



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is with profound sadness that we regretfully announce the recent passing of friend, Dr. Alfredo Ardila, former professor in the Department of Communications Sciences & Disorders at the FIU Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Dr. Ardila was a brilliant and renowned neuropsychologist, writer, and professor. He passed away on Saturday, January 9, 2021, from a COVID-19 related illness. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy for us to carry forward, along with beautiful memories that will live on in each of us.

Dr. Ardila brought neuropsychology to Latin America and was instrumental in establishing recognition of Latin American contributions to the field. Among his most influential works in the science of cognition are original models of brain organization of executive functions, a novel classification of aphasias, and the development of cross-cultural neuropsychology.

In 1993 he moved to Miami with his family, where he worked for many years as a professor at the Miami Institute of Psychology, and later at Florida International University, where he was a professor for over 18 years in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders. He retired from FIU in August 2019.

He produced over 50 authored and edited books, seven neuropsychological assessment batteries, almost 500 published peer reviewed papers (with close to 25,000 citations), and hundreds of conference presentations. Dr. Ardila's legacy will be continued by the hundreds of students he mentored in the U.S., Latin America, Spain, and Russia.

Even after receiving many academic awards and recognitions during his professional career, he remained a humble man with an excellent sense of humor, who also loved to sing and dance. His favorite hobby was learning about how people lived in other places and time periods, so he spent a lot of time studying history and travelling the world.

Above all, he was a family man. He was a wonderful husband to his wife, collaborator, travel partner, best friend, and love of his life, Mónica. He was also a loving and dedicated father, always proud of his children, Sara Elena, Silvia, Felipe, and Adriana, and an adoring grandfather to his grandchildren, Gabriela and Diego.

In the words of Dr. Ardila's close friend, Dr. Monica Hough, chair of the Department of Communications Sciences & Disorders, "It is with very heavy hearts that we say farewell to him. There are no words to describe the void that he leaves. We will always miss him, but we will never forget him."

At the family's request, gifts in memory of the life of Dr. Alfredo Ardila can be made to the *Dr. Alfredo Ardila Memorial Scholarship Fund* at the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences to benefit outstanding students with financial need in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders. For more information, please contact the department directly (csd@fiu.edu) or Kim English, Director of Development, (305) 348-1336 or kenglish@fiu.edu.

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Warmest regards,

Ora L. Strickland, PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Monica Hough, PhD, SLP
Chair and Professor
Communication Sciences & Disorders