



NATIONAL
ACADEMY
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ARTS & SCIENCES

SUNCOAST
CHAPTER

PRESS RELEASE

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Announces 2021 Silver Circle Honorees



Ken Amaro



Chucha Barber



Pedro Cancio



Matthew L. Conover



Enrique "Kike" Cruz



María Fálcon Pollock



Frances M. Hernandez



Adrian Mauceri



Jorge Rivera Nieves

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Pembroke Pines, FL (April 2021) - The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is pleased to announce the 2021 Silver Circle honorees. The annual recognition is given to individuals who have worked with distinction in the television industry within the Suncoast Region, which includes the State of Florida, the State of Louisiana, the Mobile, Alabama-Pensacola, Florida television markets, as well as Puerto Rico. Six of this year's honorees are from the Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee markets and three are from Puerto Rico. This year's virtual ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 16 at 5 PM, EDT.

Silver Circle 2021 Honorees

Ken Amaro, WTLV/WJXX, Jacksonville, FL - Ken started his career at WTLV/WJXX in Jacksonville a year before he graduated from college. By 1989, he was promoted to the On Your Side Consumer Reporter position, establishing himself as an advocate for the community. During his tenure, Ken has reported on thousands of scams, swindles and rip-offs, always with the goal of helping viewers find solutions to their most intractable problems, and holding to account the companies or agencies responsible. In his 4-plus decades in TV news, Ken has won such prestigious awards as Florida Newsmaker, Associated Press and Florida Medical Association, as well as numerous NATAS Suncoast Regional Emmy® awards. In 1998, Ken was named Consumer Advocate of the Year.

Chucha Barber, Chucha Barber Productions, Tallahassee, FL - Chucha began her 26-year television career as Director of Institutional Advancement for the Miami Museum of Science. She became an independent television producer first creating a television documentary to support the nation's first exhibition of giant robotic dinosaurs. She collaborated with Miami's CBS affiliate to produce DIG THOSE DINOS, a children's program that earned her first Suncoast Emmy®, in 1995. The Museum created additional exhibitions which led to six additional documentaries over three years, produced in collaboration with Miami's NBC owned station NBC 6. Chucha formed her production company, Tight Shots & Sounds, Inc., in 2003. She changed the name to Chucha Barber Productions in 2012. Her body of work has earned her six Suncoast Regional Emmy® awards as a producer and she was recognized by the Alliance for Women in Media with a "Gracie Award."

Pedro Cancio, (Retired) WTVJ, Miramar, FL - In his four decades in the news business working with the Investigative Unit specializing in the use of hidden camera, photojournalist Pedro has covered everything from a hidden camera exposé into the illegal selling of U.S. citizenship, to problems with Insurance fraud, counterfeit money coming from foreign countries to port security. Many of the stories Pedro has covered led to changes in laws, government policy and protocol. Additionally, Pedro covered major local news events such as the disappearance of Adam Walsh, the Pope's visit to South Florida, Elian Gonzalez, Hurricane Andrew's devastating effect on South Florida, the AIDS epidemic, the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas shooting, and most recently COVID-19. Pedro has received multiple national and local awards for his work as photojournalist and editor including George Foster Peabody, Dupont Columbia, Edward R. Murrow, I.R.E., National Press Club, Florida Associated Press, National Headliner, and S.P.J. awards. Pedro has also received 15 Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards and more than three dozen Suncoast Regional Emmy® nominations.

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Matthew L. Conover, WFOR/CBS4, Miami, FL - Matthew started his broadcast career at WFOR CBS4 in 1989, (formally WCIX), as a news intern. By the age of 25 he had become a full-time staff director and post-production editor. Since then, in addition to his directing and editing duties, Matthew also serves as WFOR's Media Manager and Elections Results Coordinator and helps oversee the operation and integration of various production systems. Matthew has been involved with the Suncoast Chapter for over 25 years, mainly in the production of the Chapter's Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards and was integral in the production of the Chapter's first virtual Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards Show. Matthew is also main editor and graphics coordinator for CBS4's production of the Miami Dolphins pre-season games, for which he has been nominated three times for a Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award.

Enrique "Kike" Cruz, Puerto Rico - Enrique "Kike" Cruz broke the Guinness World Record for the longest career as a television news director after 42 years of service with WAPA Televisión, of which 38 years, one month, and 21 days were as Director of their news department. Enrique retired as news director in 2018 after a four-decade career, only to return as an advisor to the same place he called his home away from home in 2019. His future plans include educating future generations of broadcasters and communicators in his native Puerto Rico.

María Falcón Pollock, Puerto Rico - Puerto Rican television reporter, show host, television producer and environmental activist, María Falcón Pollock has engaged and educated audiences on environment conservation for over 30 years. In 2001, alongside her husband, she established GeoAmbiente del Caribe, Inc. Her commitment to protect the environment and her excellence in public television, have earned her dozens of recognitions, such as The Conservation Filmmaker of the Year Award England, more than 10 Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards, an Environmental Hero Award - NOAA, the Centennial Award US Forest Service, and two EPA Excellence Awards. Maria also received the Ecological Journalism Award and Investigative Reporting Award from the Overseas Press Club, as well as, an array of recognitions from movie and television festivals in the UK, Brazil, Spain, Portugal and the United States.

Frances M. Hernandez, South Florida PBS, Miami, FL - Frances began her career at WPBT/South Florida PBS in 1995 as an Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Programming and Production. Recognized for her coordination and organizational skills, she was promoted to Program Administration Coordinator in 1999 and then to Program Administration Manager by 2006. Frances currently serves as Senior Manager, Programming and Production Administration, responsible for acquisition and distribution of local, national and international content, and managing relationships with multiple distributors and independent producers. Frances is also a Producer for the station. She is a four-time Suncoast Regional Emmy® nominee and in 2003, she was awarded her first Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award as Producer of New Florida's "The Unconquered," a series on the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She won her second Suncoast Regional Emmy® in 2013 as Producer of "The Life of Jesus Christ." In addition to her work at WPBT/South Florida PBS, Frances has been an active member of the NATAS Suncoast Chapter, and currently serves as 1st Vice President and Trustee. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Frances received her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

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Adrian Mauceri, America CV Networks, Miami, FL - Adrian started his career in the television industry in 1989 at the early age of 17 years old in his birthplace of Argentina and is currently Post Production Editing Manager at America CV Networks LLC. From the age of 17, Adrian has worked with multiple broadcasting stations across North and South America such as ESPN Sur, Crackle, Telefe Argentina, Ronds Studios, Canal 9 Libertad, and Rai. His expertise spans across technical, operational and artistic areas of the industry. Adrian has earned many accolades over the years including more than 20 Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards for his work as editor in 2015, 2016, and 2017, as well as 8 AP Awards for excellence in sports and hard news stories. Adrian has also been recognized from the City of Miami by the former Mayor Tomas Regalado.

Jorge Rivera Nieves, Puerto Rico - Jorge began his career as radio host on WAPA radio and as a master of ceremonies, reporter, and voice-over talent on WAPA Televisión. In 1977 he was hired by Telemundo for their 5:00 pm news show. Jorge is one of the islands' most respected journalists and news personalities. Jorge's extensive career has earned him great journalistic credibility with audiences, and his reporting of the tumultuous events that culminated in the resignation of governor Ricardo Rosselló in the summer of 2019 generated a level of engagement with younger audiences never seen before.

Each year, the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences accepts nominations for the prestigious Silver Circle and nominations are considered by the Suncoast Chapter's Board of Governors as they evaluate the nominee's contributions and then vote for inductees by secret ballot.

Recommendations for future Silver Circle recipients can be submitted by filling out the nominations form [here](#).

About the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is a nonprofit Florida corporation dedicated to excellence in television. We offer annual EMMY® Awards called The Suncoast Regional EMMY® Awards to television markets in the entire State of Florida, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans, Louisiana, Mobile, Alabama, Thomasville, Georgia and Puerto Rico. The Chapter is composed of professional people who work in television or students who are studying television in colleges or universities and aspire to become professionals. If you would like to become a member, please visit our [Membership](#) page. If you are interested in the Suncoast Regional EMMY® Awards, please visit our [Awards](#) page.