

# NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

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COURTESY PHOTO

**Maria Segura, center, and her family with former Gov. Jeb Bush at the Celebration of Reading.**

## Immokalee mom, children celebrate college scholarships

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Former Gov. Jeb Bush unveiled a great surprise to an Immokalee family during this year's Celebration of Reading.

Mr. Bush presented a four-year college scholarship to Maria Segura, a former student and current preschool leader at the Jump Start Family Literacy Academy. Mrs. Segura's two youngest children were awarded community college scholarships.

"Maria spent many years working alongside her husband as a migrant farmer to help support her family," Mr. Bush said at the celebration. "But after hearing about a local family literacy academy that could help both her and her children, she was able to work hard and earn a GED diploma. Now Maria has a job at that same academy teaching preschoolers."

The mother of four said she was tired of struggling to make ends meet and was unhappy that her two oldest children had to work in the field during weekends and summers. When she heard about the Jump Start Family Literacy Academy, her life changed.

"When I knocked on the door, the people at Jump Start encouraged my enthusiasm to learn," she said. "It was the best of both worlds; I could learn in a classroom while my 4-year old got to attend a preschool program right there with me."

The annual Celebration of Reading, a formal evening at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, benefits the Family Literacy Initiative; the initiative, which is managed by the Volunteer USA Foundation, started its scholarship program last year to recognize parents who are outstanding literacy students as well as their children. To date, eight adults and 12 children have received scholarships to pursue a community college degree or career and technical education.

SEE CELEBRATION, A12 ►

## “This requires a change of mind and heart.” — The Earth Charter

# earthly mandate

Local, global leaders champion blueprint for creating a more sustainable future

BY ROGER WILLIAMS  
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**S**tephen C. Rockefeller, son of Nelson, member of the famous political and philanthropic family, stood quietly in a lecture hall at Florida Gulf Coast University last week and tried to change the world.

Dressed in blue blazer, green tie and the alert academic demeanor that has characterized his decades as



Rockefeller

professor of religion and dean of the highly rated Middlebury College, he hardly looked ready for the work.

But appearances are sometimes deceiving.

"I've learned that if you give people too much bad news," he said dryly, "they tune out. But if you give

them a sense of creative possibilities, something happens."

All around him, in fact, it was happening, but with only the quietest fanfare.

While FGCU's President Wilson Bradshaw picked up a pen and began to scratch his name across a document, Mary Evelyn Tucker, a visiting professor at Yale University and a research associate at Harvard, along with prominent German, Indian, Mexican, and Australian academics, smiled encouragingly in his direction.

*Not to worry, their attentive expressions seemed to suggest — this is just another average day trying to redirect the flow of history, and now you get to help, too.*

By the time President t down the pen a few seconds later, he'd committed his university to champion the Earth



COURTESY PHOTO

**FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw, right, commits the university to champion the Earth Charter.**

Charter, a short steam-train of a document, if you will, created by leaders and representatives of every major religion, region, cultural ambition or nation on the globe to allow us to survive the 21st century and beyond, together.

SEE EARTH, A8 ►

## INSIDE



### If the Shoe Fits

And more events just right for seeing and being seen around town. **C23, 24 & 25 ►**



### It's de-lovely

Deciphering Cole Porter in preparation for seeing "Anything Goes" at the Sugden. **C1 ►**



### Better than sliced bread

Meet the local minds behind some great inventions. **B1 ►**



### At home with Jonathan Green

Celebrated artist opens his home for a tour organized by Temple Shalom Sisterhood. **A16 ►**

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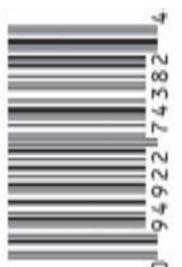
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