



STAR SMILES NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 14

Winter 2007

A Message from Dr. Mosquera

Family Ties

Our family has been very fortunate to enjoy important family celebrations in different cities that have brought family members together from far away places throughout the world. We have rejoiced at several of our *abuelos* and *abuelas* marking significant birthday parties with their loved ones. Family members have flown to attend festivities in Tampa, Puerto Rico, San Francisco, El Salvador and Miami. The reunions have brought family and friends together from distant places like Chicago, New York, New Jersey, Orlando, California, London, Caracas, Spain and Germany. We have been there to celebrate weddings and wedding anniversaries, as well as important birthday events. Our families are strong and healthy and remain united in purpose that distance has not been able to separate.

Our families have become multicultural but the Cuban fabric and thread is intertwined in a rich array of manifestations that is true to its origins. In a way, it's like precious capsules that were transplanted from Cuba to Miami and elsewhere throughout the planet and are bearing fruit of that wonderful culture, and itself being enriched by other cultures we have come in contact with. Miami serves both as mirror of what was and what it is becoming: a cosmopolitan 21st Century futuristic city with a current mix of citizens unlike anywhere else in the world, and unmatched dynamics and vibrancy due to its unique, diverse cultures. This is a testament to the contrarian thinking of communism and its doctrine, and the tyranny that has been inflicted on Cuban families.

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1) Estelita García's 60th birthday party in San Juan, Puerto Rico. 2) Ubaldin's 50th birthday celebration in San Mateo, California. 3) Lourdes Cruz's 60th birthday celebration in Pembroke Pines, Florida. 4) Osmín's 90th birthday celebration in Miami Springs, Florida.

RENE AND GLADYS GARCIA

René García's father, Gustavo García, and my maternal grandmother, Josefa Méndez de Pereira, were first cousins. Their homes in Pinar del Río, Cuba were only a few houses apart. Gustavo and his wife, Rosa, had five boys and two girls: Osmín, Panchito, Roberto, Carlos Gustavo, René, Amalia and Raquel. Panchito was one of the Cubans who fought for the United States of America during World War II. He received a hero's welcome with a parade in Pinar del Río upon his return. Panchito had worked for Procter & Gamble in Cuba and then transferred to New York. During one of his visits to Cuba, Panchito recommended to his parents that it would be best for his younger brother, René, to go to live and work in the United States, as he needed to find a new direction in his life. Arrangements were made for him to live in Miami with relatives Cuco and Marina Sánchez. Cuco was employed with Pan American Airways and he helped René find his first job there. Subsequently, René went to work with Eastern Airlines.

Marina and Gladys' mother, Elisa, had become friends and neighbors. Cuco and Marina invited Gladys and her mother to a wedding they were attending along with René. As fate would have it, René met Gladys, who is of Puerto Rican and Spanish origin, and whose family had moved to Miami from Upper Manhattan in New York. Gladys' brother, Gabriel Esteban, Jr. died a hero in World War II. He had survived the sinking of the aircraft carrier Yorktown at the battle of Midway, but was killed in the Allied Forces preparation to invade Italy. After Gabriel's death, Gladys' parents, Elisa Ramírez de Arellano and Gabriel Esteban, decided to move to South Florida. Gladys' family (the Ramírez de Arellano's) was among the original founders of Puerto Rico. René and Gladys got married and bought a house where they began their family life together.

As a child living most of the time in my grandparents' house in Pinar del Río, I recall the entire family visiting frequently both homes. Most of the relatives lived close by in the provincial capital, with a pair of great-aunts

living two houses away, and others in Camagüey, Havana, Miami and New York City. Both homes were known for their hospitality as the García-Fernández and Pereira-Méndez families were very close families. Their brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and cousins constantly visited, enjoyed recreational activities and played together. Food was always an important factor in social gatherings. Rosa and Gustavo were renowned cooks who would begin preparing their favorite dishes and desserts two months prior to their Christmas Eve dinner. So large was their family that they would do two sittings. René, Gladys and their children Luisa, Frank and Elisa would come from Miami to spend the Christmas holidays with them. Panchito and his wife Julieta would make the annual trip down from New York with their children Richard and Leslie. It was a time for bonding and stories with the out of town families and a lot of fun and play for the children. Those were memorable years.

Then the hope and anticipation that the Cuban revolution brought to a nation came crashing down. The separation of families began. My mother, Josefina, uncle Ubaldo and aunt Teresita had made up their minds to leave Cuba before the two cousins, Ubaldín and Teresita (Chichina), my sister Ana and I could become indoctrinated by the government programs. They obtained visas, turned over their belongings, car, and housing, except for a suitcase, to the new tyrants and boarded a Pan American flight to freedom in the United States. Upon arrival to Miami on March 10, 1962, we requested political asylum and refugee status from communist totalitarian oppression. René and Gladys took us under their wing and provided the much needed emotional support and guidance as we began our lives as exiles. We found a house to rent near the García's residence. Cuco and Marina were always supportive and provided frequent companionship. During these early years all of us often went to Crandon Park and Matheson Hammock Park for beach and barbeque outings. As more of the family arrived from Cuba, the gatherings became larger and

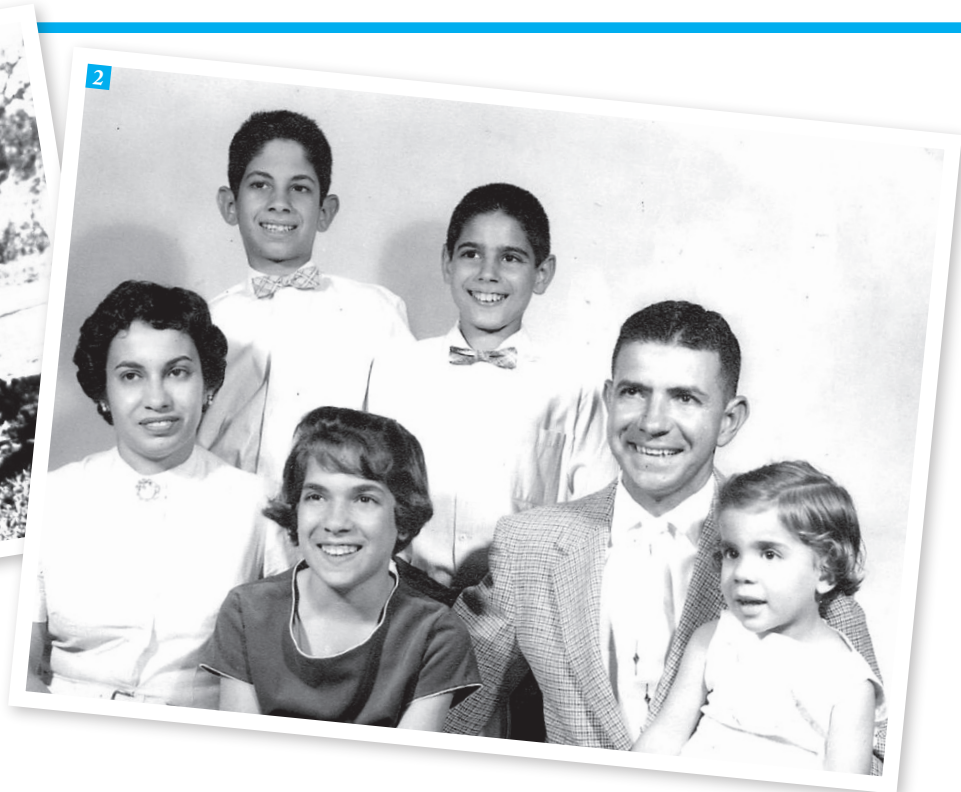


1) Gustavo and Rosa with their children at their 50th wedding anniversary. 2) The García family at Gustavo and Rosa's 50th wedding anniversary in Pinar del Río.





1) Cuco and Marina holding Frank and Ana Luisa. 2) René and Gladys with Frank, Robertico, Ana Luisa and Elisa.



guitar playing and singing, dominoes, and card playing were the norm. We also played baseball and football. Nostalgia for Cuba was always part of the conversation.

Among the new arrivals were Robertico and Estelita, sent by their parents Roberto and Estela, through Operation Peter Pan to the United States. Robertico stayed to live with René and Gladys. Estelita went to live with Panchito and Julieta in New York. Both rejoined their parents when they were able to leave Cuba and start anew in Puerto Rico. Robertico, Frank and I were of about the same age so we did most things together. We went to the movies, raked leaves for the neighbors for extra cash, and especially enjoyed trick or treating on Halloween night. The girls Luisa, Elisa, Ana and Chichina played dolls. We all played on the swing sets. Everyone participated in games on the sidewalk such as hopscotch and an occasional croquet, badminton or volleyball game. We became very close.

René and Gladys would host *Nochebuena* for Christmas. This was very special for us. When my great uncle, Dr. Giraldo Méndez, and his wife, Graciela, with their younger daughters, Margarita and Ani, were able to leave Cuba, they were reunited with the two older sisters, Graciela María and Lourdes, who had also left the island by the Operation Peter Pan. They were first staying in an orphanage in the Midwest and later with a family who sponsored them until their parents arrived. They all joined the Christmas Eve dinner party. I remember thinking how sophisticated the older sisters had become while living up North. René and Giraldo were both avid fishermen dating back to Cuba and began fishing again. I also recall how I first learned to watch and understand North American football during the holidays at the García's.

Gladys' two daughters, Luisa and Elisa attended Gladys' alma mater, Benedictine College in Kansas. While at Benedictine, they met their respective husbands who were also students there. Both couples were married in St. Louis, Missouri, where the bridegrooms lived.

One night in 1976 my mother called me on the telephone while I was studying dentistry in Gainesville, Florida, to tell me that my cousin Luisa had died in a horrible airline disaster involving two 747 aircrafts in the Canary Islands. A KLM airplane landed on a Pan American airplane

ready for take off. Luisa was a flight attendant on the crew of the Pan American Airways flight and that would have been her farewell flight. Her husband, Jim Flood, had finished his medical internship and Luisa wanted to stop flying. Jim has recently served as an anesthetist in the US Armed Forces war in Iraq.

Elisa returned from college with her husband, Tom Gieseking, and settled in Miami. She was instrumental in our getting together again on a frequent basis, now that those who had gone away to school had come back. They had three children, Michael, Tommy and Ana Luisa. My wife,

This issue of Star Smiles is being dedicated to René and Gladys García. Dr. Mosquera is extremely appreciative of the support they gave his family upon their arrival in Miami in 1962 and during the early exile years. He is very fond of the memories connected to the entire García family during his childhood. The ties between the families are extremely close. Dr. Mosquera's maternal grandmother and René García's father were first cousins and both lived in the same block in Pinar del Río, Cuba.





1) 1962 Christmas Eve at René and Galdys' home with the Mendez, Sánchez and Mosquera families. 2) Ana Luisa, Ana, Arturín, Frank, Robertico, Elisa, Margarita, Ubaldín, Chichina and Ani at 1962 *Nochebuena*. 3) Teresita and Josefina Pereira, Gladys, Giraldo with Arturín, Elisa, Ani, Margarita and Ana.

Liza, and I had Carolina and Arturito (Javier had not been born yet). The children were all contemporaries and played a lot together, just like we had done in our childhood. We were repeating our 1960's experiences by going to Crandon Park and Matheson Hammock for barbeques and picnics, baseball and football.

René would take all of us camping and fishing in the Florida Keys a lot when we were children. Tío Ubaldo would join him and they would fish and then fry the catch. The tent experience, the sea air and the stars at night were awesome. Subsequently, after Tom married Elisa, he and I would frequently join René in Long Key for camping and fishing. We also began to free dive lobster hunting and the sportsman mini-season became an annual event. It was great to return home and organize a lobster feast dinner. One abundant time we had three family 'chefs' cook their favorite recipes: lobster broiled with garlic and butter, lobster *enchilada* and lobster in a champagne sauce. The idea surfaced that we could be even more successful if we utilized scuba gear. We almost lost our lives for our foolish actions and inexperience. Our 14-foot aluminum boat had a makeshift anchor and did not have a reserve tank of gasoline. We went beyond the safety range for such a sea craft and, unfortunately, ran out of gas during a storm. We drifted aimlessly until a sailboat threw us a rope to tow us to safety. The Coast Guard helicopters had been out searching for us. We returned unscathed but scared out of our wits for our irresponsibility.

One of the activities we looked forward to doing together was roasting a pig for any occasion, be it *Nochebuena*, a birthday party or some other celebration. Sometime back in the mid 1980's the *caja china* was gaining popularity as a predictable and fast way of roasting the pig. René, Frank, Tío Ubaldo, Michael, Arturito and I custom built a huge *caja china* that was so large it could roast a cow. It was lined and riveted with aircraft material since Frank was familiar with this type of construction. This box has been used for nearly every pig roast the families have done since. There were four most memorable *lechones asados* that come to mind. First, there was my 35th birthday party when, by lack of coordination and experience of helpers, the *lechón* broke apart after being cooked and fell to the ground.

It was covered with grass and dirt, which caused quite a commotion. René was going to recite some poetry and propose a toast at the dinner table when he fell flat on his back from the chair he was sitting on. Luckily, he did not get hurt. On another occasion to celebrate Michael's 5th and Ana Luisa's 3rd birthday at Tom and Elisa's house, we thought we had burned the pig. In a state of panic we drove to buy another pig. Upon our return (new pig in hand) Osmín, who had stayed behind, advised us that he cleaned off the burnt skin and that the meat was fine. It was more than that, it was terrific...one of the best we ever ate! Another time, Arturito, at age 19, announced that he personally wanted to roast his own



pig all by himself. This was a great source of pride with the assurance that tradition would be continued by the younger generation. Finally the most recent *lechón asado* was during Christmas 2005. Several years after the Gieseatings' and Gladys had moved out of town, we were reunited at my sister's house for the traditional *Nochebuena* pig roast in Miami, with the exception of Michael who is serving this country in the Navy and was in the Middle East at the time. The Gieseatings' had previously moved to Orlando with Tom's new executive position at Walt Disney. He was recently transferred to London, England. Gladys came from Orlando, Tom and Elisa came from London, and Tommy and Ana Luisa came from their respective colleges for their holiday vacations. My brother-in-law, Tim Sexton, is an avid cook of *masitas de puerco* and is sometimes mistaken for Cuban, but he is a genuine Cracker. The Gieseatings' had particularly fond memories of the Christmas Eve roast pork during the years they were being celebrated at Tío Ubaldo and Tía Tere's house. Gladys brought photos from back in the early days for everyone to share. Unfortunately, René could not be with us since he had passed away several years before, but he was there in spirit. Frank, his Argentinean-born wife, Monica, and their child, Tony, all living in Georgia, were not able to come. I had told Frank that we had missed him and his family a lot and that we hoped they could make it for the pig roast. Tragically, we recently lost Monica from an aneurism.

After René passed away, Tom, Tío Ubaldo and I took the children out to camp at Long Key. René had been very disciplined in the care of his tent and its maintenance. He had this tent for over thirty years. We

went fishing with the kids and got pelted by hail and hard rain from a storm on our way into shore. When we approached the camp site we saw something wasn't right. The tent got ripped up from the storm's assault and the inside was flooded with rain water. We decided we had enough and packed up and headed back home. That was the end of the tent! We all knew things would have been different had René been there. We were cold. Our pride was

hurt (since we did not catch any fish and we would hear from the relatives back home). However, we knew there was always a next time.

Included among my wonderful orthodontic experiences was treating as patients Osmin's two granddaughters, Elina and Ileana, daughters of Lourdes Cruz's. It was a distinct privilege to have Gabriela Tarquino, Osmin's great-granddaughter and Elina's daughter, as my first second-generation-patient for orthopedic treatment. Additionally, one of my most challenging cases, and one that I am very proud of, is Amalia's granddaughter, Zaida, daughter of Teresita Viña and husband Ernesto

Artamendi. Coincidentally, at a family social event at René and Gladys' home in 1982 Teresita had me look at Zaida's orthodontic problem for the first time. The entire family is looking forward to continuing our family traditions with the García family and is very appreciative of the wonderful memories and strong family ties we have.

—By Arturo F. Mosquera

1) René and Giraldo showing their prized catch. 2) René and Tom with a *lechón asado*. 3) Michael's 2nd birthday party at René and Gladys' house.



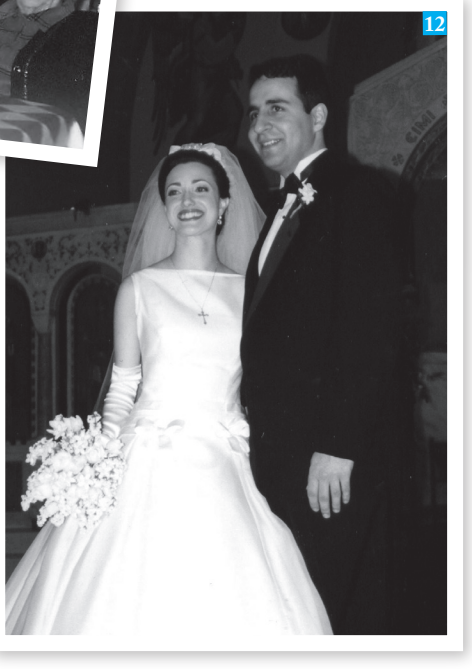
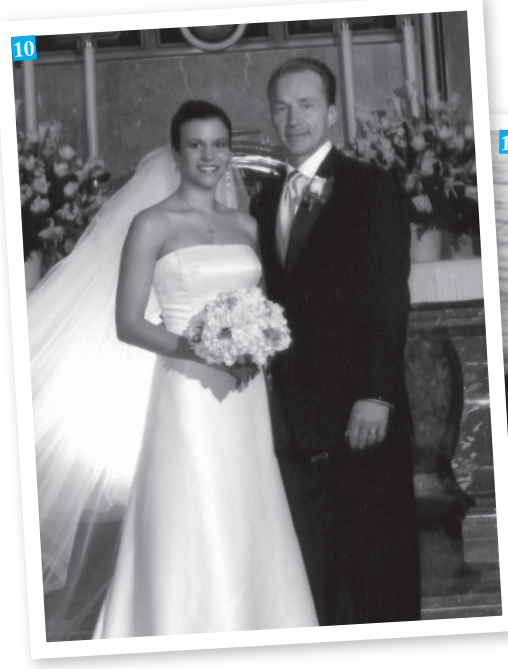
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For my own 50th birthday party four years ago, I hosted a three day event to commemorate and share our family's cultural ties to music, visual arts and food. The nieces and nephews were so impressed with the festivities that they want to follow the example and have already expressed to their parents their desire to celebrate in similar fashion. Recently we celebrated my first cousin's 50th birthday. It was an incredible reunion which began with a party on December 22nd, the day of Dr. Ubaldo Sánchez's birthday. His wife Petra, who is German, spent days cooking the food for this event. Then the celebration continued for Christmas and through the New Year. Petra's family from Hamburg came and prepared several German dishes. Other family members hosted events on different days featuring North American, Nicaraguan and Cuban cuisine. We were all very grateful to rejoice in the diversity of the family members and share the richness of the diverse food culture.

At our office we enjoy the relationships that have formed with the patients and families we have treated orthodontically and regard them as part of our own family. I would urge all my young patients to love and cherish their families and traditions and to lead by example for the future generations to value and have those same traditions as a source of inspiration and pride. Help make your communities strong and the best they can be!

1) Zaida and Jeff Gainsbury's wedding. 2) Josefina Pereira's 75th birthday celebration in Miami. 3) Tía Mary Pereira's relatives rejoice at being able to celebrate her 78th birthday in Miami on the occasion of her visit from Cuba. 4) Graciela Plasencia de Méndez at her 80th birthday celebration in Miami. 5) Couret and Zubizaretta families in Tampa for the wedding of Jose Ramón and Mandy. 6) Tío Ubaldo and Tía Teresita Sanchez's 50th wedding anniversary. 7) Aníbal and Betsy Sanchez's 25th wedding anniversary in San Juan, Puerto Rico. 8) José Ramón and Mandy Couret's wedding. 9) Nestor Ferro's 95th birthday celebration in Madrid, Spain with family members. 10) Ana Lourdes and Jeff Volek's wedding. 11) Rafael Eduardo and Barbara Anrrich's wedding. 12) Alina and Angelo Evangelou's wedding





PATIENTS IN THE NEWS

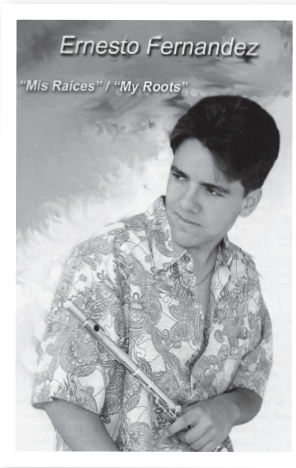
Ernesto Fernandez — an accomplished young musician.

Ernesto was born in Havana, Cuba on September 18th, 1989. At the early age of 6 he migrated with his family to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where he started his high school studies in 2002.

This talented young man graduated from South Miami Senior High School with a 5.02 GPA and 6th in his class. He was an active member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He was the Silver Knight nominee for his school in the music category.

Ernesto played the lead flute in the Advanced Band and in the magnet program orchestra at his high school. He was the flute section leader and graduated as captain of the band. He was awarded Superior status in the 2003-2005 Solo and Ensemble event. Ernesto participated in the Honor Band for the state of Florida for three consecutive years and in the Honor Band for the Miami-Dade County for four years. He was also part of the Alabama and Georgia Honor Bands as well as the University of Miami Honor Band and the New World Orchestra for which he received an honorable mention.

At the age of 7 Ernesto began his flute studies. Since then he has participated in numerous classical and popular Latin-American music concerts. He made his first popular music CD in Santo Domingo titled El Comienzo when he was only 10. Ernesto has performed in concerts with excellent flutists such as Nestor Torres, Dave Valentín and René Lorente, as well as extraordinary musicians, including Oscar de León, Albita, Cachao, Carlos Oliva, Johnny Ventura, Seve Matamoros, Caballo Viejo and Israel Cantor. He participated in different TV and radio programs in Dominican Republic and the United States and received



awards for his participation in several TV contests. He has played in charitable events benefiting homeless children in Santo Domingo and Miami.

Ernesto is a member of the Music Ministry at St. Dominic's Catholic Church where he maintains an active community service program taking his music to children, seniors citizens and people in general. He has participated for 3 consecutive years in charitable events organized by La Liga contra el Cáncer and The American Cancer Society. At the same time he has raised funds for the National Institute of Diabetes. Ernesto has also performed in events by the City of Miami, the City of Hialeah, Festival de la Calle 8, Feria de los Municipios, Flagami Fiesta, Festival de Hialeah and Viernes Culturales, among others. He has devoted approximately 4000 hours to community work.

This accomplished artist had a solo recital with the South Miami Junior Symphony Orchestra where played the lead flute. Ernesto played at the New York Symphony Festival and was part of a concert exchange when the Symphony Orchestra traveled to Nicaragua in May of this year.

As a member of the Florida Flute Association he participated in competitions where he was chosen alternate in 2004 and finalist in 2005 and 2006.

His application for enrollment as a music major was accepted by the four colleges he applied to: University of Miami, Florida International University, Florida State University in Tallahassee and University of Florida in Gainesville.

Dr. Mosquera and staff are extremely proud of Ernesto's accomplishments and wish him continued success.



We wish to congratulate Daniel Mion for his participation in the Realgables FC 14-under big win against the Florida state champions in late August.

Our congratulations to our patient, Alex Mendieta, who was recently recognized as the top financial advisor in Morgan Keegan's Financial Advisor Training Program.

We are proud of our patient, Jorge Aguilar, who graduated from Southridge High School with honors as salutatorian. Jorge is now attending the University of Florida in Gainesville and majoring in computer engineering.

Our best wishes and congratulations to our patient, Bernadette Revuelta, on her recent marriage.



We wish to congratulate our patient Katherine Vergel-Giscard on her Sweet Sixteen celebration.

GET TO KNOW MARIA LOPEZ



I was born in Cuba in 1962 where I lived until the age of three with my parents and three sisters. Due to the communist regime in Cuba, my parents decided to leave so we could have a better future. I have been living in Miami ever since. I attended Colonial Drive Elementary, Richmond Height Middle and graduated from Miami Killian High School in 1980. Then, I went to Lindsey Hopkins and obtained my certification as Dental Assistant followed by the Orthodontic Assistant and radiology course certification.

I have been married to Victor for 24 years and have a wonderful 22 year old daughter, Jessica Marie, born in 1984. She is a very loving daughter who is majoring in speech pathology at Florida International University. She is our pride and joy.

I began working in the orthodontic field 24 years ago, which has been very rewarding. I have been working with Dr. Mosquera and his talented staff for two 2 years and have experienced almost all aspects of his wonderful practice as a scheduling coordinator and as an orthodontic assistant.

Congratulations to Christian Perea winner of our Christmas contest. Pictured here is Christian's Dad receiving gift certificate prize.



We congratulate our patient, Heber Farall, who is shown here with his mother and Dr. Mosquera. Heber is the winner of our National Orthodontic Health Month contest. His mother, Gledys Farall, is the recipient of the free orthodontic evaluation, records and treatment planning, our contest 1st prize.



Congratulations to our patient Daniel Mion on his win of our 2006 Summer Contest.

HOW IS 'MERRY CHRISTMAS' SAID IN OTHER LANGUAGES?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CONTEST, PLEASE FILL OUT OUR BALLOT MATCHING THE PHRASE TO THE CORRECT LANGUAGE.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Spanish | A. Mele Kalikimaka |
| 2. Portuguese | B. God Jul or Gledelig Jul |
| 3. French | C. Shinnen omedeto or Kurisumasu Omedeto |
| 4. Italian | D. Glaedelig Jul |
| 5. German | E. Feliz Navidad |
| 6. Russian | F. Joyeux Noel |
| 7. Danish | G. Feliz Natal |
| 8. Japanese | H. Froehliche Weihnachten |
| 9. Norwegian | I. Buon Natale |
| 10. Hawaiian | J. Pozdreviyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdesva |

The winner will be announced Dec. 18, 2006.
The prize will be a Best Buy certificate.
GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

STAR SMILES NEWS
A publication of

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SILVIA LIZAMA

Silvia Lizama was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1957 and currently lives in Hollywood, Florida. She received her BFA degree from Barry University, where she is now Professor of Photography, and her MFA from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Having exhibited her hand colored photographs since 1978, her work has gained national and international attention and has been included in prestigious exhibitions and collections. Major awards include the Southern Arts Federation/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship Grant (1993) and the South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant (1992), as well as a Miami Dade Art in Public Places commission for the Deering Estate in Miami, Florida (1999).

Ms. Lizama's work appears in the following publications: *Espacio C: Arte Contemporáneo*, Camargo, España (2006), *Breaking Barriers* (Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida Publication, 1997), *Aperture141 Cuba: Image and Imagination* (Aperture, Fall 1995), *Outside Cuba/Fuera de Cuba* (Rutgers University Publication, 1989), *Photographic Retouching* (Eastman Kodak Publication, 1987), and *Darkroom Expression* (Eastman Kodak Publication, 1984) among others.



“Window, 56th Avenue,” 2005, 15 x 15 inches, hand colored silver gelatin print

Artist Statement

Our daily lives are full of stress, anxiety and pressure. There's never enough time to do the things we must do, much less time to do the things we would like to do. How often do we take a moment, to really look around, to see what's in front of us, to see what's in the shadows; to see the special places. Sometimes I do take the time. Sometimes I push everything else away and just look. Sometimes I'm even lucky enough to have my camera with me.

I have been fortunate through out my life time to have been able to travel to exotic places throughout Latin America and Europe capturing images with my camera along the way. Currently I am exploring a more familiar territory, my neighborhood. For years my husband and I have been taking nightly walks with our dogs. I found myself looking into the homes and lives of those around me and being fascinated by the spaces they created. After years of taking voyeuristic pleasure from just a quick glance into people's lives I decided to create a new body of work documenting their private spaces framed through their windows. The images for this exhibition are the beginning of this exploration.

I photograph the images in black and white using a medium format camera. After I print the images on traditional silver gelatin paper, I apply photographic oils by hand. The carefully applied coloring adds to the fictional quality and hopefully makes real the world I witness.

*A reception for the artist will take place on January 27, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m.
You and your family are invited to attend.*

NATALIA BENEDETTI

Natalia Benedetti was born February 4, 1977, in Caracas Venezuela. At the age of 15 she moved to Miami Florida where she later received a Bachelors in Fine Art from the New World School of the Arts. Since then, she has focused in creating video based work which has been included in museum exhibitions such as Miami in Transition (2006) at the Miami Art Museum, Jen rêve (2005) at Foundation Cartier pour L'art Contemporain in Paris France, Transitory Patterns: Florida / Women Artists (2004) at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC, In Situ at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami, Space: Thinking Outside the Sphere (2003) at the Miami Museum of Science, New Art at the Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, Five Years of the Altoids® Curiously Strong Collection at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in NY, Paradise Lost? Aspects of Landscape in Latin American Art at the Lowe Art Museum in the University of Miami, The House at MoCA (2001) and Making Art in Miami: Travels in Hyperreality (2000) at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami. Her work has also been shown in galleries such as Emmanuel Perrotin Gallery in Paris France, Annina Nosei Gallery in NY, J. Johnson Gallery in Jacksonville FL, White Box in NY, Guild & Greyskul Gallery in NY, Placemaker Gallery and Fredrick Snitzer Gallery in Miami FL. Benedetti's bibliography includes journals and publications such as Art in America, Art Nexus and Miami Herald. In 2003 she was the recipient of the South Florida Consortium Fellowship for Visual and Media Artists, for which she was a juror in 2004. Benedetti had her first solo show in 2002 at the Galerie Fons Welters in Amsterdam and her first museum solo exhibition in 2006 at the Museum of Contemporary Art @ Goldman Warehouse in Miami FL.



"Flexibility and Lightness", 2005, video still

Artist Statement

Dreams are as real as our awoken states, but we take the latter much more seriously. One distinct difference between them is that we experience dreams in the privacy of our minds while our conscious states are experienced collectively with billions of beings. The joys of our existence have the potential of becoming limitless when we share them with everyone else; the more happiness and insight we give to others, the more richness we will experience. Therefore in consciousness we have a wonderful opportunity to transform every situation into a meaningful event.

While most joyful encounters involve other people, there are beautiful moments in between thoughts when we can stumble upon an instant of clarity. Every Atom, An Ocean and Many Waves, Love dust and many other works reflect such experiences. Video has consistently allowed for a clear and spontaneous documentation of each perfect moment, and possibly as a result, many individuals will discover that this freshness and potential can be found at any time.

*A reception for the artist will take place on April 20, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m.
You and your family are invited to attend.*



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