

MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

A Singular Voice in an Evolving City

WWW.MIAMITODAYNEWS.COM \$6.00

BEST OF Miami



An in-depth look

at the best

South Florida

has to offer

Spotlighting:

ARTS & CULTURE • BANKING & FINANCE • TECHNOLOGY • EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS • CROSSING BORDERS • HEALTH AND MEDICINE • ENTREPRENEURS • QUALITY OF LIFE • UNSUNG HEROES • NEWCOMERS • NONPROFIT EXECUTIVES • ROLE MODELS • INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS • SPARKPLUGS • STICKING WITH IT • GIVING BACK • TRANSPORTATION • NATIONAL REPUTATION • STARS IN GOVERNMENT • PLANNING • COMMERCIAL SPACE • THOUGHT LEADERS • LEADERS IN SCIENCE • TURNING US GREEN • CULTURAL PRESERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • WORKFORCE HOUSING

Miamians' accomplishments are hailed around the globe

BY CATHERINE LACKNER

Sources weren't reticent when asked to name Miamians whose accomplishments transcend merely local fame.

Jack Lowell, executive director of office services for Colliers International Inc., nominated **Marcelo Claire**, a Bolivian-American businessman, wireless industry entrepreneur, banker, and philanthropist. Mr. Claire, who founded Brightstar here in 1997, is executive chairman of Sprint Corp. and chief operating officer of SoftBank Group. He is a founder of One Laptop Per Child, and is part of the group, led by David Beckham, to bring a soccer franchise and stadium to Miami.

"He's a stellar guy, and the force behind a lot of new initiatives for this hemisphere," Mr. Lowell said.

"Of course, if we want to look at the arts, we have **Pitbull, Gloria and Emilio Estefan, Don Shula**, and a lot of other people. In education, we have **Eduardo Padron, Mark Rosenberg, and Donna Shalala**. But in the world of business, Marcelo is one to watch."

Michael Tilson Thomas, founder and musical director of the New World Symphony, was the pick of Neisen Kasdin, office-managing partner of the Akerman law firm. "The NWS is the most important musical academy in the world, and MTT is leading innovation in orchestral music through the NWS and its Frank Gehry-



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padron will retire this summer.



US Rep. Donna Shalala, formerly the University of Miami president.

designed New World Center," said Mr. Kasdin, who was Miami Beach mayor for two terms and is vice chair of Miami's Downtown Development Authority.

Joe Neber, president of Contender Boats Inc., nominated **Larry Berryman**, vice president and director of the Progressive Insurance Miami International



Mark Rosenberg is president of Florida International University.

Boat Show. "Larry is a Miami native and avid boater who cares deeply about his city and the show's national reputation," Mr. Neber said. "Under his leadership, the boat show has been able to continue its nearly 80-year legacy in Miami at its new home at the Miami Marine Stadium Park and Basin. The show has the impact



Larry Berryman is director of the Miami International Boat Show.

of two Super Bowls in drawing national attention, generating revenue for the city, and creating jobs – and it returns to the city each year over Presidents' Day weekend.

"From a national reputation perspective, the show attracts an estimated 36,000 out-of-state visitors to Miami and fills about 200,000 hotel room nights," he continued. "These out-of-town visitors and exhibitors spend \$53 million locally during the show. The show also puts Miami in the national spotlight, with coverage from top media outlets throughout the country including CNBC, USA Today, and Robb Report.

"As the owner of Miami-based boat-building company, I see first-hand the significant positive impact of the show on Miami's national reputation and the important



role that Larry Berryman has in ensuring that the show continues this success," Mr. Neber said. "Through Larry's passion for the industry and Miami, I have heard countless times from people all over the country the excitement and positive reputation Larry has continued to build for the Miami International Boat Show. It's truly a can't-miss event."

Crew of creative leaders advancing the sciences in Miami

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

Dr. **Molly Baringer** remembers the first time she approached a situation like a scientist. She was a kid walking to the bus stop, on her way to school in her home state of New Jersey, when she saw snow melting on the side of the road. The undulations of the stream passing by caught her eye, she says.

"I thought to myself 'that looks like it's defying gravity because it is not flat. Why is that happening?'" Dr. Baringer said. "I was quite young when I caught the bug of trying to understand how our Earth system works."

Dr. Baringer, one of five nominees of this year's advancing sciences category, grew up exposed to the scientific method. The deputy director of Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory – research supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – says she grew up in a fairly academic household. Her mother worked as a biochemist, having earned a master's degree, and her father held a Ph.D. in computer science.

She continues to work with the scientific method on a routine basis from her office on Virginia Key. Her nominator, Ben Kirtman, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Miami School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, writes by email about Dr. Baringer monitoring the strength of the Florida current:

"The strength of the Florida current directly affects sea level along the Florida coast with stronger currents suppressing sea level and weaker currents increasing

sea level. These are crucial measurements that inform us about changes of sea level here in Miami, but are also critical inputs to global weather climate prediction systems. Changes in the strength of the Florida current over-time is an important component of how the climate system responds to increasing greenhouse gases and ultimately affects the climate over Europe."

Dr. Kirtman applauds Dr. Baringer's supervision of the Thermohaline Overturning Cell, "which consists of a slow circulation redistributing the waters of the world ocean based on sinking at the high latitudes and upwelling elsewhere. The Thermohaline Overturning Cell has been documented to have strong impacts on the global climate, and as such variations in the Florida Current, which returns surface waters to the northern North Atlantic, represent an important climate signal to be monitored."

Dr. Kirtman writes, "One of the biggest challenges in climate science is to sustain continued observations. Dr. Baringer has worked tirelessly to make sure these critical observations have been sustained since 1982."

But Dr. Baringer's research expands beyond what most appeals to Dr. Kirtman. Her recent studies pursue red tides, what are their precursors, and what causes headline demanding outbreaks. Her physical oceanography group is also reaching milestones in developing and testing technologies that measure the upper ocean in front of hurricanes. The measurements help indicate the hurricane's intensity levels.



Ocean's currents intrigue Molly Baringer in her research work.

She leads all her teams with the philosophy "to give people what they need to succeed and then get out of the way."

Each action is motivated on a personal level by the passion incited by her scientists' work. She said, "I just think it is very cool. As a leader of a science organization, you have to fall in love with everything that you do. You can't just present your own research. You have to take a very broad view."

A duo based on the mainland focuses research on fires instead of the ocean. Erin Kobetz, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center associate director for population science and cancer disparity and chief of population health and cancer disparities for UHealth Oncology Service Line, is inspired by one talent she recruited, **Alberto J. Caban-Martinez**, an assistant professor in the public health science department of the University

of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and his colleague, **Natasha Schaefer Solle**, a research assistant professor and assistant director of behavior and community-based research shared resource at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The team collaborate on the Firefighter Cancer Initiative to better understand firefighters' exposure to carcinogens, where the increased exposure to carcinogens occurs and preventative measures.

Dr. Kobetz said of Dr. Caban-Martinez and Dr. Schaefer Solle, "They are great team players. They understand the importance of the voice of the firefighters in doing this science. This work is community engaged research where their expertise as scientists marries the knowledge of firefighters who understand the ins-and-outs of their occupation a lot better than they do. Their success represents true partnership with the fire service, and that kind of collaborative science is important to accelerating meaningful discovery and impact."

Dr. Kobetz recognizes another University of Miami Health System team making strides. She nominates University of Miami Health Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases **Mario Stevenson** and University of Miami Health Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Director of Infectious Diseases **Susanne Doblecki Lewis** for analyzing and providing preventative measures to aid the HIV epidemic in South Florida.

Dr. Kobetz said, "They are employing novel means to identify



neighborhoods that are at excess risk of infection and using mobile strategies in collaboration with the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center to provide people at risk, but not yet infected, prep. This is a really important strategy in addressing the persistent HIV epidemic that we see in our community. Their willingness to work through nontraditional means suggests that they are willing to take the evidence and opportunity to the people who need it, and I am inspired by that."

Their partnerships help them reach their prevention goals, such as with the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Game Changer vehicle, Prevention 305, and Florida Department of Health.

"They are finding that the demand for these services exceeds what they anticipated, because the Game Changer vehicle shows up in places where people need it most, individuals do not feel stigmatized interacting like this because it provides a whole fleet of preventive care that is not just HIV focused, it is regulated on real barriers and stigma around prevention and early detection," Dr. Kobetz said regarding Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Doblecki Lewis.