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YOANI SÁNCHEZ

Blogger Yoani Sánchez hits the books at the University of Miami Like 118

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Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez spent several hours on the University of Miami campus Tuesday, learning how to access the university's digital collection on the Cuban experience and diaspora and holding a political discussion with UM academics.

She was scheduled to speak Tuesday evening at a dinner at the Country Club of Coral Gables hosted by the Foundation for Human Rights in Cuba, which is associated with the Cuban-American National Foundation.

UM President Donna Shalala welcomed Sanchez to the campus and the Cuban Heritage Collection, which houses more than 50,000 Cuba-related books and documents. Among the rare items that she explored was the 1878 biography of Father Felix Varela, a Roman Catholic priest and educator who advocated for self-rule and the end of slavery in Cuba. A public high school in the Hammocks section of Miami-Dade County is named for the Cuban priest, who is highly esteemed in the Cuban community.

Sánchez requested to visit the Cuban Heritage Collection, according to the university, and CHC Director Esperanza de Varona and Maria Estorino, an associate librarian, gave her a personal tour of the collection, which is housed on the second floor of the Otto Richter Library.

While at the collection, Sánchez met with representatives from the campus chapter of the Federation of Cuban Students. She told them: "Information to me is like a breath of fresh air."

She also met privately with about 20 academics at the Institute for Cuban & Cuban-American Studies, a UM research center that is engaged in the Cuban Transition Project, which studies and makes recommendations for the reconstruction of Cuba "once the post-Castro transition begins in earnest."

Among the topics discussed were the future of Cuba, how Sánchez sees change evolving in Cuba, the case of imprisoned American Alan Gross, Cuban youth, and how to improve the flow

of information into Cuba, said Andy Gomez, a senior fellow at the institute.

Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez meets with The Miami Herald Editorial Board on Monday, April 1, 2013, during her tour of Miami. (Note: video is in Spanish)

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Asked if she saw herself as a future opposition leader in Cuba, Gomez said that she responded, "No, I see myself as a citizen of Cuba who has the responsibility to bring about change."

"With Yoani's visit, we've consolidated the bridge between Cuban exiles and the people of Cuba," said Gomez, who said that even a decade ago such ties would have been impossible.

"She was honest, eloquent, simple," said Gomez, "but she's exhausted."

Since leaving Cuba Feb. 17, Sánchez — who writes the Generacion Y blog and sends out a constant stream of 140-character Twitter messages on daily life in Cuba to hundreds of thousands of followers — has been on an international tour that has taken her from Brazil to Mexico and from Prague and Amsterdam to New York and Washington.

Despite many international invitations, she had not been able to travel abroad until a recent change in Cuban travel policy.

Sánchez will host a town-hall-style meeting at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami on Wednesday, taking questions posed via Twitter and from people in the audience.

She will focus on questions regarding technology, innovation and social change from Twitter users, although audience members can ask "questions regarding topics of importance," according to event organizers.

Pamela Silva Conde, co-anchor of Univision's news show *Primer Impacto* (First Impact), will moderate the event, which begins at noon. It's organized by The Knight Foundation and Roots of Hope, a group whose goal is bridging the gap between Cubans abroad and those on the island.

Twitter questions can be directed to @askyoani, @PamelaSilva and by using the hashtags #AskYoani and #YoaniResponde.

The "Tweet Up with Yoani Sánchez" is a ticketed event but tickets are free of charge. To register, visit AskYoani.com.

Miami Herald Reporter Daniel Chang contributed to this report.

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Pleeeeeeeeeeeeee. enough is enough. find something else to report on. who cares about some cuban blogger; whatever the he** that is.

Reply · 2 · Like · Follow Post · Wednesday at 6:12am



Humberto Capiro · Top Commenter · Venice, California

DUDE! WHY DID YOU END UP HERE COMMENTING WITH SO MUCH ONLINE??

Reply · Like · Wednesday at 1:50pm



Julio Stieffel · President at Americas Rep International

Carl, don't hurt your self by reading this. Read something else. Freedom of choice.

Reply · 4 · Like · Follow Post · Wednesday at 8:17am



Albert Varas · Follow · Miami, Florida

Carl.... Pleeeeease... enough is enough. Read your "Redneck Journal" and stay off other stuff.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · Wednesday at 9:57am



Larry Daley · Top Commenter · UC Davis

That library is a wonderful resource.

For over fifty years I wondered why.

the Castro goons that arrested my sister and I during the Bay of Pigs.

wore blue uniforms and used regular police cars.

It turns out they were lead by Gervasio Rieumont who had been a goon for Batista,

had been a cop during the Autentico administrations, and then returned to Batista.

As soon as Castro reached Havana, Rieumont who had been a secret communist.

all along took to organize some of the Castro political police.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · Wednesday at 10:36am



Larry Daley · Top Commenter · UC Davis

Here is a citation on Rieumont:

Grosso Díaz. Francisco 2002 Mis Recuerdos de Familia in:- Domenico Capolongo (coordinator) 2002 Emigracion e presenza italiana in Cuba. Volume 1 Series:Collana di studi storici., Publisher: Roccarainola : Circolo culturale B.G. Duns Scoto, 2002. OCLC Number: 491066524. Pages 53-64, material cited on pages 62-63 " ...los autores de los articulos Angel Tomas y Emilio Suri describan como el Sr. Josef Frederick Degan que trabajaba bajo los órdenes del General Faupel, Director del Instituto Iberoamericano de Berlín y después bajo los órdenes del Comandante de servicio de inteligencia y contraespionaje de la Marina Alemana, Wilhelm Canaris. Según el artículo el Embajador ingles en La Habana, Herbert A. Grant, alertó al Jefe del Buró de Investigaciones de la Policía Nacional del entonces Presidente Bati...See More

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