



Hodges University Diversity Committee (HUDC) members Drs. Earl Bradford Smith and Telemate Jackreece were among the hundreds of community representatives who joined with the Collier County NAACP to celebrate June 19th (usually referred to as Juneteenth), the oldest known civil rights celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in this country. The historic event (dating back since 1865) took place at Sugden Regional Park in Naples on Saturday June 19th, 2010. This year's theme was embracing our past and empowering our future.

One highlight of the occasion was the dramatization of the delivery of a copy of the news of the Emancipation Proclamation by a county Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Helicopter and read by Mr. Harold Weeks, the President of the Collier County branch of the NAACP. Mr. Weeks was dressed as a union soldier to symbolize the delivery of the original Emancipation Proclamation which was also delivered to the Texas authority informing them to free the slaves and that the war was over.

Dr. Telemate Jackreece noted that our participation in this first celebration is important because we are now like other cities who celebrate this event on an annual basis. He explained that although the celebration of June 19th is popular in many other American cities, this is the very first time the event has been celebrated in Naples. Professor Kelly Bushey was there to support the HUDC team, to take photos and videos, and to conduct some live interviews of Hodges University volunteers and the other participants and activities. There were a wide variety of businesses and vendors present for networking opportunities, as well as entertainment and games for children. Pictures, videos, and interviews from the event may be found at the HUDC website.

Dr Telemate A. Jackreece is a professor of Government and Sociology at Hodges University and historian for the HUDC.

*Photos*

*Left: Harold Weeks reads the Emancipation Proclamation; Middle: A family enjoying the Juneteenth events; Right: Drs. Earl Smith and Telemate Jackreece at the Hodges University information tent; Far right: One of the younger participants of the festival*

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# *Hispanos Unidos* in the community

This year, the Hodges University Diversity Committee participated as a sponsor in the 2010 Council of Hispanic Business Professionals' Second Annual Gala "Hispanos Unidos". The Gala, which took place on Sept. 25 at The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, was a wonderful evening of dining and dancing to live music. The event also featured a silent auction to benefit Eden Autism Services, a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the lives of children and adults with autism and their families with a commitment to provide a cost-effective, community-based alternative to institutionalization.

The Council of Hispanic Business Professionals is a nonprofit volunteer organization in Naples which focuses on enhancing the lives of Latinos in the community and extending other services to the community.

Master of Ceremonies Patrick Nolen from Fox News opened the event giving thanks to all the Sponsors, including Hodges University. At dinner, we had the pleasure of enjoying delicious authentic Hispanic food like *ropa vieja* (shredded beef) and Peruvian potatoes. Then, the Director of Eden Autism Services, Susan Suarez, gave a short presentation explaining what autism is and how it affects children and adults. She

also invited the attendees to participate in the silent auction as all the proceeds benefited Eden Florida whose mission is to improve the lives of children and adults with autism and their families. Most of the items ranged from jewelry to spas and from lessons to cleaning services. Most of the silent auction items were provided by Hispanic owned businesses in Naples.

The most important highlight of the event were two scholarship awarded, one to a student from Golden Gate High School, Rosana Sandoval, and the other student is from Lorenzo Walker Technical High School, Martiza Payan, for college; CHBP also presented Sterling Rodriguez with the Talent Award for his beautiful logo design that was also used for the Gala's invitation.

In addition, the room was full of interesting people; among them was Roy Terry, Collier County School Board candidate and Robert Sandy, VP of the Leadership Foundation. This shows the efforts that the community is making in order to be a more inclusive and a diverse place. The Hodges University Diversity committee would like to express our thanks to Dr. McMahan and Gail Williams for giving us the opportunity to reach out and assist in our community.



*Left: Hodges staff Adriana Buitrago and Angela Zamora*

*Below: Hodges staff member Carlos Padilla and his wife Giovanna*



# *It's All about Women*

Hodges University and the REE Corporation are currently hosting the art exhibit *It's All About Women*. The exhibit can be viewed until October 29 in the Falciglia Gallery at Hodges University's Naples campus, 2655 Northbrooke Drive.

*It's All About Women* emphasizes Hispanic women in all facets of life. Most of the artwork is on canvas, but specialty heirloom and bereavement quilts are also on display. Each piece highlights a woman's life as a wife, mother, dancer, entertainer, poet or entrepreneur. Participating artists include Ana Abreu, Lidia Veiytes Dick, Dilya Schauer, Kathy Selvaggio, Cecilia Valadez, Judy Lorenzo Casablanca, and Amarilis Dieppa, representing the USA, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

Specialty art workshops presented by all of the participating artists of *It's All About Women* are scheduled through the Hispanic Institute, directed by Carmen Rey-Gomez. (See next page for more information on these workshops.)

"Exposure to art is so important, and the Falciglia Art Gallery provides easy access to the students and community at the Hodges University campus in Naples," says Ron Bowman, Vice President of Student Development. "*It's All About Women* is a very personal portrait of the female experience and memory presented by very talented artists. From art born of loss to pure abstraction of the female figure, the show provides a variety of powerful images to ponder and enjoy."

The idea for the show was brought to Hodges University by Bob Encarnacion, President and CEO of the REE Corporation and current Hodges University student. The show is just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15. This month marks the anniversary of independence of eight Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize.

Opening night reception featured a silent auction for Avow Hospice. Video from the evening was featured on Univision's Panorama TV, as well as a special interview and feature presentation on Azteca America's D'Latinos Al Dia. Visit <http://www.dlatinos.tv/portal/index.php/multimedia2/viewvideo/243/> to see footage from the reception.



Left: *After Last Night*, Cecilia Valadez, acrylic on canvas

Middle: *Sculpture* by Lidia Dick

Right: *Painting* by Amarilis Véliz

# Hispanic Institute Art Workshops

Specialty art workshops have been scheduled through the Hispanic Institute, directed by Carmen Rey-Gomez, to coincide with the *It's All about Women* art exhibition, at the Hodges University Naples campus. There are two workshop dates: Saturday, October 9, from 10 am – 2 pm (Spanish-language presentations) and Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 10 am – 2 pm (English-language presentations). Both workshops are free and open to the public. The workshops will be presented by all of the participating artists of *It's All About Women*.

*October 9th (Spanish):*

**Lidia Vieytes Dick** is a native of Argentina. Her cross-cultural training has served her well as she creates her oil paintings, bronze sculptures, and watercolors. She is an accomplished artist with numerous solo exhibitions worldwide.

**Dilya Schauer** is a native of Columbia, where she began her lifelong passion for the arts at a very young age. She is a muralist and portraiture artist. She has been commissioned to paint for many private collections, including those of school systems and celebrities, like famed music icon Jose Feliciano.

**Cecilia Valdez** is a native of Matamoros, México. She is a painter and muralist. Her mural work can be found in Fort Myers and many residential homes throughout Lee and Collier Counties. She is also a widely respected and recognized painter exhibiting at many venues within the southwest Florida region.

**Amarilis Veliz** is a native of Las Tunas, Cuba, who defected to the USA. She is a world-renowned, award-winning artist exhibiting all over Europe, the USA, and the Caribbean. She is one of the few artists in the world whose works are archived at the Vatican.

*October 16th (English)*

**Kathryn Gilchrist Selvaggio** is a native of the Northeastern United States. She creates dolls, quilts, and sculptures. She now resides in North Fort Myers, where she creates one-of-a-kind heirloom and bereavement quilts. She has rapidly become a highly sought-after quilter and quilt designer, garnering the respect and admiration of many collectors.

**Anna Abreu** is a native of the Dominican Republic, who later migrated to New York City. Throughout the last 20 years, Abreu has developed as an artist, exhibiting at many venues, including in the South Florida region. She is also the published author of a children's book, *La Hadita Florisol (Florisol, The Little Fairy)*. Her second book will be released soon.

**Judith Lorenzo Casablanca** is a native of New York City. As an official of the USDA, she lived in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Guatemala. Her paintings reflect some of the native dress and sights she encountered while in Guatemala for seven and a half years.

## Hispanic Institute Partners with the Lee County Port Authority

The Hispanic Institute is partnering with the Lee County Port Authority to assist them in gathering information for securing nonstop services to Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and other Latin American destinations. I would like to invite *everyone who travels to the Caribbean* to participate in this project by going to [http://npiis.hodges.edu/elisten/survey/Travel\\_Survey/non\\_hispanic\\_travel\\_survey.html](http://npiis.hodges.edu/elisten/survey/Travel_Survey/non_hispanic_travel_survey.html) and completing a short survey.

# Freedom Waters



On June 26, 2010 members of the HUDC volunteered for the Freedom Waters Foundation's Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fishing Tournament.

The Freedom Waters Foundations' mission is to provide boating opportunities and marine related education for people with disabilities and youth at risk.

This goal is accomplished through providing accessible sailing programs; yacht outings for those who are ill and with a special concentration on children with cancer and their families; and through fishing and boating programs for youth at risk.

Freedom Waters also organize and support: fishing tournaments, regattas and other programs designed for those with disabilities/economically challenged youth.

The yachts used for the events are generously donated by private yacht owners for a three hour tour.

It is these donations along with the volunteer hours and monetary donations that have helped many children with life threatening illnesses/disabilities and their families, smile, relax and enjoy the freedom from their day-to-day concerns, out on the water.

The HUDC members are happy to have had the opportunity to work along with other volunteers in support of Freedom Waters and encourage all readers of this newsletter to lend their support to this worthy cause.

For more information log onto <http://www.freedomwatersfoundation.org>

## Special Olympics

The term *Olympics* invokes in our core the belief of “the best of the best” while the term *special* reminds us something rare and precious like a pearl. When one puts those two words together, Special Olympics, one sees the best of the best in its rare and precious form. People who compete in the Special Olympics have a tremendous spirit of acceptance, empowerment, and achievement. On July 24 at Golden Gate Aquatics, representatives of the Diversity Committee of Hodges University and their family members had the unique privilege to experience that precious Olympic spirit of acceptance and achievement, while they volunteered their time by preparing lunches for the Collier County Special Olympics participants and family members. This event was truly a joyous occasion that brought smiles to all involved.



*Top right: Competitors salute during the national anthem*

*Bottom right: Volunteers taking a well-earned break*

## NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner

Hodges University was well represented on October 8 at the NAACP Freedom Fund dinner and awards celebration. The annual event, which was held at the Sanibel Harbor Marriot Resort and Spa, featured keynote speaker Jim R. Nathan, President and CEO of Lee County Health System. Also in attendance were Hodges University alum and Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott and 2010 Hodges University Diversity Award recipient Dr. Shirley Chapman. Representing Hodges University were Majlinda Beqiraj, Dr. Wesley Boozer, Dr. Jan Brock, Carmen Rey-Gomez, Professor Fabio Tagliasacchi, Taber Tagliasacchi and Gail Williams.



*Back row, L to R: Majlinda Beqiraj, Dr. Wesley Boozer, Carmen Rey-Gomez, Gail Williams*

*Front row, L to R: Dr. Jan Brock, Fabio Tagliasacchi, Taber Tagliasacchi*

# upcoming events

## AFRICAN NETWORK OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

"A People, A Culture, A Rich Heritage"

### Up Coming Event

□ Play on Domestic Violence □



3917 5th Street West  
Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971

Phone: 239-560-3338

Fax: 239-369-9437

E-mail: [answfl@gmail.com](mailto:answfl@gmail.com)

website [answfl.org](http://answfl.org)

African Network of South West Florida in  
collaboration with Thespian Productions  
Presents

A showcase of original two one act plays of  
comedy and drama about Domestic Violence  
Awareness.

Bringing Domestic Violence Awareness to our  
Community

Featuring:

Two One act plays involving Domestic Vio-  
lence Different Kind Of Love, Menu Driven

Show dates & times: October 29th, 2010  
@ 8pm October 30th, 2010 @ 5pm &  
8pm Playing

Venue: The Alliance of the Arts Foulds  
Theater 10091 McGregor Blvd. Fort  
Myers Fl. 33919

Admission: \$20 Adv / \$25 @ door  
To order for your ticket call 239 560  
3338, 230-464-0222

#### ***From Surviving to Thriving: An Everglades Economy***

*October 30th 2010-September 3rd 2012; Round Gallery, Big Cypress Seminole Reservation*

From Surviving to Thriving: An Everglades Economy is a chronological look at how the geographical area commonly known as the Everglades has sustained the Seminole Tribe of Florida from the mid 1800's to the present. As deliberate attempts to change the Everglades have impacted the ecology of South Florida some of those same factors have affected the Seminole Tribe of Florida in both positive and negative ways.





# Lee County's National Red Ribbon Week Family Celebration at The Shell Factory!

Saturday,  
October 23, 2010  
1PM-3PM

**US 41 N. Fort Myers**

*Presented by the Coalition for a Drug-Free SW FL*

**Red Ribbon Awards  
Al Oerter Awards  
Art Awards  
Great Prizes  
& FREE Round of Minature Golf for every child!**

### MANY ORGANIZATIONS WITH FUN ACTIVITIES!

- School District of Lee County
- Hodges University
- Edison State College
- Southwest Florida Addictions Services
- Lee County Sheriff's Office
- Fort Myers Police Department
- Cape Coral Police Department
- The Big Red Bus
- Darlene and Friends
- Stay Alive Just Drive
- American Red Cross
- YMCA / ACT
- National Family Partnership
- Grandparents Returning Into Parenting
- Lee County Department of Health
- Florida Department of Forestry
- Lee County Public Safety
- Everglades AHEC Quit Smoking Now
- Lee County Department of Health
- LMHS Trauma Department
- Bob Long & Dr. Raymond Johnson: Nova Medical



The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum invites Native American artists & crafters to make plans now to participate in the 13th American Indian Arts Celebration, November 5-7, at Big Cypress Indian Reservation in Clewiston, Florida.

Make your plans to join us now. The weather is beautiful and the location is stunning. We provide the tents, tables and chairs, all for just \$100 for a 10 X 10 booth

Musical entertainment this year includes: Martha Redbone, Hank Nelson, Yellowbird. Also featuring Seminole storytellers and alligator wrestlers.

### Postcards and Perceptions: Culture as Tourism February 12th 2010- January 9th, 2011 West Gallery, Big Cypress Seminole Reservation

Postcards provide a glimpse at what is noteworthy about a place. Although there are no rules for postcard content, they often depict popular tourist locations. Widespread use of the picture postcard occurred around 1890. During this time, tourists were flocking to South Florida. This new and forbidding landscape must have seemed foreign to some. For others, a chance to come in contact with the "unconquered" Seminole Indians was most significant. Throughout the era of tourist villages the postcard was a common souvenir. It depicted the Seminole Tribe of Florida in all ranges of flattering and sometimes not so-flattering terms. Be that as it may, this selection of postcards is an invaluable record of history and a testament to a resilient and resourceful group of people. Join us as we examine the complex social identity of the Seminole Tribe of Florida through postcards.





# from the HUDC chair

## *Powerful Women of Southwest Florida*

On Saturday August 28, 2010, the Southwest Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce awarded eight outstanding women in our communities the Powerful Women of Southwest Florida award.

Joining me at the event, held at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers, were Daymir Perez from the Naples Financial Aid Office, Claudia Lozano from the Immokalee Learning Site and Angela Zamora and Majlinda Beqiraj from the Naples Business Office.

I am happy to report that Hodges was mentioned from the stage on numerous occasions throughout the evening. The members of our table were requested to stand so that Hodges could be acknowledged for the great work that our institution is doing throughout our diverse communities.



As ambassadors of Hodges University, we were all very proud to applaud one of our current students, Darlene Mitchell, who received this award. Darlene is the founder of Darlene & Friends Inc. and executive producer of the *Darlene & Friends* internet TV broadcast. You can view this broadcast at <http://www.darleneandfriends.com>.

Barbara Bengochea -Perez, a 2009 graduate of Hodges University, and Mrs. Veronica Shoemaker, our 2010 Hodges University Luminary, were also recipients among the eight women who received this prestigious honor. It was a very exciting, entertaining and inspirational evening.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding women for their many years of commitment and dedication to many worthwhile projects in the community as well as for their mentoring efforts with our youth, and in wishing them continued success.

Gail B. Williams



*"Powerful Women" honorees on stage at Southwest Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce*

*To learn more about the Southwest Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, direct emails to [prchamberofcommerce@yahoo.com](mailto:prchamberofcommerce@yahoo.com)*



**HODGES**  
UNIVERSITY



### **2011 Diversity Festival**

*"Embrace Diversity, Empower Our World"*

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*Coming soon in Spring 2011!*

Food, face painting, singing, sports activities, arts and crafts, dancing, games and contests, poetry recitals, raffles, the Parade of Nations, entertainment from around the world...and much, much more.

Please join us in celebrating our diverse communities!

Admission is *free*---bring the entire family. Stay tuned for more info.

## *About Hodges University*

Hodges University, founded in 1990, has emerged as one of Florida's leading institutions of higher learning. In addition to the main campuses in Naples and Fort Myers, Hodges offers programs at several learning sites, including Immokalee, Edison State College in Fort Myers and Punta Gorda, Pasco-Hernando Community College, South Florida Community College and Florida Keys Community College. The mission of Hodges University is to offer Associate, Baccalaureate and Graduate degrees as well as other programs which enhance the ability of students to achieve life or career objectives. In addition to offering courses in 18 professional disciplines and its comprehensive English as a Second Language Program, Hodges University fulfills educational and personal enrichment needs for area seniors through facilitation of the Frances Pew Hayes Center for Lifelong Learning. For more information, call **239-513-1122** or visit us online at <http://www.hodges.edu>.