

# Broward College Update

MAY 2015

FROM J. DAVID ARMSTRONG, JR., PRESIDENT

## Thousands Celebrate at 83rd Commencement, Nearly 4,000 Awarded Degrees and Certificates



Broward College's 83rd commencement ceremony was held on May 5, 2015, at the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Fla. Thousands of family and friends gathered to support many of the nearly 4,000 students who earned degrees and certificates this spring. These students joined the family of more than 125,000 Broward College alumni. The College awarded 2,567 associate's degrees, 203 bachelor's degrees and 1,728 technical certificates to students

who represent 107 countries. The oldest graduate is 73 and the youngest is 16. There are 177 graduates 50 years of age and older. The keynote address was delivered by Donna E. Shalala the current president of the University of Miami, who is stepping down to become the president and chief executive officer of the Clinton Foundation.

### FRONT PAGE NEWS

Click on the image below to read the front page article from the *Sun-Sentinel*.



*Maria Madrinan takes a selfie with President Armstrong.*

### TV COVERAGE FROM SUNRISE

Click on the image to see TV coverage of our father and son graduation story.



*Steven and Joel Pencle, father and son, graduated from Broward College together.*

## Graduate Stories Offer Inspiration



David  
Lewkowicz

Maria  
Madrinan

Steven  
Pencle

Joel  
Pencle

Jenna  
Dispenza

Every Broward College student has a unique story on the road to commencement. Meet four of our May 2015 graduates:

**David Lewkowicz**, a hardworking and driven 18-year-old, who graduated with a high school diploma, a 4.0 GPA and an associate of arts degree from Broward College — and has already been accepted into the United States Naval Academy; **Maria Madrinan**, a “dreamer” student, escaped with her family from the unstable political climate and terrorist threats in their native country of Colombia to find a pathway leading toward a better future by earning her degree; **Steven and Joel Pencle**, father and son, who worked through job loss, divorce, legal challenges, temporary displacement and a demanding academic schedule, to reach their educational dreams; and **Jenna Dispenza**, a competitive ice dancer and now works as a figure skating instructor, who graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA after taking every one of her classes through Broward College Online.

Read their complete stories on the completely redesigned and mobile-friendly [Broward College blog](#).

### RELIVE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION

- [Watch the archived webcast of graduation](#)
- [Check out the Instagram pics](#)
- [See the Tweets](#)
- [Check out the Commencement Rewind video](#)
- [See the photos with President Armstrong](#)
- [Check out all the commencement photos](#)

## Three Broward College Students Earn Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships

Three of the College's Honors students, Malak Benkhadra, David Millar and Jarredd Simpson, have been named recipients of 2015 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. Since 2002, Broward College Honors students have won 16 JKCF scholarships — the second highest number of awardees in the nation. Several of these students have also gone on to win JKCF Scholarships for their graduate degrees.

This year's awardees include:



**Malak Benkhadra**, 25, who plans to attend either Harvard University or the University of Miami and pursue a degree in biomedical science or bio-molecular science. Her long-term goal is to attend Harvard's medical school and pursue a career as a specialist in cardiovascular diseases.

**David Millar**, 20, is from Plantation, Fla., and plans to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. David's long-term goal is to work for the Walt Disney Company as an Imagineer.



**Jarredd Simpson**, 19, is originally from Jamaica and moved to Margate, Fla., two summers ago. Jarredd plans to pursue a bachelor's degree — and eventually a doctorate — in sociology. His long-term goal is to go to law school and remain engaged in community service projects.

Read more about each recipient on our [blog](#).

## Serrano is “World Class”

Dr. David Serrano was named recipient of the 2015 World Class Faculty award from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance at its Annual Mid-Year Luncheon.

Dr. Serrano is an assistant professor of biology and manager of the College's bachelor's and associate's degree programs in environmental science. The World Class Faculty Award is presented annually as part of the Alliance's "Educational Excellence Builds Business" campaign showcasing the quality of Greater Fort Lauderdale's pre-K–20 education system and of the local workforce including the "world class" faculty who are nationally or internationally known in their fields.



Alliance 2015 World Class Faculty Member - Dr. David Serrano, Broward...

Dr. David Serrano of Broward College was selected as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's 2015 World Class Faculty honoree. Here he explains his work and h...

## American Dream Scholarship Program Celebrates Topping \$1 Million Mark

The Broward College Foundation hosted its American Dream Benefit Weekend in the newly-renovated Bailey Hall late last month.

In conjunction with presentations featuring the Broward Choral Society & Select Choir, the Broward Symphony Orchestra and the Broward College Symphonic Band, the foundation celebrated a milestone — since its creation seven years ago, donors have contributed more than \$1 million to the American Dream Scholarship program providing more than 1,000 students with life-changing scholarships.

While not specifically a fundraiser, concert audiences had the opportunity to support the American Dream Scholarship and double the impact of their generosity, as gifts were matched dollar-for-dollar by the Dream Makers: Hamilton M. and



President Armstrong conducted the encore *Stars and Stripes Forever* during the Broward College Symphonic Band concert.

Blanche C. Forman Christian Foundation, Leo Goodwin Foundation, Integrated Fire Solutions, Osman Family Foundation, Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale North, Wells Fargo, and Lou & May Jean Wolff.

The American Dream Benefit Weekend was sponsored by MEP Structural, FPL and Pops Corn, which is owned by Broward College Alumnus Lee Feldman. Bob Birdsong, Barbara Burnette and Kip Hunter served as co-chairs.



Strategic Storytelling Expert Andy Henriquez, who spoke during Friday's performance; Dr. Mercedes Quiroga, president Central Campus; student ambassador Hubert Harris; Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Broward College Foundation Nancy R. Botero; and secretary of the Broward College Foundation Board of Directors and co-chair of the American Dream Benefit Weekend Bob Birdsong.

## Accolades

### A Perfect Audit for the Institute of Public Safety



The Institute of Public Safety (IPS) scored 100 percent on its annual audit by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Normally, IPS must undergo an audit each year, but that is extended to two years if the organization achieves 100 percent. This is Broward's second consecutive audit at 100 percent. The audit covers basic training programs as well as advanced and specialized courses.

### Loggil Named Among Region's Best



Jesus Loggil, an assistant professor of computer science on South Campus, was named one of the 15 Notable Art Professors in Miami by The Art Career Project. Loggil teaches a variety of digital design, multimedia and web development classes and has been lauded by his students for his easygoing teaching style, yet high expectations he has for his students.

## Tennis Team Ties for 4th at Nationals



The Broward College's women's tennis team completed the 2015 season tied for fourth place with 28 team points at the NJCAA Women's Division I Tennis Championships at Tucson, Arizona. Broward's top singles finisher was the No. 3 player, **Ashlee Priddey**, who advanced to the national semifinal match and finished 3-1 in her bracket. Broward's top doubles team was the No. 1 squad of **Hayley Briggs** and **Maeva Sanchez**, who also advanced to the semis, falling to the eventual champions from ASA College.

## 34 Student-Athletes Named Academic All-State

Academics play an important role in a Broward College student-athlete's life — 32 of them were named to the FCSAA All-State Academic team. Additionally, 51 student-athletes received Academic All Southern Conference recognition this year.

From the women's basketball team, honorees are: **Tabitha Gonzalez**, **Queralt Coll Prades**, **Shakelia Smith** and **Lisa Van der Water**. From volleyball are: **Melanie Diel**, **Courtney Skinner**, **Kimone Ritchie** and **Millany Camilo**.

Eight members of the women's soccer team were named all-state, the highest of any Broward team. They are: **Iris Riveros**, **Tori Williams**, **Amy Etchecury**, **Danielle Allen**, **Kaila Jones**, **Susana Vizcaino**, **Juliana Castro** and **Shinell McCalla**. **Alejandro Menesses** and **Juan Vivas** were named from the men's team.

Tennis player **Maeva Sanchez** was awarded the 2014-15 Vicki Schnurr Award as the FCSAA's Women's Tennis Student-Athlete of the Year and also was named to the all-state team. Other women's team members named to the all-state team are **Samantha Arevalo** and **Lina Restrepo**.

Members of the women's softball team named to the all-state team are **Amber Mendoza**, **Briana Nieves**, **Shayla Lauder milk** and **Michaela Metcalfe**. The baseball team had seven players named to the all-state team. They include: **Hayden Platt**, **Michael Agis**, **Rayden Sierra Ogando**, **Austin Langham**, **Louis Pugliese**, **William Fabra** and **Rigoberto Beltran**.

## Baseball Team Makes State Tournament, Two Earn Post-Season Honors

Broward's baseball team went 2-1 at the NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA state championships in Lakeland, Fla. earlier this month. The tournament marked the first time the baseball team had qualified for the state tournament since coach Ben Bizier took over the program.

The Seahawks finished the season 31-24 overall and two Seahawks were named to postseason all-star teams. Catcher **Yordany Salva** and outfielder **Tyler Fichter** were named second team all-FCSAA and first team all-Southern



Conference. **Salva** started 45 of 49 games and led the Seahawks in batting average (.327), runs batted in (37) and fielding chances (311). He recorded a .994 fielding percentage, committing just two errors in 311 chances and was named FCSAA Player of the Week in mid-April. **Fichter** started 48 of 49 games and topped Broward in stolen bases (19) and tied for first in hits (57) and finished with a .988 fielding percentage, committing just one error in 85 chances.