

FIU

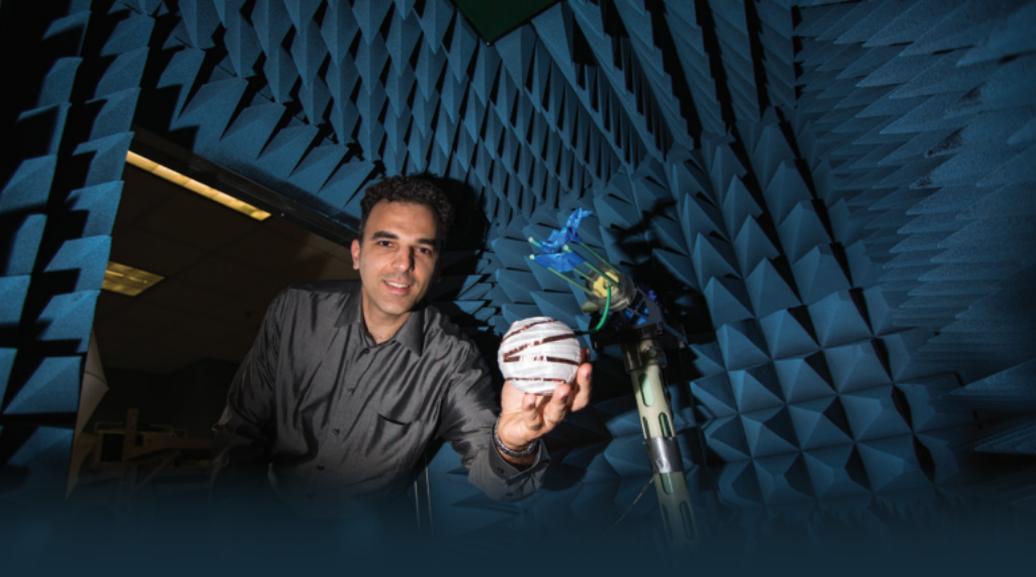
Fast Facts
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QUICKVIEW

FALL 2018



A Top 100 Public University



Air Force funds antenna research center

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research has awarded FIU a \$4.8 million grant to launch the Transforming Antennas Center.

Stavros Georgakopoulos, a professor in the **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**, directs the center. He is the inventor of origami-based antenna systems, which are inspired by the Japanese art of paper folding. Such systems are ultra-compact during stowage, deploy easily and weigh less than traditional antennas.

“These technologies will provide groundbreaking capabilities to Air Force and military communication, reconnaissance, sensing and energy harvesting systems that are used by aircraft, drones and satellites,” Georgakopoulos said. The center will create “antennas that can change their shape to dynamically adapt to varying operating conditions. These antennas will provide unprecedented electromagnetic and mechanical performance to aerospace systems and will also increase the agility of soldiers and ground personnel in the battlefield.”

FIU earns its highest national ranking

For the first time in its history, FIU stands among the **top 100 public universities in the country**. The recognition comes from *U.S. News & World Report*, the gold standard of higher education rankings.

The national news arrives on the heels of FIU's placing second among the dozen institutions in Florida's State University System on performance measurements such as student retention, four-year graduation rates and the career placement of new alumni.

"This rise in rankings reflects the hard work of our faculty and staff, and the determination of our students to excel," said FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg. "Our improvement demonstrates that our focus on student success – timely graduation and preparation to take or create great jobs – is making a difference for our students and their families."





Panthers of praise

The **FIUnity gospel choir** in the spring performed a rousing inaugural concert in front of nearly 500 people in the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Whether vocally seasoned or not, students, employees and community members are welcome to join the currently 35-member-strong chorus developed by School of Music choral director Kathryn K. Longo and directed by singer-songwriter Terence Clayton. Above, graduate student Daniel Townsend basks in the spotlight.

The business of art

The newly launched CARTA | Ratcliffe Arts + Design Incubator at the Biscayne Bay Campus gives aspiring artists and designers the tools and financial support to turn their ideas into profitable businesses. The initiative promotes and fosters innovation and entrepreneurship among as many as 15 hand-picked students at a time, each of whom receives a scholarship.

Housed within the Department of Art + Art History within the **College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts**, the unique program is staffed by professional designers who operate working studios on site and interact directly with the students to provide mentorship and oversee the development of students' startup businesses or patents. Funding comes from the The Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation.



Miami Beach event has raised \$28 million for Chaplin School

The **Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival** (SOBEWFF®) is a national, star-studded, five-day destination event showcasing the talents of the world's most renowned wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities. The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management partners with Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits to put on the annual extravaganza, which sums up its goal in three little words: Eat. Drink. Educate.

Over the past two decades, more than \$28 million has been raised in support of the Chaplin School and its Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center. Students earn valuable hands-on experience in the process, with more than 1,200 volunteering each year to work 3,100 shifts. They assist with food and beverage management, on-site event logistics, media and marketing, and overall preparation and execution. The opportunity also allows them to network with industry leaders and executives, and some even land jobs interviews in the process. Upcoming dates: February 20-24, 2019

Red Robin Golden Robin 2018 contest winner and psychology major Angelic Cox presents her original burger recipe to chef and TV personality Guy Fieri. Cox won a \$10,000 scholarship for her efforts.



University identifies additional standout programs

FIU leadership has added several programs to its rosters of those designated as either **“preeminent”** or **“emerging preeminent”** programs. They are defined as a collaborative endeavor that demonstrates extraordinary success in providing unique learning opportunities for students while conducting pioneering research, engaging with entities outside of the university and expanding the university’s financial base. The complete list is as follows:

Preeminent

- Center for Children and Families
- Extreme Events Institute
- Global Forensic and Justice Center
- Institute for Resilient and Sustainable Coastal Infrastructure
- Institute of Water and Environment
- STEM Transformation Institute

Emerging Preeminent

- Brain, Behavior and the Environment Program
- Cybersecurity@FIU
- FIU Tropics
- Health Inequities and Disparities Program
- Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center
- Translational Molecular Discoveries
- Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab



FIU shark researchers in the spotlight

FIU's renowned **marine sciences** team earned TV time over the summer as several scientists were featured in programs about sharks. Yannis Papastamatiou (pictured below) took a night dive for *National Geographic*. He joined an international team off the coast of French Polynesia. With hundreds of sharks swimming around them, the scientists studied the animals' hunting strategies and social behaviors. Papastamatiou never flinched. "Despite the very active state of the sharks," he reported, "they never bit us under water, even when they were chasing fish and crashing into us."

For Discovery Channel's Shark Week, Mark Bond flew to the Bahamas for the filming of a show about what sharks feed on and the mechanics of how they eat. Two other shows featured Mike Heithaus, dean of the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, and researchers from his lab. The first examined relationships between sharks and dolphins, and the second explored sharks living in volcanoes.





Donors support Honors College

A \$1 million contribution from Jorge Pérez and his wife, Darlene Boytell-Pérez, has created a scholarship endowment for high-achieving students in the **Honors College**. The college brings together students representing a wide variety of majors who together take courses that encourage multidisciplinary study and creative thinking. Dean Juan Carlos Espinosa hailed the gift as another means to attracting the best and the brightest to the college's rigorous programming, which encourages volunteerism, high-level research projects and involvement in the arts.

"They are a talented and diverse group who work with some of the top professors at FIU to develop intellectual and vocational tools that will help them succeed," Espinosa said of the students. Darlene is a two-time FIU alumna of the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the couple has long supported the university.



Football kicks off with new fan experience

FIU Athletics is making efforts to improve the fan experience at all campus sporting events. Beginning with football, the university has made changes to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of everyone who comes out to cheer on the Panthers.

Among the new amenities at Riccardo Silva Stadium: fan engagement zones inspired by the Everglades and Biscayne Bay, where gridiron enthusiasts can relax with music and a range of food and beverage options.

Alumni and their friends and family can participate in pre-game festivities in air-conditioned space at nearby Parkview Hall beginning two-and-a-half hours before each home game. With the promise of a great season, fans will appreciate the upgrades as they show off their blue-and-gold pride.

Top of the class

FIU offers an environment that is academically rigorous and highly supportive so that students can attain their educational goals.

#1 **International Business** undergraduate program in Florida
U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges of 2018

#1 **International Global Policy and Administration** graduate program in Florida
U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges of 2018

#1 **Law school bar passage** rate in Florida

#1 **On the Social Mobility Index** in Florida
a measure of how well low-income students do after graduation
collegeNET.com

#1 **Online Hospitality Management** program
CollegeChoice.net

18 **Programs among the top 100**
U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges of 2018

R1 Research 1 Carnegie Classification
Doctoral University – Highest Research Activity

57,000 Enrollment

10,000 Employees
(faculty, staff, administrators)

224,000 Alumni

201 Bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs

\$1.4B Annual budget

\$177M Total research expenditures
in FY 2016-2017

96 Percent of faculty who hold doctoral degrees
or highest degree attainable in their field

11 Colleges and schools including
Medicine and Law

18 Division 1A sports teams

FIU | FLORIDA
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UNIVERSITY

Be WorldsAhead

FIU Division of External Relations
Modesto A. Maidique Campus, PC 515, Miami, FL 33199

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