

Fall 2006

# Florida International University Magazine Fall 2006

Florida International University Division of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/fiu\\_magazine](http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/fiu_magazine)

---

## Recommended Citation

Florida International University Division of University Relations, "Florida International University Magazine Fall 2006" (2006). *FIU Magazine*. 4.  
[http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/fiu\\_magazine/4](http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/fiu_magazine/4)

This work is brought to you for free and open access by FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in FIU Magazine by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dcc@fiu.edu](mailto:dcc@fiu.edu).

# FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE FALL 2006



## 20/20 VISION

President Modesto A. Maidique crowns his 20-year anniversary at FIU with an historic accomplishment, winning approval for a new College of Medicine.

### Also in this issue:

Alumna Dawn Ostroff '80 takes the helm of a new television network

FIU honors alumni at largest-ever Torch Awards Gala

College of Business Administration expansion garners support

# GOT TICKETS?

THE 2006 GOLDEN PANTHERS FOOTBALL SEASON WILL BE THE HOTTEST ON RECORD WITH THE HISTORIC FIRST MATCHUP AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AT THE ORANGE BOWL.

DON'T MISS A MOMENT.  
CALL FOR YOUR TICKETS TODAY: 1-866-FIU-GAME

## FIU Golden Panthers 2006 Season

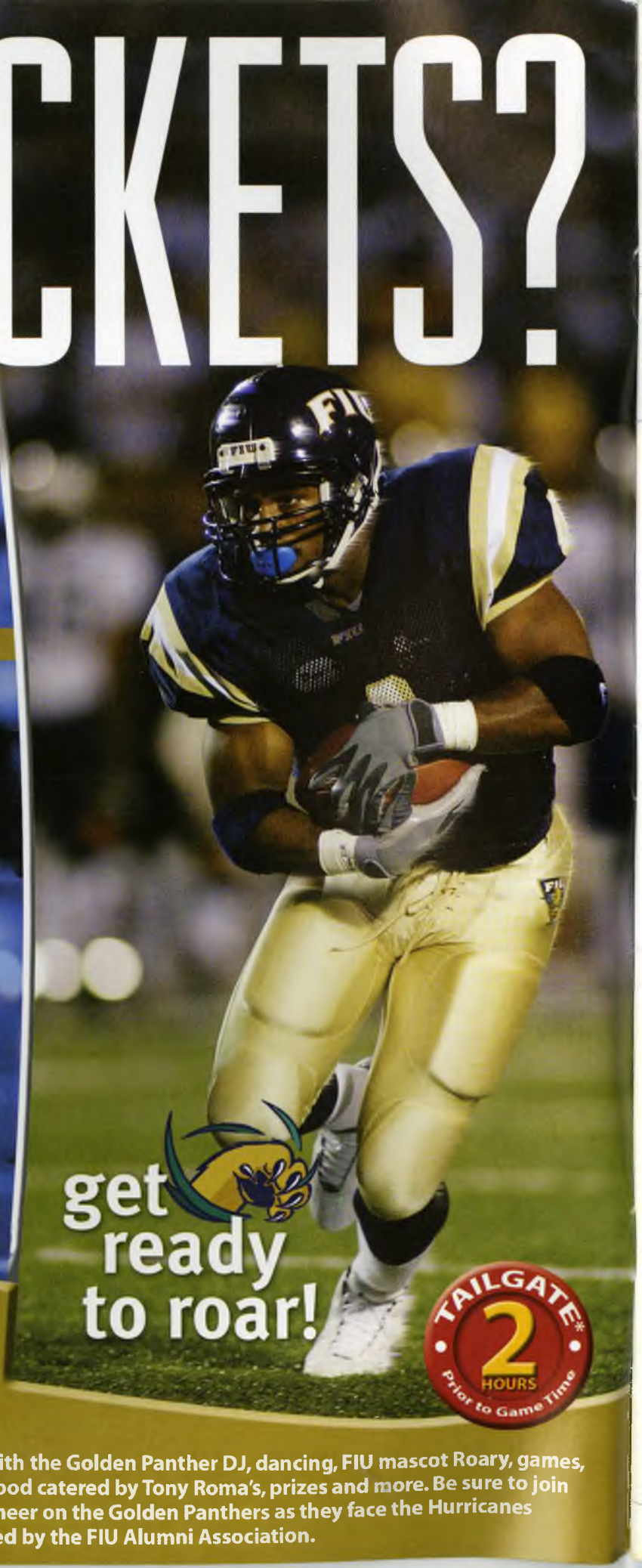
|               |                                     |   |           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| August 31     | Middle Tennessee                    | A | 7 p.m.    |
| September 9*  | South Florida                       | A | 7 p.m.    |
|               | <i>Raymond James Stadium, Tampa</i> |   |           |
| September 16* | Bowling green                       | H | 6 p.m.    |
| September 23* | Maryland                            | A | 6 p.m.    |
| September 30* | Arkansas State                      | H | 6 p.m.    |
|               | <i>Parents weekend</i>              |   |           |
| October 7     | North Texas                         | A | 7 p.m.    |
| October 14*   | University of Miami                 | A | TBA       |
|               | <i>Orange Bowl, Miami</i>           |   |           |
| October 28*   | Alabama                             | A | TBA       |
| November 11*  | Louisiana-Monroe                    | H | 7 p.m.    |
| November 18*  | Louisiana-Lafayette                 | H | 6 p.m.    |
|               | <i>Homecoming</i>                   |   |           |
| November 25*  | FAU                                 | A | 3:30 p.m. |
|               | <i>Dolphin Stadium</i>              |   |           |
| December 2*   | Troy                                | H | 7 p.m.    |

\*THE PANTHER PIT TAILGATE  
The coolest place to be on game day.



Fun for the whole family with the Golden Panther DJ, dancing, FIU mascot Roary, games, giveaways, face painting, food catered by Tony Roma's, prizes and more. Be sure to join us at the Orange Bowl to cheer on the Golden Panthers as they face the Hurricanes for the first time. Sponsored by the FIU Alumni Association.

get  
ready  
to roar!



**on the cover**



**On the cover: 20/20 Vision**

President Modesto A. Maidique appeared in high spirits on an August afternoon to stand for the cover portrait overlooking the FIU Green Library, an iconic image of the university's educational excellence. Dr. Maidique oversaw the expansion of the library, as well as the construction of more than 20 major facilities at FIU. His 20 years at Florida International University have been, in the words of one community leader, "transformational."

**in this issue**

**04 In Brief**

President awards 100,000th degree of his career

**12 Alumni Profile:**

Dawn Ostroff '80

**14 Into the Blue**

FIU marine biologist Michael Heithaus, a renowned shark expert, explores how these mysterious animals behave and influence other marine life and the ecosystem.

**20 The FIU College of Medicine**

In a series of stories, we explore what's next now that the Florida Board of Governors has given a green light for FIU to open a new College of Medicine. And one Miami family shares their joy in learning the medical school has been approved.

**26 2005 Torch Awards Gala**

Performances by American Idol star and alumna Nadia Turner make the 2005 Gala an unforgettable night for honoring FIU's best and brightest.

**30 Building for Business Success**

A new four-building complex for the College of Business Administration will support a team-oriented, active learning approach.

**32 New Athletics Association Board to increase support for FIU sports**

**33 Alumni News:**

The Alumni Association welcomes a new board of directors.

**34 Alumni Spotlight:**

Danny Pino '96 and his wife Lilly Bernard Pino '97

**37 Class Notes**

**40 Donor Profile:**

North Dade Medical Foundation

**41 VIP:**

Joy Wallace '81

**in the next issue**



**Protecting our environment**

Research conducted by scientists in the FIU Southeast Environmental Research Center is

playing a key role in the restoration and preservation of the Florida Everglades, as well as other fragile resources: Biscayne National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve and Florida Bay. We explore how the efforts of SERC scientist are improving the future of South Florida's threatened environments.

03



**The Campaign for The First Generation**

FIU has the opportunity to award \$1.6 million in scholarships to deserving students if the university can raise \$823,000 by Nov. 30 to match a state grant.

08



**Each One, Teach One**

Legendary civil rights leader and educator Bob Moses joins FIU's Center for Urban Education and Innovation and brings the Algebra Project to Miami's public schools.

31



**Florida's Women Business Leaders Find Balance**

A new study by FIU's Center for Leadership explores the lives of women who hold top corporate positions.

Special 40  
1271  
773  
A1  
pg 13  
Nov 1  
2004  
Fall  
CIA

## from the Editor



Dear Readers,

On March 23, 2006, the Florida Board of Governors took the historic step of approving a new College of Medicine for Florida International University. The vote was widely hailed for the promise of improved health care and educational access for the community. These social and educational issues are substantiated by hard numbers that ultimately made the case for the new medical school.

The facts and figures, however, don't alone tell the story. To understand just how important this medical college will be in our community, you have to meet 16-year-old Jasmin Qyyum and her family, whom we feature as part of our medical college coverage starting on page 20. The Qyyums welcomed us into their home to share their personal reasons for celebrating news of the medical college. Jasmin, who aspires to one day be a physician, embodies the true promise of FIU's new College of Medicine.

In the glow of this recent triumph, FIU is also reflecting on another success story, the 20-year anniversary of President Modesto A. Maidique. While institutional success is certainly built on the hard work and dedication of many, it also depends on strong leadership at the top. Few public university presidents have served as long as President Maidique, even fewer can be credited with the scope of his accomplishments at FIU.

We at FIU Magazine marveled as we compiled the 20-year timeline of FIU milestones starting on page 16. FIU's progress is nothing short of remarkable. Even more exciting is what the future holds as FIU fulfills its vision of being a top public urban research university. Your thoughts are always welcome at [oneild@fiu.edu](mailto:oneild@fiu.edu).

Cheers,

Deborah O'Neil

### FIU Magazine Editorial Advisory Board

**Cathy Akens**  
Assistant VP Student Affairs  
Biscayne Bay Campus

**Patricia Alvarez**  
Director, Sponsored Research and Training

**Pietro Bonaccosa**  
Associate Director, Credit Programs of Continuing and Professional Studies

**Gisela Casines**  
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Carol Damian**  
Chair and Professor, Department of Art and Art History; University-wide Arts Council

**Regina Delulio, Esq.**  
Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

**Dr. Stephen Fain**  
Professor, College of Education

**Estela Garcia**  
Assistant Director of Communication and Publications, College of Engineering and Computing

**Dr. Sally Gallion**  
Assistant Dean of Marketing, Communication, and Publications; College of Business Administration

**Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver**  
Dean, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

**Dr. Larry Lunsford**  
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, University Ombudsman

**Dr. John Stack**  
Professor, College of Law and Department of Political Science; Director, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies

**William R. Trueba, Jr., Esq. '90**  
President, FIU Alumni Association

**Dr. Bob Wolff**  
Associate Dean, College of Education

### FIU MAGAZINE Division of University Administration

**Marcos Perez '90, MBA '00**  
Vice President  
University Administration

**Terry Witherell**  
Associate Vice President  
External Relations

**Bill Draughon**  
Associate Vice President  
Alumni Relations

**William Stahl**  
Director of Publications

**Karen Cochran**  
Associate Director  
Editorial Services

**Deborah O'Neil**  
Editor, FIU Magazine

**Aileen Solá**  
Art Director

**Writers**  
Sue Arrowsmith '05  
Susan Feinberg  
Bryan Gilmer  
Martin Haro '05  
Mark Hayes  
Sara LaJeunesse  
Jose Parra '97

**Photographers**  
Marimer Codina  
Gloria O'Connell  
Ivan Santiago  
Michael Upright

### Florida International University 2006-07 Alumni Association Board Executive Committee

**William R. Trueba, Jr., Esq. '90**  
President

**Jose M. Perez de Corcho '93**  
Vice President

**Raymond del Rey '97**  
Secretary

**George B. Brackett Jr. '76 & '77**  
Treasurer

**Samuel C. Jackson '97**  
Parliamentarian

**Ty N. Javellana, CPA '88, MST '98**  
Past President

### Officers

Gabriel Albelo '93  
Stewart L. Appelrouth MS '80  
Joseph L. Caruncho, Esq. '81  
Jose Manuel Diaz '86  
Cynthia J. Dienstag, PA '84  
Joaquin "Jack" F. Gonzalez '98  
Carlos H. Hernandez '97  
Michael R. Mendez '03  
Raul Perez Ballaga '97  
Justo Luis Pozo '80  
Dr. Susan Webster '87

**Write To Us:** Send your letters via email to [oneild@fiu.edu](mailto:oneild@fiu.edu), fax to 305-348-3247 or mail to PC 515, Miami, FL 33199. Letters should refer to content in the magazine, and may be edited for publication. All letters must include writer's full name and address. Alumni, please include degree and year of graduation.

FIU MAGAZINE is published by the Florida International University Division of University Administration. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Distributed free of charge to alumni, friends, faculty and staff of the University. Postmaster and others, please send change of address information to *FIU Magazine*, Office of Alumni Relations, MARC 510, Miami, FL 33199.

Copyright ©2006, Florida International University • Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer and Institution. This document was produced at an annual cost of \$82,540 or \$0.69 per copy to inform the public about a university program. Qualified individuals with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act who need special accommodations for any FIU-sponsored event can request assistance by calling the number listed in association with the function. The request must be made five working days before the scheduled starting time. TDD, via FRS 1-800-955-8771.



# Scholarships for The First Generation

**Give today and your donation will be matched by the state to put college education within reach for needy students**

The desire to see your child achieve what was not within your reach is universal among parents. For many families, that means seeing their children finish college. At FIU, the promise of the next generation is realized every day.

But finishing college isn't easy for some here in Miami-Dade where 15 percent of families with two parents and 27 percent of single-mother families live below the poverty line. Young people who are the first in their families to attend college come to FIU with an ample supply of talent, determination and potential. Often, they need just a bit of extra help financially.

Earlier this year the Florida Legislature created a first-of-its-kind scholarship fund for first generation college students. The First Generation Matching Grant Program provides \$6.5 million statewide to be used to match private donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis for financial aid for needy first generation students.

FIU is eligible to receive up to \$823,000 from the state if the university can raise an equal amount by Nov. 30. Through this new program, all gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations or organizations will be leveraged significantly by qualifying for state matching dollars. Such a gift can be an important investment in building economic self-sufficiency for many FIU students who will remain in South Florida to live and work after graduation.

The total grant pool of \$1.6 million will help hundreds of deserving first generation students entering their freshman year at FIU. The financial aid will enable many of them to stay in school and help others pursue their studies full-time, which in turn will allow them to graduate sooner and become productive members of the community.

"This scholarship program represents a tremendous opportunity for the youth of our community to

receive a quality education," said Associate Vice President of University Advancement Sumner Hutcheson III. "As most of our graduates stay in Miami, this is a boon to the future vitality of the region. And for donors who contribute to this project, it is a rare opportunity to have their gifts matched dollar for dollar, no matter the amount."

The grant dollars will be used to fill in the gaps for first-generation, full-time, first-time-in-college freshmen who do not have enough to pay their education costs after receiving financial aid. A high percentage of FIU students receive only partial financial aid despite significant need.

For the 2006-07 academic year the minimum award amount is \$250 and the maximum is \$1,000. Eligible students will be Florida residents and U.S. citizens with demonstrated financial need whose parent(s) or legal guardian did not earn a baccalaureate degree.

"These are students who, in fact, still have financial need that has not been covered," said Vice President of Enrollment Management Corinne Webb. "This could make all the difference as to whether they venture forward. There have been many in the past who have shied away from higher education because they don't have quite enough money."

Many FIU students, the large majority of whom come from Miami-Dade County, are the first in their families to attend college. In Miami-Dade, 75 percent of people over age 25 do not have a four-year college degree. Of those, almost one quarter never finished high school.

What is clear is FIU has far more needy and deserving students than it has dollars to help.

"If we can raise the full amount to have \$1.6 million that would make a big difference in how many students we can help," said Webb. "We're excited about leading this aggressive campaign to help need-based students fulfill their academic dreams." ■



## First Generation Scholarship Fund

Fund-raising goal: **\$823,000**  
State deadline: **Nov. 30, 2006**  
State matching grant: **\$823,000**  
Total new scholarships: **\$1.6M**

### HOW TO GIVE

#### By Mail

Fill in the attached pledge card and mail it to the address indicated.

You can enclose a check or pay by credit card. All credit card information is kept strictly confidential.

#### By Phone

Call University Advancement at 305-348-2288 to make a credit card gift over a secure telephone line.

#### Online

Make a gift by going to the following site: [firstgen.fiu.edu](http://firstgen.fiu.edu)

## in brief.



Adriana Ayala, left, of the American Red Cross presents School of Nursing Dean Divina Grossman the 2006 Spectrum Health Care Award.

## American Red Cross honors nursing dean

The American Red Cross' Greater Miami and Florida Keys Division honored FIU School of Nursing Dean Divina Grossman in April with the 2006 Spectrum Health Care Award in recognition of her impact on quality of life in the South Florida community. Prior winners include environmentalist Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek and State Sen. Frederica Wilson.

Grossman was nominated by Health Foundation of South Florida, a Miami

philanthropic organization. Foundation CEO Dr. Steven Marcus praised Grossman's dedication to the nursing community. "She is a crusader and a true leader who is constantly providing new and innovative nursing education programs, finding ways to overcome the nursing shortage and working to close the diversity gap between health care professionals and patients."

In her five years as dean, Grossman has tackled the nursing shortage crisis by spearheading many educational initiatives which have increased enrollment by more than 125 percent. FIU is now the second-largest producer of nursing graduates in the state. ■

## Kiplinger: FIU among best education values

*Kiplinger Magazine* ranked Florida International University No. 49 among the Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges and universities in its 2006 survey. Not only was FIU named as one of the best values among the nation's public colleges and universities, but it ranked in the top 100 as the best value for out-of-state and international students as well.

"My vision from the very beginning has been to provide students with a high-quality education at an affordable cost," says FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "These rankings just confirm that we are providing students with the best possible education for

reasonable prices. It is extremely pleasing to me that our achievements are being recognized by this magazine." ■

## Alumni welcomed into CBA Hall of Fame



Hall of Fame inductees Albert Santalo '97 (top) and Glenn J. Rufrano 'MS 76 (bottom) accept their recognitions from CBA Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam.

FIU's College of Business Administration inducted two of its most accomplished alumni into its Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame during a May ceremony honoring the executives and marking the event's seventh year. The college also presented a third non-alumnus executive with its South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The three honorees recognized during a luncheon ceremony held at Parrot Jungle on Watson Island are alumni Albert Santalo '97, president and CEO of Miami-based Avisena; and Glenn J. Rufrano MS '76, CEO of New York-based New Plan Excel Realty Trust, Inc.; and Manuel D. Medina, chairman and CEO of Miami-based Terremark Worldwide, Inc., who was honored for significant success in and contributions to the South Florida business community. ■

## PRESIDENT AWARDS THE 100,000TH DEGREE OF HIS CAREER TO BIOMEDICAL ENGINEER

Bhavani Jayachandran's imaging probe could improve survival odds for women with breast cancer

By Sue Arrowsmith '05

President Modesto A. Maidique marked a milestone on May 2 when he awarded the 100,000th degree of his 20-year tenure to Bhavani Jayachandran '03, MS '06, a biomedical engineering graduate student with a remarkable personal story.

"The act of awarding the 100,000th degree holds symbolic significance for me personally," said Maidique, who handed out 3,200 degrees at the 2006 Spring Commencement. "Knowing that we've had such a profound impact on so many lives is very gratifying. Our graduates inspire me everyday."

President Maidique has presented 77 percent of all FIU degrees since the first



## New center will train CAFTA entrepreneurs

The U.S. Agency for International Development has awarded a \$286,209 grant to FIU's College of Business Administration to train business executives in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Combined with funding from Florida FTAA, Inc., this grant will help establish the Small and Medium Enterprises Center of Excellence (SMECE) at FIU, which will provide business education and executive training to entrepreneurs of small- and medium-size businesses in CAFTA countries.

Entrepreneurs will learn strategies for accessing U.S. markets and procedures for dealing with port authorities, customs brokerages, and wholesale and retail outlets. FIU expects to train 40 entrepreneurs in the pilot program and significantly more in subsequent years. ■

## Engineering research advances U.S. warfare technology

A \$1.5 million grant awarded to the College of Engineering and Computing will allow FIU researchers to develop technologies for electronic warfare as part of the ongoing Bio/Nano Electronic Devices and Sensors Program. U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen '75, MS '87 presented FIU President Modesto A. Maidique with the grant check on

May 15 on behalf of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

The research will be carried out by the College's Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute and will bolster the nation's warfare technology base. It involves the development of high-power microwave emitters that can irreversibly damage electronic equipment such as enemy communication systems and incoming missiles. Researchers are also developing carbon nanotube sensors that would enable a soldier to carry a portable sensor and transmit biological and chemical information to the command center.

"It's just terrific to have a facility that's so innovative and world-class right here in our own backyard," said Ros-Lehtinen. ■

## FIU named "cool" school for entrepreneurship

*Fortune Small Business* magazine named FIU one of 10 "cool" universities in the country for entrepreneurial programs and research. The ranking, published in March, placed FIU alongside institutions such as Harvard University and the University of Arizona.

The magazine, which is geared toward entrepreneurs and small business owners, said that FIU's Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center serves the largest minority population of any such higher education institution in the country.

The center, which is one of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's eight centers around the country, offers graduate and undergraduate courses, and conducts research of national reach, such as the 2004 U.S. Entrepreneurial Assessment. The center also assists small businesses through workshops and seminars. ■

## Lifelong learning program awarded \$100,000 grant

FIU's Continuing and Professional Studies (CAPS) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the The Bernard Osher Foundation for the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The Academy will now become The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FIU.

CAPS joins the prestigious network of 93 Osher Foundation Lifelong Learning Institutes on university campuses across the country. The grant will enable the institute to enhance its program development in a variety of areas, including educational study tours, expanded language instruction and a guest lecture series.

"We are proud to be at the forefront of a national awakening on the significance of lifelong learning in our communities," said Mercedes Ponce, executive director of CAPS. "In a knowledge-based society, it is imperative that our citizens have access to lifelong learning opportunities to remain vital and civically engaged." ■

commencement in 1973, including 73,850 bachelor's, 21,000 master's and all 790 doctorates ever awarded.

Receiving a master's degree was a defining moment for Jayachandran, who never finished school in her native India. In the audience was her father, Babu Naidu Enaganti, who traveled from Andra Pradesh in southern India to be at his daughter's graduation.

"The number one thing I gained after six years at FIU is confidence," said Jayachandran. "I know I'm starting a new phase in my life, but I know I can do it."

In Jayachandran's village, the single school house did not provide education beyond the seventh grade, so she began an eight-mile trek, six days a week, to a school in a neighboring town. She was the only girl among 15 boys making the same journey. Upon completing the eighth grade, her parents advised her to stay home.

In 1988, she arrived in the United States with her husband Krish Jayachandran, now an FIU professor of environmental studies.

She learned English and completed a General Education Diploma (GED) while he finished his Ph.D. at Kansas State University.

The couple moved to Miami in 1996 and Jayachandran obtained a bachelor's degree in computer engineering at FIU. She then directed her focus toward breast cancer research by developing a non-invasive, hand-held optical imaging device that utilizes infrared light to detect breast cancer in its early stages.

"While causes of breast cancer are not understood completely, early detection through screening is the best defense against morbidity and mortality," said Jayachandran.

In addition to receiving the 100,000th degree, magna cum laude, Jayachandran was named Best Teaching Assistant and won the Outstanding Master Graduate Award from the College of Engineering and Computing. She plans to pursue a doctorate degree in biomedical engineering at FIU, but for now she wants to devote more time to daughters Maanasa and Thejasa. ■



## in brief

FIU's Model U.N. delegation included, front, from left: Eloris Snyder, Annette Soberats, Diana Lora. Middle: Alex Alonso, Elizabeth Prochet, Lorena Davis, Head Delegate Aaron Ramirez, Henric Boiardt, Vivian Gonzalez, Model U.N. Interim Director Khaleel Seecharan '02, MS '03, Diana Lim, Kathryn Cubbons, Michelle Oria. Back: Randol Mora, Aurelio "PJ" Rivera, Armand Murach and Rocio Perez.



### Model UN team takes first place

Once again, Florida International University's Model United Nations team returned from New York with the top spot in the Model United Nations competition. This is the 14th time the FIU team returned from the oldest and most prestigious mock United Nations competition in the world with an award. The FIU team, which represented the Seychelles Islands, obtained the "Outstanding Delegation," or first place award for performance.

This year's competition drew more than 3,500 students representing 200 universities. The five-day competition, which took place April 11-15, was created by the United Nations in the late 1940s. The mock sessions were held at the United Nations complex in New York City, with closing ceremonies held in the UN General Assembly Hall.

"To say that our students had an outstanding week is an understatement," said Khaleel Seecharan '02, MS '03, political science instructor and interim director of the program.

"They worked extremely hard all semester and they were constantly recognized in their committees for their strong performance." ■

### FIU completes first public hurricane loss model

The first public model to project hurricane losses for the state of Florida has been completed by the FIU International Hurricane Research Center and has already

produced more accurate figures on Hurricane Wilma's losses for South Florida than more expensive private models. FIU led a team of experts from the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, NOAA's Hurricane Research Division and the University of Miami in developing the computer model. It is used to estimate annual expected insured losses from hurricanes and can also provide immediate estimates of losses from specific hurricane events like Katrina, Wilma and Charley. This public model can also be used in the future to quantify the economic benefits of hurricane mitigation.

Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty noted that the private, proprietary models used by the insurance industry do not allow one to see the underlying assumptions, making it difficult to evaluate requested rate increases. This project was initiated by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson when he was insurance commissioner. Florida CFO Tom Gallagher and State Sen. Rudy Garcia, recognizing the need for a transparent model for homeowners, helped secure \$2.7 million to pay for the model development. ■

### State dollars to support FIU growth, construction

FIU was one of Miami-Dade County's biggest winners in the 2006 legislative session that closed May 5. FIU's advocates in the Miami-Dade Delegation worked hard to bring home state dollars for critical initiatives. This is how FIU fared in six priority areas:

1. **Enrollment Growth** — Funded by the Legislature at \$6 million.
2. **Salaries** — FIU's faculty and staff are included in the 3 percent pay increase provided for state employees.
3. **Construction** — This year, FIU received a record amount of funding for university projects, \$45 million, including money for the completion of the molecular biology and social science buildings. FIU received an additional \$7.8 million for

cost overruns for existing projects including the law school building, the graduate school of business and marine biology buildings.

4. **Major Gifts Matching Program** — The Legislature fully funded the Matching Gifts Program, providing \$2,617,000 for FIU.
5. **Program Enhancement** — The Florida Legislature funded \$366,000 in recurring money for FIU's master's nursing program and \$3 million for life sciences.
6. **College of Medicine** — As agreed to with the Board of Governors, FIU did not seek funding for the medical school this session. The Legislature continued the funding for the current medical partnership between the FIU Honors College and the University of South Florida medical school. ■

### New York Times launches student journalism institute

*The New York Times* and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) will launch an intensive training program early in 2007 for Hispanic student journalists at FIU.

The program will consist of an institute for Hispanics similar to one created for African-Americans in 2003 at Dillard University in New Orleans. Allan Richards, chairman of the department of journalism and broadcasting at FIU, said: "*The New York Times*, in conjunction with the NAHJ, will be addressing the under-representation of Hispanics in U.S. newsrooms. The institute will help educate the next generation of talented young Hispanic journalists."

FIU's School of Journalism is 69 percent Hispanic and it ranks number one in the U.S. in the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics. *New York Times* Managing Editor Jill Abramson said that FIU was chosen to launch this program because of its strong reputation in journalism and the diversity of its student body. ■

## Nursing students to study health issues abroad



Professors Marie-Luise Friedemann and Kathryn Anderson

A new research grant in the FIU School of Nursing is making possible a one-of-a-kind learning program for minority students to study abroad.

The \$857,662 grant from the

National Institutes of Health will support the "Minority Health International Research Training Program," a cross-cultural training program in which undergraduate and graduate nursing students complete a semester of coursework and hands-on experience in various European and Latin American countries. The program, one of a handful in the nation, aims to attract minority nursing students to pursue careers in nursing research.

The four-year grant is the brainchild of FIU nursing faculty members Kathryn Anderson and Marie-Luise Friedemann. The professors hope that by exposing the students to leading nursing research in other countries, they will learn about health care programs for the needy in their host countries and return to become future advocates for minorities and the underserved in their own communities. The students will be mentored by top nursing researchers working around the world on health disparities, family health behaviors, health responses and family quality of life.

Beginning this fall, the first group of nursing minority students will be selected to work with nursing faculty at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in Italy, the Private University of Witten/Herdecke in Germany, the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College in England, and branches of the National University of Colombia in Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Venezuela and Mexico. ■

## Havana design captures top architecture prizes

Alumnus Gabriel Fuentes '02, M.Arch '05 has been recognized by two of the country's most important professional associations for his ability to see the Havana of tomorrow. In May, the Florida chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded him an Honor Award for Un-built Design, the organization's highest award category. Fuentes, a graduate of the School of Architecture and an adjunct professor, received the award for his design of a modern building for the Plaza Vieja town square in Old Havana, a section of the city dating back to the 17th century.

That same project, titled "Architecture as Contextual (Re) Interpretation: A Mixed-Use Cultural Center in Old Havana, Cuba," also landed him an Honor Award from the Boston Society of Architects, which grants the country's most prestigious award for un-built projects. Fuentes' design of a cultural center and exhibition space situated between two historically significant structures along Plaza Vieja explores contextual design of contemporary architecture in historic places. The concrete, wood and glass building would be five stories high and would house apartments, art studios, offices and art galleries.

Fuentes, who currently works at the Miami-based architectural and urban planning firm Zyscovich, Inc., traveled to Havana in December of 2004 to experience the city firsthand. He said the trip, which was funded with a private grant he secured with the assistance of the Cuban Research Institute, was necessary to physically understand the site. ■



Gabriel Fuentes' design of a modern cultural and exhibition center for the Plaza Vieja town square in Old Havana.



## Music Fest features jazz, symphony, organ concerts

The 2006 FIU Music Festival will showcase a talented line-up of FIU artists-in-residence and student ensembles to raise money for scholarships. Unless otherwise indicated, all performances will start at 8 p.m. at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased from the FIU Box Office by calling 305-348-1998. Here is the festival schedule:

**Nov. 2:** Festival Grand Opening performance with FIU Symphony Orchestra, featuring cellist Mark Drobinsky and faculty conductor Maestro Carlos Riazuelo; the Miami Master Chorale, under the direction of John Augenblick.

**Nov. 3:** Choral ensemble Chanticleer performs at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 464 NE 16th, Miami.

**Nov. 4:** FIU Big Band featuring jazz singer Alan Harris, and jazz trumpeter Ingrid Jensen.

**Nov. 5:** The Amernet String Quartet in concert with cellist Mark Drobinsky, violinist Robert Davidovici, and pianist Kemal Gekic.

**Nov. 9:** "Schumanniad," an evening of Robert Schumann's music, featuring faculty and guest artists with Robert Dundas, faculty director.

**Nov. 10:** "A Tribute to America's Musical Heritage" by Dallas Brass, featuring a full complement of brass and percussion with the music of Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin, Sousa, Glen Miller and Benny Goodman.

**Nov. 11:** Argentina vs. Italian Night

**Nov. 12:** Faculty composer Orlando J. Garcia celebrates 20 years at FIU in a concert of his work with faculty performers and music ensemble NODUS.

**Nov. 16:** Artists-in-Residence violinist Robert Davidovici and pianist Kemal Gekic in concert.

**Nov. 17:** American organist Todd Wilson performs on the Schantz organ donated to the FIU School of Music by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim.

**Nov. 18:** Artist-in-Residence Arturo Sandoval performs Latin, standard and contemporary jazz with the FIU Big Band. ■

# EACH ONE, TEACH ONE

Civil rights leader Bob Moses brings grassroots mathematics education to South Florida's urban schools

Story by Mark E. Hayes  
Photos by Marimer Codina

They ride long yellow buses from Mississippi and Louisiana — dozens of high school students arriving in Miami to teach and preach their new, distinctive brand of academic activism. They are the young people of the Algebra Project, the modern heirs of the civil rights movement. The mathematically-minded children of Bob Moses have come to town, and they have some serious fun to share.

Over the past two years, legendary civil rights activist, MacArthur Genius Fellowship winner and down-to-earth Lanier High School algebra teacher Robert Moses has partnered with FIU's Center for Urban Education and Innovation to bring the fruits of the Algebra Project to Miami's public schools. He is an eminent scholar of the Center for Urban Education, where he joins fellow MacArthur Genius winner and center Director Lisa Delpit, also a pioneer in urban education.



"Access for all to this level of education is the next civil right."

—  
Bob Moses,  
eminent scholar,  
Center for  
Urban  
Education and  
Innovation

Changing the educational system of the nation is not a job he can do by himself — in fact, the degree and scale of change Moses envisions requires that everybody get involved. In 2005, Moses and his collection of math activists took part in and, at many times, led the student-centered workshop, "Quality Education as a Civil Right" at the Homeless Assistance Center in downtown Miami.

This summer, Moses led the Summer Mathematics Institute at the Biscayne Bay Campus, a college preparatory program in mathematics for high school graduates. In August 2006, Moses initiated the first Algebra Project site in a Miami high school at Edison Senior High. Along with FIU doctoral student Mario Eraso, Moses will teach 20 freshmen, who are struggling with mathematics, five days a week for 90 minutes a day. He will teach the students for four years until they graduate.

Most people agree that public schools in the United States aren't working properly — that is, they don't do enough to prepare young people for whatever future awaits them. But the roots of the problems in our schools and the possible solutions to fix them are hard to find. From the highest level of government, there is talk of the soft bigotry of low expectations and the hopeful remedy of standardized testing, of a uniform curriculum, vouchers, and charter schools. No child will be left behind.

But as Moses sees it, lots and lots of children are being left behind — especially in poor and urban schools. According to the Urban Institute, 50 percent of black ninth graders and 47 percent of Hispanics do not graduate in four years. Drop-out rates approach 80 percent in some poor and urban schools.

In the area of math and sciences, U.S. students routinely trail behind



students in Europe and Asia. In 2004, the U.S. Department of Education released the findings of an international student assessment with this summary: “America’s 15-year-olds performed below the international average in mathematics literacy and problem-solving.”

Moses talks about the “sharecropper education of low expectations” that has been in place since the national educational system was desegregated decades ago. It isn’t necessarily a black and white issue, he suggests, but rather an issue of what public schools have become for most young people — a place to acquire merely enough basic education to work in a service or low-end industrial job.

The central issue, for Moses, is one of civil rights. If young people are to have future access to the best possible jobs, then they must also have the best

possible K-12 education — an education that provides every child with the opportunity to go to college and, afterwards, work in a global economy that is driven less by industry and more by information. The key to preparing everyone — and he means everyone — for college and for the economy of the future, suggests Moses, is the ability to do the abstract and symbolic thinking best developed in an algebra class.

“In today’s world,” he argues, “economic access and full citizenship depend crucially on math and science literacy. Access for all to this level of education is the next civil right.”

**A radical solution**

The roots of Moses’ life’s work can be found in his remarkable book, “Radical Equations.” When Moses uses the word radical, he’s not just

Fifty percent of black ninth graders and 47percent of Hispanics do not graduate in four years.

— The Urban Institute

making a mathematical pun. He quotes the civil rights activist Ella Baker: “I use the term radical in its original meaning — getting down to and understanding the root causes.”

Moses developed the basic framework for a new, more accessible approach to teaching algebra during the 1980s when his daughter was a middle school student in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The idea is to use direct experience in the real world to provide a model for abstract mathematical concepts. Students then work with those concepts symbolically. For instance, Moses taught the concept of the number line with its positive and negative numbers, by using the Boston subway system.



The middle-school part of The Algebra Project is now a far bigger venture than Moses can handle alone. It is an organization of more than 300 teachers across the country that serves 10,000 students. Having figured out the basics with middle schoolers, Moses has, since 1996, been working with students at Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi. So, in addition to being a national leader of educational innovation, he typically teaches two sections of juniors and one section of sophomores.

“To understand fully the nature of the work,” he said, “you have to roll up your sleeves and be involved. You have to really know what it means in the deepest sense to break through and actually get student production and



**“If we are able to motivate them somehow, they’ll be able to continue learning.”**

—  
Jose Jimenez  
math educator

results. The only way to get that is to be in the classroom.”

The Miami-Dade school system is the fourth largest in the nation. Like many urban school systems around the country, it faces the continual challenge of meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. In 2004, the district employed more than 19,000 teachers and enrolled 360,000-plus students. More than 60 percent of those students qualified for free or reduced lunches, an indicator of poverty levels. Miami-Dade’s schools are a cultural melting pot, with students who speak dozens of languages, and come from even more ethnic groups.

“Miami doesn’t seem to look toward the rest of the country,” Moses observes. “It looks toward the Southern Hemisphere, both in terms of its culture, in terms of its politics, as

well as in terms of its language. On the other hand, it has the mix of people who are going to really be instrumental in defining issues for the country. And it also has the glaring issue which is facing the country: Can we continue to be a nation which has these enormous differences in wealth?”

All the more reason for FIU’s Center for Urban Education and Innovation to invite this education leader to bring his work to South Florida. When he is working in Miami, his schedule is packed with student-centered activities. It’s all part of his grassroots approach to changing a system that doesn’t serve the needs of the people who are in it.

**Seriously fun mathematics**

At the Homeless Assistance Center on North Miami Avenue one afternoon, in the facility’s gymnasium,

some 40 or so students are running around in what appears to be barely organized chaos. Slips of paper clutched in their hands, four teams of middle school students sprint back and forth. The floor is covered by a network of hoops and colored tape — red, blue and yellow. It's hard to tell what's going on exactly, but the kids are clearly engaged, in between all the running, in some very intense calculations in group conference.

Moses stands smiling in a corner of the gym and watches the rather elaborate game of hopscotch unfold. He explains that the game is designed to teach the Möbius Function, an important multiplicative operation in number theory and combinatorics.

The game continues. This is serious fun — spirited play full of yelling and jumping up and down. But it isn't gym class or recess, it's an algebra lesson. Moses again explains to the adults observing how the game works:

"What you get from a game like this is a conceptual language, which is nobody's spoken language, and the actual symbolic representations that are in all their science and math textbooks. The transition from spoken language or natural language to conceptual language — which is the scientist's made-up language — is a transition that the students need to learn. But it has to be put out on the floor for them."

Later in the day, math educator Jose Jimenez who worked with Moses while an FIU graduate student, arrives for a community forum to discuss quality education as a civil right. Jimenez spent half a year at Lanier High in Mississippi working with Moses. He is quick to point out the need for public schools to move beyond high-stakes testing.

"Students are bored in math class," he says. "They lose hope and lose interest. If we're able to motivate them somehow, they'll be able to continue learning. We focus too much on single individual achievement. We all must rise."

Grassroots reform, especially when

it develops with young people (not on them) in the classroom (not in state capitals) looks messy. Someone coming into the gymnasium and seeing the Möbius Function game in progress might never realize math was being learned. What Moses and his like-minded teachers and students are doing is simply drawing on, in his words, "the everyday culture of kids. What they're into. How do we show them their experiences are related to important mathematics?"

### Change from the bottom up

Some of the students who have been involved in the Algebra Project for many years have set up the Young People's Project, now an independently operating student-run group supporting mentoring, training math literacy workers, and taking part in community activism. They take what they have learned from Moses and apply it to the larger project of education reform.

These ambassadors for math literacy have a simple slogan: "Each one, teach one."

Over the months and years, slowly, the skills and ideas and aspirations have been passed on from teachers to students, from older students to younger, from one to another. In South Florida schools like Finlay Elementary, Lake Stevens Elementary, Filer Middle School, Miami Jackson High, Booker T. Washington Senior High and John A. Ferguson Senior High — as well as many others — students are taking charge of their own educations.

All these lessons about changing a system from the bottom up Bob Moses learned fighting for voting rights in Mississippi in the early 1960s as part of the larger civil rights movement. In his mind, there's a short distance between "Each One, Teach One" and "One Person, One Vote."

"When we were working on the right to vote, it was very important for the sharecroppers to be involved in the process of getting that right for themselves," Moses says. "It was



"To understand fully the nature of the work, you have to roll up your sleeves and be involved."

—  
Bob Moses, eminent scholar, Center for Urban Education and Innovation

important for them to know that this was something that they demanded and struggled for. You can't hand people democracy, you can't present it to them as a gift. Democracy has to be struggled for, and you have to engage in the process of attaining it.

"Education is like that also," he continues. "You can't hand the students their educations. They have to decide that they want an education. They have to struggle for it. You can have reforms. But the problem is a missing conversation."

In other words, if you want the kids to care about learning, they must have a legitimate say in how schools are run.

In the larger picture, what Bob Moses has begun now extends far beyond him — and he is content to have it that way. His influences are the forgotten names in the front lines of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 60s, "people," he says, "who are not necessarily in the history books, but people who belong to a legacy for whom what is most important in this country is how you can still live a life of struggle. It's still a country in which you can have a meaningful life. Each one was able to make a difference."

As clearly as Bob Moses is a man on a mission — and he is happy to meet with public officials, education leaders and journalists — his passion for teaching always leads him around to his students. Back in the gym where the Möbius game was being played, soon after finishing his talk with a few grown-ups, he drifts over to the bleachers and begins talking with a pair of his students or rather, the young men begin talking to him. Bob Moses is always sure to listen carefully before he responds — speaking softly and with hopeful patience born of many years of struggle. ■

*Mark E. Hayes is a freelance writer in Miami. His cultural commentary feature, Passing Notes, can be heard on 88.9 FM Serious Jazz. He teaches and serves as the director of the Center for Writing at Palmer Trinity School.*



# Dawn Ostroff '80

**Working her way to the top:**  
Leading a new television network is the latest challenge for the SJMC alumna

By Bryan Gilmer

Surrounded by a fleet of assistants who arrange and rearrange her schedule, Dawn Ostroff '80 anoints and punctures dreams in her Wilshire Boulevard office.

Hollywood producers who have discovered a bright, young writer with a wild idea for a TV show work their connections to get a pitch meeting with her. Heartbroken fans of canceled or imperiled shows under her control post her address and phone number on the Internet with exhortations to lobby her.

"Trek does not need a break," a fan calling himself MJ wrote on the site [enterpriseproject.org](http://enterpriseproject.org) last year when Ostroff, as UPN TV president of entertainment, announced the cancellation of *Star Trek: Enterprise*. "And I am here to say that I will not give ... Dawn Ostroff, Viacom, Paramount, or any other human or corporate beings connected with this franchise a break. I have not yet begun to fight."

The show's still dead.

# Alumni profile

Ostroff has ushered such hit shows as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Everybody Hates Chris” and “America’s Next Top Model” into existence. Now, UPN is merging with The WB, another decade-old upstart network that never made it to the top tier. The merged network will launch in September as “The CW,” and the networks’ parent companies have tapped Ostroff as its president of entertainment. She is weeding through the mish-mash of both networks’ lineups and launching new shows to forge a brand she hopes will attract the 18- to 34-year-old viewers that make advertisers salivate.

The new network will take plenty of chances, Ostroff says. The 46-year-old executive wants to imbue The CW with a Myspace.com-like sense of community.

“We really believe in the viewer to participate in the network, through the Internet, yes, but ultimately on our own air,” she says.

For instance, The CW will provide online software in “The CW Lab” that lets viewers edit a set of photographs of, say, friends at a party, into a 15-second slideshow. Each day, it will choose and broadcast a couple. She also wants to let viewers make their own short films, which she’ll consider airing.

“This is a great opportunity,” Ostroff says. “I’ve always looked at my life — the jobs that I’ve taken — as needing that impossible task, where there’s a huge boulder that I’ve got to push up the mountain. This is a challenge.”

## Ostroff has a history of getting boulders up hills.

She chose FIU for journalism school over Northwestern University because professors agreed to make her coursework flexible so she could also work full-time for Miami TV stations. She was a news reporter for the ABC affiliate and then a producer for “Montage,” a popular, local 60 Minutes-style program in the 1970s and ’80s. Even with that workload, she was able to get her FIU degree at 19 (she took a year of college-credit classes as a high school senior and studied through summers in college).

But covering hard news in Miami Vice-era Miami wasn’t for her: “I realized it was very hard to live your life looking at tragedy and people’s bad experiences, and sticking a microphone in people’s faces asking how they feel when a loved one has died tragically,” she recalls. “I just felt like there had to be a better way to earn a living.”

So she went to the bottom of a new hill, becoming a production assistant — essentially a gofer — for a Liza Minelli special on HBO. She loved it. She moved to Los Angeles to join a startup production company, and she worked as a casting assistant for the TV dramedy “Trapper John, M.D.” Then she worked for years as a secretary at 20th Century Fox, making friends and staying in touch

with friends from her Miami TV news days who had also made the move to Hollywood, always looking for an opportunity to become a decision maker.

Finally, a small movie-of-the-week production company hired her as an executive, and then she got a job at Disney producing sitcoms.

When she went back to 20th Century Fox, it was as president of show development. In 1996, she stunned her Hollywood colleagues by leaving that job to take over the Lifetime cable channel for women.

“People said, ‘Why would you go to a women’s

network? You can’t do anything there,’” she remembers. But she revamped the lineup of shows to attract more middle-age women while keeping the network’s loyal audience of 60-somethings. “And then, there we were, No. 1. It was sort of sweet revenge.”

Now, she hopes to repeat the feat and make The CW a leading broadcast network. Her philosophy on making it in Hollywood hasn’t failed her yet: “There’s no other way, in my opinion, to get ahead in this business than starting at the bottom and working your way up.” ■



“I’ve always looked at my life...as needing that impossible task, where there’s a huge boulder that I’ve got to push up the mountain.”

—  
Dawn Ostroff  
’80

*Bryan Gilmer, a former St. Petersburg Times reporter, is a freelance writer based in Durham, N.C.*



# INTO THE BLUE

Shark expert Michael Heithaus dives in to study nature's most feared creatures

By Sara LaJeunesse

The great beast thrashed and rolled, shattering the water's calm surface into shimmering ripples. The slate gray fin glistened for a moment in the sunshine before slipping beneath the surface of the water. Exhausted, the 500-pound tiger shark drifted slowly to the ocean floor.

It was a tranquil day on Shark Bay, a remote region of Western Australia that contains one of the world's most pristine underwater ecosystems. FIU marine biology professor Michael Heithaus and his research team had been submerging drum lines with baited hooks — a typical and harmless method for capturing the sharks they routinely study — when, in the distance, an unidentified boater was seen harassing one of the animals.

As the team's boat approached, the massive, murky shape of a 12-foot tiger shark became visible. Overcome with anger at the reckless boater and compassion for the injured animal,

His passion for marine life was inspired by childhood Christmas vacations on the Florida coast.

Heithaus jumped into the water to rescue the beast. As a world expert on sharks, he knew that if the animal remained still, she would eventually suffocate. So, with arms wrapped

Professor Michael Heithaus jumps off a research boat to catch a green turtle in Shark Bay, Australia.

around the shark's body, Heithaus walked in large, sweeping circles for nearly an hour to encourage oxygen flow over her gills. With renewed strength and one thrust of her muscular tail, the shark eventually swam away.

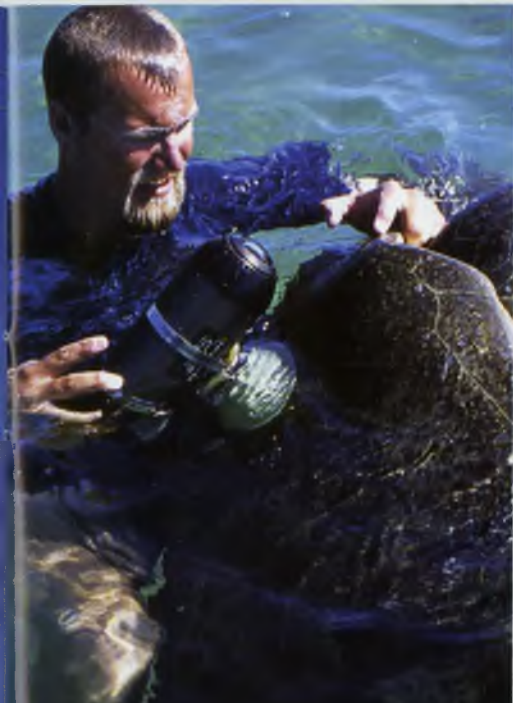
Thinking back on that day, the three-time Division-III National Title collegiate swimming champion and former host of "Critttercam" on the National Geographic Channel says he can't let fears get in the way of his underwater research. To really understand the behavior of sharks and how they affect other marine life, Heithaus has to dive in.

"I wasn't about to let a shark die just because I was too terrified to get into the water," he said. "But I wasn't nervous about the shark I was handling," he said, "I was worried about what else might be around."

A frequent visitor to Shark Bay, Heithaus knew that it was home to one of the highest densities of tiger sharks anywhere in the world. He also knew that this impressive predator — so commonly mistaken for a blind and vicious killer — was far less aggressive than most people thought.

Still, tiger sharks are efficient killers and may even serve as keystone predators, or those that have a major





From left, Heithaus attaches National Geographic's "Crittercam" — an animal-borne video and data collection unit — on a green turtle in Shark Bay, Australia. Middle: Heithaus and his wife Linda tag a bull shark in the Florida Keys. Right: Heithaus shows off a gray seal pup on Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia while helping to deploy Crittercams on adult seals during his time as a research fellow at National Geographic. (All photos courtesy of Michael Heithaus.)

"I wasn't about to let a shark die just because I was too terrified to get in the water."

—  
Michael Heithaus, professor, marine biology

influence over the rest of the community. Among their favorite prey are green sea turtles and dugongs — a relative of the manatee. These herbivores spend much of their time grazing on the bay's extensive seagrass beds. Without sharks around to keep their numbers in check, the turtle and dugong populations could skyrocket and lead to a collapse of the entire seagrass ecosystem.

It is precisely this delicate relationship that Heithaus finds interesting. His research has revealed that when tiger sharks are present, dolphins spend more time feeding along the edge of the seagrass habitat, where there is less food, but where the animals have access to deep waters into which they can escape.

"Basically, they are willing to scrape out a meager living in areas where there are fewer fish in order to stay away from the sharks," he said.

One of Heithaus' goals is to determine how the presence of sharks affects the behavior of turtles and dugongs, and to see what indirect effects they have on seagrass. If sharks scare the turtles and dugongs away, they won't be around to graze on their favorite seagrass types. The species

composition of the entire seagrass community could change dramatically as a result.

Closer to home, one of Heithaus' newer projects examines the influence of sharks on a different kind of ecosystem. The Florida Everglades is a naturally phosphorous-deprived freshwater system. Bull sharks — unique among sharks because they can survive in fresh water — often swim into the Everglades to pup and to avoid predators. Recently, phosphorous from the Gulf of Mexico has been detected in these areas.

"We are looking at the possibility that bull sharks acquire phosphorous through their marine diets, then swim upstream and deposit it," he said.

In a third project, Heithaus is working to improve "crittercams," or cameras that can be fitted onto the backs of animals to record their behavior. He is trying to make them smaller to fit onto smaller animals and record for longer periods of time. As a research fellow with National Geographic, Heithaus hosted the popular television show, "Crittercam," for which the cameras are named. He even appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno — on the same night as Cameron Diaz — to explain his work with the cameras.

His passion for marine life was inspired by childhood Christmas vacations on the Florida coast.

"Throughout my childhood I never wanted to be anything but a biologist," he said. "I would see places like Shark Bay on television and think, 'I'd love to go there, but people like me never get to go to places like that'."

Well, Heithaus made it to Shark Bay. He even made it to "prime time." And although he is the star of the show, he has a strong supporting cast. His wife Linda, a biologist, is just one of the many colleagues, including graduate students, with whom he collaborates. In fact, she recently accompanied him on a three-month research trip to Shark Bay.

"We've been going to Shark Bay for so long, that we've really become a part of the community there," he said.

Heithaus and his wife work closely with local conservation groups to protect their marine resources. "It's really rewarding," said Heithaus, "and it's the right thing to do." ■

*Sara LaJeunesse is a science writer in Miami. Her previous article "Rescuing the Rivers" appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of FIU Magazine.*

# 20/20 Vision: Two Decades of Milestones

## FIU President Modesto A. Maidique Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary

By Deborah O'Neil and Martin Haro '03

Florida International University celebrates a milestone this year, the 20-year anniversary of the presidency of Modesto A. "Mitch" Maidique, the longest-serving university president in the state of Florida. The growth and academic achievements of Florida International University during his tenure have few parallels in the history of modern public universities in the United States.

"His 20 years at FIU have been transformational," said Adolfo Henriques MACC '76, CEO of Florida East Coast Industries and the past chairman of the FIU Board of Trustees. "He has created a research institution of higher learning that provides the excellence that this community needs."

The two decades of growth championed by Maidique have been guided by a bold vision: to build one of the nation's top urban public research universities. In the early days, some considered that overambitious for a local university that started out as two-year institution.

"I am passionate about what I do."

—  
Modesto A. Maidique  
FIU President

"What most people saw was a few buildings that served as an upper division cap to Miami-Dade Community College," Maidique said. "What I saw was the seed of a great public research university. Some who had not bought into the vision were skeptical."

Earlier this year came the crowning achievement. For the past decade, he has set his sights on winning approval for an FIU medical college. Even when such a triumph seemed most unlikely, Maidique was unequivocal: It will happen. As if scripted for his biography, the approval came when FIU would celebrate 20 years of his accomplishments.

"Establishing a medical college at FIU is the most significant accomplishment of my professional career, one that will positively impact this community for generations to come," Maidique said. "I am very grateful to the thousands of volunteers, staff and students who helped to make it happen."

With a new medical college, and schools of architecture and law, more

than \$100 million in foundation funds, \$79 million in sponsored research, membership in the nation's oldest honor society Phi Beta Kappa and a Carnegie Foundation ranking of high research, FIU today stands at the threshold of joining a select group of national research universities.

The magnitude of FIU's economic impact on the community can be measured in both lives transformed and in dollars. One outside study pegs FIU's annual economic impact at nearly \$2 billion. Through education and job training, research, employment opportunities and outreach programs, FIU bolsters every sector of South Florida's community, from industry and health care to education and the arts. Today, FIU is educating more than 38,000 students — more than 80 percent of whom will establish their careers in South Florida. Already, FIU has produced more than 113,000 college graduates who are working in board rooms, classrooms and health organizations throughout



1986

October 12 is Modesto A. Maidique's first day as president of Florida International University, which has 16,000 students and a \$93 million budget.

1988

FIU unveils its official seal showing a "Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding," and the motto "Spes, Scientia, Facultas," Latin for "Hope, Knowledge and Opportunity."



1990

FIU's first patent is awarded for a device created by researchers in engineering. The Beacon student newspaper revived with support from Student Government and President Maidique.

1992

In a star-studded commencement, U.S. President George Bush is the guest speaker and Cuban salsa queen, the late Celia Cruz, receives an honorary degree.



1987

Pope John Paul II visits FIU, leading an outdoor Mass at Tamiami Park. FIU athletic teams begin competing at NCAA Division I level.

1989

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management establishes a new headquarters on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

1991

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visits FIU. The new Ernest R. Graham University Center opens. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is established as a separate school on the Biscayne Bay Campus.



South Florida and the world. The university itself has a total budget of \$747 million and generates employment for more than 8,000 people.

At the same time, says FIU Board of Trustees Chairman David Parker, Maidique has dramatically advanced educational opportunity in the county and state. "Access to high-quality, affordable higher education is critical to the future prosperity of South Florida," Parker said. "President Maidique has always understood that and has helped to build an institution that provides thousands of individuals with a singular pathway to success."

"He loves FIU," said Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez '74. "He has committed 20 years of his life to this university with utmost integrity and we are all, as a community, benefiting from it."

Nationally, Maidique is a widely respected educational leader. Last year, *Hispanic* magazine named Maidique one of the nation's "Elite Educators" who are transforming America's colleges. "I think his legacy will carry on long after he is gone," said C. Peter Magrath, former president of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, said under Maidique's leadership, FIU has become a model for other universities around the nation.

"President Maidique is one the most well regarded, most respected leaders among Hispanic and national institutions of higher education in the country and I, personally, think the world of him," said

Flores. "He has demonstrated tremendous leadership that has allowed FIU to thrive, which is something to emulate."

### FIU was "the right place"

The call to public education is rooted in Maidique's upbringing. He was born in Cuba, the only child of Hilda Rodriguez, a teacher, and Modesto Maidique, who earned a doctoral degree in education and served as a teacher, city councilman, congressman and senator in Cuba. Maidique was 11 months old when his father was killed.

"Not having my father has led to profound introspection throughout my life," said Maidique, who has a son, Mark, and daughter, Ana, and five grandchildren.

Education remained central in the Maidique home. He attended Cuba's prestigious Ruston Academy prep school, graduating first in his high-school class. At 18, Maidique headed to MIT in Boston. He earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at MIT by winning fellowships and working odd jobs including busboy, waiter, translator, short-order cook, electronics technician, assembly-line worker and hi-fi installer. His Latin dance talents, refined during his youth in Cuba and still known to turn heads, helped him earn money as a dance instructor.

Those were humble years. Says Maidique, "My net worth was negative."

That soon changed. Maidique went on to co-found Analog Devices Inc., Semiconductor Division, the world's third-largest producer of linear integrated circuits. He sat on the boards of more than a dozen firms and served as

"When I go back and see what the university has become with all of its programs and now a medical school, I find it remarkable."

—  
Carlos Alvarez '74,  
Miami-Dade  
County mayor

a consultant to dozens of the world's largest corporations.

In 1984, Maidique moved to Miami from Stanford University to help take care of his elderly mother. At the time, he was a general partner at Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, the largest venture capital firm in the world. He and his partners raised more than \$100 million annually for venture capital investment and he oversaw the investments in 12 companies with revenues near \$100 million. He had a seven-figure income.

At age 44, Maidique had achieved the quintessential "American dream." But Maidique wanted to carry on the public service legacy of his parents. Doing so would mean abandoning the affluent lifestyle he had worked hard to earn. It would cast him into the unforgiving public spotlight and a turbulent political arena.

He considered his options: running for Congress or seeking the presidency of a major university. His mother worried. "The last thing she wanted was for me to somehow get embroiled in politics." She died on March 13, 1986, leaving Maidique, an only child, devastated and more determined to fulfill his calling.

"I felt I needed to give back and I wanted to devote myself to public service," Maidique said. "I also felt tremendous gratitude for a country that had taken me in and given my family an opportunity."

More than 200 individuals — among them politicians, college administrators and a former ambassador — applied for the presidency of FIU.

On August 27, 1986, the Florida Board

continues

### 1994

The **Martin Z. Margulies** Family Collection, one of the finest private collections of outdoor sculpture, is relocated to University Park. For the sixth consecutive year, **U.S. News and World Report** names FIU one of the best colleges in the South. FIU establishes the **African-New World Studies Program**. Preeminent author **Mario Vargas Llosa** and renowned artist **James Rosenquist** visit FIU.



### 1996

FIU opens a new **School of Architecture**. The new **International Hurricane Research Center** is established. The new **Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center** opens. FIU acquires a 38-acre satellite campus to house **Engineering and Applied Science**. Former U.S. Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** visits FIU. A study concludes that FIU has a **total economic impact** of \$930 million in Miami-Dade.



### 1993

FIU establishes the **Southeast Environmental Research Center** to spearhead research on South Florida's threatened environments. The FIU Library adds the **one millionth book** to its collection and unveils plans for a \$40-million expansion. **The Center for Advanced Technology and Education** is established with an NSF grant to conduct research on human-computer interfaces, robotics and signal processing.

### 1995

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awards FIU \$1 million to establish the nation's first **National Resource and Policy Center on Nutrition and Aging** to conduct research on quality-of-life improvements for older adults. FIU establishes the **GIS Lab** and Remote Sensing Center, opening unparalleled data analysis possibilities for researchers. The FIU **International Forensic Research Institute** is established to serve law enforcement with research, education and training.

of Regents selected as FIU's fourth president 46-year-old Maidique, an entrepreneurial engineer with pedigree and real-world experience. As the first Cuban-born president of a U.S. university, he shared a cultural connection with the people of South Florida.

"It turned out FIU was the right place," Maidique said.

**"A great public university"**

When Maidique talks about building a "top urban public research university," he's referring to specific criteria. Not all colleges and universities are alike. Many offer only two-year degrees. Some provide only undergraduate education. Even fewer award master's and doctoral degrees.

"The last is a very difficult kind of institution to build and it's much more expensive," Maidique said. "I started by asking: What does this metropolitan area need to be competitive in the future? What is appropriate for this city, which has a destiny to fulfill?"

An important part of the answer, he realized, was "a great public research university."

Major research universities are diverse centers of intellectual possibilities, says Maidique. They have educational and research programs that represent a broad spectrum of human knowledge. They offer a rich portfolio of graduate and doctoral studies and serve as a forum for the pre-eminent leaders of our times. Major public research universities have strong liberal arts programs that are complemented by at least five critical fields of professional study: engineering, law, business, architecture and medicine.

"President Maidique is one of the most well regarded, most respected leaders among Hispanic and national institutions of higher education."

— Antonio Flores, president, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Today, FIU offers all five; three were approved under Maidique while the other two have reached national recognition under him. Chancellor of the State University System Mark Rosenberg, who served as FIU provost for seven years, points to what is most remarkable of Maidique's achievements - bringing both a law school and a medical school to FIU in only six years.

Since 1986, six new colleges and schools and 18 new undergraduate degrees have been created.

The university has also nearly quadrupled the number of doctoral programs, adding 22 new Ph.D. degrees in fields ranging from nursing and biomedical engineering to international relations and Spanish. Throughout the process of academic growth, Maidique has pushed to raise standards and expectations in faculty hiring and tenure review.

Creating a major research university also entailed changing the FIU experience for students. Maidique has led the conversion of FIU from a commuter school to a thriving, student-oriented campus with 3,000 students in residence, Division I-A football, an expanded library, new student housing and modern recreation and student centers.

Maidique credits much of his success to the strong commitment to institutional transformation from key members of the university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington and South Florida's business leaders, many of whom serve on the Board of Trustees. "I have been blessed with a strong coalition of change-oriented leaders

from both in and outside the university and community," Maidique said. "They would not rest until we had accomplished this two-decade change, and I am sure that they are still eager to move forward."

Alumni often marvel at FIU's progress. "When I go back and see what the university has become with all of its programs and now a medical school, I find it remarkable, nothing short of fantastic," said Mayor Alvarez '74.

"President Maidique has always remained dedicated to the mission of making FIU a better place than when he found it," said Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen '75, MS '87.

This progress has made FIU a popular choice for higher education. (*Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine just named FIU one of the nation's best public university values.) Students have filled FIU's seats as fast as new programs have opened. Enrollment has more than doubled from 15,000 in 1986 to more than 38,000 today.

**"I am passionate about what I do"**

Twenty years in public leadership have inevitably brought some bruises and hard-won lessons for Maidique. Early on, some in the community skewered Maidique for suggesting the university change its name. And the university's rapid growth has been criticized by some faculty as too much, too fast and caused others to question the trade-offs implicit in this growth.

Maidique has overseen \$570 million of new construction totaling some 4.8-million square feet of new facilities, including, among others, research laboratories, student housing, a campus

1997

FIU acquires the **Wollsonian Museum and collection**, a gift then valued at \$75 million. Enrollment surpasses 30,000, placing FIU among the nation's 25 largest universities. The **Center for Urban Education and Innovation** is established in the College of Education to promote excellence in urban schools with underserved students.



1999

His Holiness The 14th **Dalai Lama of Tibet** pays an historic visit to FIU. Nobel Peace Laureate **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** visits FIU.

2001

The Capital Campaign closes at **\$200 million**, one year ahead of schedule. FIU creates a new bachelor's degree in marine biology. **University House**, the president's official residence, opens. **The first fraternity house** — Phi Gamma Delta — opens at University Park.



1998

*Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine ranks FIU for the first time among the country's best values in public higher education. Women's movement icon **Betty Friedan** serves as a visiting faculty member. Renowned oceanographer **Sylvia Earle** visits FIU. **The Metropolitan Center** is established in downtown Miami to help decision-makers forge solutions to community problems.

2000

FIU attains the highest ranking in the Carnegie Foundation classification system, **"Doctoral/Research University-Extensive."** FIU becomes the youngest university invited into **Phi Beta Kappa**, the nation's most prestigious honor society. A **new collegiate football program** is approved.

2002

The **FIU College of Law** opens for classes. FIU plays — and wins — its first-ever collegiate football game. FIU opens the new **Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture Building**. Former **Israeli President Yitzhak Navon** and pre-eminent Catholic theologian **Hans Küng** visit FIU.



recreation center, business and law school buildings, the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum and the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. But that hasn't always been enough. Enrollment growth has outpaced the dollars available to build more classrooms, expand programs, and hire more faculty and staff.

"Thankfully, the president has come to recognize and begin to address these issues and is working just as hard to find solutions to them," said FIU Faculty Senate Chairman Bruce Hauptli. "FIU stands poised to become what he envisioned 20 years ago, but right now it needs to be enhanced and nurtured."

The pressure to find resources for a fast-growing institution is unrelenting. As a public university, much hinges on politics — an area Maidique admits is not his favorite part of the job. "Politics is the art of compromise. I don't like compromise. I like perfection."

The president must also be a fundraiser, a role in which he isn't always comfortable. "I'm a terrible groveler," he said. "I'm far better at giving money."

He's discovered, however, that his unwavering belief in FIU goes far in winning supporters. "I am passionate, maybe too passionate, about what I do. I believe the most important institution for the future of our area is FIU."

His message has resonated with the community leaders, philanthropists and the Florida Legislature, all of whom have strongly supported FIU's quest to achieve national research university status. Indeed, one of the trademarks of

Maidique's leadership is his ability to motivate others to buy into his vision.

"He is a quick and great thinker," said Rosa Sagrañes, a BOT member and former chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. "Faculty and also the business community respect that a lot. He is politically savvy. He knows how to navigate the different waters of Tallahassee, Washington or Miami-Dade County. They all take him seriously and respect his opinion."

The president's political savvy, coupled with his indefatigable drive, has time and again turned obstacles into victories. After failing twice, Maidique approached the State Board of Regents again seeking approval for a new law school, but the initiative was smacked down in a painful 11-2 vote. But on the fourth initiative, the effort sailed through the Legislature with a 160-0 vote. The medical school also faced strong opposition early on. Under Maidique's direction, the plans were carefully revised to address every concern and the Board of Governors voted 16-1 in favor of the proposal. By early 2006, Maidique had again secured overwhelming support for the initiative from the Legislature, which authorized the medical school in May.

Outspoken and opinionated, Maidique is a frequent subject of critique in local newspapers and on Spanish-language radio. He has riled certain groups in Miami's contentious political circles. When needed, he has done so as a stalwart of academic freedom, even when the message at issue has conflicted sharply with his personal views.

President Maidique has always remained dedicated to the mission of making FIU a better place than when he found it."

—  
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen '75, MS '87.

In 1998, a state legislator demanded Maidique sanction Professor Dario Moreno after Moreno appeared on "60 Minutes" criticizing the influence of Cubans on Miami politics. Moreno's description of the city as "almost the definition of a Third World banana republic," ignited fury. Maidique refused to yield to the legislator's threat, saying FIU faculty "can seek and follow the tracks to the truth, wherever they might lie."

Maidique tries — not always with success — to take criticism and media attention in stride. He knows he can't please everyone. He's admitted to mistakes and from time to time made changes, both in policy and leadership style. "I think it is most natural for me to be devastatingly direct," he said. "But I've learned to work around what is a virtue in scientific circles and to blunt my inclinations."

Ultimately, Maidique hopes his legacy will be determined by the institution he has helped build. Wherever he goes, Maidique can be heard rattling off FIU's latest points of pride. Says Ros-Lehtinen: "He is very proud of the students and is always highlighting their accomplishments."

Retirement isn't in the plan at the moment, says Maidique, who was married in June to FIU alumna Nancy Maidique, a dental health administrator. His focus, even after 20 years, remains ever forward-looking. The vision of FIU as a top urban public research university is within sight. Last year, the words of FIU's presidents were inscribed on a wall in the Graham Center. President Maidique's reads: "Boundless opportunities lie ahead." ■

2003

FIU signs historic agreement with the **University of Tianjin, China** to open a hospitality management and tourism school in China. The Ewing Marion **Kauffman Foundation** awards a \$3 million grant to the FIU Global Entrepreneurship Center. FIU establishes the **Dr. Robert R. Stempel School of Public Health**, one of only two such schools in the state. Pulitzer Prize winning author **Oscar Hijuelos** visits FIU. The university opens the **FIU Broward Pines Center** in Pembroke Pines. FIU breaks ground on the \$12 million **Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum**.



2005

FIU honors its top donors in the inaugural **Torch Society Gold Flame Induction Ceremony**. The new **\$15 million Motorola Nanofabrication Research Facility** opens at the FIU Engineering Center. FIU graduates its first class from the College of Law and breaks ground on the new **Rafael Diaz Balart College of Law Building**. New **Recreation Center opens** at University Park. The university enters the ranks of **Division I-A football**. Trustee Herbert Wertheim pledges \$20 million to the **FIU College of Medicine**. FIU enters its **first pharmaceutical licensing agreement** for a promising stroke treatment. The College of Business Administration celebrates the **groundbreaking of a new graduate school building complex**. FIU dedicates two new **Health and Life Sciences Buildings**.

2004

His Holiness The 14th **Dalai Lama of Tibet** pays a second visit to FIU. University researchers secure **nearly \$80 million in sponsored research** funding for the 2004-'05 academic year, a new record for the university. FIU submits proposal for a new **College of Medicine** to Florida Board of Governors.



2006

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine ranks FIU No. 49 on its list of the **Top 100 values in public college education**. U.S. News & World Report ranks FIU's College of Business Administration **No. 7 in the nation** for undergraduate international business. President Maidique confers **FIU's 100,000th degree**. FIU wins approval for **College of Medicine**.



Jasmin Qyyum  
with her parents,  
Mohammed  
and Maria.

# the start of a dream

## FROM THE GROUND UP



FIU President Modesto A. Maidique addresses the Florida Board of Governors about the medical college.

By Deborah O'Neil

For more than a decade, FIU labored to create a viable proposal for a new College of Medicine. Countless meetings were held. Memo after memo went out. Proposals were written, revised and rewritten. Planners worked during weekends, over holidays and on vacations to get the plan exactly right.

On March 23, the Board of Governors gave their blessing to this

By Deborah O'Neil

At 16, Jasmin Qyyum is the quintessence of an aspiring doctor. Outstanding grades — a 4.3 GPA. A love of science. She volunteers at Miami Children's Hospital and organizes blood drives at her school. With a mother from Colombia and father from Bangladesh, she has been raised bilingual and multicultural. Poised, articulate and vivacious, Jasmin is a natural people person.

Her desire to become a doctor always seemed within reach.

Then, in early 2006, Jasmin's 47-year-old father Mohammed was diagnosed with cancer: stage four lymphoma. The diagnosis was unthinkable. "I'd never been to a doctor," said Mr. Qyyum. "I'd never taken medication. I'd never been in the hospital in my life."

All that seemed clear and sure in the life of this close-knit family of five — Jasmin has two younger sisters — suddenly became frighteningly unknown. Jasmin's mother Maria, who works part time at an elementary school, trembles when she talks about the disease that has left her once robust husband a frail 125 pounds. "We don't know in the future what is going to happen," Mrs. Qyyum said quietly, tears in her eyes.

Beside her, Mr. Qyyum, on leave from his job as a graphic artist, looked at the floor. "I think about them..." he said, his voice trailing off. "I don't know how they will get by if anything happens to me."

Being at her father's side through doctor's visits, hospitalizations and chemotherapy has convinced Jasmin even more that she wants to be a doctor.

Dozens of others in the community also hailed the new medical school as a much-needed addition to the community.

But as the realities of her father's illness and its financial and familial obligations began to unfold at the end of her junior year, Jasmin began to have doubts about her future. Maybe medical school was no longer an option.

Her mother needs her at home. Her younger sisters need her. And Jasmin needs them too. She instinctively draped a protective arm around her father's shoulders as she spoke. "We were just a normal, happy family," she said. "All of a sudden there were questions you never imagine yourself asking: Is he going to be there for my graduation? My 18th birthday?" For Jasmin, leaving her family for school is not an option, not now and not later.

And then there is the cost. With her father not working, the price tag of private medical education — her only option if she were to stay in Miami —

## Family welcomes approval of FIU's College of Medicine

### FIU begins building a 21st century medical school

historic endeavor. Now, the real work of opening South Florida's first public medical school begins.

"Opening a 21st century medical school is an enormous task," said George Dambach, FIU's newly appointed associate provost for Health Affairs and Medical School Planning. He brings more than 30 years of experience in senior medical school administration, most recently at Wayne State University in Detroit, to his new role in FIU's medical planning team.

"We have many, many decisions to make as we move forward," Dambach said, "All of them are important because the medical school is going to make a lasting impact on this community."

Potential students and faculty have

already begun making inquiries about admissions and employment. However, a great deal has to happen before the new school can welcome its charter class. FIU has few models to guide the process — only one other medical school has been established in this country in the past 20 years, Florida State University College of Medicine. With a focus on rural health care, that school has a different mission and setup than FIU's program.

Between now and opening day, FIU will create an original blueprint for the establishment of a contemporary medical school. The first step will be selecting a founding dean, a medical doctor who will serve as "the architect and the builder" of the new school, said FIU

"How rapidly we become significant in health-care services will depend on the generosity of the community."

George Dambach  
associate provost,  
Health Affairs and  
Medical School  
Planning



Ron Berkman

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Ron Berkman. "It is the most important hire we're doing for the medical school."

The university has hired Korn/Ferry International, the nation's top consulting firm for executive searches, and assembled a search committee headed by School of Nursing Dean Divina Grossman. A national search will be conducted and FIU hopes to have a new dean in place early next year.

The individual will be responsible for hiring the administrative leadership of the medical school, a team that will develop the school's offices of financial





Jasmin's younger sister Samantha, 12, with their mother Maria

*"I've got the patient's point of view. I have that passion to help people. Now that I have watched my dad go through this, I'm more determined to become a doctor."*

—Jasmin Dyuuum, 16



Jasmin (right) and her younger sister Soraya, 14.

loomed large and daunting. The financial burden would be unmanageable, particularly since Jasmin's two younger sisters will be right behind her on the college path.

These adult-size worries all weighed on Jasmin in the days leading up to the March 23 approval of the medical school by the Florida Board of Governors. She and her mother had been following the headlines for news of South Florida's first public medical school. Jasmin wrote an email to the university: "I truly hope that FIU is given the opportunity to become a school of medicine because it

will definitely open up the options to many students."

Dozens of others in the community also hailed the new medical school as a much-needed addition to the community. Miami attorney Lourdes Martinez-Esquivel noted, "With the recent addition of a law school and now a medical school, FIU will be where it should be as a top university in the 21st century."

Dr. J. Michael Cochran, a Boca Raton neurologist, wrote, "We definitely need more medical school programs as there are already too few doctors in many areas of the country, even very desirable areas like South Florida. We have extraordinarily talented young people as undergraduates at prestigious

## FIU to build South Florida's first public medical

aid, admissions and academic affairs. The new dean will complete FIU's affiliation agreements with local hospitals and appoint the new faculty members. The medical school's objectives, curriculum, teaching methodologies and evaluation methods will all be developed under the leadership of the new dean.

"We're looking for someone who will have the innovative and creative vision to build something from the ground up," Dambach said. "There will probably be a clamoring of people eager to do this. The question is finding someone who not only has a vision, but the personal leadership to make it happen."

The medical school is expected to receive its first injection of critical

Between now and opening day, FIU will create an original blueprint for the establishment of a contemporary medical school.

startup dollars in 2007. Early next year, the university will seek \$5.4 million from the state Legislature, most of which will pay for administrative and faculty salaries and medical school library resources.

An all-encompassing step in the development of the new medical school will be winning provisional accreditation, a lengthy review and approval process that assures the country's M.D.-granting medical schools meet established standards. FIU is already working toward applying for provisional accreditation but to get there, the medical school must have in place all of the academic resources, institutional functions and administrative supports needed to open.

"It is essential before we can recruit students," said FIU Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Tom Breslin. "We want to make sure we come out the door with provisional accreditation and moving quickly to full accreditation."

As the search and planning efforts unfold, the university is redoubling its focus on raising private dollars for the medical school. "How rapidly we become significant in health-care service will depend on the generosity of the community," Dambach said. "They have to believe in us."

Thus far, the university has raised \$50 million, including state matches, led by a \$20 million gift from Dr. Herbert Wertheim. Associate Vice President of Development Sumner Hutcheson III

universities around the country who have trouble finding a medical school program due to the relative paucity of available medical school freshman positions.”

The historic vote for the new College of Medicine prompted a jubilant celebration at FIU. Alumni in the community hurraed with pride. FIU’s supporters in health care applauded the announcement. And in the small, cheerfully decorated Qyyum home, a teenager smiled and a mother wept.

“We wished and prayed FIU would get the medical school,” said Mrs. Qyyum. “I see God has opened a door for her. It’s the start of a dream come true.” ■

*Editor’s Note: At press time in early August, The Qyyum family was rallying around Mr. Qyyum after he underwent another round of chemotherapy. Said Jasmin, “Things got a little on the down side and still are with my dad. He has not been doing too well since the last chemo.” The summer was a roller coaster for the family with Mr. Qyyum’s condition improving in mid-July, then weakening after chemotherapy. Jasmin spent her summer working part-time to save money and preparing to apply for college. “I have learned,” the 16-year-old wrote in an e-mail, “life is not easy, but if you work with all your heart, and you do it honestly, there is no stopping you.”*

## Medical students will have the library in their laptops

By Sue Arrowsmith '05

In the world of medical education, library spaces once reserved for stacks of books and journals are increasingly being transformed into cutting-edge information hubs that provide students with the most recent medical data available. With the approval of the new FIU College of Medicine, the university is undertaking an exciting endeavor — designing South Florida’s first public medical school library.

“Medicine today is online and we plan to be forward-looking in the development of our medical school library,” said George Dambach, associate provost for Health Affairs and Medical School Planning. “Students at the FIU College of Medicine will have the library in their laptops.”

New medical libraries are mainly digital and take up much less physical space than traditional libraries, said Medical School Project Director Dr. Carlos Martini. They must include extensive databases with patient information at the hospital level where students can do their clinical work. As a critical component of medical education, the new library will open in tandem with the college.

Tony Schwartz, associate director of collection management at FIU, is collaborating with medical school planners to provide cost projections for online journals and to assemble a basic collection, which will include some 250 core books that meet the national requirements. Once the program’s curriculum is completed, the rest of the collection will consist of electronic resources tailored to program. Creating the new collection will be challenging.

“Given the sheer volume and exponential growth of online information related to health care, the need for it to be filtered, synthesized and structured to particular users’ purposes is a critical role for librarians,” said Schwartz.

Across the country, medical libraries are making the transition from print to digital. The Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library at Florida State University (FSU) was the first library in the nation created in the 21st century. More than 90 percent of its resources are web-based.

“Our electronic collection includes more than three million articles, with access to more than 24,000 e-journals,” said Barbara Shearer, director of the College of Medicine library at FSU. “In addition, of the 45,000 e-books in the university’s general collection, about 4,000 are medical.”

According to Shearer, who has been with the FSU medical library since its creation in 2001, much work goes into designing and maintaining an electronic collection. She added that while the cost is substantial, the benefits are significant.

“You can hardly compare. In a print collection there is only one book, one access point for many people,” said Shearer. Medical students, she said, need access to information at all times.

FIU’s medical students will work in hospitals and medical facilities within the community. With a digital library, they will be able to quickly access the latest in medical science as they are treating patients.

Providing “portable access to high-quality electronic information” is a fundamental mission of the FIU medical library, said Schwartz. To maximize access, students, faculty and staff will carry portable computing devices, such as laptops and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). In addition to meeting the medical school’s needs, Schwartz believes the library will also be a service to the people of South Florida.

“There should be a partnership between FIU and the Public Library System on how to serve the general public,” said Schwartz.

With most of the collection available electronically, Schwartz said, the physical space of FIU’s library will be designed as a work space for small groups, training and social interaction. FSU’s shearer emphasized the importance of having a “third place” — a quiet location other than home or work.

“There is still a valid need for a place,” said Shearer. “Place represents the unique and personalized niche that libraries and librarians still hold.” ■

*Sue Arrowsmith '05, a recent graduate from the FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is a staff writer and copy editor with PulseMiamiNews.com.*

## school library

said the university will continue to pursue gifts from foundations and individual donors.

“People love dreams,” Hutcheson said. “We expect the community will step forward now that we have approval and the new medical school is within sight.”

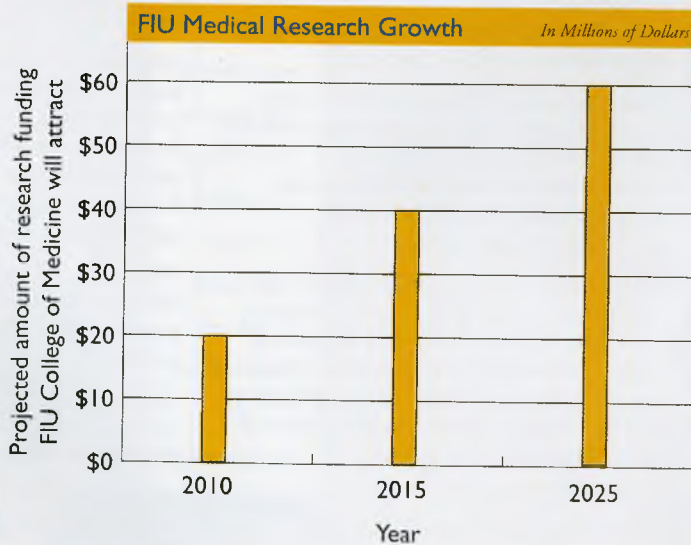
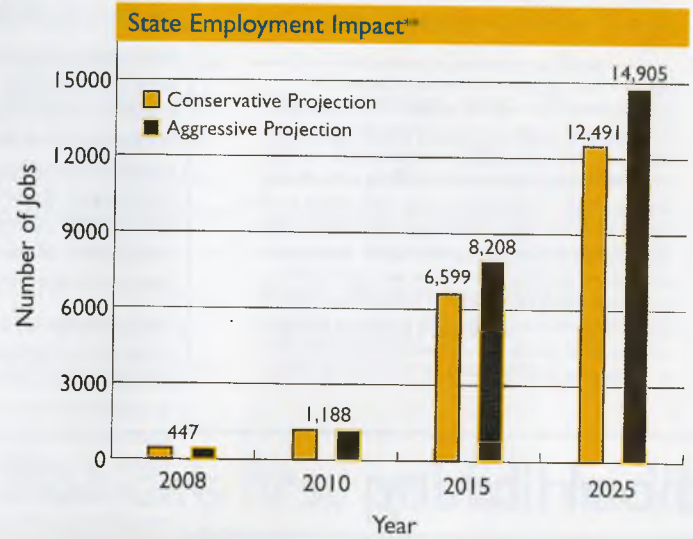
The medical school to-do list contains a multitude of other decisions still in the formative stage, but FIU is well on the way. “Medical schools are large institutions and the FIU College of Medicine is going to take time to develop and mature,” said Berkman. “The university views this as a long-term project precisely because it is so important to the future of the community.” ■



**\$68,000:**  
The average salary of new jobs created by the FIU College of Medicine

**\$35,170:**  
The average salary in the state of Florida

*\*\*Includes medical school operations, new FIU physicians who practice in Florida and new jobs created by commercialization of research*



**11:**  
Florida's rank among the country's largest biotechnology centers

**\$40 billion:**  
Dollar value of the U.S. biotechnology industry

**\$19 million:**  
How much biomedical research FIU attracted to South Florida in 2005

**64,705:**  
Number of hours of volunteer service medical faculty, students and staff are expected to give to S. Florida residents in 2010

**\$1.8 million:**  
Amount of money Florida will save for each FIU medical school graduate who practices in a medically underserved area

# A VITAL ECONOMIC ENGINE

## Economic impact of FIU College of Medicine projected at \$1.2 billion by 2025

By José Dante Parra Herrera '97

Every spring for the past several years, Tallahassee lawmakers have wrangled about two topics of state-wide concern: economic development and funding for education.

The debates, however, have almost always been independent of each other.

But an outside study on the economic impact of a new public medical college in Miami commissioned by FIU shows that education and economic development are closely intertwined and part of a common solution.

One of the study's major findings is that by the year 2025, Florida's taxpayers would receive as much as \$3 for every \$1 they invest in the FIU College of Medicine.

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, a former general partner of the world's largest venture capital firm, said this is evidence that educational funding should be seen not as a drain on state or local budgets, but as a vital investment in every resident's standard of living.

The College of Medicine will influence a variety of economic sectors in the state and South Florida communities. In its first 10 years alone, the economic impact of the college is conservatively estimated at \$4.3 billion. By 2025, the total economic impact on the state is projected to be an estimated \$1.2 billion.

"In our case, the FIU College of Medicine will be equivalent to bringing a Fortune 1000 company to our area," Maidique said.

The study was conducted by the Pittsburgh-based firm TrippUmbach, the national leader in health-care industry economic analysis. The firm has conducted similar studies for the

University of North Carolina, Ohio State University and the University of Pittsburgh, among others. And TrippUmbach recently began its third national study of the nation's 125 medical schools and 450 teaching hospital affiliates for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The FIU study, released in February, looked at possible economic scenarios once the FIU College of Medicine begins to operate. The study concentrated on four benchmark years in which impacts such as employment and tax revenues were analyzed: 2008, 2010, 2015 and 2025.

The report emphasizes the multi-faceted nature of the economic impact. About half of the \$1.2 billion in economic impact is expected to come from the operational activities of the college, including purchases for capital and goods, and new spending from students, employees and visitors. The remainder of the \$1.2 billion will be generated by the physician community of the FIU College of Medicine.

Much like a business, each year showed a growing return on investment that includes new jobs and spin-off companies as FIU's medical research fosters the expansion of the region's biotechnology industry. The report estimates the commercialization of FIU medical research could have an economic benefit ranging from \$248 million to \$577 million with more aggressive economic climate assumptions. In addition, more than 12,000 jobs will be generated through medical school operations, private sector research and physicians who remain in Florida to practice.

By 2025, the study projects the state of Florida will receive \$62 million to as

"In our case, the FIU College of Medicine will be equivalent to bringing a Fortune 1000 company to our area."

—  
Modesto A. Maidique  
FIU President

much as \$78 million in taxes per year as a result of the medical school.

"The medical college is an extraordinary economic catalyst for the community, not only because of the direct impact of the school but the opportunity it presents to expand South Florida's biomedical industry," said FIU Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez, a graduate of Harvard Business School.

The TrippUmbach study points out that the College of Medicine will bring in additional research investment from government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which magnifies itself in the economy through what is called the "multiplier effect," which represents the re-spending of dollars within the economy.

"It is important to note that only the (Florida) universities with the established medical schools (University of Florida, University of South Florida and the University of Miami) perform more NIH-sponsored research than FIU," the study says.

This is all in addition to other economic benefits the new medical college would bring, such as affordable tuition for medical students and improved health care in the region, which support a healthier and more productive work force.

"The FIU College of Medicine will do more than train physicians Florida needs for the future," says the report. "It will attract industries that will add to the economic infrastructure, develop more medical research and improve the health of its citizens." ■

*José Parra '97, a former reporter for the Florida Sun-Sentinel, is an FIU media relations coordinator.*



2005  
TORCH  
AWARDS  
*Gala*

Stories by Deborah O'Neil  
Photos by Gloria O'Connell

## ALUMNI TORCH GALA EXUDES FIU PRIDE

More than 500 alumni and members of the FIU community gathered in February for the Alumni Association's largest-ever and most spectacular Torch Awards Gala to honor outstanding graduates.

A live musical performance by FIU alumna Nadia Turner, a top American Idol finalist, was among the highlights of the event, held at Parrot Jungle's Treetop Ballroom. Elegant and festive, the Torch Gala was befitting the achievements of this year's 16 award recipients. Among the 11 to receive Distinguished Alumni Awards were a longtime and award-winning Miami-Dade Public Schools educator, a landscape architect whose public service career and volunteer work is devoted to preserving Florida's natural environment and a CEO who founded an international hospitality company.

"Our alumni are using their education to make a difference in the community and in their professions," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique in praising the award recipients' leadership and entrepreneurship.

Noting that FIU now has nearly 130,000 alumni, most of whom live and work in South Florida, Maidique joked, "If we ever get together, we can take over the world."

The Torch Award Gala had been set to take place in October 2005, but was postponed because of Hurricane



The 2005 Torch Award recipients, front from left: Dr. Eric Shamus '92, Myhosi Ashton '02, Gerald Hunsicker MS '76, Beth Rosenthal Davis '89, Charles Ermer '81, Janet Hupp '75, MS '83, and Frances Nipe MLA '91. Back from left: Humberto Cabanas '76, Christine Kling '88, MFA '93, professor Stephen Fain, Rosanna Fiske '94, Paul Jones '78 and Mikki Canton MS '79. Not Pictured Stephanie A. Burns '77, Christina M. Ceballos-Levy '97, and Augusto L. Vidaurreta '80.

Wilma. Rescheduling allowed FIU to expand the event to a record-setting 530 attendees. Barry Johnson, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, served as emcee for the evening.

Chair of the Torch Gala committee was Alumni Association Board member Susan Webster '87 and sponsors for the event included Wachovia Bank; The Miami Herald; GEICO; Preferred Care Partners; Nelnet; Bacardi; Banco Popular; Parrot Jungle Island; Broward Professional Alliance; Community Health Foundation, Inc./Community Health of South Dade, Inc.; Greenberg Traurig, P.A.; and Afrodita's Garden Florist at FIU.

The impressive crowd at this year's Torch Gala was a reflection of the tremendous growth that has been occurring in Alumni Relations, said Associate Vice President Bill Draughon. In 2006, membership surpassed the 8,000 mark for the first time. And the Student Alumni Association is the largest student organization at FIU.

"Thanks to all of our alumni family who make us look good on a daily basis, I feel a tremendous sense of pride about who we are and where we're headed," Draughon said.

Special guest Betty Perry, wife of FIU's late founding president Charles E. Perry, was on hand to present the Charles

E. Perry Visionary Award. The honor is given annually to a successful graduate in the early stages of his or her career. This year's recipient was Myhosi S. Ashton, or "Josie" as she is known, executive director of Safespace Foundation, which provides assistance and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. Ashton is also the inspiration behind the "Bride's March" staged each year in New York City to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Ashton, said Mrs. Perry, is an alumna "who has made great use of the educational opportunities my husband and others worked so hard to create for this community...He always believed in FIU's ability and that of its faculty, staff, students and alumni to transform lives in this community."

The 2005 FIU Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Stephanie Burns, president and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation. College of Education Professor Stephen Fain was the winner of the 2005 Outstanding Faculty Award.

*If you are interested in nominating an FIU graduate for a 2006 Torch Award or if you are interested in sponsorship information for the event, please contact Randi West in Alumni Relations at [westr@fiu.edu](mailto:westr@fiu.edu) or 305-348-1009. The 2006 Torch Awards Gala will be held on March 31, 2007.*

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Stephanie A. Burns '77, College of Arts and Sciences, is president and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation. Burns joined Dow Corning in 1983 as a researcher and later became product development manager for electronics. She became director of Women's Health in 1994. In 1997 she was named science and technology director for Europe. Burns became president in 2003 and chief executive officer in 2004. She earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from FIU and her Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

### CHARLES E. PERRY VISIONARY AWARD



Myhosi S. Ashton '02, College of Health and Urban Affairs, Ashton is the executive director of the Safespace Foundation in Miami, which serves survivors of domestic violence. In 2001, she heard about the murder of a Dominican woman on her wedding day by an ex-boyfriend. Ashton undertook a 1,600-mile walk from New Jersey to Miami in her wedding dress to raise awareness about domestic violence in the Latin community. This walk has inspired "Brides' Marches" against domestic violence across the country.

### FIU SERVICE AWARD



Augusto L. Vidaurreta '80, College of Business Administration, is the founder of RAM Strategy, Inc. in Miami, a consulting, training and executive coaching firm. He is a member of the College of Business Administration's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame and helped create the college's Alumni Circle, serving as its first chairman. Additionally, he helped form the college's Mentoring Program and serves on the college's Dean's Council. Recently, he and his wife, Jeannie, became major donors of the college's building campaign.

### OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD



Dr. Stephen M. Fain a founding faculty member and one of the founders of the Faculty Senate, Fain held a leadership role in the development of the university's curricular framework. A professor in the College of Education and Fellow of the Honors College, Fain is an eminent scholar in his field and has served on more than 100 successful doctoral dissertation committees. He developed an Honors College seminar on discovering the American character and in 2003 was awarded an Outstanding Honors Fellow Award.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT



Humberto "Burt" Cabañas '76, is the founder, chairman and CEO of Benchmark Hospitality International in Texas, which provides management services for resorts, executive conference centers, conference hotels and golf clubs. In 2000, he formed a subsidiary company, Benchmark Golf, to manage the golf clubs of the company and golf operations of the conference centers and resorts. Cabañas is a founding board member of the International Association of Conference Centers and co-authored "The Uniform System of Accounts for Conference Centers."

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, COLLEGE OF LAW



Mikki Canton, Esq. MS '79, is shareholder of Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, P.A. in Miami, where she chairs the Corporate Strategic Counseling and Public Affairs Division. She often speaks to women about leadership. Through the John F. Kennedy School of Government Women's Leadership Board at Harvard University she delivers a message of authenticity and self realization. She is initiating a similar project at the FIU College of Law. Recently, Canton received the American Jewish Committee's Learned Hand Award.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, HONORS COLLEGE



Christina M. Ceballos-Levy '97 is an associate at Kenny Nachwalter, P.A. in Miami. Her practice focuses on malpractice defense of attorneys, securities litigation, class-action defense and commercial litigation. After graduating from FIU, Ceballos-Levy earned a juris doctorate at the University of Miami, where she was executive editor for the UM Law Review. She is a member of the FIU Honors College Advisory Board and serves on the Florida Bar Association International Arbitration Committee and the Cuban American Bar Association.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING



Charles D. Ermer '81 is president of Right Way Plumbing Co. in Sunrise, a 74-year-old company with operations throughout Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Widely recognized for excellence and quality workmanship, the company is a pioneer of computer cost estimating and has grown by expanding a new construction division. Ermer's parents Charles C. and Annette G. Ermer purchased Right Way Plumbing in 1968. Chuck became involved full-time after graduating from FIU with a degree in construction management.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION



Rosanna M. Fiske, APR '94 is principal and partner at Communique Group/Rise Strategies, Inc. in Coral Gables. Widely regarded for her multicultural expertise, Fiske has developed local, national and international communications campaigns for a variety of companies, including Charles Schwab, MTV Networks, Wells Fargo Bank and MCI. An expert in corporate and executive communications, Fiske was the first Hispanic woman named president of the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) Miami chapter and serves on PRSA's national board of directors.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, ATHLETICS



Gerald H. Hunsicker MS '76 is the senior vice president of Baseball Operations for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. While earning his master's degree in the College of Education, Hunsicker served as a pitching coach for FIU's baseball team and assistant athletic director from 1974-78. He entered Major League Baseball in 1978, filling a number of roles with the Houston Astros. He later joined the New York Mets in 1988, before rejoining the Astros in 1995 as general manager.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Janet L. Hupp '75, MS '83 is the superintendent of Regional Center V in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. After serving as principal of Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Hupp was promoted to her current position. She has worked in the school system since 1975 as a teacher, department chair, assistant principal, principal and regional superintendent. She was selected as Miami-Dade County's Principal of the Year in 2003. In 1984 and 1988, she won Teacher of the Year at Palmetto.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Paul L. Jones '78 is the founder and president of Pyramid Realty Group, Inc. in Miami, a national consulting and investment banking firm. Under Jones' leadership, Pyramid Realty has become a leading advisory firm in the industry. Jones has shared his experience with FIU students as an adjunct professor in the College of Business Administration. He has also served as a trustee of the FIU Foundation, chairman of the Alumni Association and founder of the FIU Real Estate Alumni Council.

#### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Christine L. Kling '88, MFA '93 is a Fort Lauderdale author who has been inspired by a passion for the sea. She has spent more than two decades sailing the South Pacific, Pacific, Caribbean and

Atlantic. During a two-year voyage cruising the Caribbean in 1993, Kling started her first novel, "Surface Tension." Later, Kling went back to work as a teacher. Writing nights and weekends, she finished her first novel. Her other books include "Cross Current" and "Bitter End."

#### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



Frances C. Nipe MLA '91 is an historic properties and redevelopment planner for the city of Eustis, Florida. Her passion for the environment has guided her career and earned her much recognition,

including the Ernest and Virginia Makemson Scholarship for Environmental Preservation. In addition to a distinguished career, Nipe has long been a devoted community volunteer. She helped develop the Broward Blueway, and has been honored by the 1,000 Friends of Florida and the Florida Urban Forestry Council. She was the chairperson of the Broward County Tree Management Advisory Committee for five years, spearheading the development of a county ordinance for tree pruning standards.

#### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND URBAN AFFAIRS



Dr. Eric C. Shamus '92 is an assistant professor in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University. Shamus earned a bachelor's degree at FIU in physical therapy, a master's degree in

biochemical trauma from the University of Miami and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Lynn University. Shamus specializes in biomechanics and therapeutic exercise and is a certified strength and conditioning specialist. He has authored more than 30 publications including two textbooks, book chapters and refereed journal articles.

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



Beth Rosenthal Davis '89, College of Education, is founder of the Kids For Kids Academy in Miami. From 1989-'95, Rosenthal Davis became a teacher advocate for the homeless, coordinating

school-wide programs to distribute meals to the homeless. In 1996, she created Kids 4 Kids, which has delivered 45,000 backpacks with school supplies and 80,000 books to children in homeless shelters, migrant camps, foster homes and low-income housing. She is currently opening a preschool and after-school tutoring program. ■

## Nadia Turner gives 'a little tenderness' to her alma mater

Nadia Turner is onstage warming up before show time in a white Bohemian skirt and t-shirt. She'll tell you she's tired, just arrived in Miami from Los Angeles. (She looks fabulous nonetheless.) Life has been a whirlwind for this FIU alumna since she wowed audiences as a top eight finalist on the FOX hit show *American Idol*, where the infamous Simon Cowell dubbed her "a young Tina Turner."

In the past year, she went on a 43-city tour and posed for *Glamour* magazine. She chatted with Jay Leno on *The Tonight Show* and Donald Rumsfeld at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez proclaimed June 15, 2005, "Nadia Turner Day." Her new album featuring her distinctive mix of rock and roll, soul and funk is due out any day.

Dreams of "singing for the world" are coming true for the Miami girl who's been singing all her life. But this Saturday night, Turner has come home to perform for her alma mater, treating more than 500 FIU alumni, donors and supporters to two performances at the Alumni Association's 2005 Torch Awards Gala.

"With FIU always comes a little tenderness," she cooed into her microphone before heading backstage to change.

She brought along her family: daughter Zareh, her mother Rosita Lopes-Silverman '97, an alumna of the College of Business Administration, and her two little sisters Vanessa and Danielle. Turner says she would not be able to manage her ascent to fame without her family and her faith.

"Spirituality is a big facet of our family, other than us just loving each

other," Turner said. "My family keeps me grounded."

Turner said she was happy to accept the invitation to sing for her alma mater. She was an active student, living in Panther Hall, serving as vice president of the Black Student Union and Queen of the Pan-African Celebration and running for the FIU track team. "I have a lot of great memories at FIU," she said.

Backstage, the Turners got a surprise visit from Nadia's favorite FIU professor, Margo Berman, with whom she studied advertising in the School of Journalism.

"Who told you that you were going to be a star?!" Berman said, as the two joyfully embraced.

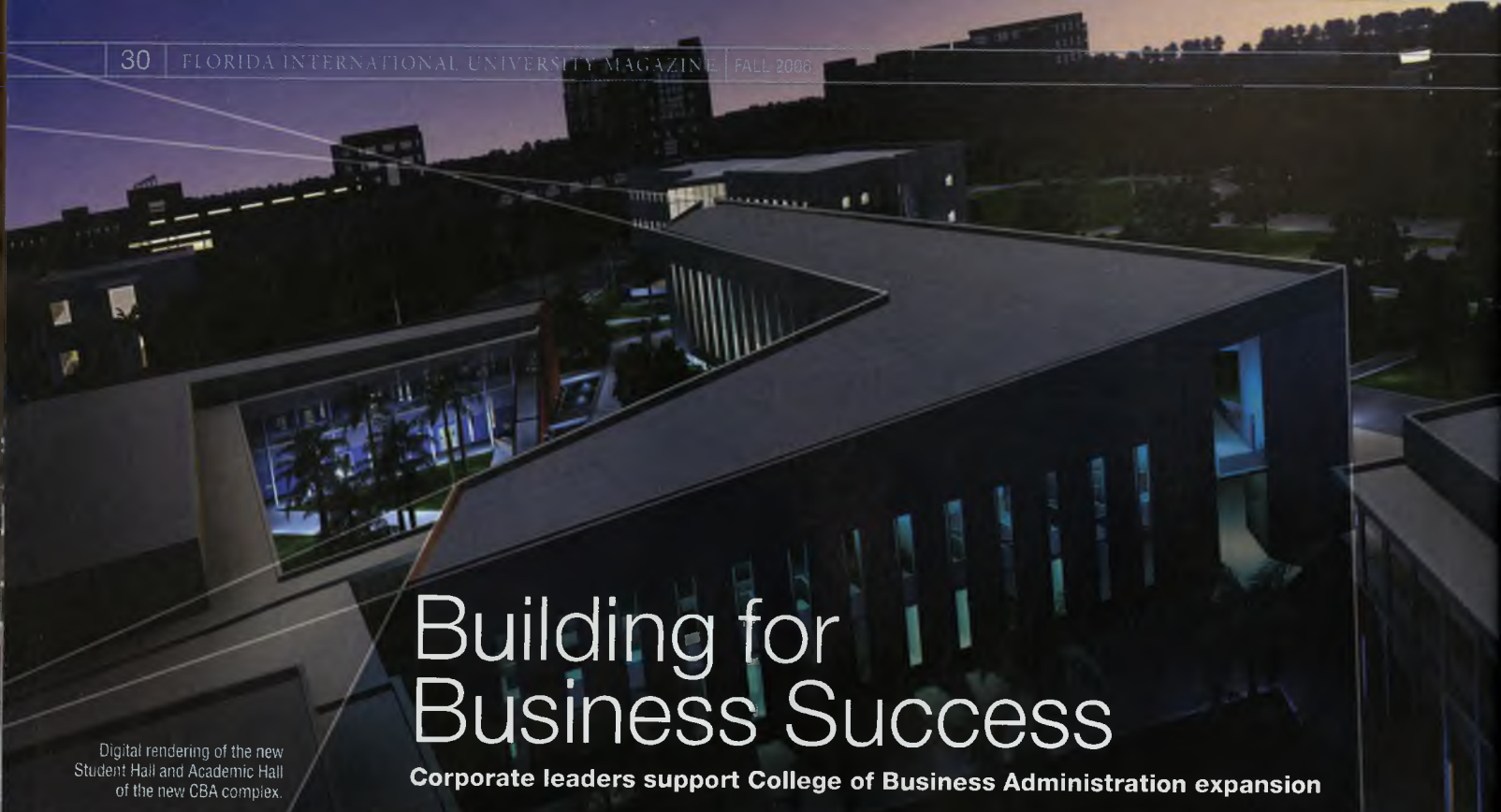
"Mom, this is the professor at FIU I wanted you to meet," Nadia said introducing Berman. "She was my inspiration at FIU."

Later, it was Turner serving up inspiration with her dazzling voice. Onstage before launching into her final number, "A Little Tenderness," Turner perfectly captured the mood of the Torch Awards Gala: "It's been a wonderful night...meeting old friends and good times." ■

To catch up with Nadia's latest projects, visit her website at <http://www.nadiaturner.com>







# Building for Business Success

Corporate leaders support College of Business Administration expansion

Digital rendering of the new Student Hall and Academic Hall of the new CBA complex.

By Martin Haro '05

A new \$45 million, state-of-the-art, multi-building complex set to open next year will expand FIU's nationally-ranked College of Business Administration while fostering greater interaction among students, faculty, administrators, alumni and the business community.

The project will be the result of the college's ongoing "Building for Business" campaign, which has attracted support from throughout the community.

The complex is being paid for in a three-way arrangement: \$15 million from the state of Florida, \$15 million from donations and \$15 million in state matching dollars. More than \$9.9 million of the \$15 million needed has been raised.

FIU Trustee R. Kirk Landon made the lead gift of \$5 million, a donation that qualified for a state match, making its impact \$10 million — the largest cash gift at the time from an individual. Other donors include Ocean Bank (\$1 million), businessman and former trustee Alvah Chapman (\$800,000), businessman and former trustee Armando Codina (\$500,000), Bank of America (\$500,000), Wachovia Bank (\$250,000) and Regions Bank (\$250,000).

"To be nationally recognized is really wonderful, but to now have the opportunity to expand the college and its reach...is really great."

Joyce Elam,  
executive dean,  
College of Business  
Administration

The most recent gift came in January when Florida-based Office Depot donated \$1 million to the project in a new partnership that includes collaborative student and faculty research. In presenting the Office Depot gift, company Chairman and CEO Steve Odland praised FIU's strength in international business.

"We are very pleased to be able to form an important strategic relationship with FIU's business school, one of the pacesetters in international business education," Odland said. "As a global company with operations in 23 countries, we have a keen interest in enhancing academic programs that support this emphasis."

"The college has been blessed by having terrific support both from within and outside the university in our quest to achieve our vision and mission. Today, we are well on our way," College of Business Executive Dean Joyce Elam said.

With more than 6,000 undergraduate, 1,000 graduate students and 30,000 alumni, the College is the largest of FIU's professional schools. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked its undergraduate international business programs No. 7 in the nation in its 2007 "America's Best Colleges" report and No. 18 among

MBAs with an international business specialty in its 2007 "America's Best Graduate Schools" survey.

The College is among the elite 15 percent of business schools worldwide accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and since 1998 has been placed by *Hispanic Business* magazine among the Top 10 business schools for Hispanics. *Hispanic Trends* has ranked the College since 2003 in the Top 25 MBA programs for Hispanics.

"We have worked hard over the years to enhance our programs, our facilities and our faculty," Elam said. "To be nationally recognized is really wonderful, but to now have the opportunity to expand the college and its reach — to leave our mark on the future — is really great."

The new 110,000-square-foot, four-building complex will facilitate a sense of community within the college. Currently, business classes are taught in buildings across campus, making it difficult to reach and communicate with its students.

"Now we will have everyone together in one complex and information will be more available and more efficiently shared," Elam said. "The new complex will support a team-oriented, active learning approach." ■

# FLORIDA'S WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS FIND BALANCE

New study finds female CEOs don't sacrifice home life for work

By Susan Feinberg

When Monique Hamaty-Simmonds '96 was in college, she began working during summer vacations for her father, who founded the Tortuga Rum Company in Grand Cayman. She quickly discovered that she had a natural aptitude for business.

"I liked and admired the control my father had in being his own boss and having his own business," she recalls. "I decided that I wanted to be a CEO of my own company someday."

After earning a degree in business administration at the FIU College of Business Administration, Hamaty-Simmonds launched Tortuga Imports, Inc., in 1997. Today, the 34-year-old is CEO and president of a thriving international business with \$3.8 million in annual revenues. She sells nearly two million rum cakes a year throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

Hamaty-Simmonds' determination at an early age to reach the top of her profession is typical of many local women business leaders, according to a first-of-its kind study of women business leaders by the FIU Center for Leadership in cooperation with the Commonwealth Institute, South Florida. The survey was conducted by the FIU Metropolitan Center. The study, "Florida's Women-Led Businesses 2006," found that nearly 60 percent of the women decided when they were young that they wanted to be CEOs and presidents, or to own their own companies.

Published in June, the study analyzes key characteristics of women leaders including career progression, personal motivation, work habits, and life choices. These women are not sacrificing their personal lives to achieve professional success. A majority of them are married, and about 40 percent of those who are in traditional family environments stayed home past maternity leave.

"They are not women who live only for their jobs," says Mayra Beers, executive director for

the Center for Leadership. "They've been able to be successful and find a good balance in their lives, even though they tell us that it's hard work."

In fact, the executives and CEOs credit their husbands with helping them manage home and professional life.

"The survey told us that women who are leading Florida businesses have spouses that seem to have more flexibility in their schedules," says Joyce Elam, executive dean of the FIU College of Business Administration. "That's a real benefit. It appears that there is more of a shared responsibility for the home life."

Hamaty-Simmonds acknowledges that finding time to spend with her husband and two children is a challenge. During the work week, she has a caretaker for her children, as is the case with 61 percent of the women business leaders surveyed. But her weekends are dedicated to quality time with her family. "I rarely go in to work on Saturdays or Sundays now because I'm a mom and a wife," she said. "Technology helps me to stay connected to my business when I'm home. I'm always in touch with my Blackberry."

The researchers are interested in exploring what will happen when these high-achieving women, whose average age is 51, start to retire.

"What's the next generation going to be like?" asked Elam. "Will these businesses be passed down to their daughters? Will we have a whole new group of women-owned businesses? That's something that we want to find out."

Beers thinks it is likely that a younger generation of women business leaders will take their places, having learned from those who preceded them.

"These women view a connection to a women's professional network as being



important, and mentorship as a key part of their own growth," she says. "They have a larger number of women directors on their boards. It seems to me that they're trying to pass the mantle." ■

*Susan Feinberg is a freelance writer based in Boca Raton. She specializes in writing for higher education.*



# FIU introduces its founding Athletic Association Board

## Community leaders will raise dollars and support for FIU Athletics

By Martin Haro '05

A new board of community leaders has been founded to strengthen Golden Panthers Athletics by increasing awareness, revenue and community support.

The founding 26 members include prominent members of FIU's business and philanthropic community, as well as FIU Board of Trustees member Al Dotson. They were invited to participate in the new Athletic Association Board based on their long-standing enthusiasm and support for FIU. The board will be tasked with raising money for student-athlete scholarships, facility improvement and for the overall budget of the Athletics Department.

Its initial projects will include the introduction of an Athletics Annual Fund, which raises unrestricted dollars for athletic scholarships and facility improvements. The board will also be fund raising for the expansion of the Football Stadium.

The board's founding chair Jorge de Cespedes has been a leading supporter of FIU Athletics. In 2004, he and his brother Carlos de Cespedes, owners of the Miami-based Pharmed Group, donated \$1 million to the FIU Athletics Department. In recognition of their donation, the University renamed the Golden Panther

Arena—home to FIU basketball, volleyball and a variety of intramural competitions, as well as commencement and other events—the Pharmed Arena.

De Cespedes said he is excited about the initiatives and objectives the board has mapped for the future.

"We hope to create awareness of FIU's terrific athletics programs, and to boost the fan experience and financial support for Athletics both within the FIU family and in the South Florida community," he said. "This is a critical time in FIU Athletics history, and I am truly honored to have been asked to recruit and lead these community leaders who are committed to helping us become nationally recognized."

Athletics Association Executive Director Joe Velasco said athletics has an important role to play as a marketing and promotion tool for the university.

"The university needs to selflessly use Athletics for its potential to rally support and bring positive exposure to the university beyond our borders," Velasco said. "I hope everyone in the community will join us at FIU athletic events to continue building Panther Pride." ■



**Mr. Jorge de Cespedes**  
Chairman Athletic Association  
Pharmed Group



**Jim Mandich**  
Vice-Chairman  
Athletic Association  
Lotspeich



**Stewart Appelrouth MS '80**  
Appelrouth,  
Farah & Co.



**Jorge L. Armenteros**  
Continental Concrete



**Judith Blucker**  
Interim Dean  
College of Education



**Rafael I. Bru '89**  
Ladex



**Marcio Cabrera**  
MBF Healthcare  
Partners



**Armando Camejo '89**  
Integrated Technology  
Services



**Alberto Cosio**  
Bernstein Investments



**Albert E. Dotson, Sr.**  
FIU Board of Trustees  
Puryear Inc.



**Ricardo Estrada**  
Northwestern Mutual  
Investments



**Frank Gonzalez**  
Morrison, Brown,  
Argiz & Farra



**Iljen Hechtman**  
Philanthropist



**Alberto Hernandez**  
Hunton & Williams LLP



**William Herrera**  
Premier American Bank



**Cesar Llano**  
Century Home Builders



**Juan Mendiola '82**  
Ocean Bank



**Pete Pizarro**  
Telefonica



**Ignacio Quirch**  
Quirch Foods



**Raul Rivero '83**  
ICC Claims



**Javier Rodriguez**  
Terremark Worldwide



**Jose Roque**  
Integral Design Group



**Charles Sacher**  
Sacher, Martini, Sacher



**Henry Salas**  
Salas, Peterson,  
Edes & Lage



**Ricardo Sanchez**  
U.S. Century Bank



**Jorge Turrueillas**  
Lennar Corporation

# ALUMNI

Will Trueba  
President Alumni Association



## Letter from Alumni Association President Will Trueba '90:

Greetings to all FIU alumni, family and friends. In May, I was honored to accept the appointment as president of the Alumni Association at our Annual Meeting. I want to acknowledge the contributions of outgoing President Ty Javellana, who provided leadership to the organization for more than two years. His legacy at FIU began when he was a student and served as a student counselor and founded one of FIU's first fraternities. He is a true model to us all.

This is an historic time to be involved with our alma mater and a perfect moment to reflect on how far we have come. My first experience at FIU was in 1985, taking two summer classes. The following year, I enrolled as a full-time student as Modesto A. Maidique became FIU's new president. As shown in the story of his presidency (page 16), Maidique awakened an educational giant that's still in the process of reaching its true potential.

In the past 20 years, FIU has been transformed, growing from 15,000 students to more than 37,000 today. I still remember the old "Tamiami Campus" with its airport runway and air traffic control tower. Today, University Park campus is a dynamic and thriving community. The recent approval of the new FIU College of Medicine represents an exciting promise of academic opportunity and improved quality of life for the community.

The FIU Alumni Association has evolved in tandem with the university. We went from having a loosely organized alumni association to having a robust and reinvigorated alumni association, thanks in large part to the support we have received from the university. The team at Alumni Relations works hard to cultivate lasting bonds by engaging alumni in the life of the university and staging signature events. The board of directors of the Alumni Association is mindful and grateful that this institution believes in the importance of maintaining a relationship with us.

I am extremely proud of FIU and its accomplishments. I look forward to sharing that pride with all of you.

In the Spirit of Blue and Gold,

Will Trueba

### Panther Sites

FIU's Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations Bill Draughon and his wife Dale model their Panther Pride during a recent tour of the historic Coliseum in Rome.



*Alumni, remember to demonstrate your Panther Pride with an FIU t-shirt, cap, flag or the FIU Magazine when you travel and you may appear in Panther Sites. Send your high resolution (300 dpi) photographs with a complete description to alumni@fiu.edu.*



The 2006-07 Alumni Association Board of Directors: Top Row: Jack F. Gonzalez '98, Joseph L. Caruncho, Esq. '81, Professor Bruce Hauptli, Jose Manuel Diaz '86, Carlos H. Hernández '97, Secretary Raymond del Rey '97, Parliamentarian Samuel C. Jackson '97; Middle Row: Treasurer George B. Brackett Jr. '76 & '77, Michael R. Méndez '03, Gabriel Albelo '93, President Modesto A. Maidique, Cynthia J. Dienstag '84, Dr. Susan Webster '87, Vice President José M. Pérez de Corcho '93, Executive Director Bill Draughon; Bottom Row: President William R. Trueba, Jr. '90 and Past President Ty N. Javellana '88, MST '98, Not Pictured: Stewart L. Appelrouth MS '80, Raul Pérez Ballaga '97, Justo Luis Pozo '80.

## Alumni Association welcomes new board

By Martin Haro '05

Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university came together in June for the festive Alumni Association Annual Meeting at University House to welcome the 2006-2007 Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Nearly 200 guests were in attendance for the swearing in of William R. Trueba, Jr. '90 as president; José M. Pérez de Corcho '93 as vice president; Raymond del Ray '97 as secretary; George B. Brackett '76, '77 as treasurer; Samuel C. Jackson '97 as parliamentarian; and Ty N. Javellana '88, MST '98 as past president.

Javellana and Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, presented outgoing board members Gayle Bainbridge '75, Ralph Espinosa '89, MBA '94, Lisa Peniche '90 and Estelle Vera '88 with plaques in recognition of their years of service to the Board and to FIU.

President Modesto A. Maidique remarked that "FIU is about to be transformed" with the recent approval to open South Florida's first public medical school.

"The FIU College of Medicine will impact every member of this community and dramatically improve the quality of life in South Florida," he said. "This historic accomplishment could not have come about without the enthusiasm of many alumni who championed this cause."

# ALUMNI

FIU doctoral student Jan Solomon with Gregory and Mary-Ann Wolfe on the Oceania Insignia.



At the same time, Maidique said, the university continues to grow and its programs continue to rise in national rankings.

With the alumni base growing stronger every day — the Alumni Relations team crossed the membership threshold of 8,000 this year — Maidique reiterated the university's commitment to reaching out and fostering lifelong relationships with its graduates. ■

## New travel program off to a great start

The FIU Alumni Association launched a new travel program in May with a 10-day Mediterranean voyage on Oceania Cruises' Insignia. The program, called Golden Panther Getaways, offers alumni and friends of the university the opportunity to enjoy world travel, fellowship and lifelong learning. Alumni Association revenues earned from the travel program will be used to award student scholarships.

Former FIU President Gregory B. Wolfe and his wife, Mary-Ann, hosted the inaugural getaway, which included visits to Italy (Rome, Sorrento/Capri, Amalfi/Positano, Florence/Pisa

Alumni and friends of FIU participating in the 10-day Oceania cruise proudly display the FIU banner on board the Insignia.



and Portofino), and France (Marseille, Nice/Sete), Spain (Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca) and Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The getaway combined activities both on ship and on land. Marian Demos, associate professor of classical languages and humanities in the Department of Modern Languages, joined the cruise as the enrichment lecturer, providing a series of presentations on board.

"The cruise was a great way for alumni to come together and meet, sightsee and learn," said Jan Solomon, an international relations Ph.D. student who also works in that department as a development associate. "It was a whirlwind, but we had a blast."

Prior to developing the travel program, the Alumni Association surveyed alumni to find out which destinations were of most interest.

"The Mediterranean countries were among the most often mentioned so we selected the perfect Oceania cruise to meet the desires of our alumni," said Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations. "We're off to a good start."

Upcoming Golden Panther Getaways include

José Perez de Corcho '93 (left) and Ramón Ferrán '79 (right) present tournament winner Sergio Ferreira '06 with a one-of-a-kind Gary Traczyk sculpture.



two Oceania voyages on the Regatta: a 10-day Athens to Venice cruise (April 27, 2007) and a 14-day Stockholm to London cruise (June 30, 2007). For more information on these Golden Panther Getaways, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 305-348-3334. ■

## Fishing Tournament catches the pride

By Martin Haro '05

The FIU Alumni Association reeled in the fun, hook, line and sinker in June as it hosted the 4th Annual FIU Alumni Association Fishing Tournament at the Miami Beach Marina and Monty's South Beach. More than 200 alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university came together to bask in the sun and catch the spirit — and a lot of dolphin — in an effort to lend their support to the FIU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

After lines were out around 3 p.m., José Bofill '90, director of this year's Fishing Tournament, kicked off the ceremony portion of the day's program, by inviting everyone to enjoy great food and drinks and try their luck in a raffle featuring prizes such

## READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UP

FIU Magazine talks parenthood and Hollywood with Danny and Lilly Pino



Whether he is playing a drug lord on the cable drama "The Shield," Desi Arnaz on a telepic or solving crimes on CBS' "Cold Case," Danny Pino '96 has constantly proven his versatility as an actor.

This spring, Pino appeared in "The Lost City," a film set against the Cuban revolution. In June, Pino and his wife Lilly Bernal Pino '97, came back to FIU for a lunch date with President Modesto A. Maidique before

returning to Hollywood for the fourth season of "Cold Case." The new parents were in Miami introducing son Luca Daniel to their Miami relatives.

Before lunch, Pino sat down with FIU Magazine writer and film critic ([www.movie.martin.blogspot.com](http://www.movie.martin.blogspot.com)) Martin Haro '05.

You played a Latin drug lord on "The Shield." Are you concerned as a Latino actor about typecasting?

**DP:** It's always a concern as an actor, not only as a Latino actor, but as any kind of actor, whether

you do comedy, drama, soap operas, film or TV — it never helps to be pigeonholed. Certainly, as a Latino, my concern is not only to be the best Latino actor I can be, but also the best actor I can be and hopefully to play roles that represent the community well, and others that are challenging in different ways.

Are you doing that more? In your new movie, "Flicka," you play a character named Jack.

**DP:** Jack is a mix of Irish, Native American and Mexican

President Maidique and his wife Nancy had lunch with Lilly and Danny Pino recently at University House.

## Feel the Pride!

Showing off their catch at the Fishing Tournament are Ernesto Santiesteban, Manny Matalón '01, MACC '03, José Seota, Daniel Peña, René Hernández and Alejandro Peña.

Ramón Ferrán '79 and José Pérez de Corcho '93 (right) with scholarship recipients Lourdes Cortizo, Providence Okoye, Kelly-Ann Williams, Geoffrey Anderson and Giselle Gutierrez accepting for Martha Gutierrez.

Cima/NEO VERTIKA Sponsor Gabriel Albelo '93 enjoys the Fishing Tournament with anglers Luis Hidalgo, Ralph Calderon, Casey Kaplan and FIU Foundation Board Member Dr. Sanford L. Ziff.



as a pair of American Airlines tickets to anywhere in the 48 states, Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean or Mexico.

This year, six scholarships were awarded to FIU students who are full-time students, have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and are

### 2005 Alumni Association Fishing Tournament Winners

- **Most Aggregate Dolphin Weight:** Sergio Ferreira '06, \$2,500 and Gary Traczyk sculpture
- **Largest Dolphin:** Miguel Cabrera, \$1,000 and large fishing trophy
- **Largest Ladies Dolphin:** Katie Blitz, \$500 and large fishing trophy
- **Largest Fun Fish:** Anthony Rodríguez, \$250 and medium fishing trophy
- **Largest Junior:** Chris Díaz, \$100 gift certificate to Dave & Busters
- **2nd Place Most Aggregate Dolphin Weight:** Manny Matalón '01, MACC '03, \$500
- **2nd Place Largest Dolphin:** Armando Miguel Suarez '98, \$250
- **2nd Place Junior:** Tony Perez, \$50 gift certificate to Dave & Busters

members of the alumni association.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, José Pérez de Corcho '93, chair for this year's tournament, and Ramón Ferrán '79 of title sponsor TotalBank, presented Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Tiffany Brannon, Martha Gutiérrez, Providence Okoye, Aviva Rose-Avila and Kelly-Ann Williams with Panther Pride Scholarships. They then presented this year's tournament winners with their prizes.

Committee members for this year's tournament included Chair José Pérez de Corcho '93, José Bofill '90, Joe Caruncho, Esq. '81, Ramón Ferrán '79, Gabriel Albelo '93, Ray del Rey '97, Ray Del Toro '96, Manny Matalón '01, MACC '03, Jennifer Restrepo MS '05 and Randi N. West. Serving as weighmasters were Clayton Williams and Cliff Ruehl of the Department of Marine Biology.

TotalBank was the tournament's title sponsor for the third year in a row; the Pride Presenting Sponsor was Preferred Care Partners; American Airlines, CIMA-Neo-Vertika, GEICO and Marine Max were Gold Sponsors; and Bofill & Vilar Attorney's at Law, CyberAngler, Financial

Insurance Brokers Incorporated, Mercury Marine, Solo Printing Incorporated, Tigress Outrigging and Gear and Tortuga Imports were Blue Sponsors. The Tournament's stunning kinetic sculpture was donated by artist Gary Traczyk.

For sponsorship information for the 2007 FIU Alumni Association Fishing Tournament, contact Randi N. West, CMP, at 305-348-1009 or westr@fiu.edu. ■

### Alumni gather for Herald Corporate Day

FIU's Alumni Association hosted a *Miami Herald* Corporate Day reception for alumni employed at the region's largest newspaper. Thirty-three *Miami Herald* employees attended the program and afternoon tea.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, opened the program with an update on an association milestone: The Alumni Association broke the 7,000 dues paying members mark for the first time, and the 2005 TORCH awards gala attracted 530 attendees in February. Alumni also heard updates about FIU's medical school, the

and he's a ranch hand. That's something I've never done before — never had to spend a long period of time on a horse. The movie is set in Wyoming, so it's beautiful rural scenery. It's a coming of age of story and sort of the antithesis of "Cold Case." It was exciting for me to tackle.

What is it like to be on a hit TV show?

**DP:** Lilly and I have been a part of things that didn't have longevity, you know, plays, a few television shows, independent films that never made it out, so to finally have something that

people are responding to and they seem to like is a blessing because we also know the opposite of that all too well.

I'm glad you mention that because you have pretty much done it all: television, film and theater. Which do you prefer?

**DP:** Every medium is very challenging and each has its own set of techniques that you need to master, but I think most actors who've done them all will say theater outweighs TV and film by far because you get an immediate response.

Tell me about making "The Lost City" with fellow Golden Panther Andy Garcia.

**DP:** The only way to describe it is: Finally our story was told in our way. For me, it was a way to immortalize and to pay homage to the sacrifice made by the generation of my grandparents and my parents.

You often hear actors talk about adjusting to stardom and fame. What has that been like for you?

**Lilly Pino:** Between the two of us we have six brothers — I'm the only girl — and they keep us

pretty grounded, so when we come home our moms ask us to help set the dinner table or take out the garbage.

**DP:** My mom uses all three names, "Daniel Gonzalo Pino, ven acá!" and puts me right back in my place.

How has fatherhood affected you?

**DP:** It's made everything better... That joy is infectious and inspiring, so I'm sure that will show in my work.

To read more from Danny and Lilly Pino, visit [www.fiu.edu](http://www.fiu.edu). ■

# ALUMNI

Participating in this year's Golf Tournament were Frank R. Nero, of The Beacon Council; Billy Baldwin of Pro Golf; Golf Committee chair José Díaz '86; Tony Rosabal, principal of LIVS Architecture.

Golf Tournament scholarship winners Vanessa Fortun; Dianne Bazzani; Kristina Clarke; Dina Asis; Sean Kramer '95 of Alumni Relations; Martha Gutierrez accepting for Giselle Gutierrez; Qaid Waheed; and Stephanie Jacques.

FIU Board of Trustees member Albert Dotson, far right, enjoyed himself at this year's Golf Tournament with Walter Richardson (left) and Bill and Beverly Parker.



upcoming football season, along with other Alumni events.

Jesus Diaz, Jr., publisher of *The Miami Herald* and member of the FIU Foundation Board, along with Tom Fiedler, executive editor of *The Miami Herald*, both spoke of their respective ties to the university and the high quality of graduates that FIU produces. They underscored that local businesses have a distinct advantage when they employ FIU graduates who are comfortable in a multi-cultural environment.

Fiedler highlighted the success of FIU's journalism alumni who have risen to the top of several local and national media outlets. In all, six FIU alumni have won eight Pulitzer prizes. ■

## Alumnus pledges gift to Honors College

FIU alumnus Gerald C. Grant, Jr. '78, MBA '89, former president of the Alumni Association and an Honors College Community Advisory Board member, pledged a \$100,000 gift to the university's Honors College to endow study abroad and research scholarships for highly motivated students in the college.

The gift is eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida, as part of the state's Major Gifts Matching Program, making the impact of the gift \$150,000.

"A number of professors at FIU made a significant impact in my professional development. To show my appreciation, I am making a financial contribution to FIU to assist deserving students," Grant said, pointing out that this gift is the first step toward an even more significant contribution he wishes to make to the university.

On May 2, the university honored Grant for his commitment to FIU and the Honors College by awarding him an FIU Medallion. The high honor was bestowed by FIU President Modesto A. Maidique during the 2006 commencement ceremonies. ■

## Star alumnus' novel adapted for new film

Ben Affleck is making his directorial debut with the film adaptation of FIU alumnus Dennis Lehane's novel, "Gone, Baby, Gone," which began shooting in May. Lehane earned an MFA from FIU's nationally ranked creative writing program in 2001.

"Gone, Baby, Gone" focuses on two private investigators hunting for a kidnapped four-year-old in Boston's underworld. Academy Award-nominated actor Ed Harris will play a cop while Affleck's younger brother Casey and Michelle Monaghan ("Mission: Impossible III") have also signed on.

Meanwhile, production on another Lehane adaptation has been announced, this time from his short story "Until Gwen," with Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Josh Olson ("A History of Violence") at the helm. No cast has been announced. ■

## Golfers tee off for scholarships

The 10th Annual FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in May was a fun-filled day of golf and fundraising for student scholarships. Participants enjoyed a one-hour Jim McLean short-game clinic, great food and drinks, golfer bags filled with such goodies as a shirt, cap, golf balls and more, a post-tournament awards ceremony featuring a live auction for

items like a VIP trip to Napa Valley, more than two dozen raffle gifts and a Cinco de Mayo reception.

This year, eight Legacy Scholarships, which are given to second-generation alumni, were presented to qualifying students.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations; Sean Kramer '95, director of Student Alumni Association and Young Alumni Programs; and Golf Tournament Chair José Manuel Díaz '86, of the FIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, presented scholarships to Dina Asis, Diana Bazzani, Kristina Clarke, Lourdes Cortizo, Vanessa Fortun, Giselle Gutiérrez, Stephanie Jacques and Qaid Waheed.

Gold Sponsors for this year's tournament included Preferred Card Partners, Seitlin Insurance, Stanford Private Wealth Management and Turner. Fox Pan American Sports sponsored the Jim McLean Short Game Clinic, while Gibraltar Bank sponsored the Million Dollar Hole, which afforded four lucky raffle winners the chance to test their skill on a 165-yard hole and win \$1 million if they made a hole in one.

Panther Sponsors included Auto Trader Magazines/AutoExtra.com; the FIU Bookstore; BCM Higher Education Management Group; Earl Haygood, Inc.; GEICO; and Nelnet. Corporate Sponsors included Adidas, Banco Popular, Commercebank, Compass Office Solutions, Sonesta Hotels of Florida and TravelLeaders, among others. Spirits and beer were generously donated by Angostura and Carib Beer. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the 2007 FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament, contact Randi N. West, CMP, in the Alumni Relations office at 305-348-1009 or westr@fiu.edu. ■

# First Generation Scholarship Fund

(See related article on page 3.)

**Give before Nov. 30, 2006 and your donation will be matched by the state to put college education within reach for needy students.**

Fund-raising goal: **\$823,000**  
 State matching grant: **\$823,000**  
 Total new scholarships: **\$1.6M**

### HOW TO GIVE

#### By Mail

Fill in the attached pledge card and mail it to the address indicated.

You can enclose a check or pay by credit card. All credit card information is kept strictly confidential.

#### By Phone

Call University Advancement at 305-348-2288 to make a credit card gift over a secure telephone line.

#### Online

Make a gift by going to the following site: [firstgen.fiu.edu](http://firstgen.fiu.edu)

8647 08/06  
 Equal Opportunity/Access Employer and Institution  
 TDD via FRS 1-800-955-8771

## Feel the Pride!

young adult historical fiction book titled "Sixty Jars in a Pioneer Town" that is now available on Amazon.com.



**Eladio Gil, Jr. '89**, a health care industry veteran, was appointed the new CFO of Preferred Care Partners Health Plan.



**Dr. J. Scott Hamilton '89, MS '93**, associate director of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at FIU, raised funds recently, in conjunction with Caribbean Students Association

and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for a young Jamaican boy who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

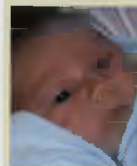
**Ernesto Larrea MIB '89** has been named vice president of correspondent banking by The International Bank of Miami.

### 1990s

**Jennifer Levin '90** has opened her own law firm, Jennifer Levin, P.A., specializing in real estate.

**Juan Martínez '90** was named vice president of accounting and treasurer for the James L. Knight Foundation.

**Heidi Allespach Pomm '90** is the director of behavioral science in the Family Medicine Residency Program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.



**Paul B. Winkeljohn '90, MPA '93** a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, welcomed the arrival of son Charles William on Feb. 10.

**Luis Muñoz '91** has joined Bright Star Credit Union as an investment representative.

**Kimberly (Zulick) Olden '91** welcomed son Brody on Dec. 9, 2005. She lives in Chestertown, N.Y., with her husband, Bob, and Brody's older brothers, Brandon, 5, and Brayden, 2.

**William J. Schinas '91** was elected to KPMG LLP partnership. Schinas, who joined the audit, tax and advisory firm in 1994, provides audit services to consumer markets, and information and communications to clients in the Miami area.

**Leonely Valdés '91** has been appointed accounting manager at The Allen Morris Co.

**Alphonce LaFrance '92** is president of Midas Lending Corp., an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College and host of a weekly Creole-language program on small business development on WLQY-AM 1320.

**Marteena Rodríguez '92** has been appointed chief financial officer of Diversified Investment Advisors.

med  
 Media Arts at  
 having taken  
 bureau  
 also an  
 nagnus, a  
 Soto lives in

idge '75 was  
 Gibson  
 by the  
 of Commerce,  
 individual who  
 voting  
 e and  
 ate and  
 ent of the

professor  
 rnational  
 , has  
 vers  
 ides lectures  
 Border

9, branch  
 Financial  
 th Florida  
 ment  
 of the  
 ding the At  
 only 50 AXA  
 ticipating in  
 rogram). He is  
 ciation  
 Council of  
 ard of the  
 r of the 100  
 in Palmetto  
 their children

s Bank as a  
 nking in  
 veloping and  
 anies that  
 on. He lives  
 on Vincent.

epted a  
 ervisor at  
 ncy for

elside, a  
 cently  
 ounded [www.channelside.us](http://www.channelside.us) with twin brother  
 Ron. On the website, he provides news on the 15  
 residential projects that are in various states of  
 completion in the Channelside District of Tampa.

**Lourdes M. Figueroa '85** is the founder, president and CEO of UdefineU LLC, a business focused on selling products and services that

enhance a woman's physical appearance and refinement. Prior to UdefineU, she worked for more than 13 years at Reuters, where she held various sales and global sales management positions in Miami and New York City.

**William A. Ramos '85** and **Ana J. Colls '02** have been selected as National Urban Fellows (NUF) to complete a master's degree in Public Administration from Bernard Baruch College - City University of New York, in New York City. The fellowship is an all-expenses paid program that provides each fellow the opportunity to complete a nine-month internship in a local, state or federal government agency, as well as internships in the non-profit and philanthropic arena. This is the first time in the 35-year history of NUF that two FIU alumni are members of the program.

**Gretchen E. von Dwingelo '85** joined Powell Goldstein LLC's Real Estate Finance and Development Practice Group as Of Counsel after receiving her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami's School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

**José M. Díaz '86** is the principal of Compass Office Solutions ([www.compass-office.com](http://www.compass-office.com)), a company that helps businesses profitably navigate the business environment needs of South Florida. He also teamed up with William White of the Allsteel Corporation to create a new experience in the commercial office furniture industry and provide quick, affordable and environmentally sound solutions to today's office environment needs.

**Ed Thompson '86** was named vice president of U.S. operations for Neoris, a global IT consultancy based in Miami, in late 2005. He received his MBA from UNC - Greensboro (Cum Laude) in 1994.

**Noel Rosquete '86** has been appointed vice president and marketing manager at TotalBank.

**Lynn Carrier '87**, a third-grade teacher at Gulfstream Elementary, was named Miami-Dade's Teacher of the Year in January. She then competed for statewide honors.

**Braulio L. Baez, Esq. '88**, former chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission, joined the firm of Holland & Knight's Public Policy & Regulation practice as senior counsel.

**Nicholas G. Bustle MIB '88**, city president for SunTrust Bank's South Florida Region, has joined the Community Partnership for the Homeless Board.

**Edward Gannon '88** has been named director of litigation and consulting practices at Kaufman, Rossin & Co. PA.

**Joaquin Urquiola '88** an FIU MBA candidate, has been promoted to partner at Goldstein Schechter Price Lucas Horwitz. He is a member of the College of Business Alumni Circle.

**Israel Velasco '88** has been named regional executive for South Florida at Banco Popular North America. He was formerly president of CEO of Alabama-based Colonial Bank's South Florida region.

**Nanette L. Avery '89** recently published a



*Feel the Pride!*

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Roberto F. Soto '74** was recently named distinguished visiting professor of Media Arts at New York Institute of Technology. Having taken early retirement after serving as NYC bureau chief for The Associated Press, he is also an international media consultant for Imagus, a multilingual media consulting firm. Soto lives in New York City.



**Gayle A. Bainbridge '75** was awarded the Thelma Gibson Award of Excellence by the Women's Chamber of Commerce, which honors an individual who has excelled in promoting leadership, excellence and

business development among corporate and professional women. She was president of the Alumni Association from 2003-'04.

**Dr. James Giermanski MIB '75**, a professor and chair of the Department of International Business at Belmont Abbey College, has become a principal and CEO of Powers International Inc. He currently provides lectures on C-TPAT and other Customs and Border Protection programs.

**Gerald C. Grant, Jr., '78 MBA '89**, branch director of Corporate and Individual Financial Planning of AXA Advisors LLC's South Florida branch, earned a certificate in retirement planning from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania for attending the At Retirement Program (he was one of only 50 AXA Advisors financial professionals participating in the inaugural session of the elite program). He is a past president of the Alumni Association (1995-'96), a current member of the Council of 100 and member on the advisory board of the Honors College, as well as a member of the 100 Black Men of South Florida. He lives in Palmetto Bay, Fla., with his wife Jennifer and their children Jasmin and Gerald III.

### 1980s

**Joseph Marchese '80** joined Regions Bank as a senior vice president in corporate banking in 2005, where he is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with companies that have revenue in excess of \$100 million. He lives in Davie, Fla., with his wife Liz and son Vincent.

**Stephen Waters III '82** recently accepted a position of career development supervisor at LINQ Financial Group, a general agency for Guardian Life Insurance Company.

**Randy B. Zalis '82**, a.k.a. Mr. Channelside, a licensed Florida real estate broker, recently launched [www.channelside.us](http://www.channelside.us) with twin brother Ron. On the website, he provides news on the 15 residential projects that are in various states of completion in the Channelside District of Tampa.

**Lourdes M. Figueroa '85** is the founder, president and CEO of UdefineU LLC, a business focused on selling products and services that

enhance a woman's physical appearance and refinement. Prior to UdefineU, she worked for more than 13 years at Reuters, where she held various sales and global sales management positions in Miami and New York City.

**William A. Ramos '85** and **Ana J. Colls '02** have been selected as National Urban Fellows (NUF) to complete a master's degree in Public Administration from Bernard Baruch College - City University of New York, in New York City. The fellowship is an all-expenses paid program that provides each fellow the opportunity to complete a nine-month internship in a local, state or federal government agency, as well as internships in the non-profit and philanthropic arena. This is the first time in the 35-year history of NUF that two FIU alumni are members of the program.

**Gretchen E. von Dwingelo '85** joined Powell Goldstein LLC's Real Estate Finance and Development Practice Group as Of Counsel after receiving her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami's School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

**José M. Díaz '86** is the principal of Compass Office Solutions ([www.compass-office.com](http://www.compass-office.com)), a company that helps businesses profitably navigate the business environment needs of South Florida. He also teamed up with William White of the Allsteel Corporation to create a new experience in the commercial office furniture industry and provide quick, affordable and environmentally sound solutions to today's office environment needs.

**Ed Thompson '86** was named vice president of U.S. operations for Neoris, a global IT consultancy based in Miami, in late 2005. He received his MBA from UNC - Greensboro (Cum Laude) in 1994.

**Noel Rosquete '86** has been appointed vice president and marketing manager at TotalBank.

**Lynn Carrier '87**, a third-grade teacher at Gulfstream Elementary, was named Miami-Dade's Teacher of the Year in January. She then competed for statewide honors.

**Braulio L. Baez, Esq. '88**, former chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission, joined the firm of Holland & Knight's Public Policy & Regulation practice as senior counsel.

**Nicholas G. Bustle MIB '88**, city president for SunTrust Bank's South Florida Region, has joined the Community Partnership for the Homeless Board.

**Edward Gannon '88** has been named director of litigation and consulting practices at Kaufman, Rossin & Co. PA.

**Joaquín Urquiola '88** an FIU MBA candidate, has been promoted to partner at Goldstein Schechter Price Lucas Horwitz. He is a member of the College of Business Alumni Circle.

**Israel Velasco '88** has been named regional executive for South Florida at Banco Popular North America. He was formerly president of CEO of Alabama-based Colonial Bank's South Florida region.

**Nanette L. Avery '89** recently published a

young adult historical fiction book titled "Sixty Jars in a Pioneer Town" that is now available on Amazon.com.



**Eladio Gil, Jr. '89**, a health care industry veteran, was appointed the new CFO of Preferred Care Partners Health Plan.



**Dr. J. Scott Hamilton '89, MS '93**, associate director of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at FIU, raised funds recently, in conjunction with Caribbean Students Association

and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for a young Jamaican boy who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

**Ernesto Larrea MIB '89** has been named vice president of correspondent banking by The International Bank of Miami.

### 1990s

**Jennifer Levin '90** has opened her own law firm, Jennifer Levin, P.A., specializing in real estate.

**Juan Martínez '90** was named vice president of accounting and treasurer for the James L. Knight Foundation.

**Heidi Allespach Pomm '90** is the director of behavioral science in the Family Medicine Residency Program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.



**Paul B. Winkeljohn '90, MPA '93** a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, welcomed the arrival of son Charles William on Feb. 10.

**Luis Muñoz '91** has joined Bright Star Credit Union as an investment representative.

**Kimberly (Zulick) Olden '91** welcomed son Brody on Dec. 9, 2005. She lives in Chestertown, N.Y., with her husband, Bob, and Brody's older brothers, Brandon, 5, and Brayden, 2.

**William J. Schinas '91** was elected to KPMG LLP partnership. Schinas, who joined the audit, tax and advisory firm in 1994, provides audit services to consumer markets, and information and communications to clients in the Miami area.

**Leonely Valdés '91** has been appointed accounting manager at The Allen Morris Co.

**Alphonce LaFrance '92** is president of Midas Lending Corp., an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College and host of a weekly Creole-language program on small business development on WLQY-AM 1320.

**Marteena Rodríguez '92** has been appointed chief financial officer of Diversified Investment Advisors.

# ALUMNI

**Rick Escudero '92, MACC '93** has joined Reason management Group's Board of Directors.

🐾 **Barbara Yvonne Debesa-Hernandez '82, MACC '94** has been promoted to chief operations officers at TotalBank.

🐾 **Sergio Fernández '93, MPA '96** was honored with the Leonard D. White Award for best doctoral dissertation in the field of public administration at the annual American Political Science Association conference in Washington, D.C. He is currently an assistant professor at Indiana University.

**Audrey A. Edmonson '94** became El Portal Village mayor in 1999 after five years on the village council, was reelected by the council in 2002 and 2003 and became the municipality's first mayor to be elected by residents in 2004. She is a member of, among others, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

**Juan C. García, Esq. '94** was named junior partner at the law firm of Walton, Lantaff, Schroeder & Carson. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

**Benjamin F. Gilbert Jr. MBA '94** has been appointed to the Children's Trust by Gov. Jeb Bush. He is vice president of Montenay Power Corp.



🐾 **Beatriz González Hernández '94** welcomed the arrival of her second baby, Kate.

**Hannesson I. Murphy, Esq. '94** joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as an associate in the firm's Indianapolis office where he practices in the department of Labor and Employment Law. In 2005, he received the Defense Research Institute's Exceptional Performance Citation for his work as president of the Dade County Defense Bar Association.

**Albert Pérez '94** was recently hired as the director of public utilities for the City of Hollywood, Fla.

**Raquel Elejabarrieta '95** has been named an associate at Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Guedes Cole and Boniske's labor and employment law group.

**Rebecca H. Markham '95, MS '01** received the Sandra Weiner Travel Award to attend the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Last summer, she also received a fellowship and completed an intensive eight-week course on Neural Systems and Behavior at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

🐾 **Kirill Reznick, Esq. '95**, president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the FIU Alumni Association, filed paperwork to begin practicing law on his own, aiming to become wholly independent within a year and dedicate 100 percent of his time to the legal practice and short-term international consulting.

**Milagros S. Rosales '95** received her doctor of veterinary degree from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in June 2000. After working in South Florida for two years, she returned to UF's School of Veterinary Medicine to pursue a residency in dermatology, graduating in June 2005 and passing boards the same year. She is currently self-employed.

**Gulnaz Sharafutdinova '95** was the runner-up for the Juan Linz Award for best dissertation in comparative democratization at the annual American Political Science Association conference in Washington, D.C. She is now a professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



🐾 **Brian D. Abramson, Esq. '96, JD '05** was hired as an associate at the intellectual property law firm of Lott & Friedland, P.A., where he is primarily involved in trademark prosecution and litigation.

🐾 **Martin Amado '96** launched a national home makeover segment called "Manos A La Obra" on TeleFutura Network's "En Vivo y Directo" in January. This is in addition to the similar "Room for Improvement," which airs on South Florida's WSVN 7's Monday night newscast.



**Alison D. Austin-Bruyning '96** was appointed CEO of the Belafonte-Tacolcy Center, one of the largest private non-profit youth service centers in the Greater Miami area. In her new position, she coordinates a broad spectrum

of programs dedicated to assisting children and youth from pre-school through college age.



**Alexandra Ortiz-Sans '96** welcomed daughter Sofia into the world on Valentine's Day.

🐾 **Howard Mark Shore '91, MBA '96**, a founding principal of Elite Advisory Group, has been named to the regional advisory board of Teach for America and to the Board of Governors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

**Fabio Estrada '97** has joined TotalBank as assistant vice president/corporate lender at the bank's Coral Way branch.



**María E. Fernández '97** was promoted to executive mortgage banker at Quicken Loans after joining the company in January 2004.

🐾 **Fernando Mesía MBA '97** has been named vice president of corporate lending at Commercebank.

**Denise Peña '97** joined Bank United as a senior credit analyst.

**Armando A. Pina '97, MS '00, Ph.D. '05** recently began a faculty position at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina.



**Lilly Bernal Pino '97 and Danny Pino '96**, an actor on TV's "Cold Case," welcomed the arrival of son Luca Daniel on Feb. 15.

🐾 **Lizzette Torres '97** recently received an award as 2005 Sales Representative of the Year for Schering Plough del Caribe, Key Division, in Puerto Rico.



**Sara L. Torres '97** is a full-time evangelist who uses her music and personal testimony as tools to reach out for Christ. Her international ministry has been active in the last six years, visiting more than 80 cities all

over Latin America, the Caribbean, North America and Europe. Her songs have been heard through radio and the Internet (thanks to her website [www.saratorres.com](http://www.saratorres.com)) in places as faraway as Oslo, Tokyo and Queensland, Australia.

**Andrew Yap '91, MBA '97** was promoted to president and chief operating officer of LEASA Industries Co., Inc., the largest grower of bean and alfalfa sprouts and one of the largest manufacturers of tofu in Florida.



**Loaina M. Matos Kerner '98** gave birth to her first child, Luciana Mari Kerner Matos on Nov. 14, 2005.

🐾 **Yvette M. Perdomo '98 and Carlos E. Torrents '98** were married in February in Miami.

**Wayne Smith '98** was promoted to commercial real estate credit manager by Union Planters Bank.

**Carlos A. Zarraluqui '98** has been named vice president of marketing and special projects for the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida.

**Jennifer Cardenes '99** has joined Bacardi USA as an assistant marketing manager.

🐾 **Josefina (Josie) Carreno '99** was promoted to vice president-director of Miami Manufacturing Operations for Beckman Coulter Corp.

**Kwan Wang Lin '99** is now the general manager of Universal Industrial Trading Company in Taipei, Taiwan.

## 2000s

🐾 **Jeremy Baker '00, '06** has joined Shake-a-Leg Miami as grants administrator.

**Allan Holder MA '00** has joined Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants &

*Feel the Pride!*

# Panther Perks



## FIU CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**Panther Partner:** Continuing and Professional Studies (CAPS) offers a variety of convenient, non-traditional learning opportunities to facilitate professional and personal development. CAPS provides an array of certificates, distance learning opportunities, online instruction, workshops, customized and professional training, personal enrichment courses and more.

**Panther Perk:** FIU Alumni Association members receive a FREE one-year membership to take non-credit academic courses at the member-only rate. This adds up to a savings of \$20!

**How to Take Advantage:** For more information about course offerings, registration, and to receive a comprehensive course catalog, please call the Academy for Lifelong Learning office at 305-919-5910 or visit [www.caps.fiu.edu/academy](http://www.caps.fiu.edu/academy).

## KOVENS CONFERENCE CENTER

**Panther Partner:** The Kovens Conference Center at FIU Biscayne Bay has facilities and high-tech meeting services such as videoconferencing, web casting, web conferencing, high-speed Ethernet access, satellite broadcast services, wireless Internet connectivity and access to Internet2. The Kovens Center is partnering with Thierry's Catering and Event Design as its new in-house caterer. Thierry's uses traditional French cooking techniques and blends Mediterranean, Caribbean and Pacific influences to design the perfect menu for your meeting, conference or special event.

**Panther Perk:** FIU Alumni Association Members receive 15 percent off on personal bookings such as weddings and receptions, corporate events, theme parties, retirement parties, sweet sixteen parties, bar/bat mitzvahs, confirmations, quince años and proms.

**How to Take Advantage:** Call today for an appointment at 305-919-5000 or 866-4-KOVENS. Visit the Kovens website at: <http://kovens.fiu.edu/index.htm>

Consultants as a staff accountant in the tax services department.

**Michelle Jo '00** has been accepted at Thunderbird University's Garvin School of International Management where she will pursue an MBA in the fall at the Geneva, Switzerland campus.

**Jessica Samo '00** was promoted to general manager for Courvoisier Centre, where she will be responsible for building management.

**Jonathan G. Tubman MSW '00** was honored with the prestigious Excellence in Research Award at the 2005 FIU Faculty Convocation.



**Arlene Tur '00** recently signed a holding deal with ABC Network and Touchstone Television. She is best known for her turn in the 2003 hit Telemundo teen drama "Lost Teens" and was recently featured on an episode of "Grey's

Anatomy." She splits her time between Los Angeles and New York City.

**Randall J. Wisser '00** pursued a Ph.D. at Cornell University ('01-'06), where he researched plant breeding and genetics, focusing on gene resistance properties of maize and traveling to multiple regions in Africa, where he collaborated with local institutions to improve their agricultural situations. He recently accepted a post-doc position with the USDA at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

**Camille Khan-Bird '01** has joined Pamlico County in North Carolina as assistant finance officer.

**Desa Burton '01** has joined Fish and Richardson P.C. in Silicon Valley.

**Steven Bustillo '01** has been named assistant vice president and lender at Beach Bank, where he will be responsible for forming and maintaining small business accounts.



**Sandi Morais '01** published a fitness book titled "Tune Up" in 2005. She also co-wrote a musical, "Sacha and the Magic Cookie Maker," with former "Miami Vice" star Philip Michael Thomas.

**Melissa A. Shuman '01**, a former PRIME scholar, received the prestigious NIH-funded MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) scholarship, which will fund her research for up to two years with \$20,000 awarded each year. She works in the Infant Perception Lab.



**Sara Z. Abramson '02, MBA '04** was recently hired as a marketing analyst by Café Bom Dia, a Brazilian coffee company located in Coral Gables, Fla.

**Ryann M. Haw '02, Ph.D. '05** recently accepted a position at Big Bend Community College.

**Jennifer A. Hodgetts-Barber MS '02, Ph.D. '04** recently took and passed the exam for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

**Alfredo Machado MBA '02** has been named vice president of marketing of the South Florida Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs.

**Tara L. Mitchell '02, Ph.D. '05** recently accepted a position at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

**Raquel Schwarz MBA '02** was promoted to sales manager for the Hispanic market for Molson Coors Brewing Company.

**George Bermudez '03** was appointed senior vice president-middle market manager for Commerce Bank in Miami-Dade County.

**Lisa Bernardo MBA '03** has joined Palms West Hospital as director of marketing and community relations.

**Joe Izquierdo '03** has been promoted to director of circulation technology for Knight Ridder.

**Fadia M. Narchet '03** recently accepted a position at the University of New Haven.

**Michelle Núñez-Mendoza '03** welcomed daughter Zara Michelle into the world on Oct. 21, 2005.

**Carlos Wright '03** has been appointed branch manager for TotalBank's Brickell branch.

**Gary Cabanas '04** has joined Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants as a manager in the international tax services department.

**Sienda Chan '04** is owner and chief executive officer of Strategia Consulting Group, LLC in Miami.

**Stephen Grell '04** has joined the Trust and Asset Management Division of Republic Bank Limited in Trinidad as a senior investment analyst.

**Lora M. Levett '04** began her assistant professor position at the University of Florida's Department of Criminology, Law and Society recently.

**Paulina Muñoz '05** was recently certified as a Longevity wedding planner and has launched a new full-service wedding and event planning company, Moments Made With Love, in Miami with her sister and mother.

**Adriana Pereira '05** recently accepted a position as a staff assistant in the Washington, D.C. office of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. Pereira just completed an internship with the FIU Office of Governmental Relations in Washington and formerly was an intern at FIU Magazine.

**Haroldo Silva '05**, a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program scholar, was accepted into the Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley, where he will pursue a degree in bioengineering in the fall.

## donor profile



From L to R: North Dade Medical Foundation Board member Dr. John Kathe; NDMF Executive Director Sandra Giblin; Board Member William Heffernan; FIU President Modesto Maidique; former NDMF Chairman of the Board Dr. Chester Morris; FIU Dean of Nursing Divina Grossman; FIU Provost Ronald Berkman; and NDMF Board Member Dr. Cesar Sastre.

# North Dade Medical Foundation

## NDMF gifts to the School of Nursing and College of Medicine will improve opportunities for health-care education

More than a half century ago, a group of physicians founded a non-profit hospital in North Miami-Dade County dedicated for "the benefit of mankind." Economic pressures forced that hospital, North Shore Hospital, to be sold in 1997, but the vision to improve lives in the community lived on with the establishment of the North Dade Medical Foundation.

The Foundation, which received the proceeds of the hospital sale, is governed by a nine-member board of physicians and community members that ensures its assets continue the hospital's legacy of caring for the community. The Foundation will close its doors in January 2007 having provided more than \$40 million in grants to local non-profit health, social service and educational organizations, including FIU.

"That was a dream of mine, to give all the money away," said Chester H. Morris, M.D., former chairman of the Foundation Board. "You know where it is going to go. You know it is going to make a difference."

Two grants from the North Dade Medical Foundation will support FIU's health initiatives in the School of Nursing and the College of Medicine by providing student scholarships.

"We are committed to students who want to dedicate their lives to the health-care profession," Morris said. "Our gift will open career opportunities to those who have been historically underrepresented in the

"We are committed to students who want to dedicate their lives to the health-care profession."

—  
Chester Morris,  
M.D.,  
North Dade  
Medical  
Foundation

health care professions."

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique hailed the grants as a significant benefit to the community.

"In making these gifts, the North Dade Medical Foundation is carrying on its tradition of caring for and serving our most vulnerable residents," said Maidique. "These gifts will make a substantial impact on the quality of life in our community."

A \$1.25 million grant to the College of Nursing — matched by the state for a total impact of \$2.1 million — will address the critical statewide nursing shortage. The NDMF endowment will provide 20 full scholarships to undergraduates from North Miami-Dade County pursuing a degree in nursing. The endowment will also provide the nursing laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. In recognition of the Foundation's gift, the Advanced Nursing Laboratory on the Biscayne Bay Campus has been named in its honor.

With a projected need for one million new nurses nationwide by 2010, communities across the country are being challenged to attract new talent into the profession. The FIU School of Nursing has responded with innovative programs that have increased admissions to the program by more than 100 percent in recent years. The School will do even more with the grant, said Nursing Dean Divina Grossman.

"We know of the desire and interest of thousands of bright individuals who want

to become nursing professionals," said Grossman. "But many are limited in pursuing their dreams by barriers such as lack of finances, program size or limited teaching resources. This generous gift from the NDMF is helping break down these barriers for future nursing students."

The Foundation has also pledged \$5 million for scholarships for the FIU College of Medicine. Matched by the state, the gift will provide \$10 million in scholarships for north Miami-Dade students who demonstrate financial need. The scholarships will play a critical role in helping FIU to recruit highly qualified students.

As the region's first public medical school, the College of Medicine will be strongly community oriented. The university will identify talented students from area high schools and help prepare them for undergraduate education and acceptance into the FIU College of Medicine. Those students will be trained to serve the health needs of South Florida with the expectation that upon graduation, they will practice in the community.

"I want to see those medical students clamoring at your door and getting in," Morris said. "I want to see them stay in the area to practice medicine. We need more doctors. We need more nurses. That's why we have created these endowments for education. It is going to solve a lot of problems for South Florida." ■

## VIP: Joy Wallace '81

FIU Alumni Association Lifetime Member

**Year of Graduation:** 1981

**Profession:** Owner of A Joy Wallace Catering Production & Design Team since 1988. I'm a caterer, event planner and producer, designer of event décor and themes.

**FIU degree:** Bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management

**FIU affiliations:** Lifetime Member, FIU Alumni Association

### What are your favorite memories of your time at FIU?

I loved the peace and freedom of walking across the campus with the sun shining on my face, green grass, palm trees and little white fluffy clouds. I loved learning from and being associated with FIU's professors; my relationship with them was extremely important to my learning experience and to my future. FIU had some very colorful professors at the time. Professor Tony Marshall, who taught risk management, put on a great performance on stage in the theater for every class. It was a privilege to learn from him. His method of teaching got the point across and was terrifically entertaining at the same time. He would lock the doors, so if you weren't there on time you couldn't come in and you couldn't get A's. And Steve Moll, my advisor, is still a dear friend whose advice was irreplaceable and indispensable.

### How has your FIU experience helped you in life and in business?

Another great professor I had was Charles Ilvento. On the first day of class, he came into the classroom and wrote the most important lesson I learned at FIU across a huge chalkboard that wrapped around two sides of the room: "Without no dough, there ain't no go." This seems like such a simple concept, but it's a lesson that I have applied during my career and life for 25 years. You can't believe how many times this great philosophy has been applied to business situations and decisions.

### Do you have any advice that you would offer to FIU students?

Take business courses and take accounting courses; they will prepare you for your life in the business world as well as in your personal life. Money really does make the world go round, so if you understand how to manage it well, then you'll do well. If there are time management or business management courses available, take them because they will give you direction for success. Psychology classes are a big plus, too. But definitely, I would say, get your degree. It is so personally rewarding to do; it affects your future forever in life, as well as in business.

### Why do you think it is important to be a member of the FIU Alumni Association?

To show the university that you care, that you appreciate your education and the degree that you received there and the success that's come of it. Also, to help support the future of the university and its students. We have a very powerful group of alumni living and working here in South Florida. Our successes can make a difference in the enrollment and positive financial position of FIU.

### What is your proudest accomplishment?

Personally, it would have to be my family: my husband, my children and my grandchildren. Secondly, to have created a business that's really amazing. We have fun working here every day. We have the best staff in the United States. To have been able to put together such an unbelievable and dynamic team is one of my most awesome accomplishments; it is my second family, which I was able to choose. It's most satisfying to see the work they accomplish as a team and as a beautiful family. Life's an exciting ride. ■

Very  
Important  
Panthers

v.i.p.

# Are you a card carrying Member?

The FIU Alumni Association is your gateway back to FIU.  
We'll keep you connected and informed, wherever you may be.



## YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS:

- The award-winning FIU Magazine and NOW@FIU e-newsletter
- Student programs and scholarships
- Alumni college chapter programs and events
- Programming such as the Alumni Job Fair and Alumni Networking events

- Food discounts for annual members (free for Life & SAA members) at the Panther Pit football tailgate parties catered by Tony Roma's
- University Park & Biscayne Bay library privileges
- Discounts on major theme parks, travel and car rental programs
- COMING SOON! Access to the new Alumni Online Directory and your own FIU email address that includes email forwarding for life

## MEMBERS GET PANTHER PERKS:

- Automatic membership in your school/college chapter
- Priority seating and ticket discounts for FIU home football games and other Golden Panther athletic events



It's easy to take advantage of the many benefits of membership. Join today by dialing 1-800-FIU-ALUM, email alumni@fiu.edu or go online at www.fiu alumni.com.

## Get carded! Feel the pride and carry the card.



# FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
*Miami's public research university*  
University Advancement and Marketing  
University Park, MARC 510  
Miami, FL 33199-0001

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MIAMI FL  
PERMIT NO 3675



\*\*\*\*\* ECRW5H \*\* C000  
Ms. Mayra F. Nemeth  
University Librarian  
Florida International University  
International Resource Center  
"11200 SW 8th Street, G1 510b"  
Miami, FL 33199-0001