



# **Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program**

**Virtual Graduation Celebration**

# 2016 MFOS Welcome Reception at Powell University House



MFOS means opportunity. Without this program, I know I would not have had the opportunity to solely focus on school related activities while also having the financial stability to not stress over every penny spent. I will forever be indebted to the MFOS program due to this opportunity I was granted so I cannot wait until I am able to give back as a donor myself.

**Jynsyn McCullough, Aerospace  
Engineering Graduate**

# 2016 MFOS Welcome Reception at Powell University House



All of us supporters are extremely proud of our graduating Scholars. Your perseverance and enthusiasm are inspiration to us all. We welcome you as Proud Gator alums.

**Louis Oberndorf, MFOS  
Leadership Council past chair**





# 2019 MFOS Leadership Team



The logo consists of the letters 'UF' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange square. The background of the entire image is a blue-tinted photograph of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a patterned top, sitting on the grass and using a silver laptop. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

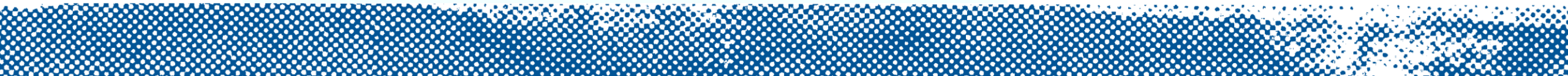
**UF**

MFOS has been a vital piece to my four year journey at the University of Florida. Relieving me and family of the financial burden that comes with attending college was extremely beneficial for myself and my family. Furthermore, MFOS provides a plethora of resources that allowed my entire collegiate journey to process smoothly.

**Prince Powell, Sport  
Management Graduate**



Syllisa Davis while studying abroad





Just remember that first-gen students are the most prepared to deal with difficult situations like a pandemic -- you will succeed and thrive in ways you cannot even imagine right now. Your life has prepared you for the next step, so remain confident and keep marching forward. It will be a successful journey!

**Joseph Figini, MFOS  
Leadership Council**



The image features a young woman with long, dark, curly hair, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. She is wearing a dark t-shirt with a white logo that includes the letters 'UF' and a graduation cap. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees. The entire image has a blue color overlay. In the top left corner, there is an orange square containing the white letters 'UF'.

UF

MFOS has meant so much to both me and my family. It has given me the opportunity to not only acquire a university education, but also enjoy my time here without the anxiety or stress of not knowing how I would afford this opportunity. MFOS gave me the chance to further my knowledge, and gave value to the sacrifices made to reach this level of education. It has meant that I could pursue more in life than what was available to my family before me.

**Isabella Camacho,  
Criminology Graduate**



# 2016 MFOS Welcome Reception at Powell University House



CONGRATULATIONS on your success! Do not let these current circumstances define how bright you can shine in your next adventure because you all have already shone just how bright and resilient you are!

**Phuong Nguyen, MFOS Alumni and  
Leadership Council**





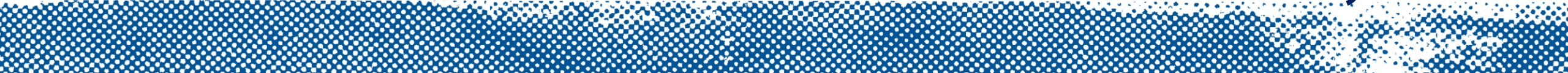
UF

The name does not lie - it was an opportunity for me. Four years ago, I was not even expecting to go to college due to my financial status. I was okay with the idea of living and working near home. But, as I was given the opportunity to go to the University of Florida, I became independent. I focused on my goals and education instead of finances and struggles. I even managed to live halfway across the world in South Korea for a semester. All of these were things that I once thought were unattainable. I am so thankful for this experience..

**Gabriela Mendoza,  
Telecommunication Graduate**



# 2016 MFOS Welcome Reception at Powell University House



Circumstances may change, but nothing can extinguish the brightness with which your accomplishment shines. Your families are proud of you. We are proud of you. And as you stand at the precipice of your career or graduate education, please do not cross the threshold without remembering to be proud of yourselves. You are not merely a member of the Gator Nation. You are an integral part of the Gator Nation's DNA. Go Gators!

**Matthew Cowley, Career  
Connections Center**



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**UF**

I will miss pretty much everything, but specifically the sense of home I created out of this place. These past four years flew by but they were the most challenging yet influential years of my life so far and I really learned so much about myself because of UF.

**Altagracia Marte, African  
American Studies Graduate**





# Ilaisah Martinez, Sabrina Chiu, and Mishal Khan



2016

2020

You are the dreams of your ancestors come true -  
congratulations!

**Antonio Farias, Chief  
Diversity Officer**





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There really isn't a way to put into words the amount of gratitude I have for this program and its donors. I have been able to accomplish many things from my personal and career goals thanks to this program which without which I wouldn't have had to the opportunity to attend higher learning without the financial burden. As I look into the future and think of "What comes next?", I hope to accomplish something as impactful as this program.

**Franchesca Carrera, Landscape  
Architecture Graduate**

# UF Faculty/Staff Invited by MFOS Scholars

Joslyn Ahlgren  
Madeline Coy  
Valerie DeLeon  
Patrick Ford  
Susan Frost  
Larry Forthun  
Victor Harris  
Patricia Hilliard-Nunn  
Ambre Hobson

Randy Lee  
Carly Logan  
Mira Lowe  
Suzanne Murphy  
Dekendrick Murray  
Craig Schmitt  
Carl Simien  
Rik Stevenson  
Jason Ward





Ilaisah Martinez as a Preview Staffer and during her internship

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UF

Thank you. Thank you for assisting me with tools to break down systemic oppression by getting access to the education system which I would not have found myself in otherwise. I have not taken any learning opportunity for granted and cannot wait to have many more when I pursue my PhD in Health Behaviors. You've used your platform, not to speak on our behalf, but to raise up others and I can't thank you enough for that.

**Jarrett Repasky, Applied Physiology  
and Kinesiology Graduate**

Congratulations MFOS grads! May your successes throughout your years at UF give you the confidence to meet challenges in the future. Keep reaching for the stars! We are so proud of you!

**Joelen Merkel, MFOS  
Leadership Council past chair**





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Thank you for believing in me when you had no idea who I was. Because of you, I will have the opportunity to lead future generations as I move forward into a career in Education. I aspire to inspire students to reach their full potential and never give up on their dreams. Graduating as not only a University of Florida Alumni, but as a MFOS Alumni gives me so much pride! GO UF and GO MFOS!!!

**Sarah Stanley, Family, Youth and  
Community Sciences Graduate**

Congratulations! As you take your next steps in personal and professional lives, know that there are staff and faculty members here that are still here as a resource.

**Reginald Lane, Sorority  
and Fraternity Affairs**





# Kimberly's Center for Child Protection



# Merari Saldana during her internship and presenting research



**FYCS** Parenting and Emerging Adulthood: Do Parents Still Matter?  
Merari Flores Saldana, B.S. Student and UF University Scholar  
Larry Fursten, Ph.D.

**Introduction**  
Emerging adulthood is a stage in life marked by exploration of different opportunities and experimenting with different roles, which distinguishes it from adolescence and adulthood (Arnett, 2015; Luyckx et al., 2007; Marcia, 1966). This ambivalence from the process of exploration requires the need for emotional self-regulation (Arnett, 2015; Gross & John, 2003). Most emerging adults are also living away from their caregivers in this stage, which may challenge the role of parenting in the emerging adult's life.

**Purpose & Hypotheses**  
**Purpose:** Examine how psychological control and nurturance may affect emerging adult identity development and emotional self-regulation from a person-centered approach. The person-centered approach is to evaluate the emerging adults' perceptions of their parents to create profiles based on individual parenting characteristics (Magnusson & Stattin, 2006).  
**Hypothesis 1:** Parenting profiles with high nurturance would result in higher identity exploration, commitment, and use of cognitive reappraisal for emotional self-regulation.  
**Hypothesis 2:** Parenting profiles with high psychological control would result in lower levels of exploration and commitment and higher use of suppression.

**Participants**  
The population was with emerging adults the 4,407 students who participated, a majority as females (n=70%) and others as males (n=29.3%). A majority of the participants identified their race as White (n=60.7%), Black Asian (n=14.6%), Hispanic (11.5%), Middle Eastern (n=6.5%), South Asian (n=4.1%), Middle Eastern (n=1.7%), and Colored-South African (n=1%).

**Methods**  
The data being used for this study was from the Multi-Site University Study of Identity and Culture (MUSIC) survey, which was collected using a cross-sectional online survey.  
**Correlations between variables:** Pearson's R Correlation  
**Creation of Profiles:** Two-Step Cluster Analysis  
**Ward's Method of Agglomeration with Squared Euclidean Distance**  
**K-Means Cluster Procedure:** using cluster centers  
**Variability with Parenting Profiles and Emerging Adult Variables:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

**Results**  
The data being used for this study was from the Multi-Site University Study of Identity and Culture (MUSIC) survey, which was collected using a cross-sectional online survey.

**Parenting Profiles**  
Bar chart showing Mean Scores for Parenting Profiles across variables: Identity Exploration, Identity Commitment, Cognitive Reappraisal, and Suppression.

**Conclusion**  
Parenting profiles with high nurturance and low psychological control resulted in higher identity exploration, commitment, and use of cognitive reappraisal for emotional self-regulation.  
When there are high levels of psychological control even with high and low levels of nurturance, emerging adults experienced lower levels of exploration, commitment, and higher use of suppression.  
One finding that stood out from this research is that high maternal nurturance and low psychological control yielded positive outcomes and resulted in emerging adults with positive identity development and emotional self-regulation.

**References**

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Words cannot describe how grateful I am for the MFOS supporters. Before coming to UF, I didn't know you could dream while being awake, it was something I had never experienced before. MFOS made it possible for me to attain my highest goal of being the first in my family to graduate from a university, and it made it possible for me to believe in setting even higher goals post graduation.

**Barbara Torres, Nursing Graduate**

Congrats MFOS Scholars! While this is a challenging time to graduate, you have successfully overcome many hurdles in life and are prepared for success with your UF degree. We are joining with the Gator Nation to cheer you on in your next stages of life. God Bless and Go Gators! - The Grateful Gadsbys

**Mr. and Mrs. Gadsby,  
MFOS Supporters**

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**UF**

Thank you to everyone who is a part of MFOS, because without you I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have done while at UF. You gave me the freedom and support that I needed to thrive and be successful, not only at UF, but also beyond college.

**Katarzyna Leavitt, Biology Graduate**

Congratulations to all the MFOS students from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences! We are so proud of you!

**Cathy Carr, College of  
Agricultural and Life  
Sciences**







Ilaisah Martinez,  
Sabrina Chiu,  
and Mishal Khan

2019

2017



Congratulations to each and every MFOS graduate  
from CLAS!

**Joe Spillane, College of  
Liberal Arts and Sciences**

