FIU alumna Carmen Reinhart (nee Castellanos), was just featured in the Sunday, July 4, 2010 New York Times for her path-breaking research! Her latest book, This Time is Different, (co-authored with Kenneth Rogoff) is a highly acclaimed examination of the history of economic crisis and collapse. You can read the story, “They did their homework (800 years of it)” here.

According to the Times, Carmen is “…the most influential female economist in the world.” While many of you were not at FIU when Carmen was an undergraduate here, our faculty then had the same fire in the belly for their students as we do today. Carmen’s accomplishments are more reason to have pride in our institution and to celebrate our world’s ahead attitude in fostering student success. Carmen was 10 when she left Cuba with her parents. She is a 1978 graduate of our Department of Economics. She credits her then professor Peter Montiel, with helping her turn the impossible into the inevitable through advice and encouragement that led ultimately to a Ph.D. at Columbia University. (Professor Montiel is now the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. ’41 Professor of Economics, Williams College, pmontiel@williams.edu.)

She then had successive appointments in the International Monetary Fund and at the University of Maryland where she now serves as professor of economics and director of the Center for International Economics. Two of her papers have garnered over 2,000 citations each and an additional three have each been cited over 1,000 times.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Carmen Reinhart for her well-deserved recognition. Her email is creinhar@umd.edu. You may find other information on our alumna at http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~creinhar.