

## **XXIX ICIE MIAMI CONFERENCE CELEBRATES STU'S 50th ANNIVERSARY**

ICIE Assembles International Faculty, Government, and Industry Leaders to Participate in Academic Research and Presentation at St. Thomas University's 50th Anniversary Celebration

HUD Inspector General and U.S. Congressman among Alumni Key Presenters

Event: XXIX Conference of the International Council for Innovation in Higher Education (ICIE)

Date: August 1 – 4, 2011

Where: St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida

Contact: Professor Maureen Sheehan Paparella, Director of the Information Technology Academic Program at Monmouth University, Vice-President of ICIE, and Executive Director of the Conference at [mpaparel@monmouth.edu](mailto:mpaparel@monmouth.edu)

**(July 27, 2011)** The XXIX Conference of the International Council for Innovation in Higher Education (ICIE) will convene in Miami, Florida, on July 31 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Miami, and from August 1 through August 4, 2011, at St. Thomas University in Miami, upon the celebration of its 50th anniversary. Delegates will also meet at Miami Dade College, Florida's largest college. The conference theme is information and communication networks: innovations in education.

Dr. Eugene Simko, President of ICIE and Associate Professor of Management and Marketing at Monmouth University's Leon Hess Business School, reports, "Scholars in attendance will represent the globe. Delegates will arrive in Miami from the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, The Philippines, China, Thailand, The United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Pakistan, St. Lucia, and Sri Lanka, to name a few. In the United States, delegates will represent Columbia University, Georgetown University, Monmouth University, College of Charleston, Lock Haven University, West Chester University, Tennessee State University, Concordia University in Nebraska, EPS Corp of Florida, and other institutions from California to New York."

The council chose the United States as its host country for the first time in over a decade; Miami, the county seat of Dade County, was chosen for the "harmony it represents among many international cultures," as over half the population is foreign born and about 70% speak another language at home, other than English (2009, U.S. Census). Assisting with a literal demonstration of that "harmony" is Mr. Alvin Davis, Macy's/Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year for 2012 and a keynote speaker for ICIE. His presentation will be followed by a patriotic rendition for international delegates by his award-winning student band from Miramar High School in Broward County, Florida.

Other notable speakers at the 2011 ICIE conference will be the President of St. Thomas University, Monsignor Franklyn Casale, speaking on innovative efforts to address human trafficking education.

The HUD Inspector General, having served under Presidents Bush and Obama, and now a Principal at the Reznick Group in Bethesda, Maryland, The Honorable Kenneth Donohue, an alum of St. Thomas University, will speak on the "Operation Stolen Dreams" nationwide effort to address mortgage fraud; his

exceptional presentation skills and experience at the epicenter will assist educators in articulating this historical crisis to students.

Also addressing the conference is The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick, a United States Congressman from Pennsylvania, also an alum of St. Thomas University. Representative Fitzpatrick was awarded the university's highest service award upon his graduation from St. Thomas. He will speak on relevant topics related to information and communication networks in education.

From Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Dean Dennis, of Fathers for Fire Safety of the World Fire Safety Foundation, will provide life-saving information regarding new technology for smoke detection; Dennis is confident that this knowledge would have saved the life of his own college-student daughter, Andrea Dennis, and the multitude of college students who die each year as the result of smoke inhalation. Mr. Dennis, an educator, is now a fire safety researcher and presenter, and assists legislators and fire chiefs in an effort to change fire safety protocol globally.

Associate Vice-President of Academic Initiatives and Professor of Political Science at Monmouth University in New Jersey and recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice, Dr. Saliba Sarsar, will address the conference on the current rewards and risks of information and communication networks in education and beyond.

Dr. Paul George, the presiding historian at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and Professor of History at Miami Dade College, will be the historian-in-residence for the delegation, as he guides his "student-delegates" on a "field-trip" of Miami by bus.

Also from Miami, the principal of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, will be speaking on his 15 year experience in Rome with the "Convegno Nazionale dei student esperti nel computer" at the Boys' Town of Rome and the Boys' Town model of self-governance related to technological advances in the teaching/learning process. Brother Moffett, who holds a doctorate in psychology from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, NYC, has served as an educator and administrator at all levels of schooling advocating direct student engagement, self-governance and education for resilience.

Ms. Hortense Blackwell Burt, Chief of Education Programs at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, will provide new insight on the direction of space education programs, following the end of the manned space shuttle in the United States.

Awards of recognition will also be presented to Mr. John Zarrella, a CNN anchor who has covered more than 80 U.S. Space Shuttle missions, for his contribution to science education. Mr. Zarrella, a St. Thomas University alum who attended the University to work with his mentor, Professor Richard Raleigh, recognized Professor Raleigh as an "instrumental" contributor to his success. Dr. Nabil Ibrahim, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University in United Arab Emirates, for his contribution to the 2010 ICIE Conference in the United Arab Emirates. Other notable St. Thomas University alumni in attendance will include Mr. Donald Dresback, President of the Beacon Group, Boca Raton, Florida, and Colonel William Comber, United States Air Force (Retired).

St. Thomas University traces its roots to the Universidad Católica de Santo Tomás de Villanueva from Havana, Cuba, founded by Augustinians. When the Castro government expelled the Augustinians from Cuba, they came to Miami and founded Biscayne College in 1961, a Roman Catholic college for men. The college was later renamed St. Thomas University.

The Miami Dolphins NFL team trained at St. Thomas University for over two decades, from 1970 until 1993. Early on, the Miami Dolphins became the first team in the NFL to compete in the Super Bowl for three consecutive seasons. (The Super Bowl is among the most watched athletic events in the world, second only to the European Cup). In 1972, the team became the NFL's first, and, even now, four decades later, the only team with a perfect season. It was during this period that university scholars had the remarkable vision to recognize sports administration as an academic discipline. In 1973, the university gained national attention when it became the first college in the United States to offer an undergraduate degree in sports administration, providing a model for other universities around the globe. The head coach and NFL Pro-Football Hall of Famer, Don Shula, holds an honorary doctorate from St. Thomas.

It was the effort to open its doors to women that brought Professor Maureen Sheehan Paparella to St. Thomas University as an undergraduate on academic scholarship. Professor Sheehan-Paparella is the Director of the Monmouth University Information Technology Academic Program, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of ICIE, and Executive Director of the Miami 2011 Conference at St. Thomas University. As one of the first group of 15 women to reside on the campus over thirty years ago, Professor Sheehan-Paparella graduated magna cum laude in three years with a double academic concentration. During that time, she studied for one semester "abroad" at an Augustinian "sister" institution, Villanova University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and served one semester as a student teacher intern at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame Prep. in Miami, also her alma mater. Professor Sheehan-Paparella moved to Spring Lake, New Jersey, in Monmouth County, New Jersey, when her husband of fifteen years, Bruce Paparella (deceased, 1996), also a St. Thomas University alum, was hired by Lazard Frere, the investment banking firm, in New York City.

Dr. Simko and Professor Sheehan-Paparella will present the innovative use of digital signage touch-screen technology for use in an academic department will join their students to present the use of Facebook as a social web site used as a medium for teaching and learning among their students at Monmouth University and worldwide. Students from Monmouth University and the College of Charleston will be on hand to assist in demonstrating to faculty how to use Twitter, the benefits of the iPad 2, and the use of electronic readers and the special challenges they represent for higher education due to ADA federal compliance regulations.

The International Council for Innovation in Higher Education is an association of individuals and organizations concerned with new developments in education. The Council is a growing network of academicians, educational administrators, scholars (including elementary and secondary educators), university student scholars, and civic, government, and industry practitioners. All are interested in sharing innovation in education with the international community, promoting excellence in pedagogy, advisory and leadership initiatives, the procurement and development of resources, scholarly research, and ethical standards. ICIE was founded in 1980 and has met in such locations as Rome, Belfast, Prague, Beijing, Panama, St. John's Newfoundland, Abu Dhabi, and in 2012, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Conference information and registration can be found at [www.icie.net](http://www.icie.net); registration is free of charge for South Florida educators and St. Thomas University alumni, who attend presentations while seating is available.

For more information, visit <http://www.icie.net/>

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Media contact: Petra Ludwig at 732-263-5507

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHEDULE:

**Sunday, July 31, 2011: Mandarin Oriental Hotel**

Registration and Reception: Registrants meet at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel at 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011: ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY**

12:30 p.m. Monsignor Casale will make the keynote address to ICIE

1: 15 p.m.: Presentation by The Honorable Kenneth Donohue

2: 15 p.m.: Presentation by Mr. Alvin Davis, Miramar High School, Florida Teacher of the Year

3: 00 p.m.: Band presentation by the Award Winning Miramar High School Band

3: 20 p.m.: Presentation by Representative Michael Fitzpatrick, United States Congress

4: 00 p.m.: Presentation by Mr. Dean Dennis, World Fire Safety Foundation

5:00 p.m.: Awards presented to Monsignor Casale. The Honorable Kenneth Donohue, Mr. Alvin Davis, The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick, Mr. Dean Dennis, Dr. Nabil Ibrahim, and Mr. John Zarrella

7:30 p.m.: Reception buffet meal provided at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in honor of keynote presenters and alumni at **Café Sambal**. Press is invited; RSVP at [mpaparel@monmouth.edu](mailto:mpaparel@monmouth.edu) or 215-431-6016.

**Tuesday, August 2, 2011: St. Thomas University**

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.: Brother Moffett will make a keynote address at the Mandarin Hotel.

9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.: Dr. Paul George will provide a historical bus tour of Miami

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Registrants lunch at the historic Joe's Stone Crabs in South Miami Beach

1:30 to 5:15 p.m.: Academic Presentations at St. Thomas University

**OnYourOwn Dinner Night**; vans will depart the hotel at 6:30 p.m. for the Cheesecake Factory in Coconut Grove and depart the Cheesecake Factory at 9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 3: Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, ETCOTH Building, 500 N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.**

9:00 a.m.: Ms. Hortense Burt, Education Chief NASA, Keynote Presenter

9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Academic presentations

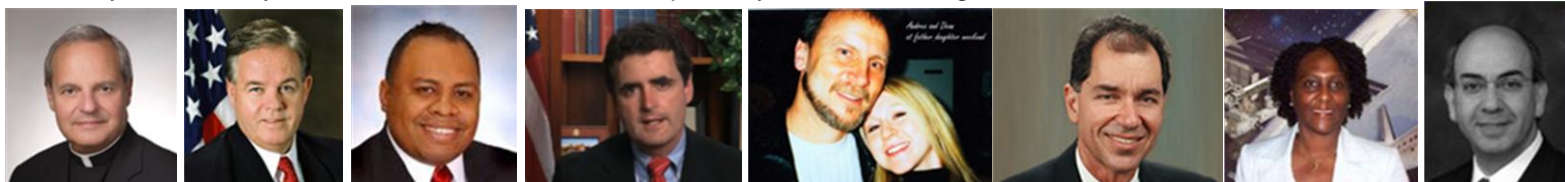
Group Dinner; vans depart hotel at 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, August 4: Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, ETCOTH Building**

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Monmouth University, Keynote Presenter

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Academic presentations

**Keynote Presenters: Monsignor Franklyn Casale**, President, St. Thomas University; **The Honorable Kenneth Donohue**, HUD Inspector General under Presidents Bush and Obama and now a Principal in the Reznick Group, Bethesda, Maryland; **Mr. Alvin Davis**, Florida's 2012 Teacher of the Year; **The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick**, United States Congress, Pennsylvania; **Mr. Dean Dennis** (shown with daughter, Andrea, deceased, 2003), Fathers for Fire Safety, World Fire Safety Foundation; **Dr. Paul George**, Professor of History, Miami Dade College, Historical Society of South Florida Historian; **Ms. Hortense Blackwell Burt**, NASA's Education Chief, Kennedy Space Center; **Dr. Saliba Sarsar**, Associate Vice-President for Academic Initiatives, Monmouth University, New Jersey. Brother Sean Moffett, Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School, Miami, Florida



Dr. Eugene Simko, ICIE President and Associate Professor of Management and Marketing at the Hess School of Business at Monmouth University, New Jersey, works with graduate international students in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering. The University program has been noted as a "Best Software Engineering College" by US News and World Report.



Professor Maureen Sheehan Paparella (center), Director of the Information Technology Academic Program at Monmouth University in NJ, Vice-President, ICIE, and Executive Director of the XXIX ICIE Conference, and STU alum, meets faculty at Vardhaman College of Engineering in Hyderabad, India, in spring, 2011, to promote international collaboration for study abroad and academic research among faculty and students. Professor Sheehan-Paparella is also advisor to the Monmouth University Chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the only international honor society for the computing and information disciplines and is the primary author of three editions of *Current Topics in Technology*, published by Cengage.