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**RELOCATING THE BEEHIVE:** Beehive Natural Foods is a health food store and juice bar in South Miami. After many years at its current location, Beehive is being forced out of its storefront on Bird Road to make room for a new CVS.

PHOTOS BY MONICA HERNDON // PHOTO EDITOR



**NEIGHBORHOOD CHOW:** Carlos Schicchi, owner of Beehive Juice Bar, laughs as he prepares lunch for customers Friday.



**FEEL GOOD FORMULAS:** Beehive Natural Foods sells all vegan or vegetarian foods, such as these herbal wellness formulas.

## Drugstore shuts down local strip-mall

### National franchise kicks out vegetarian market, local eatery

BY LYSSA GOLDBERG  
OPINION EDITOR

On an inconspicuous corner of a strip-mall about a mile from the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus, Beehive Natural Foods sells supplements and snacks. At lunchtime, the Beehive Juice Bar in the back bustles with hungry regulars at its counter.

"Carlitos, I'm starving," murmurs a woman whose young daughter is attached to her hip.

"Right away," the chef answers devotedly.

The customers are craving vegetarian and vegan fare like bean sprout burgers. Still, more than that, they crave Beehive's sense of community.

Beehive has been an institution for decades. The storefront's current owner, Bob Penna, has been with Beehive for 33 years. Carlos Schicchi has been running the juice bar for 23 years.

"People go to the Beehive largely because of my dad's personality," said Gabriel Schicchi, son of the Brazilian chef. "He's there waiting for you, serves the food that he made himself, talks to you, makes a ton of bad jokes, but makes you want to come back."

Both Penna and Schicchi are the reason that loyal patrons from the South Miami area, including many from UM, return to the health food establishment again and again.

But a man-made disturbance may disrupt this natural order at Beehive.

CVS Pharmacy has bought out the strip-mall on the 5700 block of Bird Road. Beehive Natural Foods and Juice Bar will be kicked out this coming January.

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# South Miami to lose local health hub, shop

**BEEHIVE** FROM PAGE 1

Several other small businesses, including students' favorite 1909 Cafe, will be displaced as well.

Nearby Allen's Drug Store, which is not directly connected to the strip-mall, will remain in its place. Walgreens already exists across the street, and CVS will make the third pharmacy in the immediate vicinity. Gabriel Schicchi considers this ironic.

"Part of the whole idea of a health food store and a juice bar is to not take pharmaceuticals and to try to find a healthy natural alternative," he said. "It just figures that they would have to close because CVS bought the property."

The 24-year-old also finds it unimaginable that his father's long-loved natural haven in its current form is going to close.

"I've been there my whole life, and some of those customers have been coming in every day since I was 3 years old," he said.

Senior Emily Northrop, who has been eating and shopping at Beehive since high school, is one of these regulars. She's a flexitarian – someone who prefers vegetarian foods – and eats there monthly.

"It's kind of chaotic, and that's part of the charm," she said. "I think it really is in the atmosphere, it's in the location, it's in the local owner, and the people I meet

there. I always have good conversations with the people at the bar."

The juice bar has served many other students from UM, as well as professors, according to Schicchi.

"We see people from the law department – most of the professors come here to eat and bring their friends – to all kinds of engineers, scholars, professionals and regular people, too," he said.

Better yet, all sorts of business partners were born over countertop conversation, and a few marriages have come out of the Beehive as well.

Customers also come to the health food store to seek out Penna's expertise for their nutritional needs.

Penna even practices holistic healing at home with his 10 children. One of his sons, Matthew, is a sophomore at UM, and he worked alongside his dad at Beehive for most of his adolescence.

"Beehive definitely has a communal type of environment," Matthew Penna said. "You have people going in for the juice bar ... and before you know it, they're buying some vitamins, and it works the other way around."

It's this kind of dynamic that Beehive customers and employees are hoping won't be disrupted. The health food store-front has tentative plans to move to a larger location on Bird Road.



**MONICA HERNDON // PHOTO EDITOR**

**BEEHIVE:** Alumnus Manuel Arca browses the aisles of Beehive Friday. The grocery store, owned by Bob Penna, features a juice bar, which is owned by Carlos Schicchi.

"I can't wait for my customers to enjoy it," Penna said. "... One of the things I definitely want to have is space to have seminars. We want to get everybody in the community involved."

Meanwhile, Schicchi has not decided whether he will move his juice bar into Penna's new store because the juice bar has taken on a life of its own.

"We need a bigger space to sustain that, and it's also important that we acquire a kitchen inside of the operation," he said.

Schicchi envisions opening a small restaurant, but that requires finding the right location and the funds.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**WHAT:** Beehive Natural Foods and Beehive Juice Bar

**WHERE:** 5750 Bird Road, South Miami

**CONTACT:** Visit the Facebook page at [on.fb.me/1f8hAfm](https://on.fb.me/1f8hAfm) or call 305-663-1300.

## ACADEMICS

# Speakers bring diverse backgrounds to immigration reform

## Course offers various perspectives

**BY WILLIAM RIGGIN**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER

"Immigration Reform: The Current Debate" is a new class that features four professors with varying backgrounds and perspectives on the issue.

"We wanted to expose students to speakers who, as a group, bring different practical and academic perspectives," said one of the professors, Ariel Armony, who is also the director of Latin American studies. "There is a tendency in universities to approach issues from one side, and we didn't want to just present the sympathetic side of the argument because of where we are."

The course tackles an issue that hits close to home, with an estimated 740,000 undocumented immigrants in the state of Florida alone, out of the 11 million nationwide.

Armony said that he conceived the idea for the class because of the progress of current immigration reform in Washington and subsequently brought it up to University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala, who loved the idea. He then brought the idea to Leonidas Bachas, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who also supported the team-taught class.

The professors come from different backgrounds: Armony, an expert on Latin American issues; political science professor Joseph Uscinski, who understands the American political system; Rudy Fernandez, who previously served under former President George W. Bush and is now the chief of staff to Shalala and vice president for govern-

ment and community relations; and Fernand Amandi, who worked on President Barack Obama's most recent presidential campaign and is a managing partner for his own communications consulting firm, Bendixen & Amandi International.

"I taught the election course last year that included [GOP hopeful] Herman Cain as a guest speaker, and we thought that bringing in big-name speakers who are practitioners would allow students to learn about immigration up close," Uscinski said.

The course's first class featured Enrique Gonzalez, special counsel to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who helped write the current immigration reform bill now in Congress. The second week featured Jorge Ramos, the popular anchor of Noticiero Univision.

"It's a very unique opportunity that will only happen once," said Reid Wilcox, who is enrolled in the class. "To hear from the

architects of current immigration reform and leading thinkers on the issue is amazing, and it will only happen once, here at UM."

Upcoming guests include the former Rep. Tom Tancredo, a 2014 Colorado gubernatorial candidate, and Florida Congressman Joe Garcia, a Democrat whose district includes Monroe County and part of Miami-Dade. Tancredo is an opponent of immigration and has referred to Miami as a "third-world country" in the past.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**WHAT:** Immigration reform course  
**WHERE:** Storer Auditorium

**WHEN:** 5 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays

► The class features guest speakers followed by professors' lectures.