Alumni News

Alumna Promoted to Bank Vice President
The UMAA is proud to announce that Gabriella Suarez, BBA ‘98, has been promoted to Vice President of the International Banking Division of Union Planters Bank in Miami, FL. Suarez, formerly the assistant vice president, was praised by international banking president David Korfino, stating that Suarez has been, "an integral member of our team and helped expand our presence in international markets." Suarez began at Union Planters as a management associate fresh out of UM in 1998, and has been steadily climbed throughout the company in various management roles since then.

Media to Broadway and Back
From the first time Adam Hopper, BLA ‘04, visited a theater, he was enchanted by the aura of the stage and knew that he wanted to be an actor. Today, that dream has come true and Hopper is well on the path toward the bright lights of stage and screen, and he's also working to give something back to the theater that set him on his path. When only 12 years old, Adam had the opportunity to enter an acting workshop at The Media Theater for the Performing Arts in Media, PA (just outside Philadelphia) and struck up a relationship with the staff and production crew that would lasted throughout his time at UM. To repay that gift of enabling a dream, Adam has begun "Walking from Broadway in New York City to the Media Theatre," to raise funds to help give other youngsters the opportunity to experience the arts on October 25, 2004. "My goal is to stress the impact a theater can have on children who have an interest in (acting)," he said. "I hope there will be other children who will have the same opportunity that I had." The UMAA applauds Adam’s efforts, and encourages our readers to visit www.mediatheatre.com for more information.

UM Headlines

Presidential Debate 2004
Throughout the past several months, the University of Miami has been vigorously preparing for one of the most significant events in the institution’s history, the first round of Presidential Debates for the 2004 election cycle. Since the election of 1960, televised presidential debates have been one of the most significant factors in the outcome of presidential races, not only due to people being able to see and hear candidates discuss policy, ideology, and plans face-to-face and in a public forum, but also because the debates themselves create an awareness of our own participation in the American democratic process. The University of Miami has celebrated this opportunity by not only opening up the campus community to the official forum, but also planning an entire season of engaging exhibitions, discussions and lectures, and many other
programs that allow all involved with UM, whether they are student or alumni, faculty or staff, to be active participants in the history of American democracy and the revealing of our own social history and heritage. "[We] have the opportunity to witness history being made..." said UM President Donna Shalala at the announcement of debate sites last November.

With much of the focus on the debates surrounding the Coral Gables campus, it was exceptionally important to ensure UM alumni nationwide and around the world would also be engaged in this monumental event. "The University of Miami Alumni Association has worked hard to ensure that all alumni, regardless of location, continue to broaden their horizons and remain active members of the university community," said Amy Powers, BBA ’93, MBA ’97, MSTX ’00, Executive Director of Alumni Programs for the UMAA. "The Presidential Debate is the perfect opportunity for alumni everywhere to get together to watch and discuss the debates and be involved members of our democratic process."

Debate Information
Debate watch events are being held in Sarasota, Houston, and San Diego (see calendar below), and events surrounding the debate are continuing through the remainder of the election cycle. Although the Coral Gables campus will be operating on a "no visitor" policy until Friday morning at 5:00 am, the UMAA encourages all alumni, students, and UM community members to take advantage of this unique opportunity and most importantly to watch the televised debate. More information can be found at [www.miami.edu/debate04](http://www.miami.edu/debate04).

Business Program Ranked by Wall Street Journal
In a demonstration of the top-quality education the University of Miami offers, the Wall Street Journal has ranked the UM School of Business' MBA Program 16th out of 40 schools in the "regional" category. In all modesty, UM Provost Luis Glaser was not surprised. "Our business school has expert leadership, a dynamic faculty, and some of the best undergraduate, graduate, executive, and international programs in the nation," he said. The program was also ranked 7th for Hispanic students by Hispanic Monthly.

Hurricane Volleyball Founders in Blacksburg
The University of Miami women's volleyball team couldn't sustain a rally to overcome the Hokies of Virginia Tech, dropping a 3-2 contest over the weekend. Senior Valeria Tipiana posted her first double-double of the season with 26 kills and 10 digs, while freshman Ciara Michel led the team with a .412 attack percentage. Miami came out strong dominating in the first game, but several key errors cost the Hurricanes the second and third games before rallying back to tie the match at 2-2 going into the tie-breaker. Miami jumped out to an early 10-7 lead in the final match, and later tied the score up at 14 apiece before errors led to a 17-15 Hokie win and the match. The Hurricanes next see action when they host Wake Forest at the Knight Sports Complex on the Coral Gables Campus on Friday, October 1.

Women's Sports Day for UM Soccer & Volleyball!
On Sunday, October 3, the Miami Hurricane Soccer & Volleyball teams will be hosting the Duke Blue Devils at 1 pm at Cobb Stadium and the Knight Sports Complex, respectively. As part of this game's
promotion, all kids and their families are encouraged to arrive early for the pre-game party at 11:30 am. Fans will be treated to food and beverages, family fun and a post-game autograph session with the women's soccer and volleyball teams. Tickets are only $5 for adults and $3 for children and are available at the Cobb Stadium or Knights Sports Complex Main Entrance on Sunday. For more information, please visit www.hurricanesports.com or call (305) 284-2400.

**Happenings**

Chin Chin Lee, MSIE '99, was selected as a 2004 Grantmakers in Aging Fellow. She is currently enrolled in the MPH program in the Department of Epidemiology.

**Events**

**September**

- **September - November 2004 Presidential Debate 2004:** Thursday, September 30, 2004; UM Convocation Center. Visit [http://www.miami.edu/debate04/](http://www.miami.edu/debate04/) for debate information and events before, during, and after the debate.

- **Nationwide Debate Watch Parties**
  - **Houston:** 8:00 CT; Texadelphia
  - **Sarasota:** 9:00 ET; Hyatt Hotel
  - **San Diego:** 6:00 PT; On Tap Bistro & Brewery

- **September 29 - October 9**
  - **Tintypes A Nostalgic Look at American Life in Song**
  - The Jerry Herman Ring Theater, Coral Gables, FL

- **September 30**
  - **Strategic Uses of Philanthropy**, sponsored by the UMAA & Office of Estate and Gift Planning.
  - New York City

**October**

- **October 1 - October 30**
  - **Festival Miami, 2004**
    - Due to Hurricane Jeanne, Festival Miami events have been rescheduled: Opening night festivities—Oct. 1 at 8pm; Broward Gala Opening will not be rescheduled; Don't Cry for Me Argentina, reschedule date TBA. Visit [http://www.music.miami.edu/festival Miami2004/index.html](http://www.music.miami.edu/festival Miami2004/index.html)

- **October 6**
  - **6th Annual H.O.P.E. Auction**
  - Lowe Art Museum, 6:30 pm ET
  - Sponsored by the UM School of Law, the H.O.P.E. annual auction raises money for the various community outreach and advocacy programs with the School of Law. Contact the School of Law for more details 305-284-2339

- **October 7**
  - **40th Reunion Committee Meeting**
  - 12:00 pm; McKnight Conference Room, Coral Gables. Lunch will be provided. Contact Sonya Bjork for more info.

- **October 9**
  - **National Book Festival**
    - 9:00 am. Sponsored by the Washington DC Alumni. Contact: Sarah Rogers, BS ’00
    - [wdchurricanes@aol.com](mailto:wdchurricanes@aol.com) for more information.

**November**

- **November 6, 2004 Southwest Florida Alumni Club Homecoming Bus Trip**
  - Join your fellow 'Canes at the biggest pregame party of the year! Bus tickets are $22 per person; pregame packages (including pregame and game tickets) are also available. Contact Sonya Bjork at 1-866-UMALUMS to RSVP.

**December**

- **December 18 Central Kitchen ‘Canes Care**
  - Washington DC Alumni
  - Contact: Michael Holub, AB ’90
  - [mrholub@juno.com](mailto:mrholub@juno.com)

**We need your news!!**

The University of Miami Alumni Association is seeking news about our various alumni--jobs, families, news big and small. If you have any news about yourself or fellow alumni, please post a Class Note on [www.miamialumni.net](http://www.miamialumni.net) (not registered? Head there now--it only takes a moment). We can't wait to see and read about how our alumni are making news!

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**About E-Alumni Connections:** E-Alumni Connections is the organ of the University of Miami Alumni Association, originating as a free, weekly electronically mailed newsletter. The newsletter contains information about the University of Miami, UM Alumni Association activities, Hurricane sports, and other campus news. Recipients may forward the E-Alumni Connection to friends, classmates, and anyone else who might be interested in UM news. Please forward questions, comments, story ideas, and calendar postings to alumni@miami.edu.

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