



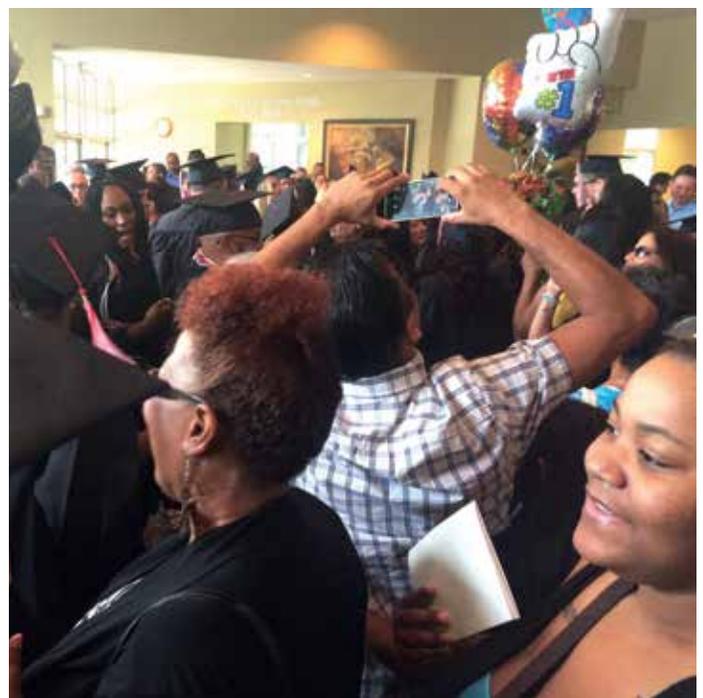
# City Spotlight

## Dreams Come True

Altamonte Springs Campus

City College of Altamonte Springs Commencement Ceremony was celebrated at Northland Church on Friday, July 24th at 5pm. Almost 100 graduates proudly wore their academic regalia before their family and friends, as well as administrators, department chairs, instructors and special guests. The graduates were recognized for their achievements and rewarding choices by the Executive Director. The guest speaker, Dr. Longstreet, encouraged the graduates to never stop dreaming, and always work towards achieving their dreams. The eagerly awaited degrees were conferred to the excited graduates who happily exited to congratulations and celebrations and making their dreams come true.

**SPECIAL  
Graduation  
EDITION**  
.....  
**Fall 2015**



# It's Never Too Late

## Fort Lauderdale Campus

Fort Lauderdale City College graduate Judith Sinkow is a perfect example of the expression “it’s never too late.” She decided to attend college for the first time at age 77. “I realized that I would not be good at retiring. I had thought about it for a long time and decided not to put it off any longer,” said Judith. Prior to getting her A.S. in Private Investigation this past July, Judith worked as a realtor. She has two children and two grandchildren who have been supportive and encouraging in her decision to attend college. Judith chose City

College because she found “private investigating intriguing.” Judith completed her degree with nearly perfect attendance and as Student of the Quarter recipient. She says that she enjoys school and has considered the possibility of getting another degree in business. Currently, Judith is enjoying her extra free time writing and sketching. She also hopes to get her Private Investigation license after gaining some experience in the field. Congratulations to Judith and to all of the City College graduates.



*Fort Lauderdale Private Investigation Graduates*



*Fort Lauderdale Nursing Graduates*



*Fort Lauderdale Allied Health Graduates*



*Fort Lauderdale Business Graduates*



*Fort Lauderdale graduate Judith Sinkow waits her turn to receive her hard-earned diploma*

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Mr. Ralph Rios, guest speaker of the City College Miami Campus Ceremony (extreme right), addresses the audience. A most beautiful and lovely graduation ceremony! July 17, 2015

## On Self-Knowledge

### Miami Campus

The Miami Campus graduation was a beautiful event; a fitting and crowning effort to our students' achievements. Years of hard work and dedication come to fruition in an unforgettable evening; many of the attendees were in tears of joy and happiness.

#### **On Self-Knowledge- Gibran**

Your hearts know in silence the secrets of the days and the nights.  
But your ears thirst for the sound of your heart's knowledge.  
You would know in words that which you have always known in thought.  
You would touch with your fingers the naked body of your dreams.

And it is well you should.  
The hidden well-spring of your soul must needs rise and run murmuring to the sea;  
And the treasure of your infinite depths would be revealed to your eyes.  
But let there be no scales to weigh your unknown treasure;  
And seek not the depths of your knowledge with staff or sounding line.  
For self is a sea boundless and measureless.

Say not, "I have found the truth," but rather, "I have found a truth."  
Say not, "I have found the path of the soul." Say rather, "I have met the soul walking upon my path."  
For the soul walks upon all paths.  
The soul walks not upon a line, neither does it grow like a reed.  
The soul unfolds itself like a lotus of countless petals.



Hollywood Campus Class of 2015

## A New Chapter

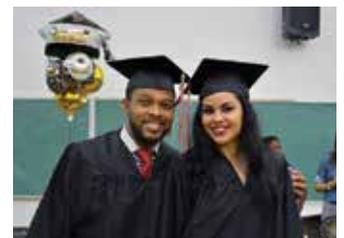
### Hollywood Campus

**Congratulations to our graduating students! You have reached a milestone in your life and your accomplishments. Graduation is a time to recognize the completion of a program of study and to celebrate a beginning, the commencing of a new chapter in your life.**

**As you celebrate your achievements, take a moment to thank all your loved ones for ceaselessly supporting you in your efforts to get here. I encourage you to reflect on the qualities and strengths you have developed that helped you achieve this important goal. You have been given the foundation for creating a successful life. Treasure what you have learned and all the moments of your success. Move forward into your future enthusiastically, embrace all possibilities. Your academic accomplishments will bring you a new chapter in your life, just remember to live with purpose and integrity, create passion, explore curiosity, and strive for excellence. Wherever this journey takes you, you will always be a part of the City College Hollywood family.**



Hollywood Graduates (Left to Right): Mackendy Talon, Melissa Gutierrez, Alberto Mora-Alvarado and Idaliz Rivera



Graduates Mackendy Talon and Melissa Gutierrez



Graduate Alberto Mora-Alvarado (Business Administration-Management)



Allied Health Graduates Giselle Cartagena, Tracy Agatone, Angenard Alexis

# Graduate Banquet

## Gainesville Campus

Graduates from the 2014-2015 year attended the third annual graduate banquet in their honor on July 9, 2015 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Gainesville. During the event two guest speakers shared their inspirational stories. Office Manager Sherry Carter from UF Health's Hampton Oaks ENT spoke first; inspiring the graduates with her own story of how she moved from being a MA to successfully managing a medical office. After sharing some monumental hurdles she faced in her life, Sherry's message of how to retain a job centered on reliability, professional protocols, and commitment. After dinner, 2013 MA graduate Tonyell Bradley reflected on her one and a half year post graduation from City College. Having faced many difficulties herself, Tonyell emphasized perseverance - which she demonstrated by attaining and retaining her job as an MA for Dr. Black in Gainesville in the face of self-doubt and difficult circumstances.

In addition to the speakers, a new honor was awarded this year as all employees of the Gainesville campus voted on an outstanding graduate who exhibited great caring and modeling to their fellow students. A tie resulted and two graduates were honored: Thomas Robertson and James Shepard.

The evening also featured the induction of 5 graduates as National Honor Society (Alpha Beta Kappa) members. Congratulations to all!



Outstanding Graduates Thomas Robertson and James Shepard were awarded based on their selfless acts of assisting other students academically and



Graduates and guests line up for dinner at the Graduate Banquet



Valedictorian James Shepard and guest at the Graduate Banquet



Graduates Erika Greenleaf and Vanessa Mitchum with guest at Banquet



Lisa Briggs and Ronda Washington with guest



Graduates Gabrielle Holder, Felicia Gibbons and Christine Seay with guests



Gainesville Graduates Shauniece Pate, Regina Hopkins, Thomas Robertson, Gloria Shepherd and Zina Thompson pose after their induction into the National Honor Society

# Journey of a Lifetime

## Gainesville Campus

"Each quarter, our new students begin their journey towards graduation. Each of our students has made the decision to improve their lives through education. As in life, the pursuit of your degree is not a sprint, but a journey.

It is our intention (not to mention, our responsibility) as the staff of City College to insure that each of our students receives an extraordinary educational experience while on that journey. Our students certainly face trials while on their journeys; and many stumble hard. However, as Dr. Martin Luther King explains, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy".

Therefore, our goal is to continually support and right the path on which our students travel so that each student graduates and ultimately is rewarded with the career for which they came to City College." \_ Brian Quirk, *Executive Director*

## You Did It!

### Hollywood Campus

"As the Registrar for the Hollywood campus, I have had the immense pleasure of personally working with every student enrolled. During this time, students have shared with me many of their personal stories about the struggles, obstacles, and hardships they face while going to school that could prevent them from persisting through to graduation. Day in and day out, I saw

these students show up for class and work through to overcome these challenges. They did not give up! They worked hard to achieve their educational goals.

On July 24, 2015, I was honored to be at graduation to witness these students graduate. Their perseverance and dedication has inspired me both personally and professionally. Today, I

want to take the time to personally congratulate these students on their monumental achievement, YOU DID IT!

My greatest hope for the class of 2015 is that you all continue to challenge yourself, grow as professionals and see in yourself what we at City College see in you."  
\_ Michelle Sanchez, *Registrar*



City College Hollywood Allied Health graduates Harlea McCain and Laronda Kohn

## The Key to Success

### Miami Campus

"Dear Graduates: I could not be happier that you have reached this important milestone in your life. You must be very proud of yourself, chasing a dream requires effort and passion. I know your families are proud of you as well, not only for your achievement but the example you have shown to others of perseverance and determination.



Remember, your studies might be over but the process of learning never ends. You are ready to embark on another exciting chapter of your life and continued learning is the key to success! Wishing you all the best in the wonderful career you have chosen. Congratulations!" \_ Marion D'Amour, *Executive Director*

# Never Give Up!

## Fort Lauderdale Campus

On July 31<sup>st</sup> you celebrated a momentous occasion; you graduated! Congratulations! You have worked hard and have overcome many obstacles to deserve this honor, and you should not take it lightly. Be proud and celebrate your achievement. Cherish this moment, this day, and this opportunity. Move forward in life knowing that you can accomplish great things. However, this is not the end; it is only the beginning of your new journey. Do not forget what you have learned and know that your education

is not over. Each day will bring new challenges and new opportunities. Face those challenges with the same determination that you demonstrated while a student at City College. Never give up! As you take the next step into your new future, remember to take the time to help and serve others. Explore and develop your unique talents and make a difference in the lives of those around you. May your new path take you where you want to go and bring you pleasant surprises! I wish you good luck and many future successes.

— Doug Goodwin, *Executive Director*



Fort Lauderdale Executive Director Doug Goodwin (center) poses with Nursing graduates Ashley LaBrode (left) and Ana Hatzikonstantinou (right)



Fort Lauderdale Executive Director, Doug Goodwin (r), presents Private Investigation graduate Judith Sinkow (l) her diploma during graduation

Visit the City College student web portal at [myportal.citycollege.edu](http://myportal.citycollege.edu)

## Guest Speaker Biography

### Fort Lauderdale Campus



Scott Mager

Scott Mager is a successful attorney, author and motivational coach. He handled very significant plaintiff and defense cases in multiple states, representing individuals to multi-billion dollar companies, and even an entire country; served as lead counsel on the internationally covered "Baby T" case; and lead counsel for a multi-billion dollar insurance conglomerate, who also honored him with the National Litigator of the Year award - given to only one person. Just by way of example, his last three successes included one of the largest defamation verdicts in Dade County (\$9,000,000), another on behalf of a young child who was sexually abused by her neighbor (\$3,500,000), and \$13,000,000+ result on behalf of a large condominium development that suffered property damages. Mr. Mager has also handled many hundreds of appellate matters. He is licensed in multiple states (FL, NY, TN, Washington, DC) and in the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a Member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, The Best Trial Lawyers of America; Member of the Litigation Counsel of America, Proven Trial Lawyers; and has been repeatedly honored with being awarded the highest attorney rating in both ethical standards and professional ability. He is also a Florida Supreme Court Circuit Court Certified Mediator with a 100% settlement success rate.

Mr. Mager has also trained thousands of lawyers on a multitude of legal topics. He has over 150 case summaries, articles and lectures to his credit, and has taught and lectured at a number of law schools, Ph.D. programs, graduate and undergraduate programs. He has given over 100 presentations on a variety of topics. He has co-hosted/appeared on numerous television/radio broadcasts covering legal, motivation, and ethical issues.

In addition to his other motivational teachings to professionals and companies, he has also dedicated substantial time to empowering thousands of students on a variety of life skills topics, including bettering oral/written communication skills, career decision-making, relationships, conflict resolution, stress management, etc. Perhaps most significant, Mr. Mager is a wonderful human being that has made a difference in the life of so many, including helping the underprivileged, and has given or raised millions of dollars for charities. He also utilized his success as a jazz concert promoter to produce concert events for over a decade, bringing Award Winning Pop/Jazz bands to theaters and donating all proceeds to charity. He also custom designs concert events for companies seeking market awareness advantages or for charitable goals. Among the many honors, the NFL awarded him the NFL Community Quarterback Philanthropist Award for Extraordinary Charitable Service to the Community.

## Words to Live By

### Gainesville Campus



*Mr. Joseph Lowry*

City College Gainesville Campus Graduation was held on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Phillips Center. Over 1,000 family members and friends packed the Phillips Center on the UF Campus eager to see their loved one walk across the stage. Mr.

Joseph Lowry, a successful Entrepreneur and Gainesville resident of 25 years, was the Commencement speaker.

Mr. Lowry founded The Lowry Group in 1989 which grew to become Lowry Financial Advisors in 2000. Lowry Financial Advisors has about 250 individual and corporate client relationships in 20 states and Latin America. Mr. Lowry is dedicated to giving back to the Gainesville community. He was awarded the 2014 Impact Winner by Gainesville Business Magazine for his community involvement.

Mr. Lowry was excited to be invited to speak to City College's graduating class. He encouraged graduates to think of themselves as a product they will be presenting to the work force. He said "...think of yourself as You INC." He spoke to the graduates about all the things they can do to be the best they can be by taking care of their physical health, their spiritual side, and he commended them for completing their education which he pointed out is a vital piece of professional development.

A special thank you to Mr. Lowry and heartfelt congratulations to our Graduates!



*Students listen to the encouraging words delivered by the Miami Campus guest speakers*

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## A Benediction

### Miami Campus



*Here Ms. Weathers (2nd from left) is accompanied by Mr. Randell Docks, Surgical Tech Chair (extreme left), Mr. Fred Gonzaga (Instructor) and Ms. Magaline Goman, Business Department Chair.*

Ms. Norma Weathers, Miami Campus Director of Academic Excellence, beautifully delivered both the invocation and the benediction.

Here is the benediction:

"Today is also fresh and new, and like no other day. Today is a "kairos" moment of opportunity that has come and will pass in a moment. Today

is a passage from one epoch to another. Today is a gift. Grant grace to see it and seize it.

Today is a graduation, a passage, a completion, an inauguration. Today we pray for all those who have met the challenge and kept the faith to the commitments of their studies. Now they have a new "kairos" before them. We first offer thanks for the success of their journey. We thank for their focus and direction and their strength and endurance. The knowledge and understanding they have mastered. Their curiosity and capacity determination has led them in pursuit. All these good things came from the divine inspiration. Today we also pray for tomorrow. This graduation opens another door to another time. As you have led in the past, lead now into the future. Give them focus and clarity and a calling from you to understand their purpose and the courage to respond and step toward that purpose."

## Guest Speaker Biography

### Miami Campus



*Mr. Ralph Rios*

Mr. Ralph Rios, Vice President of Professional Services at West Kendall Baptist Hospital, leads a range of clinical ancillary services including surgery, laboratory, nutrition services, rehabilitation and the medical hospitalist program. During his 20 year career at Baptist Health, he has served in a number of positions, beginning in the direct patient care role of physical therapist and most recently at South Miami Hospital,

where he was on the executive team that earned the Governors Sterling Award in 2009. He is a member of FIU's Honors College Community Advisory Board and he also served as an adjunct instructor for FIU's Health Services Administration program from 2001-2008.

Mr. Rios obtained a Master's degree in Health Services Administration from Florida International University and completed an administrative residency. He is the 2015 President of the South Florida Healthcare Executive Forum, the local chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Dr. Neff, Dr. Longstreet, and Mr. Castellano (left-right)

# Words of Encouragement

## Altamonte Springs Campus

Executive Director, Paul Castellano, spoke to our graduates about their chosen career paths of service to others. He focused on the personal reward of a career of service to others and most importantly on the responsibility of recognizing and valuing the impact the Graduates will have on those they serve.

Excerpts from his address to the graduates: "Graduates,

you have chosen careers rooted in service to others. You will have patients, customers and clients, all whom will be counting on you to do your very best for them. There is no greater reward than knowing you have made a positive difference in someone's life. You are poised to have a lifetime of reward. Your chosen careers will allow you to impact individuals and families on a daily basis, only you can make the choice to have a

positive impact and truly be of service to them. Be assured this will not always be easy nor will the best path be clear, you will need to draw upon all you have learned in school and as you develop in your profession all you will continue to learn."

"I wish you a lifetime of happiness and success as you leave City College and begin through your new careers to make a positive impact on our community and the people you serve."



Amanda Holland and proud graduate



Ceremony color guard

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