

MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.



## *Well Done, Bravo!*

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS \$60,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



On April 25, 2026, amid big smiles and cheers, the generosity of our alumni and donors made it possible to award 67 scholarships totaling \$60,500 to deserving seniors pursuing higher education at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Among this outstanding group of Stingarees, one student was named the Hancock Scholar and received a \$3,500 scholarship, while another was recognized as the Hancock Scholar Runner-Up and awarded \$1,500.

These remarkable graduates earned this recognition through their hard work and dedication, and once again, our Stingaree Alumni Family answered the call by investing in their future.



Deep gratitude to the 2026 Scholarship Committee:

- Cory Llopiz Cibran Class of 1971, Co-Chair
- Ilse Cardelle Class of 1986 Co-Chair
- Lincoln Vidal Class of 1991
- Milena Palenzuela Class of 1991
- Raissa Fernandez Class of 1995



# MHS Alumni Association

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### \$60,500 AWARDED



**Miguel A. Amaya**

Class of 2007

MHS Alumni Association President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to our generous donors and alumni for your continued support of the Miami High Alumni Association. Your generosity helps fund scholarships, strengthen our alma mater, and create opportunities for future Stingarees.

If you're a Miami High alumnus, we invite you to join the Association and reconnect with our Stingaree family. We also hope you'll join us at the 2026 Stingaree Social on August 22, 2026, our largest fundraiser supporting scholarships and Miami High. We look forward to seeing you there!

# THANK YOU 2026 *Scholarship* DONORS

“NOT BY WORDS, BY DEEDS”

## MHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

CLASS OF 1960

CLASS OF 1963

CLASS OF 1967

CLASS OF 1968

CLASS OF 1971

CLASS OF 1974

CLASS OF 1986

CLASS OF 1991

1986 CHEERLEADERS

JOANNA SIMS

CONTINENTAL TITLE GROUP

MERCEDES VARELA RODRIGUEZ

RAISA PAEZ FERNANDEZ

WILLIE & MARTA CUTIE

OLGA MARIA PEREZ

SYLVIA FLORES

DR. FELIX & NORMA REGUEIRA

FARKAS FAMILY

CARMEN & FRANK CANTERO

ILSE PALENZUELA CARDELLE

JORGE CIBRAN

CORY LLOPIZ CIBRAN

JUAN ROJAS

LA CANALLA DEL BARRIO

HONORING SHERRI HODES 67'

TALLAHASSEE ALUMNI LUNCHEON

MARIA JULIA ANILLO

MARIA MARTINEZ

MARY JANE TOUPIN LUNSFORD

MARY RICE

MICHAEL J. GOMEZ

MILENA PALENZUELA

RAFAEL A. BENITEZ-REMON

RAYMOND BRAVO FOUNDATION

RENE ARTEAGA

SARA RODRIGUEZ

SARAH GRANADOS

SOFIA PALENZUELA

ALAIN YANES

BEVERLY WEST

LINDA LEVINE

ALBERT MILO JR.

MARIA ARIZA

YULEISY MONTALVO

BILLIE S. WILLS FOUNDATION

MARTY HANCOCK

CYNTHIA & BENNY VALDES

DAVID KATZIN

DONNA ARGO SOMERVILLE

DR. MARIA GUERRA

ELSA OJEDA

JUAN KURLA

ELSA OJEDA FERNANDEZ

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

FRADYN SUAREZ

H3 MEDIA

INES PELAYO TAYLOR

IRVING SILVER

ILEANA MUSA

JOAQUIN MENDEZ

JOE CAREW & FAMILY

JUAN KURLA

LINCOLN M. VIDAL

LORENA PIÑEIRA

MARIA E. DIEGUEZ-PRIETO

MARYSOL ESTEVEZ

STEVEN D. PERROTTI

MARTY HANCOCK SCHOLARSHIP

MIGUEL SAN PEDRO

JOE & ADELE RUBIO

PATRICIA CABARCOS

RICARDO MENDEZ

RICARDO RAMOS

SERGIO FRANCO

SHEILA & DAVE WESTBERRY

SYLVIA & CHAD FLORES

ALLEN PEGG

TOMAS ROSES

DALE EBNER

BLANCA HINDLE

DAVID TRONCOSO

RANDY SOSA

STINGTOWN NEWS NETWORK

EDDIE ABBODD

THE MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**8TH ANNUAL**  
**Stingaree**  
**SOCIAL**

**HONORING OUR 2026 HALL OF FAME CLASS**



**DONNA ARGO  
SOMERVILLE**  
CLASS OF  
1971



**ALBERT  
MILO JR.**  
CLASS OF  
1988



**PARIS  
OBREGON**  
CLASS OF  
1980



**BARBARA  
QUINTERO**  
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR  
1996 - 2012  
CLASS OF 1985

**FOOD | MUSIC | CASH BAR (21+) | FREE ADMISSION**

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND AND OUR ALMA MATER

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026  
7PM AT FIRE FIGHTER'S MEMORIAL  
8000 NW 21ST STREET,  
DORAL, FL 33132**

**FOR INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A  
TABLE OF 12 FOR \$150 EMAIL US AT:  
CONTACT@MIAMIHIGHSCHOOLALUMNIASSOCIATION.COM**

**LIVE MUSIC BY:**  
**ADELE & HARMONY**  
MUSIC SPONSOR



**GIVE BACK & SUPPORT OUR STINGAREE LEGACY!**

EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION OF STINGAREES! YOUR DONATION TO THE  
ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO STUDENTS AS THEY  
PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AFTER GRADUATION.

P.O. BOX 260993, MIAMI, FL 33126  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**DONATE**



# *Congratulations*

MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**SPORTS**

# HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2026



**CESAR PORTILLO • HECTOR "CHIEF" RODRIGUEZ  
THEO KENDRICK • JOSE "CHAMBY" CAMPOS • JAVIER PEREZ  
TAKENDRA BOGAN • CICCIO MORALES  
RICKY AMADOR • JASON CASANOVA  
MAURICE "MOE" SAMUEL**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## *Brent Wright* <sup>CLASS OF</sup> 97

### FROM STINGAREE CHAMPION TO HONORED COMMUNITY LEADER



Brent Wright, Class of 1997 and founder of the B. Wright Leadership Academy (BWLA), receives recognition for his outstanding commitment to education, leadership development, youth empowerment, and community service.

Few Miami Senior High School alumni exemplify excellence, leadership, and service as profoundly as Brent Wright. A proud Stingaree and member of the Class of 1997, Wright first made his mark on the hardwood courts of Miami Senior High School. As one of the nation's top basketball recruits, he helped lead the Stingarees to championship success while earning recognition for his athletic ability, leadership, and dedication. His accomplishments later earned him induction into the Miami Senior High School Sports Hall of Fame. Following graduation, Wright attended the University of Florida, where he became a four-year starter under legendary Coach Billy Donovan. During his collegiate career, he helped elevate the Florida Gators basketball program to national prominence and played a key role in the team's appearance in the 2000 NCAA National Championship Game. After college, Wright enjoyed an exceptional professional basketball career throughout Europe, winning nine professional championships and establishing himself as a respected leader, mentor, and competitor. While his athletic accomplishments are remarkable, Wright's greatest impact has come through his dedication to education, leadership development, and community service. After retiring from professional basketball, he returned home and founded the B. Wright Leadership Academy (BWLA), an organization dedicated to academic excellence, character development, leadership training, and community empowerment. His commitment to serving others has earned widespread recognition throughout South Florida, including the Apogee Award and a Certificate of Appreciation presented by Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava.

#### Notable Accomplishments:

- Miami Senior High School Class of 1997
- Miami Senior High School Hall of Fame Inductee
- State Championship Basketball Player • Nationally Ranked High School Basketball Recruit
- University of Florida Basketball Standout
- NCAA National Championship Game Participant
- 9-Time European Professional Basketball Champion
- Apogee Award Recipient
- Recipient of the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation
- Founder and President, B. Wright Leadership Academy
- Educator, Mentor, and Community Leader



# MIAMI

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1997



**JULY**  
**16-19,**  
**2027**



SAILING FROM  
PORT EVERGLADES  
FORT LAUDERDALE,  
FLORIDA

ABOARD THE  
BEAUTIFUL



Royal Caribbean®  
INTERNATIONAL

**JEWEL**  
**OF THE SEAS®**

*Still Making Waves After 30 Years!*

Join your Miami Senior High School Class of 1997 classmates for an unforgettable 30-Year Reunion Cruise aboard the beautiful Jewel of the Seas from Royal Caribbean International!

#### STATEROOM PRICING (PER PERSON)



**INTERIOR STATEROOM**  
**\$517.50 pp**



**OCEAN VIEW STATEROOM**  
**\$560.50 pp**



**BALCONY STATEROOM**  
**\$638.50 pp**

Rates are based on double occupancy and are subject to availability.

#### REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Welcome Aboard Meet & Greet
- ★ Reunion Celebration Dinner
- ★ Class Photo Opportunities
- ★ Music, Dancing & Entertainment
- ★ Relaxation, Fun & Reconnecting with Friends

*Reconnect • Celebrate  
• Cruise Together*

#### WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS REUNION!

- ✓ Catch up with classmates from near and far
- ✓ Enjoy a fun-filled getaway at sea
- ✓ Celebrate our Miami High legacy and Stingaree pride
- ✓ Make new memories with old friends
- ✓ Experience an unforgettable weekend of laughter, fellowship and fun!

We recommend booking early to secure your preferred cabin category and take advantage of current pricing.

#### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

INITIAL DEPOSIT  
JULY 22, 2026  
**\$100**  
PER PERSON

2<sup>ND</sup> PAYMENT  
OCTOBER 15, 2026  
**\$100**  
PER PERSON

3<sup>RD</sup> PAYMENT  
FEBRUARY 15, 2027  
**\$100**  
PER PERSON

FINAL PAYMENT  
APRIL 15, 2027  
(BALANCE DUE)

**BOOK YOUR CABIN TODAY!**

— EMPIRE TRAVEL —

☎ 786-558-2190

✉ empiretravel.sp@yahoo.com

MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1997

30 YEARS OF

MEMORIES • FRIENDSHIP • PRIDE

*Once a Stingaree,  
Always a Stingaree!*

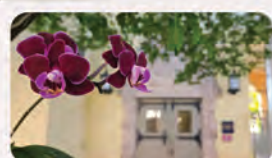
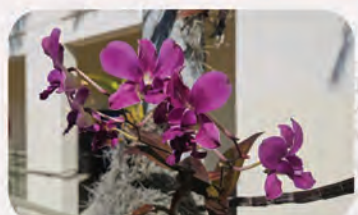
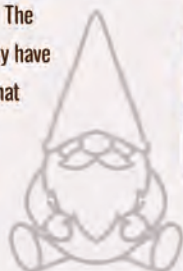
**SPACE IS LIMITED — RESERVE EARLY!**

# THE ORCHID GNOME'S BOTANICAL BULLETIN

Miami High's Gardens of 1,000 Orchids Background • January - February

In the 2013 school year, Miami High was completing its construction and renovation project. At this time, the Orchid Gnome got the idea from seeing orchids installed on trees in Coral Gables, that Miami High's beauty could be enhanced by installing orchids throughout the school's gardens. This is where the O.P.P. (Orchid Project Proposal) was put forth to the faculty and staff of Miami High. Early in 2014, the first orchid donations came in from teachers and staff and the O.P.P. officially became the Orchid Project! As word of the project spread, alumni shipped or dropped off orchids, students donated orchids, and the Orchid Gnome actively sought out orchid donations from local businesses. (Many important orchids were also donated by a family member of the OG). This all began before Fairchild's "Million Orchid Project". Even though we are now part of the Fairchild Million Orchid Project, Miami High was a cutting-edge leader! As the years passed, the Orchid Gnome set a goal of installing a thousand orchids — never believing it would be achieved. With continued commitment from all, and the support of the Alumni Association and the school's administration, the 1,000 orchid goal was finally achieved! The Orchid Gnome stopped counting after a thousand but believes there is somewhere between 1,100-1,200 orchids that were installed on the grounds of Miami High. The Orchid Gnome plans to continue his commitment to Miami High's orchids by maintaining them and installing new ones as continued orchid donations come in. The beauty of the "Gardens of a Thousand Orchids" is a testament for the love that students, teachers, alumni and the community have for Miami High School. The Orchid Gnome would like to thank all for the success of this project and any continued support that may be offered.

Let the orchids begin! And we begin with the Alumni Bloom of the month.



The OG's favorite next!!!





# In Memoriam

Robert I. "Bob" Shapiro 1950  
Joan Reistman 1950  
Nancy Freed 1955  
Doris Rottler Pfenniger 1952

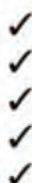
Betty Cortina 1958  
Carl Meeks 1953  
Mark Jacobson 1964  
Bert Tundidor 1971

## JOIN US!

### MEMBERSHIP



### DONATE



Support Miami Senior High School  
Join the Alumni Association  
Over \$717,500 contributed to MHS since 2009  
[MiamiHighSchoolAlumniAssociation.com](http://MiamiHighSchoolAlumniAssociation.com)  
[Facebook.com/groups/MiamiSeniorHigh](https://Facebook.com/groups/MiamiSeniorHigh)  
501[c][3] Not-For-Profit Florida corporation



Individual dues are \$10.00/one calendar year; \$25/three years; \$100 Life Membership. To join, renew Or donate visit our website or please legibly fill out this form and send to MHS Alumni Association to P.O. Box 260993, Miami, FL., 33126. Please make checks payable to MHS Alumni Association.

Enclosed for dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed for donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment: Cash ☐  
Check ☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

New member ☐  
Donation ☐  
Renewal ☐  
Name or address correction ☐

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Name:             | Maiden Name: |
| Address:          | Class of:    |
| City, State Zip   | Email:       |
| Telephone: (Home) | Cell Phone:  |

To contact us: email [contact@miamihighschoolalumniassociation.com](mailto:contact@miamihighschoolalumniassociation.com)

Miami High School Alumni Association, Inc. Registration #CH51774.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free (800- 435-7352) with the state.

### OTHER MHS ALUMNI GROUPS NOTICE

We have received several inquiries about the various MHS Alumni groups out there. To clarify, we are the only official Alumni Association recognized by MHS. 99% of monies we raise, including dues and donations, go directly to benefit MHS and it's student body. The official MHS Alumni Association website is <https://miamihighschoolalumniassociation.com>. The official Facebook group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/miamiseniorhigh/>

Miami High School Alumni Assoc. @MHS.AlumniAssociation @MHSAlumniAssociation

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