

# 2012 Top Scholars

Engineering Professor **ARINDAM CHOWDHURY** is the recipient of the 2012 Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation. The prestigious award supports the career development of scholars who effectively integrate research and education. Dr. Chowdhury holds more than \$3.4 million in grants for his research on the effects of hurricane winds and rain on buildings and other structures. He is one of the leading researchers involved with FIU's 12-fan Wall of Wind simulation laboratory. The Wall of Wind is a one-of-a-kind facility that simulates hurricane effects to improve the design of buildings in their paths.



Creative Writing Professor **LYNNE BARRETT** won the Florida Book Awards gold medal for General Fiction for her collection of short stories *Magpies*. 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, and *Magpies* will be recognized in the summer issue of *FORUM*, the magazine of the Florida Humanities Council. Signed copies of the book have been 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.



- JOSÉ ALMIRALL  
Chemistry and Biochemistry
- ATOROD AZIZINAMINI  
Civil and Environmental Engineering
- THOMAS BAKER  
Law
- LYNNE BARRETT  
Creative Writing
- SHU-CHING CHEN  
Computing and Information Sciences
- ARINDAM CHOWDHURY  
Civil and Environmental Engineering
- DAVID COHEN  
Social Work
- ALBERT GAN  
Civil and Environmental Engineering
- NAZIFE GANAPATI  
Public Administration
- SEZA GULEC  
Surgery
- KINZY JONES  
Mechanical and Materials Engineering
- RANU JUNG  
Biomedical Engineering
- PHYLLIS KOTÉY  
Law
- ALEXIS MCKENNEY  
Leadership and Professional Studies
- JAROSLAVA MIKSOVSKA  
Chemistry & Biochemistry
- MEREDITH NEWMAN  
Public Administration
- FERNANDO NORIEGA  
Biological Sciences
- WILLIAM PELHAM  
Psychology
- THOMAS REJO  
Leadership and Professional Studies
- DAVID RIFKIND  
Architecture
- NAPHTALI RISHE  
Computing and Information Sciences
- GUSTAVO ROIG  
Electrical and Computer Engineering
- EDIBERTO ROMÁN  
Law
- NICOLE RUGGIANO  
Social Work
- LEONARD SCINTO  
Earth and Environment
- MONICA TREMBLAY  
Decision Sciences and Information Systems
- MARY JO TREPKA  
Epidemiology
- MARIA ELENA VILLAR  
Advertising and Public Relations
- WEIRUI WANG  
Advertising and Public Relations
- JAMES WAXMONSKY  
Psychiatry
- MARK WEISS  
Computing and Information Sciences
- JOANNE YOUNGBLUT  
Nursing

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.

Chemistry Professor **JOSÉ ALMIRALL** 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. Almirall, 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. Almirall 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.

