

Miami Palmetto Senior High School Hall of Fame

Fran Berger (1947-2008): As the debate coach for Palmetto from 1981 until her retirement in 1998, Fran dedicated herself to teaching students the “power of a persuasive argument.” Her teams won both national and individual championships on a yearly basis. In 2002, she became a Hall of Famer for the National Forensic League, the honor society for debate. Palmetto students who worked with her have gone on to become Ivy League professors, Supreme Court clerks, doctors, executives, government officials, and of course, lawyers. Her legacy at Palmetto will always be remembered!

Jeff Bezos (Class of 1982): As a former Silver Knight Winner in Science in 1982, Jeff attended Princeton University, where he graduated with a 4.2 GPA. He later became a financial analyst for D.E. Shaw & Co. In 1994, he began working on his Amazon business plan, and started the company in his garage. He soon became the founder, president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Amazon.com, currently worth billions of dollars. In 1999, *Time* named Jeff “Person of the Year,” in 2008, *U.S. News & World Report* selected him as one of America’s best leaders, and in 2012, *Fortune Magazine* designated him as “Businessperson of the Year.” He holds an honorary doctorate in science and technology from Carnegie Mellon University. In recent years, he has devoted considerable attention to space flight.

Dale Collins (retired 1991): Dale attended Miami Senior High School, where he played basketball on two state championship teams. He then attended the University of Miami and played on the freshman basketball team. The Korean War called him into the service with the U.S. Air Force. After his discharge from the military, he finished his last three years at Florida Southern College, where he played basketball and met his future wife. He began his career at Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1958, serving first as the head basketball coach until 1974 and then as the assistant football coach until his retirement.

Clyde Crabtree (1905-1994): Clyde became the first principal of Palmetto Junior-Senior High School in 1957. He earned recognition early in life as a football player for the University of Florida, and was known as “Cannonball,” “Shorty,” “Dixie,” “Sonny Boy,” and “Skeeter.” He served with the Air Force during World War II. After teaching and coaching in Palm Beach County, he moved to Dade County, where he taught and coached football at Miami High School until being named principal at Palmetto. During his first year in that position, evaluators from Florida colleges recommended Palmetto for accreditation, according high praise to the school in every area. In 1976, “Cannonball Clyde Crabtree” was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame.

Albert E. Dotson, Jr. (Class of 1978): Currently a partner at Blizin Sumberg and a member of the Federal Judicial Nominating Committee, Albert graduated from Dartmouth College in 1982, and received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1987. He has received numerous recognitions, including selection as Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce’s “National Business Leader for the Year” (2005), nomination as one of *Ebony Magazine*’s “Power 150: Most Influential Blacks in America 2005-2009,” inclusion among *Daily Business Review*’s “Most Effective Lawyers,” (2009), selection by The Education Fund as a “Public School Alumni Achievement Award” winner (2012), and receipt of the *Miami Herald*’s “Legacy Award” (2013). He has served as Chairman of the Board of the Orange Bowl Committee, the Miami Dade College Foundation, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., and the Overtown Youth Center, Inc.

Alexandra Flinn (Class of 1984): Both a Panther and a Hurricane, Alexandra graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in music and then graduated *cum laude* from Nova Southeastern Law

School. Under the name Alex Flinn, she has authored ten novels which are favorites of both voracious and reluctant young-adult readers. Her first novel, *Breathing Underwater*, was chosen by the American Library Association as both a Top-10 Best Book for Young Adults and a Best-of-the-Best (Top-100 Best Books for Young Adults in the last 10 years). *Beastly*, a film based on her 2007 novel of the same title, was released in 2011. *Towering*, her latest novel, was published in May 2013.

Robin Fraser (Class of 1984): After graduating from Palmetto, Robin played college soccer at Florida International University from 1984 to 1988. As a freshman, he led the team to a Division II Championship. He went on to play professionally for the Miami Sharks, the Colorado Foxes, the Los Angeles Galaxy, and the Colorado Rapids. He received the MLS Defender of the Year Award in 1999 and again in 2004. He retired from Major League Soccer in 2005, and after briefly serving as the head coach of Chivas USA, was named an assistant coach for the New York Red Bulls soccer team.

Dominic Gorie (Class of 1975): After graduating from Palmetto, Dom attended the U.S. Naval Academy, earning his Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering in 1979. In 1990, he received his Master of Science in Aviation degree from the University of Tennessee. After flying combat missions during Operation Desert Storm, he began his career as an astronaut at the Johnson Space Center in 1994. All in all, he completed four space flights, and spent over 49 days in space. In 2008, he acted as crew commander on the Endeavour. Dom has demonstrated his love for Palmetto by wearing a Palmetto sweatshirt in space. He is now retired.

Matt Gribble (1962-2004; Class of 1980): After graduating from Palmetto, Matt earned recognition as a two-time (1982, 1983) NCAA Champion while swimming for the University of Miami. His record times in the 100-meter butterfly still stand today at the University of Miami, where he was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. He was also a member of the 1980 and 1984 U.S. Olympic Teams. Sadly, he died in a car accident in 2004. After his death, the corner of SW 117th Avenue and SW 128th Street was designated Matthew O. Gribble Street. His contributions to the sport of swimming and his example for student athletes will never be forgotten.

William Herbstman (Class of 1979): A 1983 graduate the University of Florida with a bachelor of arts in political science, Bill has spent over 30 years working in the production of sports television, beginning as a gofer when he was still at Palmetto. Over the course of his career, he has traveled millions of miles and covered countless sports events, including the Olympics. He is currently Freelance Associate Director at both the Golf Channel and ESPN/ABC Sports. He has been a member of the Directors Guild of America, and has been nominated for and won numerous Emmy Awards. Bill has been able to work alongside individuals such as Howard Cosell, John Madden, and Bob Costas, to name just a few.

Cal Kellogg (Class of 1965): After graduating from Palmetto, Cal continued to pursue his love of music. After leading the Washington Opera for sixteen consecutive seasons, he moved to Phoenix in 2000 and established the Arizona Opera Orchestra. Winner of the Gino Marinuzzi Conducting Competition and co-winner of the Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition, he currently serves as the Music Director and Conductor of both the Symphony of the Southwest and the West Valley Symphony. Cal is also a regular guest conductor for opera companies and symphony orchestras throughout the world.

Carl Manzelli (retired 2005): Carl began his career in Dade County Public Schools in 1970 at Edison Junior High School. In 1984, he became the assistant principal at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. After retiring in 2005, he returned for one year to help with the Student Activities Office. During his 20 years at Palmetto, he attended approximately 1500 student activities. Manzelli availed himself to all

from the break of dawn through the evening hours. There wasn't any question that Manzelli could not answer!

Ron Magill (Class of 1977): After graduating from Palmetto, Ron followed his dream of working with animals. As Zoo Miami's "Goodwill Ambassador," he has made frequent television appearances on programs including "National Geographic Explorer," "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "NBC Nightly News," and many more. Ron is also a regular guest on several Spanish language television programs. In addition, he has written and produced wildlife articles and captured award-winning photographs that have appeared in local, national, and international publications. He currently works with Zoo Miami and continues to travel the world.

Andy Massimino (retired 2002): After beginning his career as a teacher at Coral Gables Senior High School, "Mass" was offered the position of Student Activities Director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1969. He stayed with this position for thirty-four years, successfully overseeing all student activities and events. He was also active on the Orange Bowl Committee. After retiring from Miami Dade County Public Schools, he moved to Port Charlotte, Florida to devote his time to fishing, working in the yard, and volunteering.

Grant Miller (Class of 1975): After earning his undergraduate degree at Florida International University, Grant remained in the Pinecrest community, where he played a key role in helping incorporate the Village of Pinecrest, the Village of Palmetto Bay, and the Town of Cutler Bay. He is often credited with helping establish their business associations as well. Grant has served as president of the Greater Miami Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading League, and his support helped Palmetto Senior High procure Coral Reef Park as the home field for its baseball team. He and his brother Michael own and publish Miami's *Community Newspapers*, including the *Pinecrest Tribune* and the *Palmetto Bay News*.

Linda Robertson (Class of 1979): A former Palmetto writer and runner, Linda attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she fell in love with basketball after covering the Tar Heels' men's team led by Michael Jordan. She returned to Miami in 1983 as a sportswriter for the *Miami Herald*, and is currently one of the *Herald's* featured sports columnists. In that capacity, Linda has interviewed a wide variety of sports figures, including Lance Armstrong and Barry Bonds. Along the way, she has written about many sports and covered both the Winter and Summer Olympics. She is the past president of the Association for Women in Sports Media, which has honored her with the Mary Garber Pioneer Award. Her stories have appeared numerous times in "The Best American Sports Writing."

Jennifer Rodriguez (Class of 1994): Jennifer began to skate at the age of four. Her love of skating led her first to multiple championships in artistic roller skating, and then, after her switch to inline speed skating, to a world championship in 1993. In 1996, she switched sports once again, this time to speed skating on ice, and in her first all-around U.S. Championships in 1997, she placed an impressive fourth. A year later, she qualified for the Olympics, eventually participating in four consecutive Winter Olympics. In Salt Lake in 2002, she won two bronze medals, becoming the first Cuban-American female to win a medal in the Winter Olympics. Jennifer also won a gold medal in the 2005 World Championships.

Johnny Williams (1950-2005): Math was Johnny's area of expertise. He began teaching at Palmetto Senior High School in 1982, and continued to inspire students until his retirement in 2005, shortly before his untimely death. Students loved Johnny Williams, a teacher who always had time to tutor after school and assist those in need. He received Teacher of the Year recognition both at Campbell Drive Middle

School and later at Palmetto, and for many years served as sponsor of the math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta. Each year, he took students on a college tour of Florida university campuses to encourage them to pursue college careers. A scholarship was created in his name to help Palmetto students achieve their own individual college dreams.