

For Immediate Release

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**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT HONORS WOMEN
FLORIDA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY
DEBUTING NEWEST PORTRAITS BY PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST SCHERLEY BUSCH**

Over 100 guests, including community leaders and students, were on hand for an exhibition reception and awards ceremony in honor of the newest members of FWA's impressive roster of women leaders as Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez joined the celebration to present a proclamation in celebration of the Florida Women of Achievement at Barry University's Andy Gato Gallery in Miami Shores, 11300 N.E. 2nd Avenue Miami Shores, FL 33161.

This year artist Scherley Busch captured photographic portraits of new inductees City of Homestead's first woman council member, Ruth L. Campbell; Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman; Miami Lighthouse for the Blind CEO/president Virginia Jacko; State Senator Gwen Margolis; mentor/public speaker Tracy Wilson Mourning; Good Government Initiative President/CEO Katy Sorensen; business executive and philanthropist Mary Spencer; and entrepreneur/community activist Carol Williamson. Recognized for their outstanding contributions and positive influence on our state, the women join the on going collection which was started in 1992 by Busch. Reflecting diverse cultures, ethnicities and careers, the inductees include leaders and trailblazers as Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Athalie Range, Gloria Estefan and Chris Evert. The entire collection of FWA will remain on display through April 23 at Barry University's Gato Gallery, open daily from 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

"What began as the women's movement in the 70s has evolved into a phenomenal consciousness of the importance of giving women opportunities in education and career choices," says Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, Honorary Chair of Florida Women of Achievement. Beyond an impressive collection of environmental portraits, the exhibit is also a powerful educational and inspirational tool. As in years past, some of these remarkable role models will step out of their portraits and into the classroom to share their personal stories and experiences with our future leaders during the [Opportunities & Challenges Lecture Series](#) at Barry University on April 11, 12 and 17. This year's speakers include Barry University's President Emerita Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin; U.S. Court of Appeals Judge and first female Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court Rosemary Barkett; Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman; President and CEO of The Good Government Initiative Katy Sorensen; Miami Lighthouse for the Blind CEO Virginia Jacko; former Florida State Senator Elaine Bloom; first Black woman reporter at the Miami Herald, Bea L. Hines; business leader and philanthropist Mary Spencer; and National Teachers Hall of Fame member, Ellen Kempler. For more information and reservations call 305 899 3420.

Guided tours of the historic exhibit will also be presented by creator/ director Scherley Busch. "As the women's movement has evolved so has the documentary. FWA has become a beacon, illuminating women leaders who serve as universal role models to inspire and empower young women and men to accomplish their goals and to see the importance of giving back to community. Each leader, shown in an environment that reflects something about her life or inspiration, exemplifies what can be accomplished with a dream and the drive to make the dream a reality. " says Busch.

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2011-12

OPPORTUNITIES &
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BIOS 1992-2010

ABOUT THE
ARTIST

FLORIDA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES 2012

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RUTH L. CAMPBELL

A member of the pioneer Campbell family, Ruth L. Campbell has a very long history of service and deep roots with the City of Homestead. The first woman elected to the Homestead City Council, she also served as Vice Mayor. After 34 years as a public servant she was awarded the title of Honorary Mayor of Krome Avenue. She is currently the museum director and local historian of the Historic Homestead Town Hall Museum. Ruth has served on local, state, and national boards for Historic Preservation and continues to be involved in government and civic affairs. She is photographed in front of Homestead's Historic Townhall.

SALLY HEYMAN

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman also served as an elected official in the Florida House of Representatives for four consecutive terms, as Council Member for the City of North Miami Beach for seven years, and worked for the City of Miami and North Miami Beach Police Department. Serving in her third elected office, Sally's main focus is public safety and works on various issues, especially social services; women, children and vulnerable adults; personal freedoms; affordable healthcare; and emergency management. She is a Crime and Loss Prevention Specialist and Attorney who has her own consulting firm. A South Florida native, Sally is photographed at Haulover Beach with her dog, Andi.

VIRGINIA JACKO

A blind visionary in a sighted world, Virginia Jacko is president and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Under her leadership, the Miami Lighthouse has steadily increased services, program participation and donor contributions, while gaining recognition as a national Center of Excellence in vision rehabilitation. During her tenure as CEO, Miami Lighthouse has received five consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from the national evaluator, Charity Navigator, placing it among the top 4% of non-profits in the U.S. Her biography, *The Blind Visionary*, was published in 2010, with her royalties benefitting the Miami Lighthouse. Virginia is photographed in front of the Miami Lighthouse with her guide dog, Kieran.

GWEN MARGOLIS

For four decades, Gwen Margolis has served the public in the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate and on the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. On November 2, 1990 Senator Margolis became the first woman to serve as president of any Senate in the United States of America. Throughout her career she has been an agent for positive change while receiving recognition and honors for her leadership and dedication to the community. Professionally she has been a licensed real-estate agent and an investor for 35 years. She is photographed in front of the great seal of the Florida State Senate.

TRACY WILSON MOURNING

The founder of the Honey Shine Mentoring Program, Tracy is passionate about nurturing the mind, body and soul of young women in at-risk situations. Honey Shine teaches real-life skills to help girls transition into adulthood with grace and confidence. She is currently working to expand the program nationwide. A mentor, broadcast journalist, motivational speaker, soon-to-be published author, loving mother and wife and designer, Tracy recently launched her lifestyle design company, Honey Child. She is photographed with her mother, who is her life-long source