FIU congratulates this year’s top scholars.
These professors have been honored with prestigious awards, grants and recognitions that acknowledge excellence in teaching and research.

Jose Almendral
Chemistry and Biochemistry

Atosor Aziznaini
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Thomas Baner
Law

Lynne Barrett
Creative Writing

Shu-Ching Chen
Computing and Information Sciences

Abraham Chomsebury
Civil and Environmental Engineering

David Cohen
Social Work

Albert Gan
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Nazieh Campana
Public Administration

Sera Cielo
Surgery

Kinzey Jones
Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Ranjak Jung
Biomedical Engineering

Philippe Kote
Law

Alexi Kennedy
Leadership and Professional Studies

Jordanna Mastro
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Merideth Newman
Public Administration

Fernando Noreiga
Biological Sciences

William Petley
Psychology

Thomas Reid
Leadership and Professional Studies

David Reiner
Architecture

Nadirah Robie
Computing and Information Sciences

Cerido Robie
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Edgardo Roman
Law

Nicole Ruggiano
Social Work

Leonardo Scinto
Earth and Environment

Monica Tremblay
Decision Science and Information Systems

Mary Jo Tepica
Epidemiology

Maria Elena Villa
Advertising and Public Relations

Wenbo Wang
Advertising and Public Relations

James Wynnonya
Psychiatry

Mark Weirs
Computing and Information Sciences

Joanne Youngblut
Nursing

Creative Writing Professor Lynne Barrett won the Florida Book Awards gold medal for General Fiction for her collection of short stories, Majors. The awards honoring the Sunshine State's best books and their authors, were presented at the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs' Heritage Month, 2012 ceremony in Tallahassee. Almendral and Magpie will be recognized in the summer issue of FORUM, the magazine of the Florida Humanities Council. Signed copies of the book will be placed in the Governor's Mansion Library and in the permanent collection in the Lobby of Florida State University's Main Library, home of the Florida Book Awards.

Chemistry Professor Jose Almendral was recently awarded grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for his research in forensic chemistry. Dr. Almendral, director of FIU's International Forensic Research Institute, is improving the detection and analysis of drugs and explosives and the forensic examination of other trace evidence. Dr. Almendral has trained hundreds of forensic scientists in the U.S. and around the world on the use of the tools developed in his laboratory at FIU.