

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
GLOBAL ACADEMY



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## Headmaster's Review

### An Exciting 2011-12 Academic Year Begins

Hello Students, Parents and Friends,

Welcome to another great year at UMGA! With Fall semester off to a great start, I am delighted to announce several new initiatives that enhance students' learning experiences in and outside of the classroom. As you read this newsletter, you'll be amazed at what's in store for our school community.

#### RSMAS Offers UMGA Students Exciting Shark Trip

The University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) will offer UMGA students an exciting opportunity to sail the ocean blue in search of sharks during graduation weekend, 2012.



During this action-packed excursion, each student member of the crew will have a defined task to complete as sharks are caught and tagged for data gathering.

Click the trailing link for insight to what the adventurous day will be like. Once in, be sure to click on the green "3" for video of past excursions!): <http://rjd.miami.edu/learning-tools/virtual-expeditions/>

#### Winter Camp Begins November 30<sup>th</sup>

UMGA will hold its first Winter Camp November 30 through December 16. During this 3-week period, students may take a course in one of fifteen areas:

1. Anthropology
2. Business Communication
3. Creative Writing
4. Digital Art
5. Driver's Education
6. Essentials of Business
7. Ethics
8. Financial Literacy
9. Geography

10. Health/Life Management
11. Media Studies
12. Music Appreciation
13. Personal Fitness
14. Physical Education
15. Research

Contact UMGA admissions at 305-284-2980 or visit [www.umga.miami.edu](http://www.umga.miami.edu) to apply.

### **Teen Read Week**

Prof. M. Evelina Galang, award winning author and director of the University of Miami Creative Writing Program, helped UMGA celebrate Teen Read Week (Oct. 16-22) with students from around the globe on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Students participated in a live video broadcast as Prof. Galang read an excerpt from her compelling book, “Her Wild American Self.”

Students were very excited to participate in the event with such an accomplished writer and two students—Jonathan Papeika and Rachel Gastaldo—received autographed copies of Prof. Galang’s novel. In case you missed the live video stream, you can catch the video here: <http://www.umga.miami.edu/landing-pages/open-house.aspx>

### **Red Ribbon Week**

In commemoration of Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 23-31), students were invited to participate in an essay contest to discuss the ill-effects of abusing alcohol, drugs and tobacco products. Students also signed pledges on UMGAther.com

(UMGA’s social network site) to live a life free of substance abuse.

To add to student awareness, Ms. Kara Trucchio, Academic Coach, held homeroom sessions to help students understand global perceptions of alcohol, drug, and tobacco abuse.

### **UMGA Student Takes Initiative**

As freshman Sam Berman prepared for a presentation to the UMGA science club (Scientia Circulus) about the Aquarius Reef Base Project, he wanted to include the most current information possible. Therefore, he reached out to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Aquarius Reef Base located in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and asked that Scientia Circulus be connected for the next mission via a live-link.

This example of student initiative is part of what makes UMGA a special place to learn and grow. Sam’s science club advisor, Ms. Jenn Taylor, is working with University of North Carolina-Wilmington Aquarius Reef Base Director to coordinate schedules for the next mission.

### **UMGA Unveils New Website**

Fresh for Fall 2011, UMGA unveiled its new website that allows visitors to find information in a more intuitive



manner. Students and parents will find the new interface more engaging with course and application information instantly available with a slide of the mouse cursor. I encourage you to visit [www.umga.miami.edu](http://www.umga.miami.edu) and tell me what you think!

## UMGA Teachers to Present at FCIS Conference

November 17, 2011, marks the date for the annual Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) held this year in Weston, FL. This year's theme, "Independent Schools: Thinking Ahead, Now" signifies a focus on restructuring education, the human side of technology and future trends.

Ms. Karen Panerali, Ms. Yianna Pavalkos to present on the topic of **Service-Learning**. Additionally, Ms. Teresa Salafrio will present on the topic of **e-Portfolios** for archiving students' best academic work and supporting artifacts.

## Parent Teacher Committee News

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) has new Parent-officers for academic year 2011-2012:

- Ms. Patricia ORiordan, Chair
- Ms. Jane Murphy, Vice Chair
- Ms. Danyle Anderson, Secretary

School-officers are Karen Panerali, Yianna Pavlakos, and Jenn Taylor. The PTC meets monthly to discuss ideas and issues to advance UMGA and is open to all parents

of currently enrolled students. The next meeting will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Parent Onboarding Program Underway

The parent onboarding program partners experienced UMGA parents with new parents to help them transition from brick-and-mortar education to online education. This parent-to-parent approach provides new online parents with support and allows them to network with other UMGA parents in an informal manner.

## UMGA Headlight

UMGA is proud to shine its headlight on

**Mr. Thomas Green,**  
**Lead Teacher,**  
**Mathematics.**

He tirelessly finds new ways to keep students engaged and excited about mathematics and technology. Mr.



Green consistently finds ways to improve his students' learning experiences and consciously removes learners' math anxieties. Mr. Green is also faculty advisor for UMGA's National Honor Society chapter and provides students with numerous examples of innovation and problem solving.

Congratulations Mr. Green—job well done!

## New Tuition Payment Options

Just in time for Fall 2011, UMGA has collaborated with Your Tuition Solution to provide parents another option to fund students' tuition and fees. UMGA is among the first online schools to be able to offer parents this payment option. More information is available on our website or visit Your Tuition Solution's Website at [www.yourtutionsolution.com](http://www.yourtutionsolution.com).



Also new for Fall 2011, UMGA can accept **checks electronically (eCheck)**, thus adding a new path of convenience for our U.S and international families.

## The UMGA Difference

Did you know all online schools are not created equal? In fact I am often told by parents, students and school partners that UMGA's approach to online learning is unlike anything they've experienced. What makes our approach special is the level of teacher interaction students receive. Some have even commented that UMGA's online teaching feels more personal than what they've received in brick and mortar schools.

We infuse SAT preparation in all Language Arts and Mathematics courses. What's more, UMGA utilizes a Writing-Across-the-Curriculum approach where students receive a writing component in Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Further, UMGA believes in providing students a high quality private education where teachers frequently interact with students via Telepresence (video, audio, and instant text communications), quick assignment and project feedback, and virtual office hours for even more one on one attention. *Succinctly stated, UMGA provides students and parents a private, college preparatory high school education that happens to be delivered via online technologies.*

## Feedback Loop

Thank you for reading the *Headmaster's Review*. I hope you found the information helpful. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me, Dr. Craig Wilson, directly at [cdw@miami.edu](mailto:cdw@miami.edu). I value your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.

Please remember to visit our website at [www.umga.miami.edu](http://www.umga.miami.edu) for the latest school news and events.

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