

In this Issue

- P2** School's Researchers Receive \$6.5 Million Grant
- P3** Dean's Message: Beginning a New Chapter
- P4** EPS Researchers to Evaluate Community Action Plans
- P5** Shen Leads STEM + Digital Literacies Project
- P5** KIN Professors Use Xbox to Study Parkinson's
- P6** Whisenant Growing KIN
- P7** Bejarano Delivers 'On-Air' Advice
- P8** Welcoming New Faculty
- P10** SCRA Eco Conference
- P11** Undergraduate Music Education Program
- P12** School Offers New Graduate Programs
- P13** Homecoming
- P14** Kivell Honored with SCRA Doctoral Award
- P14** ESPN's "College GameDay"
- P15** Publications

To make an online gift to the School of Education and Human Development, go to: www6.miami.edu/alumni/giving/

Editor: Marilyn Neff, mneff@miami.edu
Writer: Richard Westlund
Production: Armenteros & Martin
©UMSEHD 2017

University of Miami School of Education and Human Development
5202 University Drive • Coral Gables, FL 33146 • 305.284.3711

To learn more about our School, please go to www.education.miami.edu.

Ruiz Receives SCRA's Master's Research Award



Andrea Ruiz, an award-winning graduate student in the Community and Social Change program, stands outside a Puerto Rican artwork in Wynwood.

Related story on page 14

Andrea Ruiz, a graduate student in the Community and Social Change master's degree program, received the Society for Community Research and Action's 2017 National Student Representative Research Award. She was recognized for her master's thesis, "Un sólo pie adentro: Sense of Community of Puerto Ricans in Miami," and will receive \$1,000 to pursue this research.

"Moving from Puerto Rico to Miami a year and a half ago, I didn't expect to find a Puerto Rican community in this city," she said. "But in the 1970s, what we know now as the Wynwood Arts District was a Puerto Rican *barrio* known as Little San Juan. Today, there are more than 105,000 Puerto Ricans in Miami-Dade County, but the changing social structure in the Wynwood area is forcing

(continues on page 15)

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



School's Researchers Receive \$6.5 Million Grant to Support Teachers Serving High-Needs Populations

Three professors in the Department of Teaching and Learning (TAL) in the School of Education and Human Development have received a \$6.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support teachers and help them engage high-needs students in middle- and high-school classes.

"Many research studies have shown that one of the most important factors in a child's education is the quality of the teacher," said Luciana de Oliveira, professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning and co-principal investigator of the grant. "Through this three-year grant, we will help prepare 120 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) teachers to educate and engage students with diverse learning needs, such as learning English as a second language, in inclusive classroom settings."

Mary A. Avalos, research associate professor and TAL associate chair, is the principal investigator for the project, "Supporting Educators' Academic Literacies and Enhanced Discourse (SEALED)." Wendy Cavendish, TAL associate professor, will lead the research and evaluation component.

"We are excited to partner with M-DCPS on the SEALED project, which will include a ground-breaking comparative look at the value of master's degree teaching programs," said Avalos. "One of our top priorities is to increase the number of diverse and highly qualified teachers serving students in high-needs secondary schools to improve academic achievement and engagement in school and community."

With support from the grant, the School of Education and Human Development is recruiting 60 practicing teachers to kick off the study in August 2018, with another 60 to start the following January. The 120 teachers will be enrolled in the TAL's graduate level Education and Social Change, TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), or Special Education M.S. Ed. programs. Sixty teachers will receive professional development support throughout the graduate program and the other 60 will receive professional development support in a summer institute at the end of the program.

This collaborative project is designed to help teachers expand their cultural competency and overall skill set by learning new ways of connecting with high-needs students in the classroom, said de Oliveira. "For example, a teacher might think that a student who struggles with English is not as smart or capable as another student with fluent speech, which is a misconception about teaching English learners," she said. "Along with looking



(From left) Luciana de Oliveira, Wendy Cavendish, and Mary A. Avalos

at academic literacy, our project will help teachers recognize the importance of engaging students on a personal level, learning about their lives outside the classroom and in the community."

The SEALED project will help address the shortage of teachers who are trained to work with special needs students, said Avalos. It will also generate new data and provide fresh insights about instructional practices for diverse populations. "Additionally, we will see how obtaining a master's degree in education changes teachers' practices and affects their students' achievement," Avalos said. "One positive outcome could be a cultural change for teachers, as they adjust their classroom strategies to serve high-needs students."

dean's message

Beginning a New Chapter

After 11 years of service, I am stepping down as dean of the School of Education and Human Development to devote more time to my scholarly work. It's an important step for my personal and professional well-being.

In early 2018, I will begin a year-long sabbatical to work on my latest book. Then, I will return to our school in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies and resume my roles as UM Vice Provost for Institutional Culture, Professor of Educational and Psychological Studies, and Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community Well-Being.

With the support of our generous alumni and other donors, we have been able to launch new programs, invest in our laboratories, and offer scholarships to deserving students. As a result, I believe our school is in a strong position to receive a new dean.

I am very proud of our faculty, students, and staff for their accomplishments over the years, including the contributions featured in this issue of Perspective. It is a pleasure working with an academic team dedicated to teaching and research that shares our values of integrity, inclusion, and service to others.

Now, as I begin a new chapter in my career, rather than say goodbye, I bid farewell with hasta la vista! Until the next time, I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac Prilleltensky

Dean and Professor
School of Education and Human Development
Erwin and Barbara Mautner Chair in Community Well-Being
Vice Provost for Institutional Culture, University of Miami



Dean Isaac Prilleltensky with Associate Dean Marilyn Neff at University of Miami's 2017 Homecoming. She is retiring in January after 20 years with the School of Education and Human Development. Before joining UM, she spent three decades as a teacher and administrator with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, retiring as Deputy Superintendent.



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 inter-related in their focus on well-being.

The three University of Miami School of Education and Human Development departments are:

- Educational and Psychological Studies (EPS), which focuses on emotional health and psychological factors
- Kinesiology and Sport Sciences (KIN), which promotes physical wellness, fitness, and sport
- Teaching and Learning (TAL), which fosters intellectual and educational development.

To view a short film about the School's focus on well-being, visit:
vimeo.com/52027102

EPS Researchers to Evaluate Community Action Plans

With support from a Health Foundation of South Florida grant, a research team from the School of Education and Human Development will be helping Miami Gardens and Little Havana evaluate their community change efforts.

“We are looking forward to seeing what we can contribute as an integrated team of community psychologists and community-engaged researchers.”

— Scot Evans

“This collaborative, place-based initiative, called the Live Healthy Community Partnership, is designed to foster new ideas and strategies for improving the well-being of residents,” said Associate Professor Scot Evans, Department of Educational and Psychological Studies (EPS). The University of Miami’s Office of Civic and Community Engagement is one of the partners in this long-term community empowerment effort.

Evans leads the school’s Engagement, Power, and Social Action Research Team (EPSA), which covers a wide range of issues with a common focus on power, community engagement, and collective action to help build organizational and community capacity for social change. “In this case, the Live Healthy Community Partnership teams and the Health Foundation of South Florida wanted an evaluation partner that was independent from the two communities to assess current strategies and offer fresh thinking,” Evans said. “This is the third year of the project and we hope to help the partnership shape the next stages of its work.”

In Miami Gardens, community leaders are looking at how to improve the mental and physical health of residents, including access to primary healthcare services, making parks accessible and safe, putting in adequate sidewalks, and providing convenient access to public transit, Evans said. “It also involves an assessment of the social environment, which might include looking at issues such as the impact of racism and discrimination on youth, families, and seniors.”

Margo Fernandez-Burgos, a master’s student in Mental Health, is the evaluation team lead for the Live Healthy Miami Gardens initiative, while Elizabeth McInerney, a doctoral student in Counseling Psychology, is leading the evaluation team for the Live Healthy Little Havana initiative. Andrea Botero, a master’s student in the Community and Social Change program, is serving as project coordinator for the evaluation team.

“We are looking forward to seeing what we can contribute as an integrated team of community psychologists and community-engaged researchers,” Evans said. “We hope that our participation will help strengthen the partnership’s work and increase the potential for sustainable change in Miami Gardens and Little Havana.”



(From left) Margo Fernandez-Burgos, Kacey James, Scot Evans, Liz McInerney, Andrea Botero, and Leigh Rauk.
Not Pictured: Victoria Gonzalez.

Shen Leads STEM + Digital Literacies Project

Ji Shen, professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning (TAL), believes that reading science fiction may generate greater interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) among young students.

Supported by a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program, Shen is leading the STEM + Digital Literacies (STEM+L) project. Its purpose is to investigate science fiction as an effective mechanism to attract and immerse adolescents (ages 10-13) from diverse cultural backgrounds in environmental and human health content and socio-scientific issues.

"This project is particularly novel, as the current knowledge base is limited and largely addresses the high school level," said Shen, who is collaborating with Blaine Smith, a former TAL professor who is now at the University of Arizona. The new project is based on Smith and Shen's pilot project, "Imagining the Future."

STEM+L will engage 30 middle school students in out-of-school time experiences. Over a 24-week period, students will work collaboratively in groups in person and online with their peers and experts to design, develop, and produce STEM content in rich, multimedia science fictions. Culminating activities include student presentations online and at a local science fiction festival.

"The results of the proposed effort could yield important findings regarding the feasibility of this activity as an effective platform for science learning and engagement for younger students," Shen said. "As such, STEM+L would advance knowledge in the field and contribute to a growing AISL portfolio on digital literacy and learning."

The National Science Foundation's AISL program seeks to advance new approaches to the design and development of STEM learning in informal environments. This includes providing multiple pathways for broadening engagement with STEM learning experiences, advancing innovative research, and developing deeper learning by participants.



KIN Professors Use Xbox to Study Parkinson's Disease

Assistant Professor Moataz Eltoukhy and Professor Joseph Signorile in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences recently received the Parkinson's Advocates in Research (PAIR) Leadership Award from the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. This award is a year-long grant to support their research work on Parkinson's disease.

"We are using videogame technology to record the gait patterns of Parkinson's disease patients," said Eltoukhy. The study involves placing a \$100 Microsoft Kinect, a motion-sensing device for the Xbox video game system, in individuals' homes. Gait patterns can be recorded daily and viewed live by clinicians at other locations at a fraction of the cost of conducting the same tests using expensive motion-capture technology.

"We can capture movements, analyze them, and generate all kinds of data on joint angles, walking patterns, and ground-reaction forces," said Eltoukhy, who holds a joint appointment in UM's College of Engineering.

(continues on page 15)

Whisenant Looks Forward to Growing KIN Programs

Since joining the faculty in 2005, Warren A. Whisenant has seen remarkable growth in the School of Education and Human Development's sport administration, exercise physiology, and athletic training programs. Now, as chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences (KIN), he looks forward to continuing that upward trajectory.

"We have a very diverse group of faculty and students who are conducting important research in many fields," said Whisenant. "We also have strong partnerships throughout the sports and media world and close ties to our alumni who support our programs."

One example is the school's Sport Administration Program, offered on campus and online for graduate students. "This is the university's largest online program, which has given us a chance to reach out to students from all backgrounds who never imagined they had an opportunity to get a college degree from the U."

Under Whisenant's direction, KIN is partnering with the UM School of Law to host an entertainment law conference in February and a sport administration conference on April 5-6. "Many venues across the country host both sports and entertainment events," he said. "These conferences will bring in noted professionals from both fields, giving our students opportunities to learn and network with their future colleagues."

The conferences will also draw on knowledge and experiences of the school's Sport Industry Leadership Council, a nine-person group of senior executives in high-profile sports and media organizations that Whisenant recruited.

"We are adding new clinical professors and seeking grants and donor funding for our

research projects," he said. "In some cases, the donation of seed money can help our faculty and doctoral students launch new studies in our advanced laboratory facilities."



Much of Whisenant's own research has focused on gender and organizational issues within interscholastic athletics, beginning with his work as a professor at the University of Houston. "My first major study was looking at job descriptions of athletic directors (ADs) in Texas high schools," he said. "I found that 87 percent were advertised as AD and head football coach. It was immediately obvious why there were so few women ADs in the state."

Since then, Whisenant has conducted other studies of soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball, where most coaches are men despite decades of growth in women's sports. "Under social learning theory, it's important to see people who look like you having successful careers," he said. "In this case, we need to create a more balanced playing field where women have opportunities in coaching and sports administration."

Whisenant's studies have been published in the *Journal of Sport Management*; *International Journal of Sport Management*; *Sport, Education, and Society*; *Global Sport Business Journal*; *International Journal of Sport Management and Marketing*; and *Sex Roles*.

His professional background also includes more than 20 years experience with three global organizations – Hewitt Associates, KFC-USA, and Frito Lay, Inc. In those positions, he was involved with coordinating promotional programs and sponsorships with various sport organizations, including the Kentucky Derby, the Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway, and two minor league baseball teams.

"This is the university's largest online program, which has given us a chance to reach out to students from all backgrounds who never imagined they had an opportunity to get a college degree from the U."

– Warren A. Whisenant

Professor Bejarano Delivers ‘On-Air’ Advice for Viewers of Spanish-Language TV Networks

Spanish-language TV networks Telemundo and Univision have reached out to Professor Anabel Bejarano to provide on-air advice on a variety of topics. “As a clinical psychologist, I can address sensitive issues for members of South Florida’s Latino community,” said Bejarano, who is Clinical Assistant Professor, and Director, Master’s Programs in Counseling, in the Department Educational and Psychological Studies.

Last summer Univision asked Bejarano to comment on the case of an adolescent who killed his younger sister and whether he should be tried as an adult in a court of law. “This was a heinous crime by a young person who was a childhood victim of trauma,” she said. “In the interview, I focused on recognizing the signs of potential violence in children and the importance of seeking immediate treatment.”

More recently, Bejarano has been interviewed several times by Telemundo as part of its “El Poder en Ti (The Power in You)” campaign.

“I have talked about how to respond to a loved one who has received a diagnosis of cancer, as well as dealing with work-related stress and the empowerment of women,” Bejarano said. “I believe it is essential for Latinos to feel a sense of empowerment and take responsibility for living a healthy life.”

At the School of Education and Human Development, Bejarano strives to prepare master’s-level clinicians who share the goal of empowering their clients. “We must be responsive to an individual’s cultural heritage and personal background,” she said. “Culture matters in the field of mental health, and it guides us as we strive to empower our clients in their lives.”



Anabel Bejarano in the TV studio.

“Culture matters in the field of mental health, and it guides us as we strive to empower our clients in their lives.”

— Anabel Bejarano

Joining the Faculty in Fall 2017

Seniz Celimli Aksoy

Department of Educational and Psychological Studies

Seniz Celimli Aksoy has joined the faculty after earning her Ph.D. in Research, Measurement, and Evaluation (RME) in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies at the School of Education and Human Development in August 2017. She also holds a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey.

Her research interests in quantitative methods are aligned with Latent Variable Models, specifically Exploratory Structural Equation Modeling. On the applied side, she has conducted research in the areas of developmental psychology and early childhood education to investigate questions related to the potential implications of policy change and the profile of children served in early intervention service. During her graduate studies at UM, she taught a graduate-level Introductory statistics course in the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies.



Erin McNary

Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences

Erin McNary joined the faculty in August 2017 as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences. Previously, she was at Indiana University-Bloomington (IUB) where she taught in the Sport Marketing and Management program.

After receiving her doctorate degree at IUB, she worked at two different universities in St. Louis, Missouri, where she taught a variety of courses and worked with numerous sports organizations. She also has several years of experience in campus recreation at Arizona State University and University of Texas-San Antonio, as well as five years of experience working for a national physical activity and fitness awards program.

Her focus of research is to explore sport management pedagogy. She also examines youth sport communication as well as marketing, advertising, and promotion of youth and marginalized athletes. In the past, she has also researched media portrayals and historic media coverage of youth, women, and minorities in sport.



Jennifer Kahn Thorne

Department of Teaching and Learning

Jennifer Kahn Thorne is an Assistant Professor in the Applied Learning Sciences program in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She completed her doctoral studies at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

Her research looks to professional, representational practices and new interdisciplinary cultural activities to inform design studies for youth and community learning. Her dissertation reports on a design-based research program she developed to explore storytelling practices with statistical and mathematical models of socioeconomic big data commonly found in the public media. She plans to continue to investigate how these practices, along with access to open data and interactive digital visualization tools, can encourage youth and families to engage critically with big data models and to draw relationships across scales – between their personal, local experiences and larger social, economic, scientific, and historical issues.



Nam Ju Kim

Department of Teaching and Learning

Nam Ju Kim, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Applied Learning Sciences in the Department of Teaching and Learning. His research investigates the design, development, and evaluation of technology-enhanced pedagogy. He focuses on the development of artificial intelligence-adapted learning systems using a machine learning algorithm in order to provide flexible and individualized support.

Prior to his arrival at the University of Miami, he was an instructional designer who developed and evaluated more than 30 online and offline courses for adult education and ran a company for training new employees from a government agency, commercial enterprises, and non-profit organizations.

Kim has published widely in top-tier academic journals and has presented numerous papers on Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences at nationally and internationally renowned conferences. He earned his Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences from Utah State University in 2017.



Ajaya Williams

Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences

Ajaya Williams has joined the Department of Kinesiology and Sport Sciences as the Athletic Training Clinical Education Coordinator and Lecturer. She was previously on the athletic training staff at Columbia University, where she was head men's basketball athletic trainer and coordinator of sports medicine coverage for the men's and women's golf, and women's archery teams.

She earned her bachelor's degree in athletic training from Hofstra University and her master's degree in sports administration from Florida State University. She also worked with the NFL's Buffalo Bills as an athletic training summer intern. She earned her doctoral degree in health education from the Columbia University Teacher's College in 2016. Her research focuses on concussion education and protocol compliance in the secondary school sector.

A New York native, Dr. Williams established a record as a volunteer in her community with various sports organizations, where she provided athletic training coverage for local sports leagues as well as presented on preventative health care.



Community Psychologists Share Perspectives at SCRA Eco Conference

Community psychologists are developing varied and diverse strategies to address issues of social justice and drive transformative change, according to participants at the 2017 Southeast Region Eco Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) hosted by the School of Education and Human Development's Department of Educational and Psychological Studies (EPS).



More than 50 community psychologists and students from the southeast region shared their experiences and perspectives at the conference on "Multiple Community Psychologies for Social Change" on October 27-29, in an outdoor setting at Greynolds Park in North Miami Beach.

"Community psychology today has multiple identities, and through this conference we can share our different perspectives," said Ed Trickett, Visiting Professor and Community Well-Being Scholar. "We want to help students understand the different assumptions and worldviews of different professionals."

In the opening panel discussion, Professor Dina Birman said she sees herself as a social scientist generating data to inform social policies. "As community psychologists, we are concerned with issues related to well-being, inclusion, and social justice," she said. "We look at the context of people's lives and consider how we can change their circumstances rather than the individuals."

Birman urged graduate students to focus on a particular area of interest and develop expertise in the field. "My own career has been centered on issues relating to immigration and migration," she added. "I consult with federal and state agencies, asking questions from a cultural and community perspective."

Dominique Thomas, a community psychologist and lecturer in psychology at Georgia State University, has focused his research on campus racial climates. "I have been looking for ways to improve the environment without placing the blame on individuals," he said.

When beginning his work, Thomas found there were a number of different scales and definitions in use for measuring racial climate, making it difficult to draw conclusions. "I developed a list of questions and took them to African American students, asking if they were relevant to their experiences," Thomas said. "That allowed me to create and validate a measure of the campus racial climate specific to African-American students."



(From left) Bret Kloos, Dominique Thomas, Ed Trickett, Natalie Kivell, Dina Birman, and Scot Evans

Brett Kloos, professor of psychology at the University of South Carolina, said he felt like an outsider, entering the field after studying music. "I was trained in a clinical healthcare setting, and my work involves people with a history of psychiatric disabilities," he said. "But rather than try to change individuals to fit the system, I study what could be transformative to the healthcare institution and the whole mental health system."

(continues on page 12)



Isabella Gaviglia

Undergraduate Music Education Program Prepares Well-Rounded Teachers

Isabella Gaviglia, B.M. '12, taught band, orchestra and chorus classes at Aventura Waterways K-8 Center before moving on to graduate studies. “My education at the University of Miami gave me all the tools to be a well-rounded music teacher,” she said. Now a master’s student at Columbia University Teachers College in New York City, the Brazilian-born Gaviglia said, “I see music students here from all over the world, and I feel very grateful for the preparation I received at UM.”

For many years, the Frost School of Music has partnered with the School of Education and Human Development to offer a teaching certification program. “We meet together to design policies and assessment procedures,” said Carlos R. Abril, professor of music education and director of undergraduate music education, Frost School of Music. All students in the program major in

music and minor in education, taking courses in the Department of Teaching and Learning (TAL).

“We want our students to make meaningful overall contributions to their students and schools, rather than seeing themselves as music teachers who operate in isolation,” said Abril. “Interacting with TAL students who may be focusing on science, English, or special education gives them a broader perspective and helps them understand how they are a part of the greater educational enterprise.”

Abril, B.M. '92, gained a firsthand understanding of the partnership as a music student, earning the Donaldson-Kresge Outstanding Associate Teacher Award. Seven years ago, he returned to the Frost School of Music after having served as an associate professor of music education at Northwestern University, to lead the program, which currently has 45 undergraduates, seven master’s degree, and six doctoral students.



Carlos R. Abril

“We have been very successful in placing our graduates in public, charter, and private schools as well as the most prestigious graduate programs in the world, such as Cambridge, Columbia, Harvard, and Eastman,” Abril said. **“Overall, we have a 100 percent placement rate for our graduates.”**



Najjah Thompson

The UM music alumni have taken a wide range of teaching positions, from high school band, to elementary general music, to early childhood education classes for preschoolers. Students in the Frost School of Music’s Ph.D. program have gone on to distinguished academic careers, including Kelly Parkes, Ph.D., 2006 at Teachers College Columbia University; Charles Ciorba, Ph.D., 2007, at George Mason University; and Johanna Abril, Ph.D., 2017, who was recently appointed professor of research at the Universidad de las Americas in Ecuador.

One recent graduate, Najjah Thompson, B.M., '13, M.M. '15, is taking a leading role in bringing music to Chicago’s underserved neighborhoods. “I feel that understanding and creating music is very beneficial to children of all backgrounds,” said Thompson, a music teacher at Roberto Clemente Community Academy and José de Diego Community Academy. “It can open young

(continues on page 12)

School Offers New Graduate Programs in Applied Learning Sciences

How do we learn? Are there methods to improve learning skills? Do we learn better individually or in groups?

Understanding and analyzing how people learn is at the heart of a new set of graduate programs in Applied Learning Sciences being offered by the School of Education and Human Development. These programs will lead to an Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.), a master's degree, or a non-degree certificate depending on student interest and background. An online version of the program, developed in conjunction with Laureate International, will begin in May 2018.

The courses, being offered through the Department of Teaching and Learning, distill over 70 years of knowledge on how learning takes place. Through instruction, projects, and vetted internships, professionals in various occupations will apply this knowledge in real world settings, in informal and formal education settings, and in virtual settings.

"Knowing how people learn is crucial in today's world," said Walter Secada, senior associate dean. "It is especially critical in today's job environment, where learning new skills and new technologies is essential. A thorough grounding in applied learning sciences will help individuals whose jobs entail helping others learn across a wide range of occupations."

The program aims to make knowledge about human learning available to professionals such as corporate trainers, curriculum developers, creators of museum and park exhibits, formal and informal educators, consultants, and others whose work is focused on any form of human learning. It will be helpful to businesses, non-profit and for-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and other groups and institutions that rely on the ability to teach and learn.

One important part of the program will be its partnership with non-university entities such as corporations, institutes, and local businesses, where students can work as interns. These cooperative internships will enable students to utilize their own job sites as areas for study and experimentation.

This program is consistent with the school's mission of "studying, promoting, and integrating educational, psychological, and physical well-being in multicultural communities," and will contribute to the improvement of education, in its broadest sense, across the entire life span.

SCRA Eco Conference *(from page 10)*

UM associate professor Scot Evans was also a music student, who played in a band and began volunteering to help young people in a youth homeless shelter in Nashville. "I was not happy with the individual, clinical approach," he said. "I believe we need to use collaborative and participatory approaches at the community and systems levels to better assist people who are suffering and oppressed."

In his community research, Evans said he tries to dig down to the roots of an issue, such as social, economic, and political power. "As community psychologists, we need to have a sustained focus on the influence of power in community settings."

Along with the panel discussion, several professionals and doctoral students presented findings from their community research, including a quality of life report for Beaufort County, South Carolina, a laboratory study on bystander intervention in sexual violence, an organizational capacity-building program in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the development of a local theory for transformative change.

Reflecting on the conference, Kloos said, "As community psychologists we must draw on our perspective to reach out and create opportunities that may not be visible to others."

Music Education Program *(from page 11)*

minds to the possibilities of life. They learn that music can be more than what they hear on the radio or watch on YouTube. It encompasses jazz, classical, band, and avant garde as well."

Thompson, whose principal instrument is the tuba, said the UM undergraduate program broadened his musical horizons. He took part in the Donna Shalala Community Outreach Program at Frost and was a summer intern at the prestigious Ravinia Music Festival near Chicago, where he participated in its "Reach, Teach, Play" program.

Now, Thompson is teaching high school band, while helping to design music curricula for students in Chicago public schools without a full-time music teacher. A participant in Chicago's Music Educators Promising Leaders Program, and winner of a Mr. Holland's Opus grant, Thompson said, "With music there is always something new to explore. Being a music educator is truly an exciting career."

homecoming

The School of Education and Human Development celebrated 2017 Homecoming with a reception on November 3.



Kivell Honored with SCRA's Doctoral Research Award

Natalie Kivell, a doctoral candidate in the Community Well-Being program, was honored with the Society for Community Research and Action's 2017 Student Research Grant. She received the first place \$1,000 doctoral level award based on her dissertation's relevance to community research and action, the use of methods reflective of community psychology, clarity of writing, and the feasibility of project completion.

Her thesis, "What is Transformation? Resisting Epistemic Injustice Through Participatory Theory Development with Community Organizers and Activists," focuses on building an adaptable local theory of transformative change for grassroots community organizers.

"I think we can, and should, be better as scholar-activists in addressing structural issues of power and oppression, which we cannot do by tinkering around the edges," Kivell said. "By asking big questions, I want to be able to contribute to the dialogue and action around big solutions."

Kivell will be using the award to provide stipends to her co-researchers who are actively involved in the collective analysis and theory-building processes of the dissertation project. "My goal is to contribute to our ability as community psychologists to design, support, and document transformative processes and outcomes that create stronger and healthier communities while creating actionable and community related theory to inform action." Kivell is also the host of "RadioActive," a political and community psychology oriented weekly radio show that airs Sundays at 6 pm, on WVUM 90.5 or at www.wvum.org



Sport Administration Students Take Part in ESPN's "College GameDay"



(From left) Kyle Sylvester, Denise Ozturk, Daniel Katan, and Deja Kearney

University of Miami Sport Administration students took part in ESPN's "College GameDay" coverage on November 10, the day before the 'Canes defeated Notre Dame 41-8. The high-profile sports show was broadcast live from Lakeside Patio.

"Our students were able to get a behind-the-scenes look at the complexities of putting on the big show every week throughout the college football season," said Paul Resnick, internship director and senior lecturer, Sport Administration Program. "The group also had a chance to get a few pics on the famous GameDay set. Big thanks to Michael Turner, assistant athletic director of events and operations, for coordinating the visit," said Resnick.

Publications and Presentations

Eltoukhy, M., Kuenze, C., Anderson, M., Hoon, J., Jacopetti, M., Wooten, S., **Signorile, J.** Prediction of ground reaction forces for Parkinson's Disease patients using a Kinect-driven musculoskeletal gait analysis model. *Medical Engineering & Physics*, (50) 75-82, 2017.

Eltoukhy, M., Kuenze, C., Hoon, J., **Signorile, J.** Kinect-based assessment of lower limb kinematics and dynamic postural control during the star excursion balance test. *Gait & Posture*, (58) 421-427, 2017.

Chen, G., **Shen, J.**, Barth-Cohen, L., Jiang, S., Huang, X., & **Eltoukhy, M.** Assessing elementary students' computational thinking in everyday reasoning and robotics programming. *Computers & Education*, 191, 162-175, 2017.

Signorile, J., Rendos, N., Heredia-Vargas, H., Alipio, T., Cota Regis, R., **Eltoukhy, M.,** & Romero, M. Differences In muscle activation and kinematics between cable-based and selectorized weight training. *The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*, 31(2), 313-322, 2017.

Kuenze, C., Eltoukhy, M., Chang-Young, K., & Kelly, A. Impact of quadriceps strengthening response to fatiguing exercise following ACL reconstruction: A pilot study. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, 20(1), 6-11, 2017.

Kuenze, C., Kelly, A., Jun, H., & Eltoukhy, M. Effects of unilateral quadriceps strengthening with disinhibitory cryotherapy on quadriceps symmetry following ACL reconstruction. *Journal of Athletic Training*. In Press.

McMahon, R., Abbamonte, J. and Devieux, J. "Psychopathology Subgroups and HIV Risk Among Women in Psychiatric Treatment," *AIDS Behavior*, 2017.

...

Professor Beth Harry delivered a keynote address, "Cultural Reciprocity in Special Education: Building Bridges to Cross-Cultural Understanding with Parents," at Gazi University, International Early Childhood Education Congress in Ankara, Turkey.

Ruiz (from page 1)

many Puerto Rican residents to move to other parts of the city."

Ruiz said she decided to focus her master's thesis on how Puerto Ricans living in Miami are building their sense of community here in relation to their transnational community on the island. "For many *boricuas* or Island-born Puerto Ricans, living in the States means having one foot here and one foot there," she said.

The impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria has mobilized the Puerto Rican community in Miami to be involved in the island through social media, developing initiatives for getting donations and giving voice to the experiences of their families, Ruiz added.

"This proposed study can contribute to the field of community psychology by adding the transnational perspective when discussing the catalytic elements that grow or lessen an individual's sense of community, particularly if they feel they already belong to more than one community," she said.



Parkinson's Disease (from page 5)

Analysis of the gait patterns of Parkinson's patients is crucial because clinicians use the data to prescribe medications that improve motor function. But too often such data are culled from questionnaires or from tests that are conducted sporadically. The ultimate goal is to have Kinect in nursing homes, clinics, and even in the homes of Parkinson's patients to determine the severity of their disorder.

"Placing it in the home gives us the probability of providing proper exercises directly based on the quantification of movement," said Signorile. "So the machine itself becomes a clinical advisor, with the clinician always looking on, of course."