This activity is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program, supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. For more information, visit fulbright.state.gov.

This activity is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Purpose:

The Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program is a benefit made available to foreign Fulbright student grantees arriving in the U.S. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), as part of its flagship Fulbright Program, and designed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in cooperation with ECA. The Gateway Orientation is intended to address two main components:

1) The participants’ roles and responsibilities as Fulbrighters and
2) Skills development for successful academic, personal and professional lives in the U.S.

As Fulbrighters: The Gateway Orientation Program provides an overview of the Fulbright Program, administration of grants, and students’ rights and responsibilities as exchange visitors. The Program also aims to provide professional development activities and leadership training to Fulbright students. Sessions and activities are designed in light of the overall goal of the Fulbright Program: to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

As foreign students: The Gateway Orientation will assist Fulbright foreign students with their entry into U.S. graduate academic programs (either masters or doctoral programs) through an introduction to the U.S. academic system and culture. The Gateway Orientation is an opportunity for Fulbright grantees to experience and learn about U.S. regional culture and its highlights.

Orientation Goals:

• Appreciate the global nature of the Fulbright program and build sustainable networks with each other.
• Be prepared for academic success; learn about the U.S. academic system, university culture and methods of instruction; identify resources available on campus and through the Fulbright program.
• Learn how to identify and anticipate cultural differences; learn how to acclimate and adjust to many cultures in the U.S.
• Learn about Fulbright program policies, benefits and responsibilities.
• Discover U.S. history, culture, government and the political system; learn about local history and culture of south Florida.
• Develop skills that contribute to their success as students and future leaders; participate in skill-building and leadership development activities; improve skills in networking, effective communication, problem solving and goal setting for the achievement of professional and personal goals.
Orientation Sponsor
United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
Washington D.C.

Host Institution
Miami Dade College

Dorothy Avondstondt
Professor of ESL
Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program

Pradel Frank
Professor of ESL
Assistant Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program

Institute of International Education

Sylvia Jons
Program Officer, Enrichment
Fulbright Foreign Programs Division

Megan Spillman
Director of Student Services
Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Dianne Price
AMIDEAST

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

M. Eugenia (Jenny) Verdaguer
Branch Chief
Monday, August 17, 2015

All Day

Airport Transfers

Students will travel to the Holiday Inn Port of Miami Downtown by taxi, Super Shuttle or Metro-rail.

3:00 pm

Hotel Check-In

Main Lobby

Holiday Inn Port of Miami-Downtown
340 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33132

The cost of the room and continental breakfast each morning at the hotel are covered. Participants are responsible for additional expenses (long distance phone calls, pay-per-view movies, or room service).

7:00 pm

Optional Dinner at Hotel

Hotel Dining Room

There will be an optional evening meal and get-together for early arrivals in the dining room of the hotel. The meal will be at the participant’s own expense.
All sessions will be held at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus in the Emerging Technologies Center of the Americas (ETCOTA), Building 7, 500 N.E. Second Avenue, and Building 6, Room 6100.

**6:30 am – 8:10 am**
Continental Breakfast at Hotel
*Marina Bistro Restaurant*

**8:15 am**
Depart for Miami Dade College
*Hotel Lobby*

Please meet Student Ambassadors from Miami Dade College’s Honors College at 8:15 am in the hotel lobby who will escort you to the Emerging Technologies Center of the Americas (ETCOTA) Building 7, to pick up your welcome packet and Gateway program registration materials.

**8:20 am – 9:00 am**
Registration
*Lobby ETCOTA, Building 7*

**9:00 am – 9:15 am**
Group Photograph
*Room 7128*

**9:15 am – 9:45 am**
Welcome Remarks and Introductions
*Room 7128*

Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón
College President
Miami Dade College

Dr. Rolando Montoya
Provost for Operations
Miami Dade College

Dr. Lenore P. Rodicio
Provost, for Academic and Student Affairs
Miami Dade College

Dr. José A. Vicente
President of Wolfson Campus
Miami Dade College

Mr. Joseph L. Falk
J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

This session will welcome participants to Miami Dade College and will give a brief overview of the institution and region.
9:45 am – 10:15 am  
Fulbright Remarks and Overview  
Room 7128  
Sylvia Jons  
Program Officer, Enrichment  
Fulbright Foreign Programs Division  

This session delivered by IIE and/or U.S. Department of State staff will introduce participants to the Fulbright Program. The remarks will include the roles of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and its Fulbright cooperating agencies (IIE, AMIDEAST and LASPAU.)

10:15 am – 10:30 am  
Agenda Overview  
Room 7128  
Dorothy Avondstondt  
Professor of ESL and World Languages  
Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation  
Miami Dade College  

This will be a brief overview of the orientation agenda for the Gateway to reflect the goals of the orientation and provide participants with an understanding of how the orientation sessions relate to the overall goals.

10:30 am – 11:30 am  
Networking Activity  
Room 7128  
Dorothy Avondstondt  
Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation  
Pradel Frank  
Assistant Director of Fulbright Gateway  
Miami Dade College  

This will be a networking session to help participants meet other Fulbright students, help find students with similar majors and universities, and help facilitate interaction.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Fulbright Grant Benefits and Responsibilities  
Room 7128  
Megan Spillman  
Director of Student Services  
Fulbright Foreign Student Program  
Dianne Price  
AMIDEAST  

This presentation will address the health benefit program and resources available to participants. It will also have information related to visa regulations and Fulbright student responsibilities.
1:00 – 2:00 pm       Lunch
Room 6100

Please sit at the table marked with the region of your U.S. university.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm      U.S. Politics and People
Room 7128
Dr. Alejandro Gancedo
Professor of Social Science
Miami Dade College

This interactive session will introduce participants to the U.S. political system and provide them with an understanding of its historical background and structure. Participants will learn how U.S. political history and political culture can color their interactions with Americans. The session will begin with a brief overview of U.S. government structure and will highlight how the concepts of individualism and equality are displayed in the U.S. federalist structure as well as in historical and modern political discourse.

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm     Break

Students will meet outside Room 7128 for a coffee break.

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm      Understanding U.S. Academic Culture
Room 7128
Dr. Geraldine Walker
Professor of ESL and World Languages
Miami Dade College

This presentation will provide an overview of academic culture in the U.S. and explain resources and strategies to adjust to a potentially unfamiliar academic system, including academic integrity, the informality of U.S. classrooms, consequences of plagiarism, the differences between seminars and lectures, and the importance of independent study and classroom participation. The session will also discuss the U.S. grading system, the expectation of instructors, the importance of group work, and understanding key relationships with academic advisors, administrative staff, instructors, fellow students and peers. It will also explain different types of research such as quantitative and qualitative.

4:15 pm – 6:30 pm      Free Time
Room 7164
Computers available for student access.

6:30 pm        Departure to Bayside for Dinner
Hotel Lobby

Meet in the hotel lobby of the Holiday Inn at 6:30 pm to walk as a group to Bayside for dinner.
6:45 pm – 9:00 pm  

Dinner

The Knife Restaurant
401 Biscayne Blvd.
Bayside Marketplace

Dinner is at an Argentine restaurant famous for its grilled meats, vegetables and salad bar. Participants will have a chance to talk to MDC staff, faculty, students and invited guests. This is an opportunity to network with other Fulbright students, chat with Americans and ask questions about south Florida and American culture.
Wednesday, August 19, 2015

6:30 am – 8:45 am  Continental Breakfast at Hotel
Marina Bistro Restaurant

Students will walk on their own to MDC Wolfson Campus Building 7.

9:00 am – 10:30 am  Cross Cultural Understanding and Adjustment
Room 7128

Dr. Danixia Cuevas
Professor, Law Center: Paralegal Studies Department
Miami Dade College

This interactive presentation will help participants understand and adapt to U.S. culture and subcultures. U.S. diversity (especially as related to ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, religion and LGBTQ sexuality) will be addressed. Participants will learn about U.S. cultural norms and etiquette, including punctuality and the value of time; task orientation in contrast with relationship orientation; conversational etiquette with friends and strangers; and everyday cultural considerations such as personal space, body language, direct communication and tipping. It will address stages of culture shock, cultural factors in interpersonal relationships, stresses and benefits of the acculturation process, and mental health resources and strategies for managing culture shock.

10:30 am – 10:45 am  Break

Students will sign up for Thursday’s breakout sessions and have a coffee break.

10:45 am – 11:45 am  Appropriate Interpersonal Relationships
Room 7128

Cindy Lau Evans
Manager, Equal Opportunities Program
Miami Dade College

In this interactive session, participants will learn about expected interpersonal behavior in various social, academic and professional situations for both males and females. It will also address inappropriate behavior in professional, social and academic settings as well as the seriousness and potential consequences of sexual harassment. It will include appropriate gender relationships and the role of women in the U.S. In addition, it will discuss behavior in various situations and also behavior that is different from U.S. expectations with the potential for misunderstandings.

11:45 am – 12:45 pm  Lunch
Room 6100

12:45  Depart for History Miami Museum

Students will depart for the History Miami Museum from Room 6100 and take the free Miami metro-mover to the museum with Miami Dade College staff. The metro-mover is located next to Wolfson Campus and the stop is Government Center, a few stops from the College.
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  History Miami Museum

Students will take a tour of the History Miami Museum. This informative tour will help participants discover the rich history of 10,000 years of South Florida history and culture.

2:45 pm – 6:00 pm  Big Bus Tour of Miami

The open-top bus will pick up students at the History Miami Museum. This tour will show some of the highlights of Miami. It will provide informative and entertaining commentary so participants can get to know the history, geography and culture of south Florida and Miami. It will stop in South Beach for students who wish to disembark there near the end of the tour, and the last stop will be the Holiday Inn at Bayside. Students who disembark at South Beach can return to the hotel by local bus or taxi.

6:00 pm  Free Night

Dinner is covered by the provided stipend given out during registration. Refer to the list of suggested local restaurants in the Welcome Packet. Miami has many international restaurants and is especially famous for its seafood as well as food from South America, Cuba and other Caribbean countries.
6:30 am – 8:45 am  Continental Breakfast at Hotel
Marina Bistro Restaurant

Students will walk on their own to MDC Wolfson Campus Building 7

9:00 am – 10:30 am  Leadership Workshop
Room 7128
Dr. Mercedes Medina
Professor, Law Center
Miami Dade College

This lecture and interactive workshop will highlight the Fulbright tradition of leadership and address habits of effective leaders, communication styles, decision-making skills, and effective team skills. It will address how particular strategies can be employed in academic or professional life. It will include a team-building activity that will focus on leadership skills.

10:30 am – 10:45 am  Break

Students will meet outside Room 7128 for coffee break.

10:45 am – 12:00 pm  Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Students will attend one of the following concurrent sessions.

Room 7106  Historical Overview of the U.S. from Colonization to the Cold War
Dr. Paul George
Professor of Social Science
Miami Dade College

This lecture will give an overview of important historical events from the time of colonization, through the industrial revolution, and through wars and events up to the Cold War.

Room 3419  Jazz: America’s Classical Music
Dr. Michael Di Liddo
Director of Jazz Studies
Miami Dade College

This session will include a live jazz performance by The Hard Bop Jazz Ensemble to highlight a brief history of jazz, and demonstrate the role of the musical instruments involved.
**Room 7107**

**A Cultural History of North American Art**

Professor Marilyn Gottlieb–Roberts  
Professor of Art and Philosophy  
Miami Dade College

This session will present a pictorial summary of the cultural influences on North American art from the time of its earliest days through modernism and globalization.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
**Lunch**  
Room 6100

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm  
**Fulbright Graduate Student Group Discussion**  
Rooms 7106 & 7107

This session is a panel discussion with current Fulbright Foreign Students. It will include topics of being an ambassador for your culture; strategies for sharing your culture; getting involved with your host community; staying connected to your Fulbright network; taking advantage of Fulbright activities; working with academic advisors; managing family life and expectations; managing your budget; housing, phones, bank accounts, transportation; and striking a balance between academic and social life. Students will be grouped according to their graduate academic programs (masters or doctoral).

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm  
**Break**

Students will meet outside Room 7128 for coffee break.

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
**Fulbright Goals and Identity Wrap-up**  
Room 7128

Dr. Franklyn Tan Tc  
Professor of Biology  
Miami Dade College

This session will help participants reflect on the topics discussed during the orientation, identify their goals for their Fulbright experience, share their insights about this Fulbright Gateway Orientation program, and consider how the tools and strategies provided during the week will assist them as they begin their grant. This session will also allow participants to identify their personal and professional goals for their Fulbright experience while in the U.S. and for their return to their home country as well as express how their awareness of other cultures has been enhanced and how this experience can be used to foster mutual understanding.

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm  
**Program Evaluation**  
Rooms 7109 & 7111

Participants are required to complete a short survey on the effectiveness of all sessions and the quality of all logistical arrangements.
3:15 pm – 5:45 pm  Free Time
Room 7164
Computers available for student access.

5:45 pm  Departure for South Beach
Participants will meet at 5:45 pm in the lobby of the Holiday Inn to board the bus for the farewell dinner at Nikki Beach Club on South Beach.

6:15 pm – 9:30 pm  Closing Dinner: An American Barbecue
Nikki Beach Club on South Beach
One Ocean Drive, Miami Beach

The farewell dinner will be a typical American barbecue at world-famous Nikki Beach Club located directly on the ocean in South Beach.

9:45 pm  Departure from Nikki Beach
The bus will return to the Holiday Inn at Bayside. If participants wish to leave earlier or stay longer, they may take a taxi back to the hotel at their own expense.
6:30 am – 11:00 am  Continental Breakfast at Hotel

11:00 am  Checkout and Departure

Checkout at the hotel must be completed by 11:00 a.m. Participants will be responsible for paying any incidental expenses. If their departure is later in the day, the hotel will hold luggage for them. Van transportation or taxis can be arranged with the concierge at the hotel.
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

Prof. Dorothy Avondstondt
Professor of English as a Second Language
Director of Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program

Professor Avondstondt has been a professor at MDC since 2000 and both Director and Assistant Director of the Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program since 2005. She was awarded a 2010-2013 Endowed Teaching Chair for excellence in teaching and also a NISOD Excellence award for outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership and learning from the University of Texas. She has a Master’s degree in TESOL from Nova Southeastern University, a Specialist degree in TESOL from the University of Miami, and a certificate in French from IAU University in Aix-en-Provence, France. She has extensive ESL teaching experience at Miami Dade College, University of Miami Intensive English Program, Miami Dade County Public Schools, private language schools, and English for business programs. She has lectured at Fulbright Gateway Orientation programs; International TESOL in New York; International TESOL in Seattle; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in Washington D.C.; and Sunshine State TESOL in Miami and Fort Lauderdale on pedagogy and techniques of teaching a second/foreign language, integration of language skills, and accelerated content in English. She has written articles, done textbook editing, developed curriculum and materials, and she helped develop a Golden Apple grant project and a Title V grant on integrated language skills. She also has a background in aviation and has traveled extensively throughout the world.

John Q. Chin
Regional Cisco Networking Academy Coordinator
School of Computer and Engineering Technologies

Mr. Chin graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Science and from the University of Miami with a Juris Doctorate, and practiced law for 20 years in the areas of real estate, corporate and family law before coming to work for the College. He manages the Cisco Academy; trains other Cisco instructors; coordinates IT student activities, including CISnet, an organization for Cisco and Microsoft Networking students; contributes to the development and promotion of courses in the Computer Information Systems Department; manages a variety of CIS programs and labs; and maintains web sites supporting computer activities at the college. He currently teaches Cisco networking courses, Microsoft and Linux operating system courses, and IT support courses at Wolfson Campus.

Danixia Cuevas
Law Center

Prof. Danixia Cuevas, J.D. received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, Douglass College in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and French. She attended Rutgers University Law School-Newark and graduated in 1991. She is presently a professor at Miami Dade College and teaches paralegal and law classes. Prof. Cuevas was a Fulbright
scholar to India for 2013-2014 where she taught advanced contracts law at the National Law University in New Delhi, India. She also taught a faculty workshop and collaborated with her Indian colleagues for a transnational video partnership with American and Indian professors teaching comparative contract law. She spearheaded a Skype session so that Indian and American students could engage in a mutual exchange of scholarship and understanding. Additionally, she was a selection committee member for the International Educational Administrators Fulbright award. In India she collaborated with USIEF for International Education Week at the National Law University. She also was selected by the Fulbright Commission to serve on the India Peer Review committee, and she will be conducting lectures on her teaching experience in India. She did a presentation at MDC on gender issues in India, and she created Cafecito LLC, a transnational company with headquarters in New Delhi. Furthermore, she is working on a collaborative relationship with MDC and NLU with a vision to include student and faculty exchanges. She is currently authoring a Fulbright Scholar in Residence grant to bring an Indian scholar to MDC. Prof. Cuevas received the 2007-2010 Wachovia Bank Endowed Chair for outstanding teaching excellence at MDC. Additionally, Prof. Cuevas was selected to participate in MDC's Faculty Leadership Seminar, and she received the outstanding Service Learning Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Prof. Cuevas has engaged in numerous service learning projects. She has provided Free Immigration Law assistance. She created the Parent Advocacy Training, an interdisciplinary faculty approach with an emphasis on homeless families. She worked with Girl Scouts on a project called Take Charge about domestic violence. She also worked with ASPIRA, an organization dedicated to empowering children to become leaders. She created the Pathways to College Mentoring Project and she created a project to work on environmental jurisprudence issues. Prof. Cuevas is the author of “Service Learning and Paralegal Education”, “Help is on its Way” and “Pathways for Global Professionals Model UN publication.” She has made presentations at AAFPE, a paralegal educator conference including "Internationalizing the Curriculum, the Fulbright Experience" “Implementing Service Learning in Paralegal Education” and “Innovative Learning Modalities”. She presented on the Death Penalty in America at Missouri Western State University, and was a panelist at a Fulbright workshop there. She presented “Simulation as a Political Science Teaching Strategy” at the Florida Political Science Association and the TESWEB Conference “Reshaping Transatlantic Relations for the 21st Century”. At the University of Miami, she gave a presentation on “Minorities and the Death Penalty” and at Florida Atlantic University she presented about “The Costs and Consequences of Domestic Violence”.

Dr. Michael Di Liddo
Director of Jazz Studies

Dr. Di Liddo has been at the MDC Wolfson Campus since 1998 and Music Coordinator for the Music Program from 1999 to 2006. As a classical guitarist, Dr. Di Liddo studied in Stuttgart, Germany, with the Greek concert guitarist Dimitris Nikitos. After returning to the U.S., he became a student of Cuban guitarist Juan Mercadal. Dr. Di Liddo has been a part of the Festival of Miami Concert Series as a soloist (1992) and with the Miami Guitar Trio (1991). In 1999, he was invited to Mérida, Mexico, to perform Mauro Giuliani’s Concerto in A Major, Op. 30, with the University of Yucatan Chamber Orchestra. He was invited back the following year to perform Joaquin Rodrigo’s famous Concierto de Aranjuez para
Guitarra y Orquesta. He has performed with the Royal Ballet of London, the New World Symphony, and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2002, he accompanied Luciano Pavarotti at the American Airlines Arena in Miami. A published educator, Dr. Di Liddo has written for the American String Teacher’s Association and Downbeat Magazine. His 60 Contemporary Voicings for the Jazz Combo Guitarist has been published by Jamey Aebersold. A recent project, also published by Jamey Aebersold, Maiden voyage: Guitar Comping, was released in February this year. Dr. Di Liddo holds both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees from Florida Atlantic University, along with a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Miami. In 2009, Dr. Di Liddo was awarded the Dr. Ruth Wolhowsky Greenfield Endowed Teaching Chair.

Dr. Pradel Frank  
Professor of ESL  
Assistant Director of Fulbright Orientation

Dr. Pradel Frank was born in Port-de-Paix, Haiti but was raised in Miami, Florida. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science, a master's in TESOL from Florida International University and his Ph.D. in higher education from Florida Atlantic University. He began his career at Miami Dade College 16 years ago in the Department of ESL & Foreign Languages. He has been the developer of a number of programs in the department to enhance the teaching experiences of his students, among which is the SHIELD tutoring program (a peer tutoring program), final exam review seminars, technology workshops to teach basic computer literacy skills, and a language exchange program for students to practice conversation. He has also been serving as the chair of the Wolfson Campus Black History Month committee for the past two years. Dr. Frank also started a student organization in 2010 to improve retention and graduation and is currently the informal advisor to fifteen students.

Dr. Alejandro Gancedo  
Professor of Social Science

Dr. Gancedo was born in La Habana, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States at a very young age. He is a graduate of Miami-Dade College and Florida State University. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Political Science and a Juris Doctorate. He also attended St. Edmunds College, Oxford University, studying European Economic Law and Comparative Human Rights. As a Marshall Scholar, he lectured at Bonn University, the University of Munich, and Greifswald University, in Germany, on issues of the Cuban American Diaspora. He was Associate Dean for Natural and Social Sciences and is a Professor of Social Science at MDC and an authority on the American Federal Government.

Dr. Paul S. George  
Professor of History

Dr. George is a Professor of History at MDC, Wolfson Campus. He also serves as Historian to the Historical Association of Southern Florida. A native Miamian, Paul George is a graduate of the University of Miami and holds a Masters and Ph.D. degree in History from the Florida State University. Dr. George has taught at Florida State University, Florida
A & M University, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Miami. Dr. George has authored ten books, over one hundred articles and book reviews and numerous unpublished manuscripts, and edited two books. Two of his books have won awards. He has served as president of the Florida Historical Society, vice chairman of the City of Miami’s Heritage Conservation Board, director of the Historic Broward County Preservation Board, and sits as a member of Metro Dade County’s Preservation Board. He is a recent past-president of the Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archive. Mr. George is editor of both *Tequesta*, the scholarly journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, and the same organization’s *South Florida History* magazine. Dr. George has twice been cited as Miami’s outstanding Historian by *New Times, Miami*. *Miami Today* featured him as a Newsmaker in December 1991. He was the narrator and a principal in a historical documentary on the Miami News/Freedom Tower created by WLRN Television. The documentary was selected as the top film in its category by the Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives in 2004. He was the recipient in 2003 of an award from Miami-Dade County School’s Social Science Division for Excellence in that field. The Notre Dame Club of South has feted Dr. George as its Person of the Year in 1997 through its Exemplar Award. He was recognized in 1995 as Teacher of the Year for Miami-Dade College, Wolfson and InterAmerican campuses. Between 1997 and 2000, he held the Arthur Hertz Endowed Chair at Miami-Dade College. Dr. George has curated several historical exhibits at the Historical Association of Southern Florida and at the Jewish Museum of Florida. He also conducts about thirty-five different history tours of Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties. His “Crime tour” and boat tour of the waters along Key Biscayne and Stiltsville were feted by *New Times, Miami* as the “Best Tours” in recent years.

**Prof. Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts**

**Retired Professor of Art and Art History**

Prof. Gottlieb-Roberts is an artist and Professor of Art and Art History at MDC. In 1994-95 she was Visiting Artist at Harvard University, was 1993 recipient of the R.W. Greenfield Endowed Teaching Chair and was a Fulbright Scholar at Nigeria’s University of Jos in 2000-2002, with the research topic “Traditional Astronomy of the Fulbe, Cattle Nomads of the African Sahel.” Among other venues, her artwork has been featured at Harvard’s Carpenter’s Center for the Arts, The Clocktower and Exit Art in NYC, Currier Gallery of Art (NH), Real Art Ways (CT), Mobius (MA), Birmingham Museum of Art (AL), Columbus Museum of Art (GA), Contemporary Art Center (LA), and MOCA and Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art (FL) and at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution in Bath, England. Her work has received support from regional and national funding agencies.

**Francisca Lorenzo-Urbay**

**Interim Manager, Equal Opportunity Programs**

Francisca Lorenzo-Urbay is the Interim Manager, Equal Opportunity Programs in the Miami Dade College Office of Equal Opportunity Programs/ADA Coordinator (EOP/ADA), a department of the Human Resources Division, which is based on the Kendall Campus of Miami Dade College. In her capacity of Interim Manager, EOP, Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay supports the overall operation and implementation of the College’s civil rights compliance responsibilities through investigation and resolution of civil rights complaints. Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay recently joined Miami Dade College to support the EOP/ADA Department. Ms.
Lorenzo-Urbay has over 20 years of senior level international Human Resources experience. Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay's previous employer was the International Air Transport Association, a non-profit trade organization for member airlines. At IATA she was the Regional Director, People, Performance and Development for the Americas for 5 years. Prior to IATA, Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay served as the Director, Human Resources for the Latin America region for close to 15 years at Tech Data Corporation, a multi-national IT Distribution Company. In both positions Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay had the opportunity to not only coach others on Appropriate Interpersonal Relationships but was able to experience first-hand how cultural differences are so important to identify and embrace to ensure achieving appropriate interpersonal relationships. Ms. Lorenzo-Urbay earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Barry University and a Master’s Degree from Florida International University both with a specialization in Human Resource Management.

Mercedes Medina
Law Center

Professor Medina teaches Fundamentals of Law, Legal Research, Legal Writing, Business Law, Trial Preparation, and The Honors College Interdisciplinary Leadership Skills. Mercedes is a passionate advocate for social justice and education, and makes it a priority to encourage her students to think creatively while making a positive difference in their personal lives and communities. A few recent accomplishments include recognition by the several prestigious organizations for her work in developing innovative and challenging service learning and civic engagement projects, including: President's Volunteer Service Award - Bronze Award for over 100 hours of service to the community in a 12 month period; Wolfson Campus Faculty Facilitator - Institute for Civic Engagement & Democracy; presented at the national conference for the American Federation of Teachers–Topic: Engaging Students to Become Civic Leaders; nominated to be the U.S. Faculty of the year by President Eduardo Padron; Faculty of the Year by The Washington Center (Washington, D.C.) – Civic Engagement Leadership Project – developed curriculum and facilitated the project in Washington, D.C for three years; co-Vice President for Wolfson Campus of the United Faculty of Miami Dade College; and Appreciation Award by the students of the MDC- Paralegal Program and Wolfson Chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi. Also she developed a learning community and co-facilitated the development of the service project “Striving for Success,” focusing on at-risk youth. The students in the paralegal program organized a youth fair with the purpose of providing tools to prevent drug use, violence and school delinquency. Also she received a Faculty Appreciation Award by the students of Phi Theta Kappa, and National Honor Society. She developed curriculum and facilitated mentoring service learning projects where students mentored and tutored at-risk youth in foster care and in an after-care program. Dr. Medina is currently the advisor to Lambda Epsilon Chi National Honor Society and Club, The National Honor Society for Leadership and Success, and Dream Defenders.
Dr. Rolando Montoya
Provost for Operations, Miami Dade College

Dr. Montoya is a native of Camagüey, Cuba. He grew up in Panamá, Costa Rica, and México, where he developed his appreciation for diversity and international perspectives. In 1987, Dr. Montoya initiated his successful academic and administrative tenure at MDC, which have included the positions of professor, department chairperson, Dean of Academic Affairs, President of the Wolfson Campus, and culminated with his appointment as Provost of Miami Dade College. His services to MDC were recognized with the Carlos Arboleya/NationsBank and the SunTrust Bank endowed teaching chairs. Before his employment at MDC, he had served as a business executive in the fields of finance and accounting and as Consul of Costa Rica in Miami. Dr. Montoya is a Certified Management Account and Certified Financial Manager. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Technological Institute of Monterrey, México, and a Master’s degree in finance and a doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from Florida International University. Dr. Montoya is an active member of several academic, professional, and community organizations.

Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón
President, Miami Dade College

An American by choice, Eduardo Padrón arrived in the United States as a refugee at the age of 15. Since 1995, he has served as President of Miami Dade College (MDC), the largest institution of higher education in America with more than 165,000 students. He is credited with elevating MDC into a position of national prominence among the best and most recognized U.S. colleges and universities. An economist by training, Dr. Padrón earned his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. In 2009, TIME magazine included him on the list of “The 10 Best College Presidents.” In 2010, Florida Trend magazine named him “Floridian of the Year.” In 2011, The Washington Post named him one of the eight most influential college presidents in the U.S. Also in 2011, he was awarded the prestigious 2011 Carnegie Corporation Centennial Academic Leadership Award. In 2012, he received the Citizen Service Award from Voices for National Service, the coveted TIAA-CREF Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence, and the Aspen Institute Ascend Fellowship. Dr. Padrón’s energetic leadership extends to many of the nation’s leading organizations. He is the immediate past chair of the board of directors of the American Council on Education (ACE) and is a past chair of the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). He also serves on the American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Commission on the Humanities & Social Sciences.

President Padrón is widely recognized as one of the top educational leaders in the world and is often invited to participate in educational policy forums in the United States and abroad. In 1993, President Bill Clinton recognized him as one of America's foremost educators. President George W. Bush nominated him to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board and the National Economic Summit. More recently, he represented the U.S. at UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education at the invitation of the Obama administration and President Obama appointed him Chairman of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. During his career he has been selected to serve on posts of national prominence by six American presidents.
Internationally, President Padrón’s accomplishments have been recognized by numerous nations and organizations including the Republic of France, which named him *Commandeur* in the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*; the Republic of Argentina, which awarded him the *Order of San Martin*; and Spain’s King Juan Carlos II, who bestowed upon him the *Order of Queen Isabella*.

Dr. Padrón’s pace-setting work at Miami Dade College has been hailed as a model of innovation in higher education. He is credited with engineering a culture of success that has produced impressive results in student access, retention, graduation, and overall achievement. MDC enrolls and graduates more minorities than any other institution in the United States, including the largest numbers of Hispanics and African-Americans. He is nationally respected for his advocacy on behalf of underserved populations in higher education, and his in-depth research report, “A Deficit of Understanding,” highlights the funding crisis that threatens access for low-income and minority students. Dr. Padrón has also championed innovative teaching and learning strategies and developed support initiatives to ensure student success. He was a member of the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ (AAC&U) Greater Expectations national panel that re-examined baccalaureate education in the U.S. and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation’s Commission on the High School Senior Year. More recently he has been called upon to co-chair the Century Foundation’s Task Force on Preventing Community Colleges from Becoming Separate and Unequal. He also serves on the National Commission on Higher Education Attainment; CFR Task Force on U.S. Education Reform and National Security; National Governors Association’s Advisory Group for College Completion Initiatives; and ACE Blue Ribbon Panel on Global Engagement.


He currently also serves on the boards of the Business/Higher Education Forum; the Council on Foreign Relations; League for Innovation in the Community College (past Chair); RC 2020; College Board Advocacy and Policy Center; White House Fellows Selection Panel (Chair); the International Association of University Presidents; the Federal Reserve Board of Atlanta, Miami Branch (Chair); and Achieving the Dream. Dr. Padrón also serves as chairman of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. In past years he has held leadership positions on the boards of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (Chair); the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the White House Commission on Educational Excellence; Campus Compact; Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute; The College Board; and others. Most recently, he has been appointed to the White House/Congressional Commission of the National Museum of the American Latino.

In Florida, Padrón has served on several gubernatorial commissions and has lent his talents to numerous organizations including the Florida Humanities Council; the Florida Council of Presidents (Chair); the Council of 100; Dade-Miami Criminal Justice Council (Chair); Miami Parking Authority (Chair); the Hispanic American League Against Discrimination (Chair); NAACP (Vice-President); and Greater Miami United (Co-Chair).
Under Dr. Padrón’s leadership, Miami Dade College has received national recognition for its longstanding involvement with its urban community, its catalytic effect for social and economic change, and the marked difference the College has made in student access and success through pace-setting initiatives. The most recent recognitions include: 2011 CHEA "Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes;" 2010 The Washington Center "Higher Education Civic Engagement Award;" 2010 The College Board "College Keys Compact for Learning Outcomes Initiative;" 2008 Association for General & Liberal Studies "Exemplary Award for Improving General Education;" 2008-11 "U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll;" and 2008 National Center for Digital Education "Fourth Best College for Digital Transformation."

He is the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and prestigious awards. The recent list includes the 2012 Aspen Institute/Ascend Fellowship; 2012 University of Texas "John Roueche International Leadership Award;" 2012 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce "Sand In My Shoes" Award; “2008 Charles Kennedy Equity Award,” Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT); “2008 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award,” American Council on Education; “2008 Innovator of the Year,” League for Innovation in the Community College; Chair Academy for Leadership Development’s “2005 Paul A. Elsner Award for International Excellence;” Hispanic Magazine’s “2004 Hispanic Achievement Award in Education;” and the Association of Community College Trustee’s “2002 Chief Executive of the Year” award. He is a prolific writer with countless publications to his credit and serves on the editorial boards of The Presidency, University Business, and Campus Technology. He has been featured in People magazine as one of the world’s most influential Hispanics, in Hispanic magazine’s list of most powerful Latinos, and in PODER magazine’s report on “Movers and Shakers.”

Dr. Lenore P. Rodicio
Provost of Academic and Student Affairs

Lenore Rodicio is currently Provost of Academic and Student Affairs for Miami Dade College (MDC). Dr. Rodicio previously served as Vice Provost for Student Achievement at MDC, and led a nationally recognized planning and implementation process to redesign the student experience at MDC from early connections with potential students through degree completion. In collaboration with key partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Achieving the Dream, Lumina and Kresge, the planning process brought together faculty, staff and administrators across all campuses to analyze the current state of student success and completion at MDC and to implement comprehensive solutions to improve completion rates. A key component of this initiative was the development of program pathways that prepared students within their major program of study, while maintaining a strong commitment to general education in the curriculum.

Dr. Rodicio joined MDC in the fall of 2002 as an adjunct instructor of chemistry at the Kendall and InterAmerican Campuses. Since that time, she has held a number of positions at the college including Associate Professor, Chair of Natural and Social Sciences, and Dean of Academic Affairs. Dr. Rodicio has led a number of grant projects aimed at recruiting students to the sciences and improving the teaching/learning process in the STEM fields. She has served as project director for the mathematics modular redesign project funded through the National Center of Academic Transformation, and the Statway project funded
by the Carnegie Foundation. As a faculty member, Dr. Rodicio served as a founding co-chair of the Learning Outcomes Project that facilitated a nationally recognized process to develop college-wide general education learning outcomes and related assessment tools.

Dr. Rodicio holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Barry University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in chemistry from Louisiana State University. She is a member of the American Chemical Society and the immediate past president of the Association for General and Liberal Studies.

Dr. Franklyn Tan Te
Professor of Biology

Dr. Te, Associate Professor Senior at MDC, has a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and received his Masters’ Degree in Marine Biology from the University of Guam. Dr. Te’s expertise includes taxonomy, ecology, and biology of coral reefs; habitat monitoring via environmental surveys and impact assessment; marine environmental toxicology via pesticide and pollution research; marine science education and training via experiential hands-on activities; and human anatomy, physiology, and nursing skills instruction via field-tested practical activities. Dr. Te is knowledgeable in four languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, and Tagalog (Philippine national language) and has taught extensively in Third World developing nations and developed industrialized nations. Dr. Te’s motto for success is: “Find reasons to succeed and not excuses to fail.”

Dr. José A. Vicente
President, Wolfson Campus

Dr. José A. Vicente has served Miami Dade College in various capacities for close to four decades. Notwithstanding his current role at the helm of the Wolfson Campus as Campus President, Dr. Vicente has held numerous leadership positions within the College stemming from Associate Dean of Academic Support, Dean of Academic Affairs as well as Administrative Services, founding President of the InterAmerican Campus, and interim President of the Hialeah and Medical Campuses. Having complemented his career by serving as a professor, Vicente has earned the regard of students and faculty peers alike, given his understanding of higher education administration and instruction as well as curriculum and program development. His vision for enhanced student learning and credential completion includes strategic technology imperatives that under his leadership have led to the incorporation of interactive student response systems, mobile computing integration, collaborative learning spaces and multi-media classrooms, not to mention discipline specific technology that affords students first hand proficiency with industry standard software and hardware.

His tenure as president of the North Campus propelled an unprecedented renaissance of educational advancements and facility improvements including the development of North’s School of Justice building, a Firefighter Training Facility, MDC-TV cable channel, MDC’s International Sculpture Park and Recording Studios, Business Conference Center, Pre-School Lab, a state-of-the-art Science Complex, Art Gallery, and Homeland Security and
Aquatic Training Center. Of mention, Vicente was also instrumental in launching baccalaureate degree programs in Education/Teaching, Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Entertainment & Design Technology as well as Science. Vicente is an alumnus of Miami Dade College, St. Thomas University as well as Nova Southeastern University where he earned a doctorate in Higher Education Administration. His post-doctoral studies were undertaken at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and The College of Education. He was the first Hispanic in the State of Florida to be selected as a Fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE).

At the national level, he has served on the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC); co-chaired (presently a member of) the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (USDA-HACU) Leadership Group, for which he has also served on the HACU Board of Directors and as Chair of the Governing Board; and the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) – serving on the Editorial Board of a new Latino higher education policy brief. Dr. Vicente also served as a member of the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC), as well as on commissions on the American Council on Education, among others.

At the local level, he is currently a member of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, City of Miami Education Advisory Board, and Association of Florida Colleges (AFC). He also serves as a member of the Council on Educational Change Executive PASS, the Advisory Board of Directors for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund in South Florida, the Miami Dade College Foundation Board of Directors, and the CAMACOL Board of Directors to name a few. Dr. Vicente is also a coveted public speaker at local, regional, national conferences, and he is published in the League for Innovation in the Community College’s publication, Student Services Dialogues: Community College Case Studies to Consider, among others.

Dr. Geraldine Grace Walker
Professor and Coordinator of ESL

Dr. Walker is at the Homestead Campus of MDC. She received her doctorate in Higher Education-International/Intercultural Education Development from Florida State University in 2000. She received a Master’s degree in Education from Louisiana State University in 1979 and a Bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Miami in 1977. In 2003, Dr. Walker worked for 6 months at La Universidad de Agraria-Centro de Idiomas, in Lima, Peru, as an International Rotary University Teacher. She has continued her relationship with the university and yearly takes materials for the ESL Department, where she conducts workshops for their ESL professors. Dr. Walker was selected by MDC as one of 12 faculty members that the College sent to Salzburg, Austria for a conference on Global Education, Sustainability, and Internationalizing College Curricula. Other international activities include an Early Childhood Centre in one of the deprived areas in Peru where she has built a wall to protect the young children from rock slides. She motivated her EAP students to aid Haiti in the earthquake that devastated the country. She supports two African children whose
grandmother is their sole caretaker. She has been the recipient of two Endowed Teaching Chairs in 2002 and 2007 and she received the Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award from MDC. The exposure and the advantages she has had since she left her native Jamaica have been the driving force behind her compassionate endeavors to create advantages for the underprivileged.
Sylvia Jons
Program Officer, Enrichment
Fulbright Foreign Programs Division

Sylvia Jons is a Program Officer in the Foreign Fulbright Student Division, where she develops enrichment activities for Foreign Fulbrighters. At IIE, she has also worked on the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program and on two private STEM programs within the U.S. Student Programs Division. Prior to joining IIE in 2012, Sylvia worked at the University of Nebraska on a system-wide internationalization plan and on global engagement strategic initiatives. During this time, she completed her Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration with a focus on internationalization and was elected President of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln’s Graduate Student body for two consecutive terms. Sylvia served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in the Office of Civic Engagement at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She studied abroad at Korea University and extended her stay in Korea working with the Asian Pacific Association of International Education. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising with an emphasis in Public Relations from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln.

Megan Spillman
Director of Student Services
Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Megan Spillman oversees the administration of the Foreign Fulbright Student Program’s Student Services Division as well as the operations of the IIE/Midwest office. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in English from Oklahoma State University, Megan worked in the IIE/Houston office on the Department of State’s International Visitor Program. During her undergraduate studies, she studied media, literature and Irish language at University College Cork in Ireland. Megan holds a master’s degree in public services management from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.
M. Eugenia (Jenny) Verdaguer is Chief of the Western Hemisphere Fulbright Programs Branch in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She oversees all academic exchange programs across the region, formulating, planning, managing, and executing Fulbright and other ECA-sponsored programs under guidelines established by the Department of State through the Bureau and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, in consultation with Public Affairs Sections at U.S. Embassies, regional bureaus, Fulbright Commissions, cooperating organizations and other relevant partners. Before joining the Branch as Program Officer in July 2007, Dr. Verdaguer was Director of the Bachelor of Individualized Study at George Mason University. From 2000 to 2005, she was Visiting Research Fellow at The Catholic University of America. Prior to that, she was educational advisor at the Organization of American States and Director of International Fellowship Programs at the AAUW Educational Foundation. Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Dr. Verdaguer is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from American University. She has taught courses on the Sociology of Latin America at American and George Mason Universities and has published on Latino immigrant faith communities and entrepreneurship in the Washington metropolitan area.

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP BOARD (FFSB)

Joseph L. Falk
Member, J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Joseph Falk is a Policy Consultant with the law firm of Ackerman LLP and a licensed mortgage originator. Prior to joining Ackerman, he was President of Metropolitan Mortgage Company, which was part of a diversified portfolio of companies owned by the Falk family. He is a past President and Legislative Chairman of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers, and has served as President of the Florida Association of Mortgage Professionals. Falk was a member of the Federal Reserve Board’s Consumer Advisory Council from 2007-2009. He currently teaches Federal and State regulatory continuing education classes in Florida. Falk is the long-serving Vice Chairman of the Board and Capital Campaign Chairman of the Miami Science Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate, as well as a Board member of the national Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Previously he was a Board member of the Bake house Art Complex, and has served as President and Board member of Beth David Jewish Congregation. Falk is a 1976 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, and he received his MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1978. Falk was appointed by President Barack Obama in August 2014 to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which oversees the worldwide Fulbright Program.
Emergency Information

If you require immediate emergency **medical assistance** and cannot locate a staff member, please either:

* Go to the nearest hospital: Jackson Memorial Hospital  
  1611 NW 12 Ave.  
  Miami, Fla. 33136  
  Emergency Department: 305-585-6910  
  General Patient Information: 305-355-1212 (international patients)  

  OR

* Dial 911 on the telephone for an emergency operator who will send medical assistance should you need it.

If you are unable to locate a staff member during the conference, in the event of a medical emergency, please call **305-237-3100 (Miami Dade College Wolfson campus Public Safety)**.

In case of any other emergency, please follow any instruction provided by event venues or any law enforcement and emergency personnel. Please take note of the emergency exit routes posted in your hotel room.

In case of emergency that does not require exiting the building, please relocate to the hotel lobby.

In case of emergency that requires leaving the building, meet in front of Bayfront Park (next to Bayside Market), 301 North Biscayne Boulevard.

If you are unable to locate the group, please call Dorothy Avondstondt. Her cell is 305-297-1430. You can also contact the Holiday Inn (305-371-4400).