Faculty of Higher Education

Carol-Anne Phekoo, Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director
Ph.D., Higher Education Leadership, University of Miami

Dr. Phekoo joined the University of Miami faculty in 2000 and currently serves as the Director of the Higher Education Program. The Higher Education Program offers a doctoral degree in Higher Education Leadership and a master’s degree with specializations in Enrollment Management and Student Life & Development.

Read full biography [here].

Pedro Villarreal III, Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Higher Education, Pennsylvania State University


Read full biography [here].
**Professional Faculty**

**Isis Artze-Vega**, Associate Director, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Florida International University  
Ed.D., Higher Education Leadership, University of Miami

Dr. Artze-Vega works with FIU faculty and graduate students to promote learning-centered teaching practices. Prior to working at FIU, she taught English Composition at the University of Miami.

**Gail Cole-Avent**, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and University Ombudsperson at University of Miami  
Ph.D., Counseling and Student Personnel Services, University of Georgia

Dr. Cole-Avent is the Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and University Ombudsperson. She serves on the executive team for the Division of Student Affairs with responsibilities including strategic planning and assessment, crisis management, conflict resolution, emergency assistance, professional development, and special projects. Her leadership has included serving as a coordinator for the Clinton Global Initiative University hosted on campus in 2010 as well as implementing new services and programs for military veteran students. Past work experiences include residential life, honors education, conduct, and leadership development.
**Ricardo Hall**, Dean of Students and Assistant Vice president of Student Affairs  
Ph.D., Educational Leadership, Clemson University

Dean Hall has been a Hurricane since 2006, and has since served as a faculty member in the School of Education and Human Development. He manages the Dean of Students Office and is a co-Advisor for Student Government and the Committee on Student Organizations.  
Read full biography [here](#).

**Scott Ingold**, Director and Functional Lead, Campus Solutions ERP  
Ed.D., Curriculum & Instruction, Florida International University

Dr. Ingold joined the Campus Solutions, ERP team in 2012 in order to centralize the university’s student information systems, which include Admission, Financial Aid, Registrar, Academic Advisement, and Student Financials. Prior to joining the ERP team, he was the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar.  
Read full biography [here](#).
William (Tony) Lake, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Judicial Affairs  
Ph.D., Higher Education Administration, Bowling Green University

Dean Lake joined the University of Miami in 2008 overseeing the student discipline process and advising the Panhellenic Association. He also serves as the Deputy Title IX Coordinator.  
Read full biography here.

Gary Markowitz, Campus President, Keiser University  
Ed.D., Higher Education Leadership, University of Miami

Dr. Markowitz joined Keiser University in 1999 as Director of Continuing Education and became President of the University’s Miami Campus with its opening in 2002. As Campus President, Dr. Markowitz is the senior administrator leading 120 faculty and staff members in ensuring quality academic programs, designing and executing campus goals, coordinating business functions, compliance, and community development.
**Brian Orefice**, Senior Associate Director, University Honors & Scholars Center, The Ohio State University  
Ph.D., Higher Education, The Ohio State University

Brian M. Orefice has held administrative positions in residential life, academic affairs, commuter student affairs, parent programs, and orientation and first year experience. He currently serves as the Senior Associate Director of the University Honors & Scholars Center at The Ohio State University. In this position, he has primary oversight of the Ohio State Scholars Program, which is comprised of 17 distinct, selective, and thematic residential learning communities that enroll over 4,200 students. His main responsibilities are with enrollment management, strategic planning, student learning and assessment, program development, and budgeting.

Brian has presented locally, regionally and nationally about topics such as learning communities, new student and parent orientation, academic and student affairs partnerships, leadership development, and diversity and multiculturalism. Brian also holds an adjunct faculty appointment at The Ohio State University in the College of Education and Human Ecology. Currently, he teaches both undergraduate and graduate students in areas of leadership and group dynamics, enrollment management, college student development, and contemporary issues in higher education.

Read full biography [here](#).

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**Brian Weinblatt**, Senior Development Director of Development, School of Communication at University of Miami  
Ph.D., Higher Education, University of Toledo

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Dr. Weinblatt has expertise in university advancement, student affairs and governance and administration. He has extensive experience in major gift fundraising, alumni relations, program development and implementation and staff/volunteer supervision. He currently oversees the major gifts program for one of the highest-ranked and broadest schools of communication in the United States, UM’s School of Communication, managing the cultivation and stewardship of the donor base including significantly expanded contacts with alumni, parents and friends of the school. Prior to joining the University of Miami, he was the Director of Development at Nova Southeastern University, Abraham S. Fischler School of Education from 2008-2011.

Patricia Whitely, Vice President for Student affairs
Ed.D., Higher Education Leadership, University of Miami

Dr. Whitely is the Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of Miami. She has served on the National Association of Student Personnel Administrator's (NASPA) Foundation Board, is a frequent presenter for the NASPA Alice Manicur Symposium and has served on the NASPA Editorial Board and NASPA Region III Committee. On February 2013, she was elected as Chair of the Board of Directors for NASPA and will assume full duties on March 2014, for a one-year term.

Dr. Whitely has been honored with numerous awards by the student community at the University of Miami. In 2012, the University of Miami Student Government Executive Board honored her by naming a new award entitled the "Patricia A. Whitely Unsung Hero Award", and NASPA Region III awarded her the "John Jones Award" for Outstanding Performance as a Senior Student Affairs Professional. She is the recipient of the 2013 NASPA Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Senior Student Affairs Officer, the highest award in her profession, as well as the recipient of the 2009 NASPA Pillar of the Profession. Read full biography here.