

## FIU hosts workshop for 400 future leaders

BY CHRIS MAYO  
Special to The Miami Herald



From left to right: Camila Rodriguez, Jose Betancourt, Paola Lacouture, Delia Fung, David Sanchez, and Tiffany Le Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) pictured at a District Conference.

In their quests to become better leaders of tomorrow, more than 400 students attended the recent Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) workshop held at Florida International University.

Attendees represented chapters from all over Miami-Dade County, said FIU's FBLA president, Jose Betancourt, who helped plan the event with Yanyan San Luis. Betancourt and San Luis created interesting interactive workshops for all the members in attendance.

FBLA is a national organization with more than 50,000 members. At FIU, the College of Business Administration partnered with the university's FBLA chapter to prepare the day of learning workshops. "The event was a tremendous success, and the chapter is looking forward to preparing next year's

training and make it a phenomenal one," Betancourt said.

### AUTISM RESEARCH WALK

When Miami residents Michelle and Paul Kaplan realized that their son, Matthew, suffered from Fragile X Syndrome, they went to work hoping to find a cure for what is the most common inherited form of mental impairment and autism.

Five years later, the organization they helped found, the Florida Fragile X Families Foundation, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for research for this condition, which affects one in 4,000 boys and one in 6,000 girls. The foundation will have its major fundraiser, the second-annual 5K Walk-a-Thon, on Saturday at the Miami Metro Zoo.

Registration is at 7:30 a.m., and the walk starts at 8:30 a.m. There will be entertainment, raffles and awards. For more information, call 305-992-4430 or visit [www.floridafragilexfamilies.org](http://www.floridafragilexfamilies.org).

"We are thrilled with the response from the community and the compassion so many are showing for our Foundation and the children and families who are coping with Fragile X Syndrome," Michelle Kaplan said.

### FREE ROCK CONCERT

Roll The Stones will perform unforgettable classic rock in its tribute to the music of The Rolling

Stones from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Nov. 14 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood. The concert is free and suitable for all ages.

This nine-piece ensemble is comprised of some of South Florida's best session and performing musicians. The group features a powerful horn section, multiple vocalists and musicians on guitar, bass, drums and keyboards.

"We are not look-a-likes but the show is a great evening of classic music for young and old," guitarist Dave Jacobs said. He added that the big hits and selection of rarities will please casual and hard-core Stones fans alike.

For more, go to [www.rollthestones.com](http://www.rollthestones.com) and click on schedule.

## **NEW MIAMI FICTION**

South Florida award-winning journalist and author Liz Balmaseda will present her debut novel, *Sweet Mary*, at 11 a.m. Nov. 19 at Fleming Restaurant, 8511 SW 136 St. The book focuses on the story of a model Miami citizen who is mistaken for a drug queen.

Balmaseda's protagonist learns much about herself as she matches wits with her adversaries: DEA agents, an ex-husband, and Miami's corrupt narcotics and racketeering underworld.

Reservations are required by Thursday, and all profits go to the Libraries at Brandeis University. Donation categories are Library Supporter, \$40; Library Builder, \$50; or Library Angel, \$60. Mail checks, payable to BNC, to Sharon Rothberg, 6469 Sunset Dr., Miami, FL 33143. Or call 305-665-4227.

## **AGE JUST A NUMBER**

The Alliance for Aging will host its third annual Positive Living Awards Dinner on Nov. 19 at Jungle Island.

Fourteen elders will be honored.

The categories and 2009 winners are Animal/Wildlife, Peter Fernandes, D.V.M. and Kathryn and Rod Medford; Corporate Service, L. George Yap; Education/Mentoring, Eduardo J. Padron, Ph.D.; Environmental Protection, John Van Leer, Ph.D.; Faith/Interfaith, Rev. Thomas Griffin, S.J.; Health Care, Arnold Oper, M.D.; Inter-Generational, William M. Schiff, D.D.S.; Not-for-Profit-Services, Johan Askowitz; Philanthropy, Myra Farr; Positive Living, Everett Stewart Sr.; Public Service, Jocelyn H. Bruce, M.D., and Congresswoman Carrie Meek; and Sports and Entertainment, Pili de la Rosa.

Tickets to the event are \$175 per person. Call Jeri Volpe at 305-670-6500, ext. 268, or write [volpej@elderaffairs.org](mailto:volpej@elderaffairs.org).

## **PAWPURRAZZI**

Passion for the Animals, the kickoff party for the Pawpurrazzi 2010 fundraising event, will be held Friday at the home of philanthropist Bunny Bastian. This event is being chaired by Pat and Milton Wallace, of the Humane Society of Greater Miami Adopt-A-Pet, and will honor Sandy, Nancy and Jon Batchelor.

The pre-party will be attended by a group of leaders all passionate in their commitment to

animals. Other animal rights champions planning to attend are Marisa Cisneros-Rizzon and Marcos Rizzon, Dr. Fredric Brandt, Yvonne and Chas Eldredge, Barbara and F.W. Mort Guilford, Linda and Patrick McEnany and Juan and Carmen Lopez. Broadway-acclaimed entertainer Johnny Rodgers will perform.

Pawpurrazzi 2010 will be held at Jungle Island on Jan. 22 and will feature "Great Pets Who Walk In Front of Great People," in which honored guests and their dogs will grace the runway. The University of Miami Theatre Arts Department will perform a scene from the musical *Cats*. Four-legged guests will enjoy pampering, doggie makeovers, an ice cream bar and a gourmet buffet. For more information, contact Laurie Hoffman at 305-749-1815 or [laurie@humanesocietymiami.org](mailto:laurie@humanesocietymiami.org).

## **FUTURE OF LIFE**

Two FIU professors, physicist James R. Webb and geologist Grenville Draper, and FIU scientists will discuss the future of life on Earth starting Friday at 8 p.m. at CP-145, Physics Building, on the Maidique Campus.

The free program includes refreshments, and a Q&A followed by a Star Party on the deck. Park in the garage near the Physics Building at SW 109 Avenue and SW Eighth Street. Call 305-348-3964.

*If you have news for this column, please send it to Chris Mayo, Friends and Neighbors, Neighbors, 4302 SW 73rd Ave., Miami, FL 33155, or fax to 305-269-7901. Pictures cannot be returned. Her e-mail address is [ChristinaMayo05@aol.com](mailto:ChristinaMayo05@aol.com).*

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