



STAR SMILE NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 12

Summer 2006

A Message from Dr. Mosquera

I hope that all of you who were affected by the 2005 hurricane season have fully recovered or are well on your way to being fully restored. Many of the families we serve were affected to different degrees. Our office first suffered damage with hurricane Dennis' winds tearing down two large trees and bringing down with them our front planter wall. Next, hurricane Katrina uprooted a very large tree in our remaining planter on the northern front section of the office building. Luckily, all these trees fell away from the building and only caused minor damage to the main building.

Unfortunately, my home suffered severe damage with hurricane Katrina. Our staff and I had been listening to the news and had anticipated, like everyone else, a tropical storm that was going to hit Palm Beach County. We worked and saw patients until 5:00 p.m. When my wife Liza and I left shortly thereafter, we suspected something was wrong from the winds we were experiencing. Over the car radio we learned that the storm had changed direction and was heading toward Miami and had picked up strength into a Category 1 hurricane. We were afraid that we could be crushed by a falling tree. By the time Liza and I got home there was no time to prepare and we quickly lost electrical power at 7:00 p.m. Our house is basically all glass and, without having had time to place the hurricane storm shutters, our family should not have stayed, but the risk of going out again in our car was too great. Additionally, we had a susceptible roof. We had experienced many hurricanes in this house but always shuttered so it looks like an armored bunker and one cannot see a thing. This time we could see the full destructive force of a hurricane from our glass case. It was terrifying. Water was coming into the house from everywhere. It was coming from the roof. It was being pushed in through the doors and windows. We were flooded with water several inches in some areas. With the help of the family and our housekeeper, we moved as much of the furniture, art work and other personal items into the rooms that were least affected and mostly dry. Soon we heard glass shattering and wind entering our house. I had wanted to protect the house by nailing and/or screwing plywood that was in the garage, but Liza would not let me, as she felt it would be too dangerous. So, we all huddled in a bathroom that was the most secure part of the house, with a bed mattress handy to help us, in the event the wind lifted the roof off. At this time, I remembered all the horrific stories I had listened to about hurricane Andrew while I was a volunteer assisting people in South Dade as part of the South Florida Dental Association disaster relief effort. Little did I expect that this would turn into "our hurricane Andrew". Fortunately, we made it through the night and finally felt safe after the wind subsided around 3:00 a.m. and then went to sleep.

When hurricane Wilma's projected path had Miami in its core, I told Liza we would place the hurricane shutters, nail down blue plastic tarps on the roof, move as much as possible to storage, and having secured the property to the best of our ability, leave town as we were not willing

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EMERGENCY!

It is Sunday afternoon and I receive a call at my home from a patient's mother stating that her son, who is in braces, had an accident and received trauma to the front teeth and lips. I confirmed that the teeth were all in the mouth and had not been knocked out. I asked if they could meet me at the office in an hour to give me time to shower before I went in to see him, since I had been doing gardening and yard work and was quite "grungy". They thought that was fine. If a tooth had been knocked out of the mouth, I would have given appropriate instructions and gone over immediately without showering. More important is the health of a tooth than appearances. Eric's father told me when I arrived at the office that he was quite surprised that some doctors actually work on their yards. I told him I had acquired a connection with gardening at an early age and that I love the smell of the earth: soil, trees, plants and grass. As a young boy age 9, when I came to Miami as an exile, I would rake leaves for the neighbors to earn spending money, since my relatives could not afford to give me an allowance, and by age 11 I was mowing the grass at our house as one of my chores.

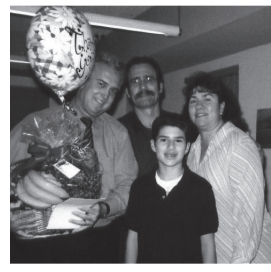
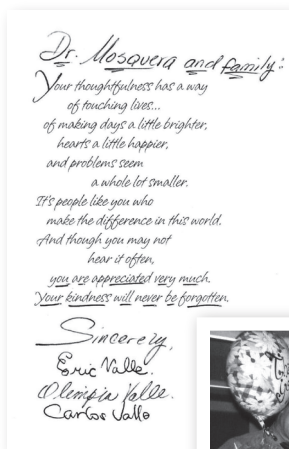
It was special to have my daughter Carolina accompany me to this office emergency visit since she would soon begin her first year of her professional studies in dental school. She had worked as an orthodontic assistant from a young age and developed an interest in dentistry as a career.

It turned out Eric's emergency was not too severe. He had his lip stuck on a very thin elastic that is used to hold the archwire to the bracket. His lip could not move away from the bracket that was cemented to his tooth until I removed the elastic tie and released his lip. Once this was accomplished, he felt much better and his parents were relieved. One of the teeth had an excessive amount of mobility and a small piece of enamel had fractured. I referred him to his general dentist, Dr. Patricia Junquera, to check it and have a radiograph done, but that it likely would not have a problems. He was advised to continue using the oral acrylic removable appliance he was wearing in addition to his braces, since it would keep any additional force on the tooth to a minimum and help it back to good

health. Then his father and mother shared another thought: little did they think they would be in this situation; it had only been a couple of weeks since they had seen me for the initial examination at which time they were given my home telephone number and were told to call me at home, in the event of an emergency after office hours, to see if they could reach me and save themselves the expense and inconvenience of a visit to a hospital emergency room. They were very grateful when I told them there would be no extra charge for my emergency care for Eric since it was a very simple problem to solve and, as such, it was included in my normal orthodontic treatment fee. If it had been a more complicated emergency requiring x-rays, additional procedures and time, the appropriate charges would have been necessary. By that time my wife Liza and the younger boy, Javier, arrived at the office as well to help us finish up.

Subsequently, I advised the patient and his parents to care for his lacerated upper lip, scratches on his nose and left hand by cleaning superficially with hydrogen peroxide and then applying a topical, over the counter, ointment with antibiotic and consult with his pediatrician to evaluate if the patient had broken his nose. He was also recommended to take Tylenol (no allergies reported) for his pain as needed and was given a generous amount of rope wax to use on his braces to prevent further irritation to the upper lip.

Eric and his parents were so very appreciative of how his emergency was handled that they came to the office to bring a very nice basket with a balloon and a card as a gesture of gratitude. They informed me that Dr. Patricia Junquera had told them about another case that I had treated and who experienced a very severe emergency from a skateboarding accident, with multiple broken braces and several teeth partially out. She explained this other patient of hers was also one of her relatives and that his teeth were saved and remained healthy even though they received severe trauma thanks to prompt knowledgeable care. The Valle family was pleased to be in the hands of caring professionals. By Dr. Arturo F Mosquera



This issue of Star Smiles News is dedicated to my aunt "Tia Mary". She is the widow of Tiburcio Lorenzo who was a well respected landscape painter and to whom I dedicated the second issue of Star Smiles News. I have the best of memories from my childhood and our entire family, including this special aunt. We all lived in close proximity to each other in the capital of the Province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba, which goes by the same name. Her charming, educated and very polite way of being was extraordinary. I missed her tremendously, as did the rest of the family, upon leaving the island and going into exile in Miami. The family took every opportunity to call her as frequently as we could whenever our limited finances at the time permitted. We all wrote letters on a continuous basis in those early years.

My aunt was finally able to visit Miami with my grandmother before "Abuela Josefa" passed away in 1983 after twenty one years of us not having seen them. Having both here was a moment of great joy for the family.

Little did I suspect it would be another twenty years before

I would set eyes on her again and be able to hug and kiss her and feel her warmth when she was finally able to visit us again in Miami in the year 2002.

The entire family has very wonderful memories of her last visit, which included a special celebration with a very large family gathering in honor of her visit and her birthday. During this visit we all took time doing different things with her and taking her to many magnificent places and locations from the Florida Keys to West Palm Beach and Naples. Every day was a special occasion to celebrate our being reunited with our dear aunt. We planned many family events and great dinners and feasts.

I took time off from work as vacation time during her entire stay in Miami because I wanted to be with her as much as possible since I did not know when I would have the opportunity to see her again. It has been over three years and I don't know when I will see her again, but I won't lose hope.



Mary Pereria Méndez

Though exile keeps Mary and her two sisters, Josefina and Teresita, brother-in-law, Ubaldo and her nieces and nephews, Arturín, Ubaldín, Ana Mary and Chichina apart, they remain a close and loving family. Mary is one of the three Pereira sisters. Almost a year apart in age, Mary and her sister Josefina would call each other “Manita” (for hermanita). For this reason, many people in their home town of Pinar del Río would refer to them as “las Manitas”. Teresita is the youngest of the three.

When the decision was made by the family, at the beginning of Castro’s communist regime, to leave for Miami in 1962, Mary said “take the children and I will stay to take care of our parents since they are of advanced age”. Mary’s health was frail since childhood, yet life’s demands in Cuba strengthened her resolve conquering all obstacles. Amazingly, she has overcome all kinds of difficulties developing into a courageous human being who inspires all of us. The entire family is very proud of her.

Tía Mary, as her nieces and nephews affectionately call her, has always been a big inspiration in the lives of Arturín, Ana Mary, Chichi and Ubaldín despite her living in Cuba. The 90-mile distance inflicted on the family by Castro’s communist regime has not been able to create an emotional barrier among them, only a geographical separation.

Tía Fifi and Tía Tere always make sure Tía Mary’s needs are met. For Mary it is very important to have the traditional sweets (turrónes) as dessert on Christmas. No one can imagine the happiness the seven “pioneers” (initial family exiles) felt at the joy Tía Mary experienced when she was able to eat “turrón” this Christmas thanks to the efforts of the family in sending her a special package. Castro extorts a premium price per pound for this. Unfortunately, many inhabitants of the island could not enjoy their “turrón” because of the squalid conditions the Cuban dictator has imposed on them. Yet, he and his comrades certainly had theirs.

Of the three sisters, Josefina and Teresita each had two children, but Mary was not blessed with children and she developed a devotion to her “sobrinitos” (nieces and nephews). She would refer to them as her “muñecos” (little dolls). Arturín, Ubaldín, Ana Mary and Chichina also have a special love for their “Tía”. Mary was always helping with their care when they were small and were all living in Pinar del Río.

Tía Mary and Tío Tiburcio have always referred to Ubaldín as the Cachupín. Both of them enjoyed taking care of him at every opportunity since they lived in the same apartment building across the hallway. Tía Tere welcomed the relief since Ubaldín was a handful.

Approximately twenty-five years ago Ubaldín was fortunate to see Arito (Tío



1) The three sisters from left to right: Josefina, Mary and Teresita. 2) From left: Tía Mary, Tío Ubaldo and wife Tía Teresita and Dr. Mosquera’s mother, Josefina. 3) Tía Mary with her four nieces and nephews along with her husband Tiburcio Lorenzo. 4) Mary with part of her extended family celebrating her birthday during her visit to Miami. 5) Tía Mary with sisters Teresita and Josefina and grand nieces and nephews during the celebration. 6) The original seven exiled family members and Mary with Tiburcio’s paintings in the background.

Tiburcio’s nickname) in Spain. It was wonderful – as if they had never been separated. When he saw Ubaldín he went “Cachupín!”

Tía Mary is Ana Mary’s godmother and they also hold a dear place in their hearts for each other because godparents are special in the Roman Catholic religion. Ana Mary calls her often and has her daughters speak to her on the phone. Tía Mary shares this responsibility with Arturín who is Ana Mary’s godfather.

Ana Mary remembers how Tía Mary always refers to her young grand nieces and grand nephews (Alexandra, Arturito, Carolina, Danny, Javier, Nicky, Sasha and Victoria) as “monisimos” (a term of endearment which is the superlative for cute). She has much love to give to all her family in spite of the distance. The entire family loves her very much because she is a beautiful human being.

Twenty-two years after leaving Cuba, Abuela Josefa and Tía Mary visited the family in the United States. Abuela Josefa came with the condition that she would return to Cuba because she wanted to be buried next to Abuelo Panchito (her husband). The family had to accept that. Chichina was the first one of the cousins to see them on their arrival. Chichina is the youngest of the four. When the family left Cuba, she was only three and half years old. She had a lot of catching-up to do.

It was an incredible visit. They were able to capture the love and closeness that the years and miles apart would not erase.

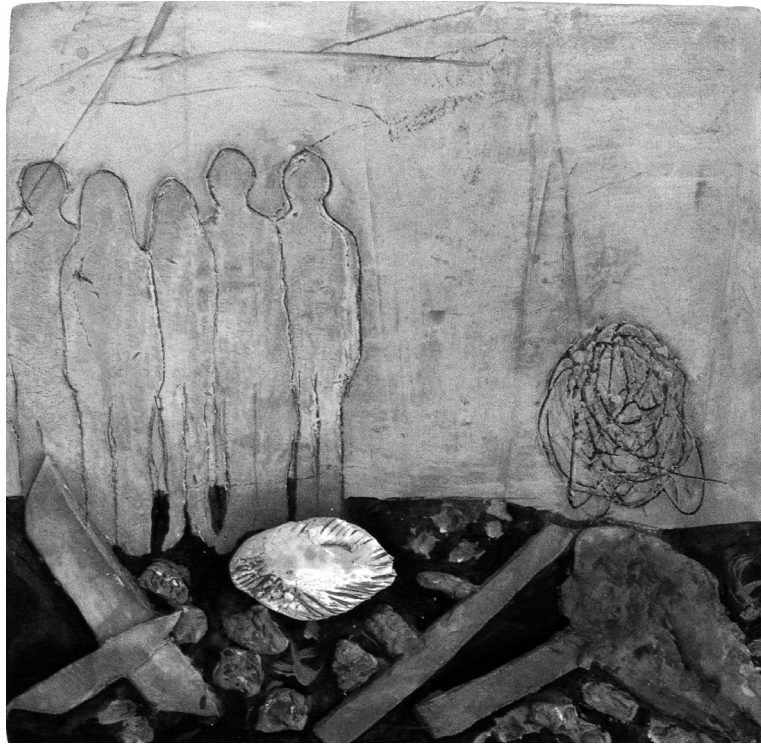
Four years ago, Tía Mary visited once again. The family could not get enough of her. She was able to meet the spouses and children and share in all their lives. She is missed tremendously and everyone looks forward to visiting her in a free Cuba very soon.

During this last visit, Tía Mary was first in Miami and then the three sisters went to San Francisco, California to visit Ubaldín and his family. Ubaldín shared as much time with her as he could. She was very impressed when he took them to brunch at a restaurant 52 stories high with a panoramic view of the San Francisco Bay area. Tía Mary and Ubaldín share a special bond as she was the only person who could hold him as a baby, other than his mother Teresita. Castro has separated us emotionally and yet we remain ever so united.

These forty-four long years of separation have not diminished the family’s love for Mary and still everyone cherishes fond memories of her. We long for the moment we can all be together again on a permanent basis.

CONNIE LLOVERAS

Connie Lloveras has been exhibiting her work since 1981. She has exhibited consistently nationally as well as abroad. She has been included in group shows such as "Outside Cuba/Fuera de Cuba", "Breaking Barriers", and Cuban Artists of the 20th Century. In 2002 she had an exhibition in Museo de Arte Contemporáneo titled "Connie Lloveras: Unspoken Words, A Retrospective 1990 to 2000", exploring ten years of her paintings and sculptures. She has had recent exhibitions in Galería Arte Consult in Panama City, Panama in September 2005 and The Americas Collection in October 2005. Her work is included in collections such as the Lowe Art Museum in Miami, Florida, Museum of Contemporary Art in Panama City, Panama, Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the Boca Raton Art Museum in Boca Raton, Florida, and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Vélez, Málaga. She has completed numerous Art in Public Places Projects awarded throughout the United States. Her most recent art installation titled "Schoolhouse", an aluminum and cast concrete work, awarded by Art in State Buildings Program at Florida Memorial University was completed in July 2005. She has received awards such as the State of Florida Individual Artist Fellowship Award in 1992. She is currently represented in Florida by the Americas Collection in Coral Gables.



"After the Storm," 2005, 13 x 13 inches, mixed media on clay

Artist Statement

My works speak of the universality of the human condition. They explore the complexity of human emotions particularly as experienced by women. It is often a result of reflections on life's joys as well as its sorrows. They are a result of a dialogue that exists between me and the work of art and this dialogue parallels the relationship between the viewer and the art object. Although my work has a statement to make, it is ultimately the viewer who will give way to their own interpretation, depending on their own personal references to the forms, symbols, and colors that are inherent in the work. Through the use of unrecognizable yet extremely familiar images the viewer is forced to draw personal connotations in reference to the symbols and establish their own personal conversation with the art object.

My new work explores and documents ordinary moments in ordinary time. The human figure is the protagonist in a series of what seem to be very mundane activities such as walking, sleeping, eating and thinking. Yet, they speak of the spiritual longing that I believe to be a universal and central part of human existence. They depict man's struggle to understand this universe and his or her own place in its vastness. Through the use of a personal language of signs and symbols, I make reference to universal themes of pain suffering, hope and renewal that inspire self-reflection on the part of the viewer

In the last thirteen years, my work has extended into the public arena. My exhibition work is personal and intimate, and produced in solitude, while my public artwork is monumental in size and often involves collaboration with people on many levels. The two provide me with venues to express my ideas and concepts, and while different in approach they contain and carry the essence of my vision as an artist. I believe that an artist provides a vision by documenting that which is important to him or her. And while this is certainly a personal vision it becomes one that is universal and transcendent because of the humanity that binds us all. Connie Lloveras August 1, 2005

*A reception for the artist will take place at our office on Saturday, January 28, 2006 from 7 to 9 p.m.
You and your family are invited to attend.*

JULIE LARA KAHN

Julie Lara Kahn graduated from Harvard with a BA in East Asian Studies and an MBA in General Management. She has exhibited in over 40 group and solo exhibitions at venues such as: Art in Embassies, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Museum of Contemporary Art D.C., P.S. 742, Exit Art, Locust Projects, Dorsch Gallery, Bass Museum and other museums and galleries domestically and abroad. Her work is part of private and public collections both nationally and internationally.

In support of her projects, Kahn has received numerous grants and awards including: Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council's New Forms Miami, International Cultural Exchange (ICE), and Community Grants, the Leo Chestler Contemporary Visual Arts Award, Tigertail/MDCAC Artist Enhancement Grant, State of Florida ICE and Artist Enhancement Grants, Florida Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship in the Interdisciplinary Category, and a Major Grant from the Florida Humanities Council through the National Endowment.



"Hog Meat," 2005, 27 x 33.75 inches, c-print

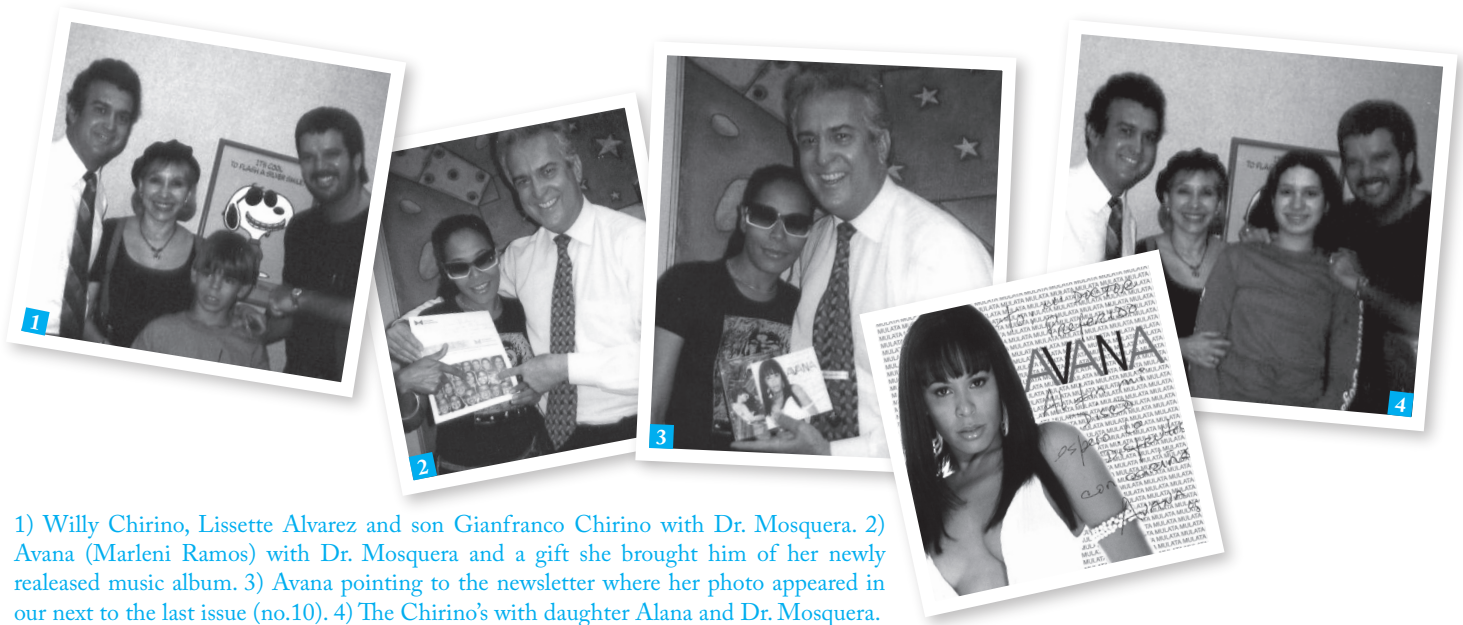
Artist Statement

For the past 10 years, Julie Lara Kahn has been creating interdisciplinary artworks that cross and re-cross boundaries among visual art, performance, social engineering, and mass marketing. She designs elaborate productions involving covert and overt audience interaction, which not only create extended portraits of people and places but also nurture community through participation. Her largest purpose is to break down the traditional barrier between artwork and onlooker by inviting the viewer into the creative process. She accomplishes this not only by working with the usual windows into the unknown—photographs, videos, and sound installations—but also by offering experiential moments such as: a taste of a childhood food, an opportunity to break bread with strangers, and a chance to exchange opinions with scholars and people from diverse walks of life.

For further inquiries regarding Julie Lara Kahn and her work, she may be contacted at juliekahn@hotmail.com.

*A reception for the artist will take place at our office on Saturday, May 6, 2006 from 7 to 9 p.m.
You and your family are invited to attend.*

PATIENTS IN THE NEWS



1) Willy Chirino, Lissette Alvarez and son Gianfranco Chirino with Dr. Mosquera. 2) Avana (Marleni Ramos) with Dr. Mosquera and a gift she brought him of her newly released music album. 3) Avana pointing to the newsletter where her photo appeared in our next to the last issue (no.10). 4) The Chirino's with daughter Alana and Dr. Mosquera.

Launching of a New Music Album

Artist Avana (Marleni Ramos), who began to sing with Willy Chirino and Lissette Alvarez upon her arrival to Miami, started her orthodontic treatment at our office in 2000. The Chirino family referred Marleni to us after their daughter Alana and son Gianfranco had treatment at our office. Marleni was

in braces for eighteen months and we rushed to remove her appliances before her photo shoot for the cover of her newly released music album, *Mulata*. We congratulate Marleni and wish her continued success and thank the Chirino family for this wonderful patient's referral to our office.



Carolina M. Mosquera

We are very proud of Dr. Mosquera and Liza's daughter, for having been accepted at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. Carolina is one of the recipients of the School of Dentistry Dean's Grant. This recognition is awarded to two incoming Hispanic-American or Native-American students each year. After graduating for high school and while attending FIU, Carolina helped us with our marketing program at the office. She is greatly missed.



We congratulate our patients Stephanie Pérez and Ezequiel Cuevas named students of the month at Conchita Espinosa Academy.



We wish our patient, Giselle Marco Segura, continued success in her entrepreneurial endeavor. Her store, Paper & Concept is a specialized custom invitation business.

GETTO KNOW LIZBETH YELA

I was born in Quito, Ecuador where I spent a happy childhood surrounded by my parents and a sister. I keep fond memories of that time in my life while I was attending elementary and middle school.

Looking for a brighter future I came to the United States in 1992 where I attended high school and obtained my Dental Assistant certificate in 1998.

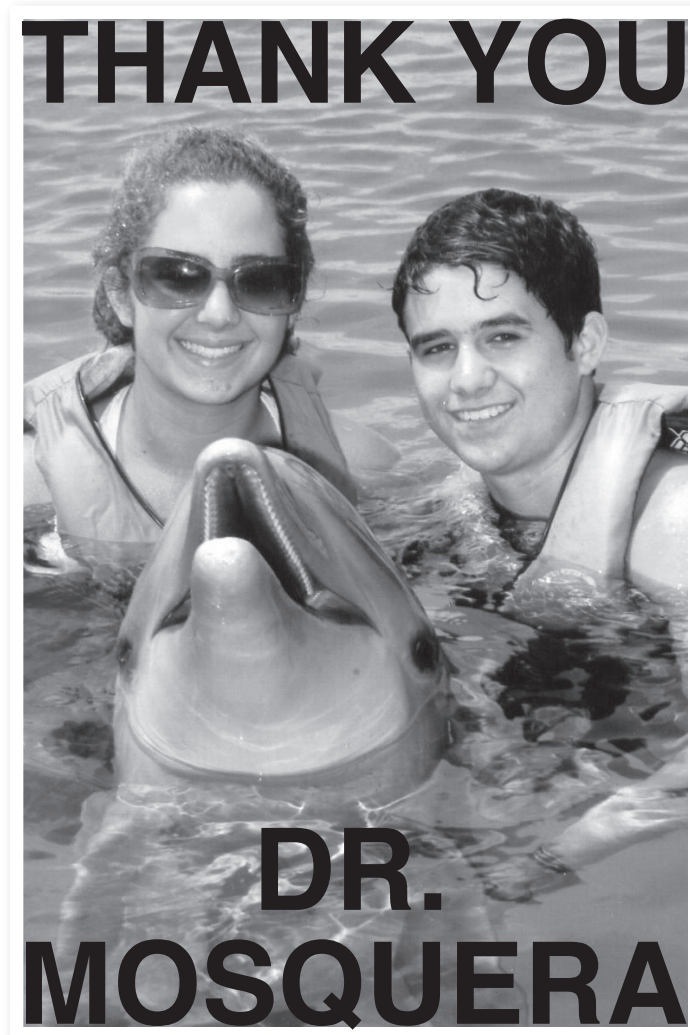
I worked in dental offices where I realized I enjoyed the orthodontic specialty better and began expanding my knowledge as an assistant



in this field.

Looking for a place in the orthodontic field I was given the opportunity to begin working with Dr. Mosquera. He has expertly trained and guided me to obtain my Orthodontic Expanded Duties Certificate in 2004. This was a first step in an office where I still learn day by day surrounded by a wonderful team of assistants.

I have a bright and adorable 4 year old daughter who fills my life with joy and motivates me to keep on growing personally as well as professionally.



Framed photograph of Stephanie and Omar Vazquez showing their magnificent smiles during a swim with the dolphins and sent to us by their mother, Lian Vazquez. Stephanie and Omar are Dr. Raul Molina's niece and nephew.

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to go through another nerve-wracking storm. Our stress level could not tolerate it. Thank God, both the house and the office suffered little additional damage.

During Katrina and Wilma our office was without electrical power for a week each time. This caused interruption in our ability to see our patients for appointments and render treatment scheduled. Several of our staff had their homes affected by the storms as well and they needed to take care of their personal matters resulting from these disasters. Our staff appreciates your patience and wonderful cooperation in getting your treatment rescheduled and having your care proceed on time. I am very grateful that my staff was willing to come into the office after normal working hours, including Saturdays and Sundays, to accommodate our patients' needs in these difficult situations.

The day after Katrina, I personally went into the office, even with the disaster at my house, because I knew there were two patients from out of town that were scheduled to see me. Several of the staff reported to work as well. There was no electrical power but, at least, we could do some limited procedures.

We also experienced problems with communications as the telephone lines were not working for everyone and even the cellular phones and signals were a problem. We have tried our best to be there for you and minimize any inconvenience to you and your families. We have all learned from these disasters and will try to serve you even better in the future.

Our planter wall has been rebuilt. The parking lot is being repaired. A new landscaping has been designed and will be completed. The office will be newly painted in bold striking colors.

Thank you for your understanding and support during the clean-up and the subsequent restoration, and the rescheduling of your care! My staff joins me in wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

STAR SMILES NEWS

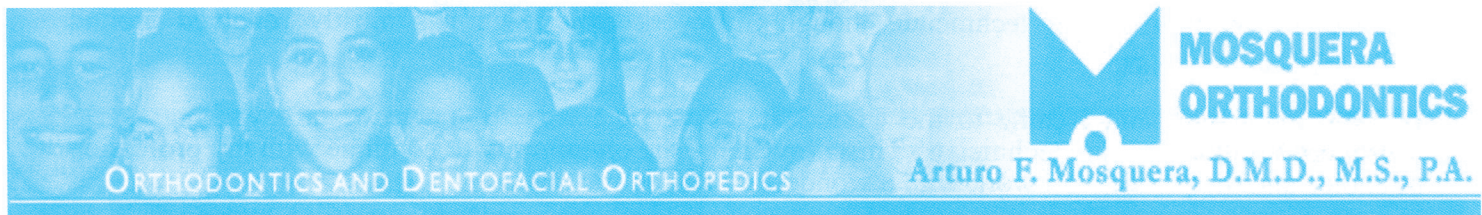
A publication of



Arturo F. Mosquera, D.M.D., M.S., P.A.
Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics
1245 SW 87 Avenue, Miami, FL 33174
(305) 264-3355 Fax (305) 264-3745



*Arturo F. Mosquera, D.M.D., M.S., P.A.
Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
1245 SW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33174*



Visit our website: www.starorthodontics.com

