



# DEAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*University of Miami  
College of Engineering  
April 1st, 2020*

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Ed Williamson II  
Alice Bravo  
Pete Martinez  
Manny Miranda  
Peter Montadas  
Len Pinchuk  
Rajeev Ravindran  
Joe Sendra  
Alan Sirkin  
Gary Spulak  
Al Vara**

# **G. ED WILLIAMSON II, BSAE**

**Chairman & CEO**

**Williamson Cadillac-Buick-GMC 7815 SE 104 St.**

**Miami, FL 33156 Phone: (305) 670-7101**

**Email: ewill@wagmiami.com UM Board of**

**Trustees Member**

**Chair, CoE DAC**



Ed Williamson is the President of Williamson Cadillac-Buick-GMC, currently ranked as the No. 1 Cadillac retailer in the Southeast, and number 4 in the entire nation. Williamson is a past president of South Florida Auto-Truck Dealers Association as well as past director of the Florida Auto Dealers Association, past chapter chairman and international VP of the Young President's Organization, member and past chair of the Cadillac National Dealer Council, and past member of the General Motors National Dealer Council. His civic involvement in South Florida includes service as president of the Orange Bowl Committee, trustee and governor of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, executive committee member of the Beacon Council, campaign cabinet member of the United Way of Dade County, among numerous others.

Williamson is a senior member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees and a longtime member of the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. He is also a member of Iron Arrow, the highest honor attained at the University of Miami.

He received a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree from Auburn University. His son Trae is an alumneue of UM. He and his wife Carol have named the Williamson Dean's Conference Room in the College of Engineering.

# **ALICE N. BRAVO, PE BSCE '92**

**Florida District Leader**

**WSP**

**8877 SW 99th St.**

**Miami, FL 33176-2944**

**Tel: (305) 448-1848**

**Email: [alice.bravo@live.com](mailto:alice.bravo@live.com)**



Alice N. Bravo, PE was appointed Director of the Florida Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) in February 2016 where she served until 2021. The department includes all functions of the previous Miami-Dade Transit, along with the county engineer, traffic operations, construction, maintenance and highway planning, as well as the passenger transportation regulation function. DTPW is responsible for Miami-Dade County's entire surface transportation system, the planning, maintenance and operation of the roadways, transit system, and taxicab and limousine services.

Prior to the reorganization of transportation and public works functions, Bravo held the position of Miami-Dade Transit director. Transit is the 15th-largest public transit system in the United States, and the largest in Florida. Bravo oversees the planning and provision of all public transportation services in the county. She leads the effort of improving and expanding transportation in the community by working closely with the federal government, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, among others.

Bravo is a licensed civil engineer with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Miami and a Master of Business Administration from Florida International University.

# **PETE MARTINEZ, BSEE '75**

**Chairman and CEO**

**Game Changer Tec LLC**

**2365 NW 49 Lane Boca Raton, FL 33431**

**Tel: (561) 248-5353**

**Email: petem13@gmail.com**



Pete Martinez serves as Chairman and CEO of Game Changer Tec LLC, a high-innovation enterprise at the intersection of sports, health, technology and big data analytics. An international entrepreneur, he has led numerous high-impact initiatives in the areas of high technology, business consulting, healthcare and education. During his 32-year tenure with IBM, Martinez, as vice president of global business services and the senior location executive for IBM South Florida, led a 1,700-person organization composed of consultants, hardware and software developers, industry specialists and sales leaders. He led projects in the areas of advanced research, supercomputing and information-based medicine.

Martinez has more than 30 patents and technical publications in the areas of healthcare, computer architecture, robotics, optical disks and display technology. Martinez is a frequent keynote speaker at international conferences and has been featured by the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, ABC News, The Economist, Univision and CNN and has presented at the United Nations.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Miami, where he was named a Distinguished Alumnus (1998) and a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Iron Arrow honor societies. In 2002 he was awarded as Engineer of the Year by the Association of Cuban Engineers, and in 2004 was inducted into the Miami Dade College Hall of Fame. Florida International University bestowed the 2007 Cal Kovens Service Medallion Award on Martinez. June 22, 2007 was proclaimed "Pete Martinez Day" by the mayor of Boca Raton, Florida.

# **MANUEL B. MIRANDA, BSEE '75**

**Vice President of Power Delivery**

**Florida Power and Light**

**700 Universe Boulevard DOE/JW**

**Juno Beach, Florida 33408**

**Phone: 561.904.3408**

**manny.miranda@fpl.com**



Manny Miranda is Senior Vice President of Power Delivery for Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). He is responsible for the planning, engineering, construction, maintenance and operations of the company's transmission, substation and distribution facilities. Mr. Miranda was named to this position in April 2013. Prior to his current role, Mr. Miranda served as vice president of Transmission & Substation, and before that, as vice president of distribution system performance, where he was responsible for FPL's Storm Secure initiative to substantially strengthen the distribution infrastructure against future hurricanes.

Mr. Miranda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Miami and a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University (NSU). He serves on the Board of Governors for NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship and is the Chair of the NSU College of Engineering and Computing's Industry Advisory Board. He is on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Electric Exchange (SEE) and the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC) and has previously served as President of both the SEE and AEIC boards.

Mr. Miranda has won numerous industry awards throughout his career, including Association of Cuban Engineers Engineer of the Year Award and the Alumnus of Distinction Award from the University of Miami College of Engineering.

# **PETER MONTADAS, BSEE '82**

**President & Cofounder**

**Momentum Consulting Corporation**

**14750 NW 77th Court Ste 313**

**Miami Lakes, FL 33016-1537**

**Phone: 305-817-2622 Ext 103**

**Email: [Peter.montadas@momentumcc.com](mailto:Peter.montadas@momentumcc.com)**



Peter Montadas serves as the Co-Founder, President, and Co-CEO of Momentum Consulting Corporation, a Miami-based technology and professional services firm serving many of South Florida's Fortune 500 companies. Incorporated in 2002, Momentum has grown to be one of the leading IT consulting firms with expertise in Digital Transformation, Application Development & Systems Integration, Data & Analytics, and Enterprise Scale Agile Project Delivery. In addition, the firm is heavily engaged in emerging technologies such as Machine Learning and AI. Furthermore, Momentum has been recognized as a "Best Place to Work" by the South Florida Business Journal for 9 consecutive years. Other recognitions include, "Top 25 IT Consulting Firms," "South Florida's Fastest Growing Technology Companies," "Top 100 Private Companies," "Florida's Companies to Watch," and Inc. 500 Magazine's "Fastest-Growing Private Companies." In addition, Momentum is an Inc. 5000 company.

Peter received his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from The American University in Washington D.C., and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) with a concentration in Computer Engineering from the University of Miami.

Peter is highly involved in numerous philanthropic organizations and giving back to the community. He dedicates his time to supporting Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, serves as a board member of the Association of Cuban American Engineers, and has been actively involved with the United Way for over 8 years, previously serving as a Tocqueville Society Co-Chair. Peter is Vice-Chairman of the FIU Center for Leadership. Peter is a board member of the University of Miami, Dean's College of Engineering Advisory Board.

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# **LEONARD PINCHUK, MSBE '79, PHD '84**

**Co-Founder, President and CEO**

**Innfocus, LLC**

**12415 SW 136th Ave Ste 3**

**Miami, Florida 33186-6488**

**Phone: 305.378.2651**

**Email: [len@innovia-llc.com](mailto:len@innovia-llc.com)**



Dr. Pinchuk has 130 U.S. patents, 100 publications and founded 10 companies. His major accomplishments include the invention of the Nylon 12 angioplasty balloon, the helical wire stent, the modular stent-graft, a drug-eluting stent (TAXUS®, Boston Scientific, MA), several biomaterials (Bionate® and SIBS), a novel glaucoma tube (the InnFocus MicroShunt®) and the next generation intraocular lens. His inventions are used in more than a hundred million patients with a financial impact well over \$100 billion.

He was inducted into the NAE in 2012, was awarded the 2017 Society for Biomaterials Innovation and Technology Award, San Antonio's BIOMED SA Award (2017) and the Ohio University/NAE 2019 Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ Prize.

He received a B.Sc. in chemistry from McGill University (Montreal, Canada, 1976) and a Ph.D. in Engineering and Chemistry from the University of Miami (Miami, Florida, 1984). Dr. Pinchuk co-founded Corvita Corporation (1987) which went public in 1994, was acquired by Pfizer, Inc. (1996). He then founded Innovia LLC (2002), which spun-out InnFocus, Inc. (2004) which was acquired by Santen Pharmaceuticals in 2016 and Innolene LLC, (2010) developing intraocular lenses. Dr. Pinchuk also enjoys an appointment as Distinguished Research Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Miami.

# **RAJEEV RAVINDRAN, BSEE'89**

**Senior Vice President and CIO**

**Ryder Systems, Inc.**

**11690 NW 105th Street**

**Miami, Florida 33178**

**Phone: 305.500.3726**

**Email: [Rajeev\\_Ravindran@ryder.com](mailto:Rajeev_Ravindran@ryder.com)**



Mr. Ravindran is an experienced Group Vice President with a demonstrated history of working in the automotive industry. Skilled in Vendor Management, Business Process Improvement, Automotive, IT Strategy, and Project Management. Strong information technology professional graduated from University of Miami. He is a member of Ryder's Executive Leadership Team and is responsible for all aspects of Ryder's IT organization.

Prior to this position with Ryder, Mr. Ravindran was the CIO and Group Vice President at JM Enterprises, where he was with the company since 2003 and held the CIO position since 2011. With over 20 years of IT leadership experience, Mr. Ravindran has worked in roles at various companies including Interactive Metronome, Asista.com, and AutoNation.

Mr. Ravindran has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & Computer Engineering from the University of Miami



# **JOE SENDRA, BSIE '93, MBA '97**

**Vice President of Manufacturing Engineering and  
Technology**

**14201 NW 60 Avenue**

**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**Phone: 786.313.2909**

**Email: [jsendra@its.jnj.com](mailto:jsendra@its.jnj.com)**



Joseph Sendra is currently worldwide Vice President of Manufacturing Engineering and Technology at Johnson & Johnson. Sendra has over 20 years of global experience in supply chain; this has included engineering, manufacturing, research and development, quality assurance, strategy and process excellence responsibility. Prior to his current position, he was vice president, manufacturing engineering and technology, medical devices and diagnostics at J&J, and before that, worldwide vice president engineering for Cordis Corp.

Sendra joined Johnson & Johnson in 1993 as a QA engineer with Cordis Corporation. He held positions of increasing responsibility in various functions. He has managed business units, led new product introduction programs and been responsible for developing worldwide manufacturing and network strategies. He led an R&D program from concept to human clinical trial, as well as deployed process and design excellence programs worldwide. He has held responsibilities for manufacturing plants as well as process engineering for new product development. Prior to joining J&J, Sendra was a technician with Baxter Healthcare for three years and owned his own technology services firm.

Sendra has a Master's in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Miami. He spearheaded the partnership between CoE and Johnson & Johnson to establish a Makerspace, a fully-operational Materials Processing Laboratory that offers educational and research activities for both the College's students and faculty and Johnson & Johnson professionals, which utilizes the expertise of the faculty and J&J experts to develop joint research proposals and developmental projects.

# **ALAN SIRKIN, BSCE '67, MSCE, PE, GC**

**President**

**Sirkin Enterprises**

**3500 North Bayhomes Drive**

**Miami, Florida 33133**

**Phone: 305.665.3349**

**Email: [alan@sirkinenterprises.com](mailto:alan@sirkinenterprises.com)**



Alan Sirkin (BSCE from the University of Miami and MSCE from Georgia Institute of Technology) grew up in a family of builder/developers. After graduation, he began his civil engineering career in New York City while completing coursework at New York University's Real Estate Institute and working at EBASCO Services, Inc. (an engineering and construction firm for electric utilities), developing computer programs related to electric power plant design. He later joined Walter Kiddie Constructors as manager of the planning and scheduling department for office buildings, corporate headquarters, warehouses, manufacturing plants and hospitals.

At UM, he was recently inducted into the UM Citizens Board. For six years he was the chair of the Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering Industry Advisory Board and is currently participating in a UM research study on sustainable reinforced concrete. Sirkin is also a member of the Ibis Society named for the University of Miami's mascot, the ibis (an ancient symbol of enlightenment). The Ibis Society honors those whose total commitment to the University has reached at least \$250,000. The College of Engineering has recognized the Sirkins' generosity by naming the main hallway of the civil engineering floor, as well as the conference room, in their honor. Sirkin was named an Alumnus of Distinction for the College of Engineering.

# **GARY J. SPULAK, BBA '76, MBA**

**President**

**Embraer Aircraft Holding Inc.**

**276 SW 34th Street**

**Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314**

**Phone: 954.359.3721**

**Email: [gspulak@embraer.com](mailto:gspulak@embraer.com)**



Gary J. Spulak serves as President of Embraer Aircraft Holding, Inc., which is Embraer's wholly owned U.S. subsidiary. In this role, he is responsible for the oversight of Embraer's operating companies in the United States, encompassing 2,000 employees and nine locations. Spulak's career with Embraer began as the company was just emerging as a player in the regional aviation industry. In 1991 he was named executive vice president, assuming additional responsibility for customer technical assistance, training and the administrative areas of the company, including direct participation in efforts to develop and launch the ERJ 145 regional jet.

He currently serves as a board member for Enterprise Florida and on the board of governors for the Aerospace Industry Association. He is a member of the University of Miami's College of Engineering Visiting Committee, and he serves on the board of advisors for the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce Florida. He previously served on the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT) board of directors, the Wings Club Foundation board of governors and as vice chairman of the board for Space Florida. Born in New York City, he received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Miami, and a master's degree in business administration from Barry University, where he was recognized in 2010 as a Distinguished Alumni. Spulak is credited with Embraer's financial support of CoE.

# **ALBERT "AL" VARA, BSEE '79, MSEE '85**

**Founder, Co-Owner and Vice President**

**Tropical Trailer Leasing Corporation**

**9475 NW 89th Avenue**

**Medley, Florida 33178**

**Phone: 305.885.6047**

**Email: [albert@tropicaltrailer.com](mailto:albert@tropicaltrailer.com)**



Albert Vara is co-owner and vice president of Tropical Trailer Leasing, one of the oldest transportation leasing companies in South Florida. Headquartered in Medley, the company specializes in distribution of transportation equipment, as well as rental and sales of new and used container boxes, trailers and rail shipping equipment.

Vara is a past president of the Citizens Board, where he has been a member since 1986. He has also served in that capacity as a UM Board of Trustees member. He previously served as its first vice president for membership (2008-2009), second vice president for membership (2007-2008) and secretary (2006-2007). In addition to his involvement with the Citizens Board, Vara has previously served on the visiting committees of the Miller School of Medicine and the School of Education and Human Development.

In 2007, Vara was recognized for his exceptional commitment to service throughout the community when he received the James W. McLamore Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Miami-Dade Chapter. Vara is a member of the Ibis Society, named for the University of Miami's mascot, the Ibis (an ancient symbol of enlightenment). The Ibis Society honors those whose total commitment to the University has reached at least \$250,000. Vara holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Miami.