

## **Monsignor Edward Pace's Graduating Class of 2011 has it All!**

By Lourdes Reigosa

Graduation: the ceremony that brings four years of high school classes, cafeteria food, after-school activities and parking lot rendezvous to an emotional, inevitable end. To everyone involved--- the students, faculty and staff, families and friends--- there's always a defining character within each graduating class that stands them out from the pack. So cue the pomp and circumstance, it's time for the Class of 2011 to walk across the stage and grab that hard-earned diploma.



The Monsignor Edward Pace High School graduating seniors have not just one, but many qualities that makes them special. However, one defining quality trumps them all: they're well-rounded. When it came to academics, arts, athletics or service, these students excelled beautifully in every single area their school demanded of them. For example in the area of academics, the Class of 2011 received over \$15 million in scholarships from colleges and universities all over the U.S. --- colleges like Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame University, New York University, University of Miami, just to name a few. Their Valedictorian and Salutatorian alone, Kevin Porrás and Kevin Fernández, respectively, earned GPAs of 5.44 and 5.35.

Athletes at Pace have the talent and the brains to go far in their choice careers. These “champions in action,” showed their skills at the Dade County All-Star games, winning MVP stats and winning these exciting games, bringing home trophies and bragging rights. These star players have been signed to major sports-centered universities, including University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and Nova Southeastern University, among many others.

In popular high school movies, the braniacs and thespians are their own cliques, but at Pace, the thespians are brainiacs. It seems the arts program had another outstanding year. Members of the International Thespian Honor Society, an honor society specifically for those in the performing arts, went to District competition. Winning highest and second highest awards across the board, they took their winning streak to the International Thespian State Conference in Tampa, bringing home yet again highest and second highest ribbons and buttons afforded to their troupe. Here at home, their theatre events were wild successes, drawing crowds of over 1,000 guests and inspiring them to get on their feet and sing along.

But all this commencement talk also brings up one question---how have alumni fared in the real world (or in preparation thereof)? Vanessa Freeman, Pace class of '09, is currently a sophomore at Cornell University, majoring in Nutritional Sciences and assisting in conducting research with her advisor focusing on the impact of certain chemicals on infant brain development. We have other ivy leaguers in our midst as well: Amaris Mier and Ernesto Fernandez, both from the class of '07, were admitted into Harvard University to pursue master's degrees in theological studies. Pace alumni are faring pretty well, given the evidence.

Graduation day is always overshadowed by the thoughts of, “what’s going to happen next?” and “what’ll come of these young teenagers with the world ahead of them?” When it comes to the Pace graduating class of '11, we think they’ll go far. We can only congratulate them and wish them a heartfelt good luck as they brilliantly take their steps into the next chapter of their lives.