '04** and **Ben Sardiñas '90** were inducted as members in late May. They join AABOD Vice President **Frank Peña '98**, Parliamentarian **Eddie Hondal '88**, **Ralph Rosado '96**, and I as representatives of the governing body for more than 20,000 members of the FIU Alumni Association. Sean Gazitua also recently joined

the President's Council, the university's most prestigious community outreach board.

Enclosed you will find a story on Brother **Ralph Rosado '96**. A man of impeccable character and integrity, Ralph is working to be elected commissioner for District 4 in the City of Miami. We hope that he will be successful.

As always, should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me.

Fraternally,  
**Michael A. Hernández '04**  
[m\\_hernandez9282@yahoo.com](mailto:m_hernandez9282@yahoo.com)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

**Caio Muharram '14** / São Paulo, Brazil  
[president.flnu@gmail.com](mailto:president.flnu@gmail.com)

Vice President of Programming

**Ciro Trombetta '14** / Orlando, Fla.

Vice President of Development

**Rey Valdes '13** / Miami, Fla.

Vice President of Finance

**Adrien Van Poperinghe '14** / Paris, France

Vice President of Recruitment

**Andres Hermida '15** / Caracas, Venezuela  
[aherm006@fiu.edu](mailto:aherm006@fiu.edu)

Vice President of Communications

**Robert Behar '13** / Miami, Fla.

Chaplain

**Robert Coen '14** / San Jose, Costa Rica

## FLORIDA NU OFFERS REAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**R**alph Rosado '96 believes being a member of SigEp helped him with his career in politics by providing opportunities for leadership, which helped him develop as an adult. He serves as the executive director of the South Florida Community Development Coalition. "I was a shy high school student, and SigEp immediately offered me leadership roles," says Ralph.



As an undergraduate Ralph served as Vice President. He believes that this role specifically prepared him for life after graduation. "In your courses you learn subject matter. In the other activities that you participate in during college, you learn and practice your soft skills," Ralph says. "This includes leading and managing people and motivating them to work toward a common goal. That is the essence of any profession."

Ralph was also involved in student government, which led to his first job after college as the Assistant to the Mayor of the City of Sweetwater. After that role he served as a consultant to a number of cities, and now he is a candidate for Miami City Commission. "My career has focused on projects aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods and cities—both place-based projects like roadway improvements, streetscapes, economic development master plans, and people-based projects like reducing domestic violence, providing needy children with after-school care," Ralph says. "Without a doubt, what I enjoy is helping people, giving folks a hand-up."

His advice to undergraduate members is to take a chance while they have the opportunity in school. "This is the ideal time to do something that's a little risky—study abroad, run for student government, ask someone out. Part of being a SigEp is earning the confidence to do something that scares you a little—or a lot. You won't regret it."

Even with his busy career Ralph stays connected with the University by serving on the board of directors for the alumni association. "My involvement with the city and university continue to be important to me this day. It makes me happy to see that the city and FIU have developed a town-gown relationship over the past few years," says Ralph.

Ralph lives in Miami, Florida, with his wife, Mari, and their children: Mia, Matias, and Marcel. He enjoys keeping in touch with his fraternity brothers regularly. E-mail: [ralphr@southfloridacdc.org](mailto:ralphr@southfloridacdc.org)



The Executive Board at the Carlson Leadership Academy in Atlanta: Andres Hermida '15, **Ciro Trombetta '14**, **Caio Muharram '14**, **Robert Coen '14**, **Rey Valdez '13**, and **Robert Behar '13**.



## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Alexis P. Perdomo '91** is a principal rate analyst at Florida Power and Light Company. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Patty Santayana, and their four children: Philip, James, Peter, and Josh. They live in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. E-mail: alex.perdomo@fpl.com

**Rolando S. Marante '92** is president at Marante Strategy Group. He and his wife, Kara, have three children: Stephen, Ava, and Logan. They live in Pembroke Pines, Fla. E-mail: rolymimc@aol.com

**David M. Weisberg '93** and his wife, Joanne, live in New York, N.Y., where he works as an attorney. E-mail: dmweisberg@gmail.com

**Mitchel Kotler '94** works as a network engineer at Riverbed Technology. He and his wife, Daphne, have one child and live in San Francisco, Calif. E-mail: mkotler@hotmail.com

**Kevin P. Schmuckal '96** works at MillerCoors as a chain account executive. He married Debbie, and they have three children: Kyle, Devin, and Danielle. They live in Cumming, Ga. E-mail: kschmuckal@hotmail.com

**Phillip B. Aleman '97** works as a principal at Aleman Public Relations. He lives in Studio City, Calif. E-mail: phillip@alemanpr.com

## UNDERGRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHS



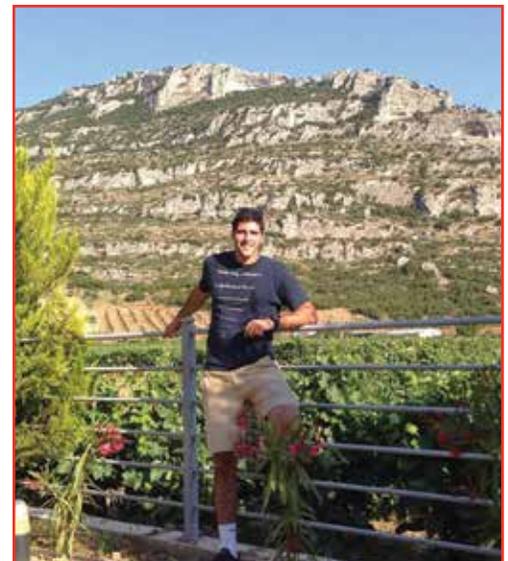
*Michael Somma '15 at UF College of Dentistry Summer Learning Program. Out of more than 250 applicants he was among 20 students selected.*



*Brothers support XI Man winner Edward Quintana '15.*



*From left: Jonathan Gomez '13, Robert Grimal '13, Leonardo Martinez '13, Fernando Pinheiro '13, and Eric Mendez '13 at SigEp Formal.*



*President Caio Muharram '14 represents Florida Nu at Sigma Phi Epsilon's Tragos Quest to Greece.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 11**

Meet the SigEps at 8 p.m.  
Graham Center, FIU

**October 4**

Block Party Philanthropy Event

**October 12**

Alumni Tailgate at  
FIU Homecoming  
R.S.V.P. to **Frank Peña '98**  
at frank@fjgroup.com

**TBD**

Chapter/Alumni Casino Night

Please check out our Facebook page  
[http://www.facebook.com  
/groups/floridanualumni/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/floridanualumni/)  
for more information on all events.

# THE FLORIDANUS

**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

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**George Alekos Harduvel '17**  
Miami, Fla.

**Joey De La Rosa '15**  
New York, N.Y.

**Preston Duppins III '15**  
Gettysburg, Pa.

**Richard Garcia '17**  
Miami, Fla.

**Ryan Lozano '17**  
Miami, Fla.

**Jonathan Marrero '17**  
Miami, Fla.

**Leonardo Miller '15**  
São Paulo, Brazil

**Luis Pimentel '15**  
New York, N.Y.

## AVC BOARD MEMBERS

President  
**Mike Hernández '04**  
Miami, Fla.

Vice President of Development  
**Alex Zarut '03**  
Homestead, Fla.

Treasurer  
**Joaquin Urquiola '87**  
Coral Gables, Fla.

Executive Member  
**Frank Peña '98**  
Miami, Fla.

Chapter Counselor  
**Sean Gazitua '03**  
Miami, Fla.



## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

If you are interested in volunteering with the chapter, we could use Alumni Mentors to spend an hour a month with an upperclassman to help him think about life after college. Contact **Mike Hernández '04** at [m\\_hernandez9282@yahoo.com](mailto:m_hernandez9282@yahoo.com) for more information.