

Fall 1996

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... THIS ISSUE:

Becker Battles Free Radicals

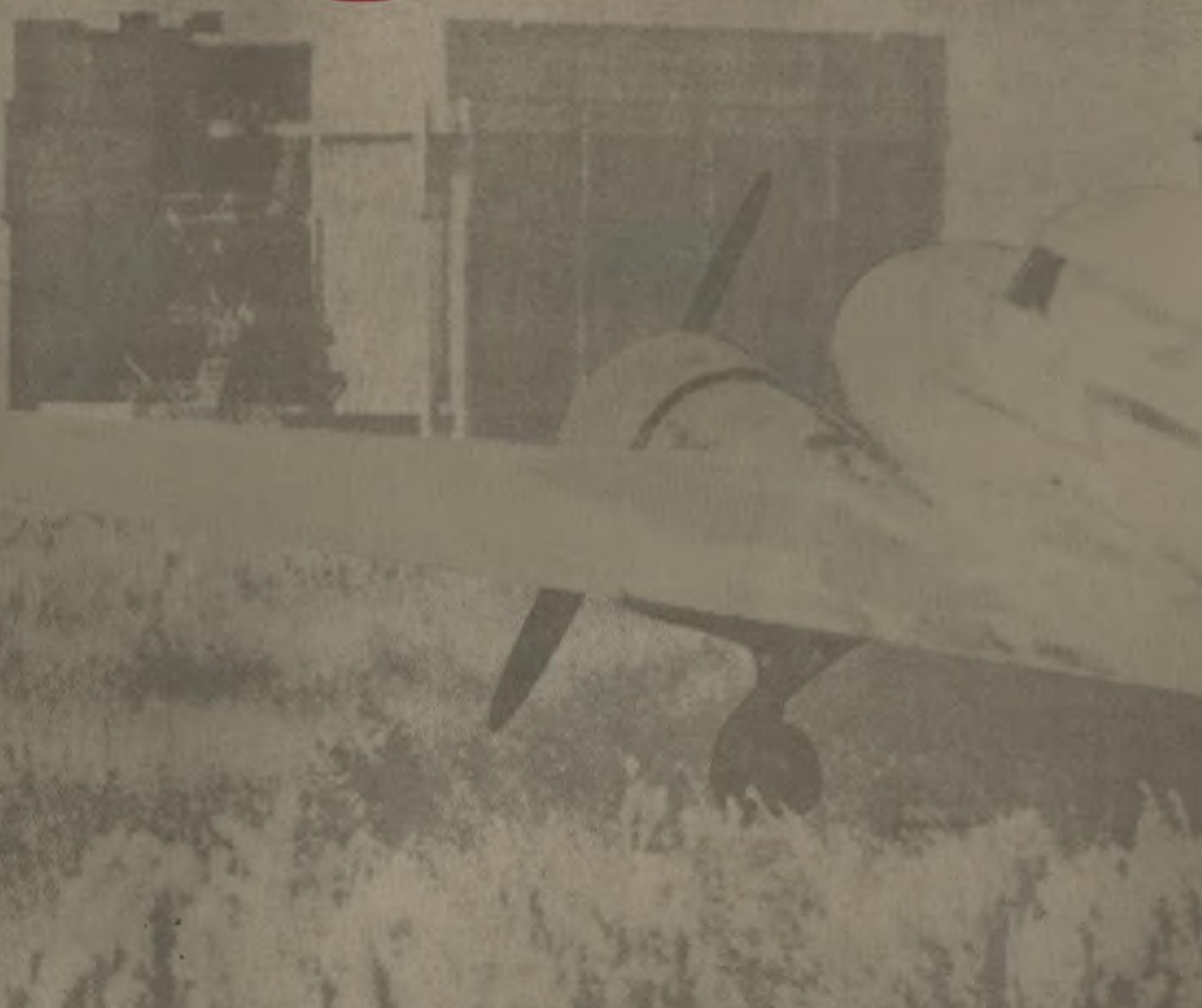
Exploring Music's Infinite Possibilities

Mapping Russia's Democratization

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Fall 1996

magazine



25 YEARS IN THE MAKING:
THE NEW FACE OF FIU

First Division I Final Four appearance for Golden Panthers SOCCER TEAM CONCLUDES YEAR IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BID

Karl Kremser must have thought he and his Golden Panther men's soccer team were filming an opening for television's "Wide World of Sports."

The team had made it all the way to the NCAA Division I National Championship Final Four in Richmond, Virginia — and during one weekend they experienced both the "joy of victory and the agony of defeat."

In the first game, FIU started slowly, then came on to defeat the University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNCC), 4-0, in the most lopsided semifinal victory since 1983. The team effort was punctuated by Tyrone Marshall, who sealed the win with a flying bicycle kick goal that was the talk of the tournament.

"Worth the price of admission," quipped UNCC Coach John Tart.

Despite the win, a major setback occurred when team leader and star defender Kevin Birusingh was carried off the field after a sliding tackle and collision with a Charlotte player. Birusingh fractured his leg and spent the night in a Richmond hospital instead of celebrating with teammates.

For Sunday's national championship match against St. John's, the sun appeared for the first time all weekend — but, for the most part, it shone only on the Red Storm's side of the field. St. John's took advantage of Birusingh's absence and scored a pair of first-half goals for a 2-0 lead at half time.

FIU closed to within 2-1 when All-American Ignace Moleka scored, but that was as close as it would get. St. John's added two more goals, the last one while playing short-handed following an ejection, and won its first NCAA national championship crown.

The Golden Panthers had battled adversity all season long. Coach Kremser told anyone who would listen that he had a talented team, but injuries and defections chipped away at the team's base. In the end, he was left with a shell of the team he had started with last August.

Despite it all, FIU was selected as the second-seeded team in the

NCAA field of 32 teams from across the nation. The Golden Panthers thumped the University of South Florida, 6-1, in the tournament's opening round at University Park, then defeated Rutgers, 2-0, in a second-round game played during a driving rain storm and near-freezing temperatures in Piscataway, N.J.

FIU qualified for the Final Four with a 1-0 home win over three-time national champion Indiana. The dream of winning a national title was within reach.

After the season-ending loss, Kremser tried to console his team in a closed-door meeting. "Don't let this one loss detract from the kind of season you had," said the coach. "It was a great year and I'm proud of you."

Regardless of the final outcome, it was a weekend that 21 players and three coaches will never forget. From the time the team arrived at Richmond International

Airport, banners were welcoming them and soccer fans from across the country were trying to get close to them.

Everywhere there were small children with soccer balls looking to meet the student-athletes. On Saturday, at a special NCAA clinic for at-risk children, more than 500 youngsters got a chance to mingle with the players and get autographs.

Meanwhile, back home, the team's accomplishments were making headlines. Tournament results were the lead sports stories on the local television newscasts, color art appeared along with front-page stories in *The Miami Herald*, and *The Sun-Sentinel* flew one of its full-time writers to Richmond to chronicle the weekend.

"It was a great run," said Kremser. "I believe we represented ourselves and our university to our utmost capabilities."



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Editor's Note

At a recent gathering of local public relations professionals, a colleague expressed his amazement that more Miamians aren't aware of an incredible higher education success story in our community. It's "The FIU Story."

I happen to disagree with his assessment of FIU's visibility. I'm constantly meeting people who comment about the great things taking place at the University, and we all see FIU's feats in the media. Nevertheless, even I'm amazed at times by FIU's progress. Next fall, FIU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its opening for classes — and there's no other modern university in the nation that has come so far in so short a time.

In this issue of *FIU Magazine* you'll find examples of our fast track — from the accomplishments of Mitch Maidique's 10 years as University president and the early success of the Campaign for FIU to the achievements of our students, alumni and faculty. And, of course, the unprecedented NCAA Final Four showing of the Golden Panthers soccer team (on the opposite page).

In order to succeed, you have to make something from nothing — and success is found in the journey, not the destination. FIU is a success story already realized yet still in the making, and all those who are or have been part of it are both contributors and beneficiaries.

Todd Ellenberg
Editor



Front cover: FIU's first building, Primera Casa, rises from the abandoned Tamiami Airport.
Back cover: The five-story addition to the University Park Library, currently under construction.

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FIU and PRESIDENT MAIDIQUE: LOOKING BACK ON A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Next month we'll be ushering in 1997, the year in which FIU will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the start of classes. But two months ago, there was another major milestone in FIU's history: the tenth anniversary of Modesto A. Maidique's leadership of the University as FIU's fourth president.

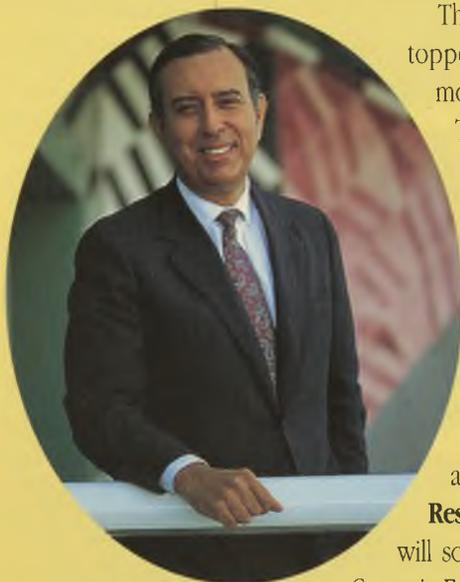
There have been considerable changes at the University since President Maidique assumed the helm of FIU in October 1986. Back then, FIU's enrollment was **16,400**. There were **600** faculty and an annual budget of **\$99 million**. Sponsored research for 1985-86 generated **\$6.2 million**. FIU was ranked by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a **Master's** university.

What a difference a decade makes.

This semester, enrollment topped **30,000** and there's more than **1,200** faculty.

The budget now exceeds **\$200 million**. In 1995-96, sponsored research reached a record **\$30 million**. The University is now classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a **Doctoral** institution, and it is anticipated that our **Research University** status will soon be confirmed by the Carnegie Foundation.

Of course, these are only a few highlights of the achievements that have taken place at FIU during President Maidique's tenure; there are many more that have been reported in this publication. On the occasion of his tenth anniversary as president, *FIU Magazine* took the opportunity to ask Dr. Maidique to share his thoughts on the past 10 years at our university.



"Soon after I was appointed president, I established some long-term goals. One of them had to do with critical mass. Based on other outstanding public universities — such as Michigan, Texas, Berkeley, UCLA, North Carolina — I concluded that 30,000 students was about the minimum enrollment of the great public universities. We also needed to grow because the community demanded it. The need was there. It is very satisfying that we have reached that critical mass.

"Second: There are many programs and many opportunities that exist only for a rarified 5 percent of the nation's four-year colleges and universities — and those are the 110 research universities. Early on I learned that if we were not on that list of research universities we would not be considered for many attractive funding and enhancement opportunities. So another one of my goals was to reach a funding level in sponsored research that would move us on those lists. We have reached and exceeded that critical mass this year, and I expect that the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching will announce that henceforth we will appear on its list of 110 research universities.

"A third objective was to continuously enhance our academic quality and recognition. The most esteemed national honors fraternity is the **Phi Beta Kappa** Association. Having a Phi Beta Kappa chapter says more than Professor 'A', 'B' or 'C' is doing a good job. It says that our Arts and Sciences College, the largest academic unit in the entire University, is of a quality that warrants us being among the top 10 percent in the country. We have had a positive visit from Phi Beta Kappa representatives, and in December we are expecting that we will be voted on favorably by the Phi Beta Kappa national senate.

"Beyond Phi Beta Kappa, we have numerous other honorary fraternities such as **Tau Beta Phi** throughout our colleges and schools. And our colleges and schools are accredited at the highest levels by **NCATE**, **ABET** and **NACSB** and other national associations.

"When I became president I felt that not enough of the leaders of this community were involved in our Foundation Board of Trustees. And today, 10 years later, if you look at the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation we have a 'who's who' of Miami's leadership. From the chairman of Knight-Ridder to the chairman of ProSource, the president of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the vice president of the Ryder Corporation, the presidents of our major banks, our leading entrepreneurs. We have one of the best, if not the best board in this community.

"Another objective that I had was to persuade the Board of Regents and the chancellor that FIU was an excellent investment — and that an investment in FIU would be as good or better than anywhere in the state in terms of bringing recognition and acclaim to the State University System. I think we have reached a level of achievement and recognition that is respected throughout the state. Last year, for instance, our budget increased faster than that of any university in the state.

"Another major objective was to add two professional schools: an architectural school and a law school. We failed the first two times in architecture and then succeeded this year in getting authorization for a program. In law, our record is 0-2, and we will try again in 1998. My biggest disappointment in my ten years has been the failure to get approval for a law school.

"If the progress that the university has made in the last 10 years is remarkable, I think the progress that we will make during the next 10 years will be even more remarkable. At the end of the next decade, we will have **45,000** students, we will be a **Research I** university, we will have a **law school** and a **football team**, and we will be well on our way to establishing a joint **medical school** with FAU."

FIU STUDY SHOWS NAFTA MAY HAVE SLOWED FLORIDA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE GROWTH

Florida's exports and imports experienced significant increases last year despite a possible negative impact from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), according to a study released by FIU's Center for Banking and Financial Institutions.

The report, prepared for Dade County's Beacon Council, analyzes all of the 1995 international trade flows for the state of Florida and its two customs districts in Miami and Tampa. Last year, Florida's exports totalled \$29.43 million, a 17 per cent increase from 1994, and imports were \$22.68 million, reflecting nearly a 9 percent rate of growth.

Florida's export growth rate exceeded the U.S. export growth rate of approximately 14 percent, while the state's imports grew slower than the national rate of 12 percent. According to the study, the largest dollar value increases in Florida's exports were to Brazil, Venezuela and Germany. The greatest dollar value loss in exports were to Argentina, Mexico and Canada.

"It appears that the impact of NAFTA on Florida's trade is reflected in negative growth exports with Canada and Mexico," said FIU's Simon Pak, co-author of the study. "U.S. exports to Canada increased by more than 10 percent in 1995, but Florida's exports to Canada decreased by nearly 31 percent. In addition, U.S. exports to Mexico decreased by 9 percent, but Florida's exports decreased by 32 percent."

The international trade growth for South Florida was particularly strong, according to the study. The rate of growth for both exports and imports in the Miami customs districts exceeded the national growth rates. The Miami customs district's trade is highly concentrated in the Latin American and Caribbean regions. Miami's trade focus, however, may be shifting, according to one of the report's co-authors.

"We detect that there may be emerging markets in the Middle East because the highest rates of growth for both imports and exports were with Turkey and Egypt," said study co-author John Zdanowicz, director of the FIU Center for Banking and Financial Institutions.

The largest dollar value decreases in Miami customs district's exports were with Argentina, Mexico and Nigeria. "These decreases in exports probably reflect the current economic and political problems facing these countries," said John Cordry, vice president of research for the Beacon Council.

The rate of growth of the Tampa customs district's exports exceeded the U.S. growth rate in exports, while its growth in imports was significantly less. The Tampa customs district's trade is more diversified than Miami's and includes more trade with Asian and European countries as well as countries from the Latin American and Caribbean regions. The highest rates of growth in the Tampa customs district's exports and imports were with Vietnam and Russia.



HIGH ACADEMICS + LOW DEBT = FIU

Most people go to college to earn a degree. However, due to the rising cost of tuition, many graduates also accumulate a sizeable amount of debt. But according to *U.S. News & World Report*, FIU graduates are among the least indebted college graduates in the nation.

To help college-bound students and their parents determine how best to invest their educational dollars, *U. S. News & World Report* has ranked which institutions' graduate students have the most and least amount of debt in the magazine's tenth annual "America's Best Colleges" guide.

For the second consecutive year, the magazine also ranked FIU among the top 150 universities in the country, taking into account student SAT and ACT scores, student-faculty ratios, freshman retention rate and academic reputation.

FIU is the only Florida public university in the third tier and is believed to be the youngest institution in that category. Other Florida universities, such as Florida State University, University of Florida and University of Miami, ranked in the second tier while Florida Atlantic University ranked in the fourth tier.

"We are proud to be able to deliver a high quality education without inflicting the kind of student loan repayments that could carry on for decades," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique.

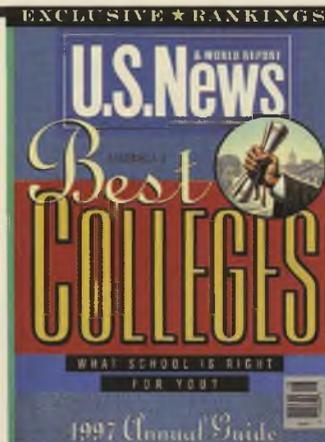
According to the *U.S. News* survey, the average FIU student graduates owing \$4,139. Only four universities graduate students with lower debt: Rice University, Utah State University, University of Hawaii-Manoa and University of Nevada-Reno. No other Florida university appears in the top 25.

Universities with the highest debt rates include Case Western Reserve University (\$26,031), Northeastern University, Ohio State, University of Oklahoma and Colorado School of Mines.

U.S. News & World Report explained that the financial data is based only on graduates who borrowed from one or more of the following sources: federal, state and local governments; financial institutions, and colleges themselves.

Ana Sarasti, FIU director of financial aid, said that FIU's ranking is due in part to the fact that a large percentage of FIU students live with parents and other family members, which helps keep down the cost of room and board.

"Also, at FIU we work hard to offer attractive financial aid packages that often include grants and scholarships," said Sarasti. "We certainly offer a good value in education."



MIAMI STRING QUARTET MOVES TO FIU

The award-winning Miami String Quartet has found a new home at Florida International University. The world-renowned quartet, formerly associated with the New World School of the Arts, is serving as Quartet-In-Residence at FIU.

The quartet's move to FIU marks a new era for the University, said School of Music chair Fredrick Kaufman. The rapidly growing school already has among its faculty a number of acclaimed musicians, including the Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, pianist Susan Starr and conductor Carlos Piantini.

"The addition of the Miami String Quartet to our faculty is wonderful for FIU students, as well as the community, because it ensures they will remain in our community," said Kaufman.

The quartet was founded eight years ago at the New World School of the Arts, where the group taught high school and college students.

At FIU, the Miami String Quartet is teaching students and will continue to tour and represent the University on the international stage.

"The caliber of faculty already at FIU is really what drew us here," said the quartet's cellist Keith Robinson. "It's really going to be a joy to be affiliated with people like Kaufman and Piantini."

The other quartet members are violinists Ivan Chan and Cathy Meng Robinson and Chauncey Patterson on viola.

The Miami String Quartet has been described by *The New York Times* as having "everything one wants in a quartet: a rich, precisely balanced sound, a broad coloristic palette, real unity of interpretive purpose and seemingly unflagging energy."

Since winning the grand prize at the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition in 1988, the quartet has been recognized with prizes at the 1991 London and 1993 Evian International String Quartet competitions. Most recently, they became the first quartet in a decade to receive the first prize from the Concert Artists Guild Competition.

Miami String Quartet

Cathy Meng Robinson

Chauncey Patterson

Keith Robinson

Ivan Chan



NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING

Busy South Florida nurses who don't have the time to go to a college campus to take graduate courses can now have their classes transmitted directly to them in their hospital conference rooms.

Students throughout the state who want to take foreign language and culture classes that are rarely offered at their local universities will be able to receive the courses they want via television from a professor at another university hundreds of miles away.

And individuals interested in receiving an advanced degree in communications now can take classes at three FIU campus locations or at a number of Dade County Adult Education Centers located throughout the county.

All of these new higher education opportunities have been made possible by FIU's recently expanded distance learning programs and newly created partnerships with state and local organizations.

"Distance learning is the wave of the future in higher education," said Cynthia A. Elliott, who this year became FIU's first director of distance learning. "Distance learning provides a convenient method for students to take college courses at locations closer to their homes or jobs. New technology will allow FIU to expand its distance learning courses nationwide and even into other countries in the near future."

The South Florida Distance Learning Hospital Project, which allows nurses to take graduate level classes without leaving their workplaces, is a unique partnership between FIU, WLRN and area hospitals including South Miami, Baptist, Homestead General, the Veterans Administration, Miami Children's and Mariners in Key Largo.

FIU's advanced pharmacology class for nurses is being offered utilizing WLRN's Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) network to deliver courses to remote locations. In the future, these locations may also include private companies. ITFS broadcasts one-way video and two-way audio using microwave transmission. The same technology will be used to offer the communications class through a partnership with Dade County Public Schools' Adult Education Centers.

"We could very well use similar links to offer business and management classes to corporate executives right in their own downtown office buildings," said Elliott. "Advances in distance learning technology are creating the opportunities for valuable partnerships between FIU and various community organizations."

Patrick Wagner, associate dean of University Outreach, explained that new distance learning technologies present the opportunity to bring FIU to the community.

"It's no longer necessary to physically attend one of our campuses in order to take advantage of our programs and our faculty," said Wagner. "FIU is expanding beyond its walls and into the corporate boardrooms and community centers."

The language and culture classes which link students from FIU with those from the University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University utilize PictureTel, a technology which features two-way audio and video. The partnership between the various state universities is the LinguaNet Consortium.

FIU also offers a number of other distance learning courses. The University's telecourses include packages of videotape programs, textbooks and study manuals.

Another format known as Teleclasses involves videotaped lectures that are made available for viewing at students' convenience.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SIGNS INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AT FIU

Due to the extensive environmental technology research being conducted at the University and its strategic geographic location, FIU was the site for the signing of a historic environmental technical cooperation agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission.

The agreement, signed last May at University Park, will promote the cooperative development, implementation and transfer of environmental technologies between the two nations. In addition, the agreement has a second long-term objective: to open new markets and opportunities for U.S. and Argentine environmental technology companies.

"Success in international environmental management activities benefits both the United States and its foreign partners," said DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology Clyde W. Frank.

"Innovative technology development and overseas demonstration projects will enhance Argentinean and U.S. visibility of each other's technologies and will accelerate both countries' efforts to expand exports of environmental management systems and tools."

A number of environmental technology industry representatives from throughout the United States were present for the signing. Represented companies included Bechtel, 3M, FPL, FERMCO and Lockheed Martin.

"The increasing integration of the Americas brings unimagined opportunities for international business," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "Here in Florida, and especially in Miami, we are particularly cognizant of the movement toward hemispheric integration. Our future is integrally linked economically, as well as socially and culturally, to our neighbors in the Caribbean basin and Latin America."

Last year, the DOE formed a partnership with FIU to create the Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology (HCET). The mission of HCET is to focus on innovative environmental technology development and transfer with partners in Latin American and Caribbean nations.

"A crucial element of the center's activities is to provide assistance to Latin American and Caribbean nations for the resolution of their environmental problems," said M. A. Ebadian, director of HCET. "We believe that the increased exchange of ideas concerning the environmental problems of the region will encourage the development and commercialization of new environmental technologies."

The DOE-Argentina agreement is the first major step in this direction. FIU faculty met with both DOE and Argentine officials during their visit in Miami to discuss specific research activities aimed at helping to solve some of the most pressing environmental problems in the two nations.

In addition, HCET sponsored demonstrations of several of the latest commercial technologies used to decontaminate radioactive structural steel and concrete at a special testing site on the west side of University Park.



FIU-HCET HOSTED SIGNING CEREMONY, 1996.

From left to right: Clyde Frank, deputy assistant secretary, Office of Science and Technology, U.S. Dept. of Energy; Modesto A. Maidique, President, FIU; Eduardo F. Santos, director, Board of Directors, Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission; David R. Parker, chair of the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees; Mario Díaz-Balart, Florida state senator; M.A. Ebadian, (kneeling) director, HCET.

FROM CORNELL TO FIU: McMINN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL OF DESIGN

William G. McMinn, a national leader in the architecture profession, has been appointed director of FIU's School of Design. As part of his new responsibilities, McMinn, who served as dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University for 12 years, is overseeing FIU's new graduate program in architecture.

The School of Design includes bachelor's programs in architectural studies and interior design. In addition, the school offers master's degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, and environmental and urban systems.

"Bill McMinn's outstanding international reputation and his knowledge of Mediterranean design, coupled with his extensive academic and professional experience, make him the ideal candidate for creating world-class programs in architecture and design here in South Florida," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique.

McMinn served as the dean of architecture at Cornell from 1984 to 1996. Prior to assuming his post at Cornell, McMinn served for a decade as the first dean of architecture at Mississippi State University. McMinn also has been a professor of architecture and chair of the departments of architecture at Louisiana State University and Auburn University, and has taught at Clemson University and Texas Technological University. In addition, McMinn has practiced professionally as director of design for Six Associates in Asheville, North Carolina, where several of his projects received design awards.

Since 1979, McMinn has served as a consultant to the University of Jordan in Amman, and in 1981 was appointed by a consortium of universities, including Cal Tech, Princeton, MIT and University of Michigan, to advise the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia on the establishment of a college of environmental design.

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He has served on the National Board of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and in 1983 completed a term as president of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). He has also chaired NAAB team reviews of 24 architecture programs, including those at Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, MIT and Berkeley.

In 1987, at the request of the Florida Board of Regents, McMinn conducted a review of the architecture-related programs within the university system. In 1995, again as a consultant to the Regents, he studied the feasibility of launching graduate programs in architecture at FIU and Florida Atlantic University.

"I always believed there was a place for a strong program in design in South Florida," McMinn said. "In many parts of the world you mention Miami and people think of design. Miami is a magnificent laboratory for teaching architecture and design. FIU can integrate the design professions and take them into the future."

Born in Abilene, Texas, McMinn earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree (1952) and a Bachelor of Architecture degree (1953) from Rice University and a Master of Architecture degree (1954) from the University of Texas, Austin.

FIU STUDENTS STRIVE TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL SOLAR-POWERED CAR RACE

Sometimes being a college student involves applying abstract concepts and formulas to solve real world problems. Other times, being a college student involves sharing new and unforgettable experiences with fellow classmates. Only rarely, however, does the college experience offer students the opportunity to combine both the cerebral and the collegial at the same time.

A group of FIU students have been given this opportunity by entering Sunrayce '97, a national solar car design competition. The prestigious competition attracts entries from the top engineering schools in the country, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), California Polytechnic Institute (Cal Tech) and Stanford University.

The highlight of Sunrayce '97 will be a 10-day car race that covers 1,200 miles from Indiana to Colorado. The race, designed to encourage interest in science and technology, also focuses on the creation of non-polluting, practical and appealing solar-powered cars.



The FIU students already have spent months designing a concept vehicle called Pantera Solar (Solar Panther), named in honor of the university's mascot — the Golden Panther. The 30-member team from FIU is composed of both undergraduate and graduate students with specializations ranging from mechanical engineering to marketing.

"I became involved with this project when I discovered I could make a big environmental impact by helping to design a new type of solar-powered car," said Roger Tilleux, the team's leader and a senior in mechanical engineering. "What I didn't realize was how much hard work and fun it would be."

The qualifying race will take place in May 1997. Only the top 40 race cars from throughout North America will compete in Sunrayce '97.

"To compete with such big name schools is really important for FIU's engineering program," said Tilleux. "We could prove to the nation that FIU is a force to be reckoned with. Unfortunately, determination and ambition are not the only qualities necessary to get Pantera Solar into the competition. We desperately need donations from the community. To have a proper vehicle to compete against MIT and Yale, we need to raise at least \$150,000."

According to Norman Munroe, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and team advisor, sponsors can have their logo or name on Pantera Solar or its support vehicles and will be recognized in all team publications.

"This is great opportunity for sponsors to get valuable exposure," said Munroe. "Sunrayce gets a lot of international, national and local media coverage."

FIU's Pantera Solar team completed the preliminary prototype of the vehicle last summer, and then developed a second prototype with better materials, as well as a motor and a battery. By January 1997, the final Pantera Solar should be completed and ready for road testing.

Sunrayce, one of the world's largest solar car races, is sponsored by several companies, including General Motors and Electronic Data Systems Corporation.

Pantera Solar already has received sponsorship from Office Max, Rex Artist Supplies, JV Studios and Milton Torres, the FIU research scientist who developed Pantherskin. More donations, however, are desperately needed by the student group to complete the construction of the car and cover the expenses of competing in the national competition.

To encourage donations by the local community, the Pantera Solar team has developed a "Cell-A-Thon." The solar cells that will be placed on the vehicle will be "sold" for \$50 each. Each sponsor will receive a certificate, a colorful sticker of Pantera Solar's logo and the sponsor's name will be engraved on a plaque that will be hung in the engineering building at FIU's University Park campus.

For more information on Pantera Solar, call Roger Tilleux at 305-348-4059. To make a donation, contact Anjul Baid, the team's fund-raising coordinator, at 305-868-7206.

STUDY FINDS FLAWS IN CRIMINAL LINEUP TECHNIQUES

Attorneys are rarely present when eyewitnesses to crimes view suspects in lineups. Maybe they should make an effort — there could be a wealth of information in the procedure that could help defendants. A new study conducted by FIU researchers has found that attorneys, if present, would find many of the techniques used to conduct lineups to be so suggestive that eyewitness testimony is contaminated.

The study — conducted by Brian Cutler, associate professor of Psychology, Jennifer Devenport and Veronica Stinson, graduate assistants in the Psychology doctoral program, and David Kravitz, a former member of the Psychology faculty — focused on variables that influence the suggestiveness of lineups. The study is the first of three, funded by a \$123,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, that are examining the adequacy of justice system safeguards that protect against erroneous conviction.

The findings of the researchers were published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, Vol. 81, No.1 in the article, "How Effective is the Presence of Counsel Safeguard? Attorney Perceptions of Suggestiveness, Fairness and Correctability of Biased Lineup Procedures."

"Eyewitnesses don't convict people, judges and juries do," Cutler commented. "The justice system has safeguards to protect suspects from erroneous conviction. We've been looking at the adequacy of these safeguards."

The FIU team showed videotapes of a mock lineup to 109 public defenders to test attorney sensitivity to foil bias (when innocent members of the lineup do not match the description of the perpetrator), instruction bias (what the witness is told during the lineup and how that information is relayed) and presentation bias (whether the witness views the lineup one at a time [sequential] or all at once [simultaneous]). The attorneys were instructed to view the videotape as if they were the defendant's attorney. Afterwards, the participants were asked to complete a questionnaire that measured their sensitivity to bias in lineup procedures and their perceived ability to correct that bias through suppression of the evidence or by challenging it.

Consistent with what the researchers expected, the results showed that public defenders perceived foil bias to be suggestive to the witness and less fair to the defendant. Also consistent, but less significant, was their expectation that instruction bias was suggestive to the witness, less fair to the defendant and not correctable in the courtroom. But, although psychologists see bias in the simultaneous lineups, these public defenders perceived them as less suggestive than sequential lineups.

Past research has shown eyewitness testimony to be fallible and the courts have responded by designing safeguards including the presence of counsel during post-indictment live lineups. "If an attorney is present during the lineup, he/she can advise defendants of their rights and oppose the use of suggestive identification procedures," said the authors, "and observe and record any suggestive identification procedures (which later can be) used to support a motion to suppress testimony or challenge identification."

The next studies in the series will focus on motions to suppress identifications, cross examination, and expert psychological testimony as safeguards.

"Generally, what we're finding is that the safeguards that presumably protect defendants from erroneous conviction are not very adequate," Cutler said. "There's a need to improve the adequacy of these safeguards or find some new ones."



FIU

CITINGS

When minutes count

Research scientist Milton Torres on the ability of his creation, Panther-Skin, to strengthen aircraft bodies and retard flames: "We could have saved lives," Torres said, referring to the crash of ValuJet Flight 592 in the Everglades. "I could have given them 25 minutes to land the plane. All they had was six or seven."

(Quoted in *The Des Moines Register*, September 3)

Power politics

"It'll be truer to the model of executive office and legislative authority," said Christopher Warren, FIU associate professor of Political Science, about the race for Dade County's first "strong" mayor. "There's a potential for stronger leadership and a more focused direction in terms of policy."

(Quoted in *The New York Times*, September 2)

Exploding creativity

"There's a tremendous amount of energy in the community as artists come in from New York and Los Angeles and collectors come in from Europe. It's in the process of exploding," said Dahlia Morgan, director of The Art Museum at FIU, commenting on the vitality of Miami's art scene.

(Quoted in *The Tampa Tribune*, July 21)

Oil and autonomy

Dominic Mohamed, associate professor of Education, an expert on present day slavery in the East African nation of Sudan and the struggle to preserve cultural autonomy: "Islamic countries determine that when the oil is finished in the Middle East, there will be no future. The only continent where they can get resources will be black Africa. Once Sudan has been successfully Islamized, it will be easy to use it as a springboard to Arabize all Africa."

(Quoted in the *Sacramento Bee*, August 13)

Control your temper

Bill Wilbanks, professor of Criminal Justice, on Miami's declining murder rate, which is slightly below the national average: "I don't know that I have any explanation. It has something to do with the larger culture. What that is, I don't know. All I can say is we had a high level of anger in this community in the early '80s — riots, the Mariel boatlift, Colombian drug wars — and I guess that has gradually diminished."

(Quoted in *New Times*, July 18)

Online cheating or competing?

"The first year or two, students have to learn how to communicate," said Kenneth Sahr, an FIU student who created a World Wide Web Site with free term papers called "School Sucks." "They have to write about 'Macbeth.' At the university level, they have to analyze it. With 'Sucks' they can see how other students analyzed it and the sources they used."

(From *The Dayton Daily News*, August 26)

*"I know that the
12 notes in each octave
and the varieties of rhythm
offer me opportunities
that all of human genius
will never exhaust."*

—Igor Stravinsky

Classical

From

RIVERA EXPLORES THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Untold listeners over the decades have been touched by Igor Stravinsky's work, which has helped define modern classical music. But for FIU student Carlos Rivera, one of the Russian composer's most famous compositions — "The Rite of Spring" — was the source of an epiphany that changed his life. The scene was a music appreciation class at Miami-Dade Community College in 1991.

"When I heard that piece, I thought 'I want to do this,'" he recalled. "I figured it was possible that somebody could do this, and I fell in love with the idea. So I told myself I was going to do it."

What Rivera decided to "do," was to devote his life to being a musician. And since that defining moment in his music appreciation class five years ago, Rivera has amassed an admirable string of accomplishments notable not just for their excellence but also for their sheer diversity. A range of musical contrasts that demonstrates the infinite possibilities of notes and rhythm.

There's his "Motet for 12 Singers," a choral tribute to Tibetan song and the Buddhist religion, a challenging piece that earned him a coveted BMI Student Composer Award last spring. His local club dates and recently released album with the hard rock trio "Y." And his high-ranking performance in national guitar competitions. That's just a sampling of Rivera's diverse work.

Rivera feels at home working in any number of musical genres. His roots, musical and otherwise, are diverse.

Rivera was born in Washington, D.C., the son of a Cuban father and Guatemalan mother. He spent his early years in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama before moving to Miami when he was 14 years old.

"There was always a piano around the house," he said, noting that he began lessons at six. But he soon lost interest in the ivories, opting for guitar instead. A year of classical guitar lessons followed when he was 11, and when he was 13 he got his first electric guitar.

"Playing rock guitar was a pubescent thing," he said. "When I moved to Miami I didn't know anybody, so I'd be practicing all day. I developed my ear a lot from that. I got really good on electric guitar. Throughout high school and my early college years I was in a rock band."

Despite his interest in music, when Rivera enrolled in Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC) he opted to major in business and finance — parental pressure compelled him to consider a career with more viable financial prospects. But that was before his "Rite of Spring" epiphany.

His mind set on pursuing a music career, Rivera took the advice of his classical guitar teacher at MDCC, Carlos Molina (also on FIU's faculty), who recommended that he study music at FIU.

Rivera studied music composition at the University and continued with guitar as his primary instrument. He did not anticipate, however, the demands of the program.

"It was much more difficult than I expected," he said. "After the third homework assignment, I was reconsidering my choice of study. I thought, why am I doing this, this is really hard. I felt really humbled and realized I had to really work hard."



That hard work — combined with talent and a touch of luck — began paying off.

"I was at the right place at the right time," Rivera said of a fortuitous meeting at the Crescent Moon studios in South Miami, where "Y" was recording their album and where he liked to practice his classical guitar late at night in the quiet surroundings of the studio's kitchen. One evening, the studio's owner walked in — Emilio Estefan, renowned record producer/manager and husband of singer Gloria Estefan — and he was impressed with Rivera's talent. He was invited to play at a Gloria Estefan recording session. Although his guitar part was not included in the released version of the song, it could lead to other studio opportunities.

Last year, Rivera won second place in the National Guitar Summer Workshop Classical Concerto Competition, one of the leading events of its type in the nation. He performed *Tres Danzas Concertantes* by Cuban composer Leo Brouwer. Earlier this year he also participated in a national competition for composers in Buffalo, where one of his pieces was performed on guitar by friend and fellow student Rene Izquierdo.

But perhaps the greatest laurel thus far has been the BMI Student Composer Award, which he received last May for his choral piece "Motet for 12 Singers." Rivera received an \$1,100 scholarship from Broadcast Music Inc., the nation's second largest association of music publishers, which hosts the competition.

Rivera was one of 10 recipients nationwide — and the first FIU student — to receive the award. He was among winners from the country's most prestigious music schools, including Harvard and the Manhattan

School of Music. Winning works were selected from more than 700 compositions submitted.

"Motet was a new direction for him, he was more conservative in his earlier work," said Orlando Garcia, an FIU professor of Music Composition who taught Rivera. "He was trying out some new directions and aesthetics. We're very proud of him, a BMI competition is very tough to win. Carlos has a lot of talent, as well as great motivation and ability."

Motet, a work that defies casual categorization or description, is a fascinating piece with hypnotic chants and drones. It incorporates five sacred syllables used in Tibetan chants and is based on a tale involving 12 priests in a trance chanting to a "stupa," a Buddhist religious object.

"The night I found out I had won the BMI, I almost broke into tears," said Rivera.

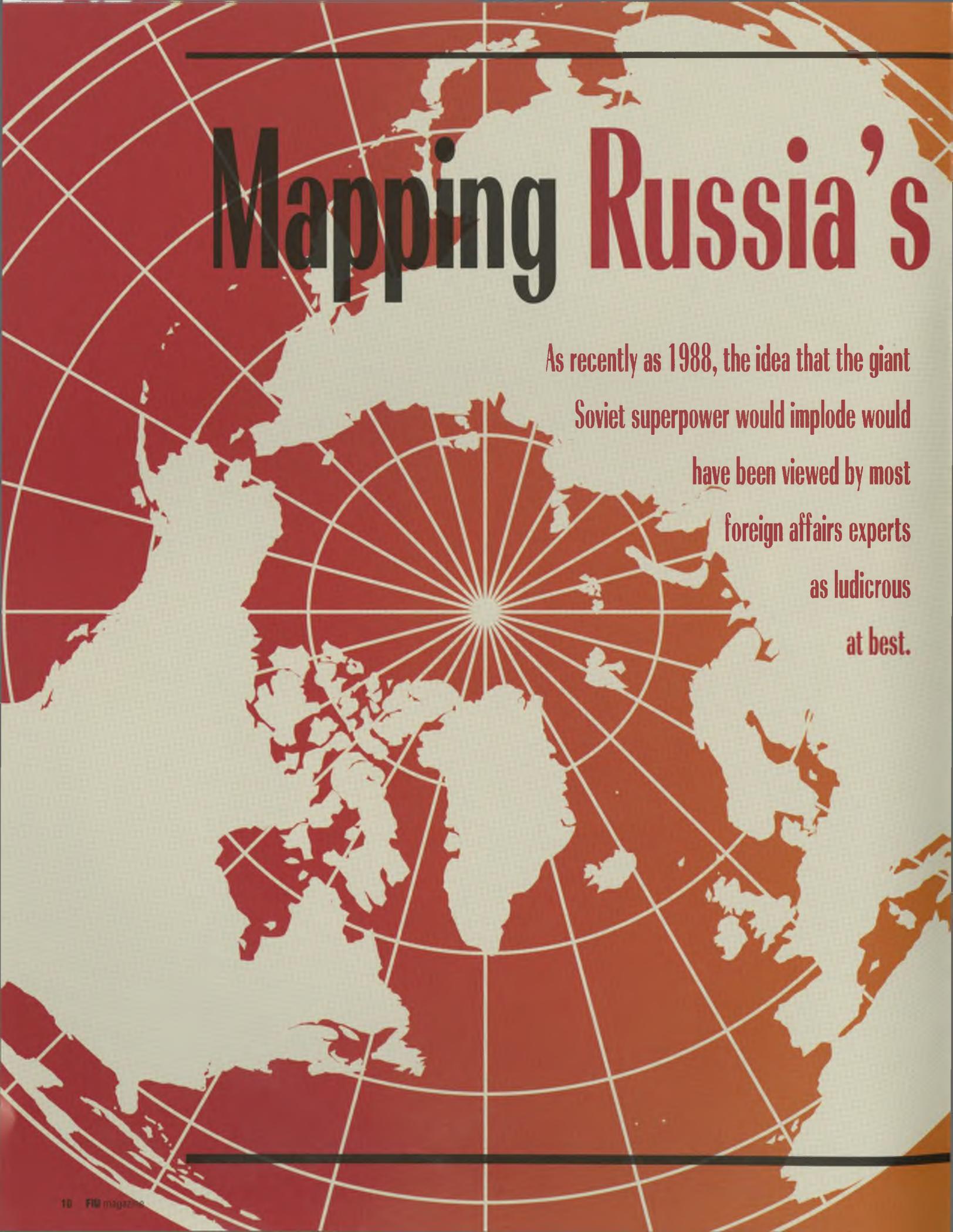
After he graduates FIU in December 1996, Rivera plans to continue his career in a number of areas. He intends to get performers and publishers interested in the Spanish pop songs he's been writing. He'll continue performing and recording with "Y." He dreams of doing film scores and would also relish the possibility of being a conductor someday.

"I'm lucky and really blessed that I can change musical hats," he said. "Since last year when things really started happening, I realized how lucky I've been. It's been a lot of work, but it's amazing how things have worked out. So I'm not going to ever stop doing this no matter what happens financially. I don't think of it money-wise, I think of it as what I can do.

"You should know a little bit about everything. And if you only like one style — if you look down on rap or rock, that's wrong. Some people look at it as a hierarchy of music, with classical music at the top. But no style is better than another. Within each there's good and bad." —

top OF NOTES AND RHYTHMS ROCK





Mapping Russia's

As recently as 1988, the idea that the giant Soviet superpower would implode would have been viewed by most foreign affairs experts as ludicrous at best.

road to democracy

When the history of the 20th century is complete, the turbulent decade of the 1990s will doubtlessly stand out as particularly noteworthy for profound change in the international system. Of these changes, the demise of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European sphere of influence and the creation of 15 new nations on the territory of the former USSR are extraordinary occurrences, especially given the lightening-like rapidity with which the old order passed. As recently as 1988, the idea that the giant Soviet superpower would implode would have been viewed by most foreign affairs experts as ludicrous at best.

Yet, from the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 to the present, the scope and pace of events has, if anything, quickened. Nowhere is this more true than in Russia, the largest, most populous, and potentially most powerful of the Soviet successor countries. Beset by internal strife (such as the brutal war in the province of Chechnya), Russia is nevertheless reforming both its economic and political structures simultaneously, a feat never before attempted on such a scale. The implications of the success or failure of these efforts are enormous. Although a return to Soviet-style communism is unlikely, a number of other disturbing scenarios are easily imagined — scenarios which are made even more problematic by Russia's control over thousands of nuclear warheads.

Dramatic evidence of the democratization of Russia is the series of parliamentary and presidential elections which have taken place in that country since 1993. Two FIU professors, Ralph Clem and Peter Craumer of the Department of International Relations, have been engaged for several years in a research project which aims to shed light on the voting behavior of the Russian people. Funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the State Department, and the National Council for Soviet and East European Research, the two scholars have dissected election results to reveal very significant differences within Russia regarding party and candidate preference and voter turnout. These differences have been linked to such factors as age, occupation, educational attainment, income, and urban/rural residence.

"What we have tried to show," said Craumer, a Columbia University Ph.D. who joined the FIU faculty in 1987, "is that voting behavior in a democratizing country such as Russia can largely be understood by reference to what we know about elections elsewhere. That is, people tend to have their own reasons for selecting a particular candidate or choosing a given party, or, indeed, even voting at all. However, the influences on voting behavior tend to cut across society in

roughly the same way; thus, most urban, white collar or professional people with higher incomes and more education will vote a certain way, whereas most rural, less educated farmers will probably vote a different way."

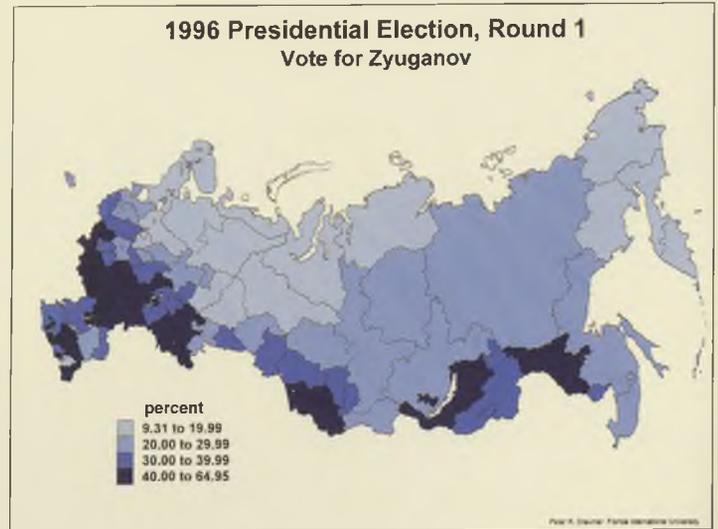
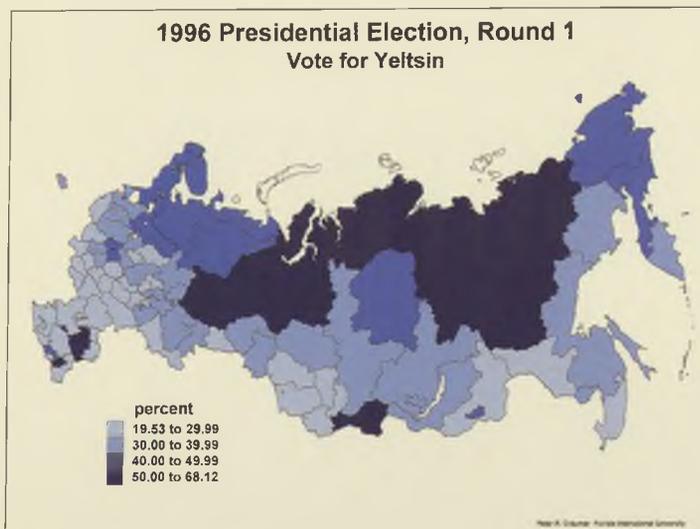
Clem, also a Columbia University Ph.D. who has been on the FIU faculty since 1974, believes that their work has demonstrated not only the social and economic cleavages in Russian politics, but also important regional variations.

"All large countries are characterized by marked geographical differences in political behavior," said Clem. "In the United States, for example, we think of some regions or states as more conservative and others as more liberal. There is no reason to believe that Russia would be any different, and, in fact, the elections from 1993 on have revealed just this sort of pattern. In Russia, a large part of the country has emerged as the regional power base of the communists, while other parts of the country have voted largely for reform candidates and parties. Based on our previous work, we were able to make some reasonably accurate forecasts of the recent Russian presidential elections."

To investigate the nuances of electoral behavior in Russia, Clem and Craumer have compiled a massive database containing information on voting results from each election and a variety of social and economic indicators. Working with Russian colleagues, they have also designed a computer-based mapping program, or Geographic Information System (GIS), which shows information for units of the Russian Federation down to the equivalent of the county level. With the database and mapping program, they have the ability to perform complex statistical analysis and then to illustrate the results with customized maps. For example, their work on regional differences in political party preference is shown on the accompanying maps. As can be seen, the northern parts of the country typically favor the democratic/reform parties, while the southern regions vote more in favor of the communists and their allies.

These regional patterns assumed great importance in the Russian presidential election of 1996. As Clem and Craumer forecast in advance of that pivotal contest, the strong support which Russian President Boris Yeltsin enjoyed in several key regions enabled him to overcome the challenge from communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov.

"The mistake that many observers of Russian politics made in predicting a communist victory," Clem suggested, "was to overlook the regional dimension and to concentrate too much on what was happening in Moscow. Just as is the case with



the United States, the Russian campaign was to be won or lost in the heavily populated parts of the country, where our work indicated that Yeltsin had a solid lead. This would be akin to winning California, New York, Illinois, Texas, and Florida in an American presidential race. What happens in Wyoming or Montana, or in the less-populated regions of Russia, just doesn't matter in the big picture."

Both Clem and Craumer are frequent visitors to Russia, and have been on hand for every Russian election since early 1993. Long-standing personal contacts with Russian scholars and government officials give them unique access to information which they incorporate into their research. This summer, with a major grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, FIU was host to 15 Russian scholars from provincial universities and research institutes across Russia. Craumer, who directed the program, explained that the Russian participants will form the nucleus of a nationwide network of younger scholars trained in up-to-date computer applications, which will greatly enhance the quality of research conducted on Russian politics.

In addition to maintaining their connection to Russian colleagues, their visits have enabled Clem and Craumer to gain some insights into the political process in Russia at the grass roots. While there, the two scholars live with Russian friends, travel on public transportation, and interact as much as possible with the local population. Both fluent in Russian, they have come to appreciate the value of watching political advertising on Russian television, to see what the Russian electorate sees of the campaigns. Even more important, said Craumer, is the chance to visit polling places on election day.

"The first time I had the chance to actually watch voting take place, I was moved by the experience of seeing democracy in action in a country where voting had previously been an exercise in futility," he explained. "I lived in Moscow for a year while I was a graduate student, in a time when relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were strained, to say the least. The contrast with Russia today is almost unbelievable."

"Understanding the dynamics of Russian politics today is of the utmost practical importance," Clem underscored. "The pivotal role which this large, resource-rich country plays in the contemporary world hardly needs elaboration, in terms not only of the national security interests of the United States and Europe, but of Asia and the Middle East as well. Yet, there is an even more compelling reason for pursuing the study of democratization in Russia: this is a society which is emerging from the gloom of decades of totalitarian rule following centuries of an authoritarian monarchy into the comparative sunlight of democracy, as imperfect as that democracy may be to date. The fact is that the Russian people have demonstrated a clear preference for democracy — a fact which we in the West should welcome enthusiastically and support, especially given the alternatives."

Man of the world: Pfeffer '77 spreads lodging's biggest names around the globe

France. Great Britain. The Netherlands. Belgium. Israel. Great Britain — again. Thailand. Australia. The Netherlands, for a second time. Argentina.

Those are some of the foreign countries that Eric Pfeffer '77 has traveled to this year. And that's just since April, when he was named president and managing director of HFS Global Services. In his new capacity, he oversees all international sales, service and preferred vendor activities for HFS Incorporated, the world's largest franchisor of hotels and residential real estate offices.

Pfeffer's spacious office in Parsippany, New Jersey reflects his international orientation. A world map on the wall. Miniature flags from a number of foreign countries adorn a conference table. Architectural renderings of new hotels slated for construction in leading international capitals. A reproduction of a map from one or two centuries ago that displays the current time in lands throughout the world.



Pfeffer said that a friend gave him the unique international clock so he'd know what time he could call make business calls to far-flung cities such as Tokyo, Tel Aviv or Bangkok.

Pfeffer is truly a man of the world. To call Pfeffer worldly, however, is probably an understatement given the man's fascinating background and life. He's lived in four different countries and has absorbed a blend of cultures from four continents. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Hebrew, and conversant in French and Yiddish. His multicultural background, combined with his business savvy and 20 years of experience as a hotel executive and franchise brand-builder, made him a natural to develop HFS's franchise brands worldwide. Those brands include Howard Johnson, Days Inn, Knights Inn, Super 8, Villager Lodge and Wingate Inn for lodging (Park Inn, Ramada and Travelodge are other domestic HFS brands); and Century 21, ERA and Coldwell Banker for residential real estate. Plus, HFS recently added a new brand to its company, which marked its entry into the car rental business: Avis.

In five years as president and COO of Howard Johnson International, he added more than 40 properties to the company's system internationally, breaking ground outside North America for the first time in destinations such as Colombia and the United Arab Emirates. Under his leadership, the Howard Johnson system grew impressively internationally due to master license agreements signed for South America, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Pfeffer's beginnings, however, were far removed from the familiar orange roofs associated with Howard Johnson.

Pfeffer was born in Venezuela, the son of Jewish Holocaust survivors from Poland who met after World War II on a ship bound for the South American nation. His father, Jacob, escaped to Siberia to avoid the Nazis; his mother, Mania, spent two years in the infamous Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. He was one of four children: he has a twin sister, and older and younger brothers. His parents owned a successful clothing store, which helped foster the young Eric's business sensibility.

"My entrepreneurial spirit was encouraged by the experience I had in my parents' stores," he said. "As a kid, at Christmas time I used to close the doors of the store and let two customers out and two customers in because it was so packed. I also helped my father at the cash register of the restaurant he owned."

Eric was very close to his older brother, Joseph, who was sent to boarding school in Israel. He wanted to be near him, so in 1964 his parents agreed to also send him to boarding school in Israel. The rest of the family emigrated over the next three years.

"Israel is a great country, it's a great society there," Pfeffer commented. "A lot of culture, a lot of languages, a melting pot. We were all positive about the experience."

After finishing high school, he served in the Israeli Army and participated in the 1973 Yom Kippur War in the Sinai against Egyptian forces. Pfeffer then embarked on his professional career. Originally, he had contemplated becoming an industrial engineer — and had actually been admitted to Technion, a top university in Haifa — but the allure of a more glamorous field beckoned.

"Two army friends were coming to the states to study hotel management. These two friends of mine, they were telling me, 'Come on let's go to America and have some fun. You speak several languages, you're an outgoing person, this will be fun for you.'

"In Israel the image of a general manager of a Hilton or Sheraton in Tel Aviv and the role they played at that time was comparable to that of a mayor. They were very well known, always with Americans and Europeans coming in, hosting this and hosting that. My father always pushed me to travel around

the world. He felt that you gain a lot of knowledge beyond school when you travel around the world, and I think those are the two key reasons why I landed in Miami."

Pfeffer "landed" in Miami at the end of 1974 running full speed. He entered Miami-Dade Community College and earned a two-year associate degree in just one year. He also worked full-time at a nearby gas station in North Miami Beach, the site of a fortuitous encounter. One day, he got the phone number of a pretty young girl passing through — Carla Moskowitz from Miami Beach — and they were married in November 1975.

Pfeffer entered the FIU Hospitality Management program in 1976. Looking back on the relatively new program, he praised the excellence of the faculty, noting the "hands-on" approach of the program and professors such as Michael Hurst and Elisa Moncarz and the lessons in showmanship from Dean Anthony Marshall. It was one particular faculty member, however — Rocco Angelo, the school's assistant dean — whose advice literally changed his life.

Upon graduating from FIU in 1977, Pfeffer had a management trainee offer from the world renowned Plaza Hotel in New York City. He had another offer with a considerably higher salary to become an assistant general manager of a Howard Johnson near Orlando's Walt Disney World.

"Don't be influenced by the glamour of the 'big time,'" Angelo told him. "You have a wife and a child on the way. Someone's got to run all the other hotels and someone has got to be president of Howard Johnson."

What was offered as advice turned out to be prophecy. During the next 14 years, he was promoted to general manager, area manager, district manager, regional manager, regional vice president, senior vice president for operations, executive vice president, and president and chief operating officer.

After developing the Howard Johnson chain for virtually his entire career — prompting some colleagues to joke that he "bleeds orange" — Pfeffer now faces a new set of challenges servicing and growing HFS franchise brands internationally. In some markets, for instance, there isn't any word for franchise in their vocabulary, so he has to demonstrate the success of franchising. Currently, there has been greater growth in the company's real estate brands than in the lodging sector; except for Europe, franchising in the real estate industry is still a new concept. In terms of hotel development, there's been considerable activity in Latin America, the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

For his contributions to the travel industry, Pfeffer was honored as a member of the "Winner's Circle" in the hotel category of Travel Agent magazine's 1995 "People of the Year Awards." In addition to his career and his family life — he and his wife have two daughters, Jacqueline, 19, and Jessica, 14 — Pfeffer devotes time to several civic and educational organizations. In recognition of these activities, he was recently presented with the Raoul Wallenberg Award from Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center. The award honors individuals whose activities exemplify the humanitarian commitment of Wallenberg, who rescued more than 100,000 Jews during World War II.

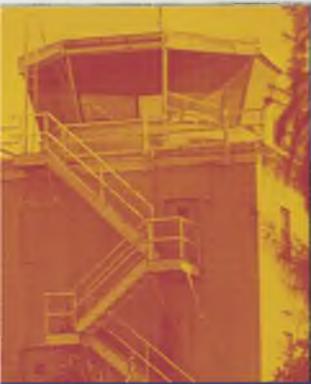
Reflecting on his career, Pfeffer noted that he always had his eye on the "bottom line," something that people often forget.

"Too often we get caught in the corporate structure and forget that this is not just about a paycheck," he explained. "There is a corporation here that has invested millions of dollars trying to bring a return to their shareholders. That has always been my guiding philosophy. We all get busy with our own personal problems and challenges and loans and mortgages and car payments. We forget that there is this company that has done something good for you. We need to give them that return — not just show up at work and do our duties, but always go beyond that."



CONSTRUCTION AND NEW MOTIFS SIGNAL..

CHARLES PERRY, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDING PRESIDENT, SAID, "IT IS THE NATURE OF A UNIVERSITY ALWAYS TO BE BUILDING." LOOKING BACK ON THE UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY, PERRY'S WORDS RING TRUE. SINCE ITS EARLIEST DAYS, FIU HAS BEEN BUILDING — AND CHANGING — CONSTANTLY.



In 1969, FIU's campus was a 344-acre abandoned airport in Southwest Dade. The University's "founding team" gave the old control tower a fresh coat of ivory paint, borrowed some furniture, and began planning a major state university in the largest metropolitan area in the U.S. without a public baccalaureate degree-granting institution. Some trailers were used as interim facilities, and all structurally sound buildings at the old airport — for the most part, rusty hangars — were patched up and put to use. The University opened for classes on September 19, 1972, with Primera Casa as its only major building, which housed classrooms, offices, the library and cafeteria.

Today, FIU has two major campuses, University Park, which was the old Tamiami Airport, and the North Campus on Biscayne Bay, as well as two academic centers in Broward County. The two campuses have 25 major buildings, housing for more than 1,600 students and extensive recreational facilities.

Tom Cooper, associate director of Facilities Development, noted that the University's original master plan had provisions for only a fraction of the construction that would subsequently take place throughout the '80s and '90s. In 1995, the University updated its master plan, which outlines all construction needs through the year 2002. (The document is based on the University's needs and doesn't necessarily represent funding that will be approved by the Board of Regents and/or the state legislature).



19



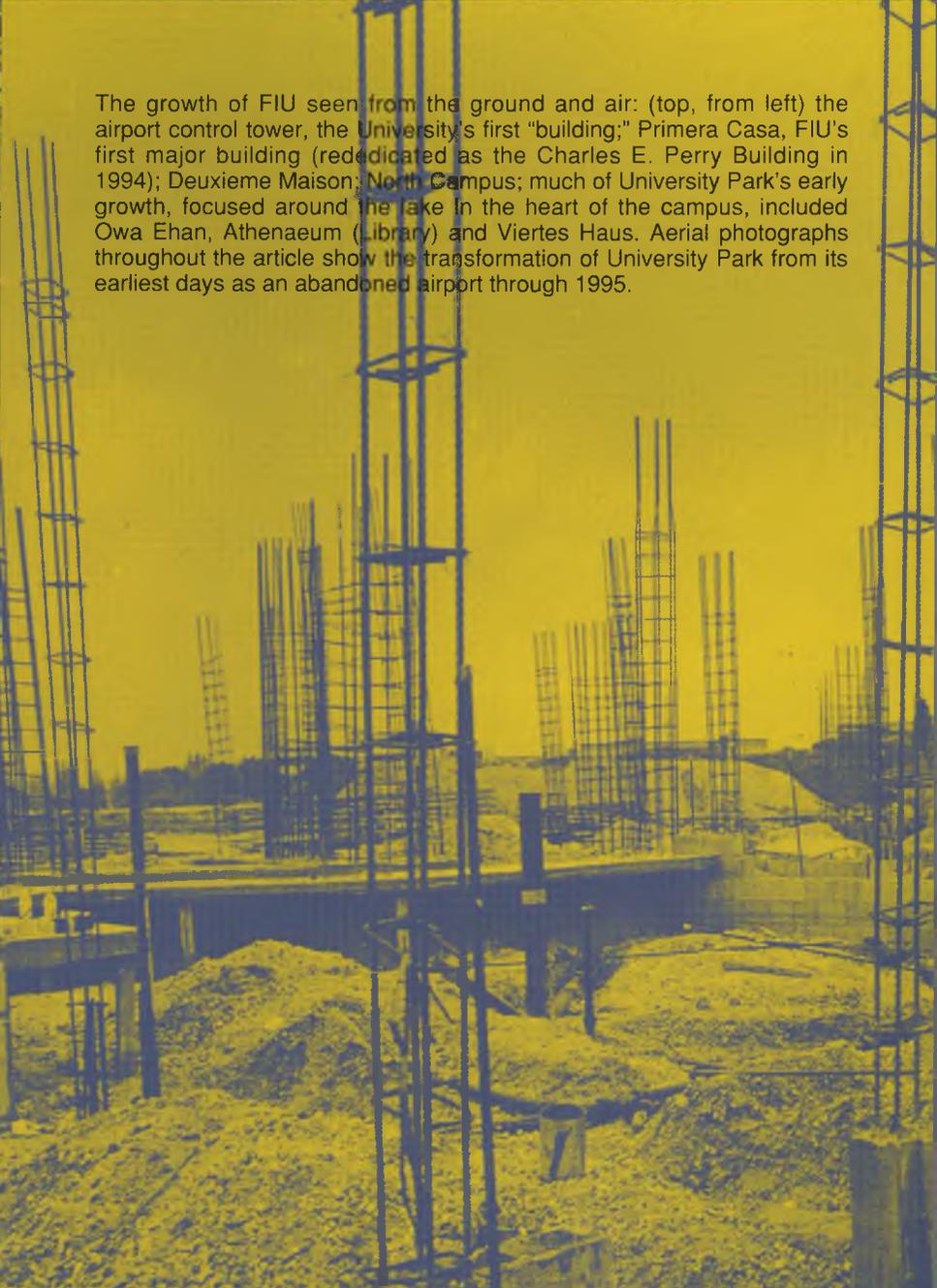
1970

1971

1972

1973

1974



The growth of FIU seen from the ground and air: (top, from left) the airport control tower, the University's first "building," Primera Casa, FIU's first major building (rededicated as the Charles E. Perry Building in 1994); Deuxieme Maison; North Campus; much of University Park's early growth, focused around the lake in the heart of the campus, included Owa Ehan, Athenaeum (Library) and Viertes Haus. Aerial photographs throughout the article show the transformation of University Park from its earliest days as an abandoned airport through 1995.





During the past few years, FIU has been engaged in the largest construction program in its history — more than \$155 million has been spent on new facilities and the renovation and expansion of existing structures. This has significantly increased the overall capacity of the campuses, which was desperately needed to accommodate the rapid growth in student enrollment and academic programming. It also has enabled to University to open facilities that were once only a dream, such as the Kovens Conference Center, Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Graham Center Ballroom, Fitness Center and an eight-story library (scheduled for completion in 1998).



The new face of FIU: the Wertheim Performing Arts Center (above); (top, from left) the Labor Center/English Language Institute building, Business Administration building, Graham University Center, Kovens Conference Center, Panther Hall residence hall, and the Children's Creative Learning Center.



1980

1981

1982

1983

1984



New major buildings and renovations/expansions of existing buildings during the past five years have included:

- Renovation of the old Trade Center at North Campus into the Hospitality Management building (\$2.68 million)
- Renovation and expansion of Owa Ehan (\$5.69 million)
- Expansion of the Graham University Center, including the opening of a ballroom, faculty club, new bookstore, classrooms and mini-mall (\$21 million)
- Expansion of the Wolfe University Center, including the opening of a new ballroom, meeting rooms and stores (\$8.13 million)
- Panther Hall, a new 410-bed residence hall at University Park (\$11.25 million)
- Children's Creative Learning Center building at University Park (\$753,000)
- University Park Library expansion: a five-story addition will make it the largest library in South Florida and second largest in the state (\$35.14 million)
- Wertheim Performing Arts Center (\$13.45 million)
- Fitness Center (\$1.57 million)
- College of Education building (\$7.23 million, scheduled to open fall 1997)
- Labor Center/English Language Institute building (\$2.15 million)
- Kovens Conference Center (\$8.14 million)





Moore University Center

"There's great strength and conviction in those concrete walls and the strong fortress-like feeling of the University's early buildings," said William McMinn, who was recently appointed director of FIU's School of Design after 12 years as dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University. "There was a commonality of tone in the architecture. That was necessary when the school was new. A few buildings had to add up to a whole — they were creating a context for the growth of the university. We now have different architectural styles that reflect the great diversity of our University and its maturation."

"About five years ago we began to establish a unique FIU architectural style which includes arches," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "We also have begun to use colors that are more typical of the Mediterranean and Caribbean and

"EDUCATION SPEAKS THE TRUTH, AND OUR BUILDINGS



HAVE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH OF THE AGE THEY ARE BUILT IN."

In the next year, construction will commence on a parking garage and Campus Support Complex at University Park. Among the major new buildings planned for the next five years include a Health and Science building at University Park; an Academic III building at North Campus; and an Honors College complex at North Campus.

In addition to increasing the capacity and functional ability of the University, construction during the past few years has been transforming the "look" of the University. The appearance of motifs such as arches and rotundas and the use of color have been a marked contrast to the gray, blocky concrete architecture of the older buildings on both campuses.

archways, which are a classic design element common to North Africa and Southern Europe. I think that in every building we now construct you can see one or more signals that it is part of a set."

McMinn said that future designers of the campus will be challenged to find new ways to repeat key visual motifs and to introduce new elements that add to the original expression of the campus.

"In a contemporary world with contemporary needs, we must be concerned with the future as much as we respect our past. Education speaks the truth, and our buildings have to speak the truth of the age they are built in," he added.





Debra Miller

Faculty 'reputation manager' elected president of national public relations association

by Susan Lichtman

She was always "pushing the envelope." **Challenging the status quo.** Outspoken. But with a message that makes people listen.

As the newly elected national president of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Debra A. Miller will have the chance to share her message far and wide — with thousands of communications professionals as well as top business executives throughout the country.

An associate professor and former assistant dean in the FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Miller believes that public relations professionals are moving away from their traditional role as image makers and press agents and becoming reputation managers.

"We've evolved into a profession, not just a practice," said Miller, who will soon be installed as the first African-American and only the second educator to hold the presidency of PRSA, a 50-year-old professional organization. "We have a body of knowledge, a code of ethical standards, courses and educational programs at colleges and universities, organizations that represent us

as individuals, and forums for continuing professional development."

And slowly, public relations professionals are starting to sit at the table with senior management, she continued, to participate in policy-making decisions, anticipate how those decisions will impact a company, evaluate possible consequences, and offer guidance that will protect and enhance the company's reputation.

"If a company is going to compete in the world marketplace, it has to understand how important public relations is and how it contributes to the company's bottom line," said Miller, a PRSA member since 1978.

"A good reputation is simply one that tells customers that your organization's products and services will meet their needs. It is the collective outcome of building trust and gaining credibility," she said recently at a gathering of the Connecticut Valley Chapter of PRSA. "Unfortunately, public relations practitioners do not have the title of reputation managers. But, the truth is, public relations professionals are responsible for a company's entire reputation."

To underscore her belief, one of the major goals of her presidency is to practice reputation management for PRSA and the public relations profession overall, communicating the value of public relations to those who use PR services.

"We will no longer have to be the shoemaker's children," she said. "The time has come for PRSA and public relations to become proactive. What better way to demonstrate our value than by practicing what we preach?"

In addition to serving as the external spokesperson for the 17,500-member Society, she aims to increase PRSA's membership to 20,000 while retaining current members and to cultivate new leadership in the organization.

Clearly, she envisions that an increase in membership will increase diversity in the organization. "I hope that my being president makes PRSA appear more inclusive, more welcoming to PR practitioners of color who might not have felt that the organization was of value to them," she added.

It hasn't been an easy road to the top. In 1994, Miller challenged PRSA's nominated slate to become the first unofficial candidate ever to win election to a national post. After serving two years as a director and one year as the Society's secretary, she contested the slate — for the position of treasurer — and won. The following year, she was nominated to the position of president-elect, ensuring her election to the presidency.

"This is a marvelous achievement for both Dr. Miller and the FIU family," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "We are extremely proud that she will head the country's most respected public relations organization. It is truly a reflection of the high caliber of people who teach at our institution."

With support from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Miller left her administrative position as assistant dean to take on the added responsibilities of national office.

"Debi is one of the people best equipped to deal with the changing face of American society," said Pat Rose, chairperson of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations. "Her field of concentration, along with integrated marketing communications,

is multicultural communications. She's a bridge builder and understands well the diversity issues facing the United States and the communications field."

A nationally known expert on cultural diversity who has authored numerous articles and an annotated bibliography on multicultural communications, Miller has a doctorate in adult education and human resources development from FIU, a M.A. in public relations/mass communication research from Ohio State University, and a B.A. from Hampton University in mass media/journalism. In 1983, she founded D. Miller and Associates, Inc., a public relations counseling firm whose clients include the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department of the Army, Howard University Hospital, Neilsen Market Research, and a host of others.

Miller's 20-year career includes public information posts for the City of Hampton, Virginia; NASA/Langley Research Center; Eastern Virginia Health Systems Agency/Norfolk General Hospital; U.S. Department of the Treasury; and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. She has a long list of fellowships, honors and awards to her credit, including the Family Christian Association of America, Inc.'s Black Achiever Award for Professional Excellence, a PRSA Presidential Citation for Meritorious Service, the South Florida Association of Black Journalists' Vista Award for Excellence in Teaching, an FIU Outstanding Community Service Award, and an FIU Faculty Award of Excellence.

As a teacher, she has addressed a multitude of communications topics, from television production and advertising to public relations, minorities and the media, and multicultural communications. Always with one foot in the professional world and one in academe, she has taught at her alma mater, Hampton University, at Norfolk University, and at a number of Washington, D.C.-based institutions, including George Washington, Howard, and American Universities. She joined FIU in 1989 after receiving an invitation from Dean J. Arthur Heise, then the director of the school, to interview for an opening in the department.

"Following my conversation with Dr. Heise and never being one to turn down an interview, especially when there was six inches of snow on the ground in Washington, I came down to talk," she recalled. "They were just getting the program off the ground and needed a sequence chair. From what I knew from my involvement with the Census Bureau, South Florida had a very diverse culture and I would be in the midst of it. I also was motivated to be part of a newly established professional school seeking accreditation — the School of Journalism and Mass Communication — that recognized, acknowledged and encouraged merging theory with practice through professional involvement."

Whether she's found herself in the classroom or the boardroom, Miller has always given 100 percent of herself, touching countless lives along the way with her warmth, knowledge and dedication. She fervently believes "we all have a responsibility to make a contribution, not to leave this earth without leaving a legacy of some type for future generations."

"My motto is," she says with a smile, "you either stand for something or you'll fall for anything, and, if life is a journey, then life's greatest tragedy is not enjoying the trip." 

Campaign total reaches \$45 million



▲ Dr. Sanford and Dolores Ziff

Commitments of \$2.5 million from **Dr. Sanford L. Ziff**, founder and former chairman of Sunglass Hut International, and \$600,000 from the John Kluge Foundation and Metromedia Restaurant Group have helped propel the total raised to date for *The Campaign for FIU* to \$45 million as of December, nearly 70 percent of the Campaign's \$65 million goal. This represents \$15 million more than the commitments in hand when *The Campaign for FIU* kicked off last February.

When matched by state funds, the gift by Dr. Ziff will establish four endowments totaling \$5 million.

More than half will be used to fund the Sanford and Dolores Ziff and Family Scholarships for students in the College of Education. The gift will also be used to support a purchase endowment for the University Libraries, scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences, and internships in The Art Museum at FIU.

In recognition of Dr. Ziff's gift, the University will name its \$7 million College of Education building, now in the final stages of construction, the Sanford and Dolores Ziff and Family Education Building. The colonnade plaza of the new University Park Library Tower will also be named after the Ziffs.

"Dolores and I take great pleasure in seeing worthy and deserving students be awarded Ziff Scholarships to enable them to complete their education," Dr. Ziff said. "FIU is the University that Dolores and I have selected to further our dreams and the dreams of the Ziff Scholars."

A Miami optometrist who built Sunglass Hut from a single kiosk in a shopping center to an international corporation, Dr. Ziff has made several major gifts to institutions in South Florida, including the Ziff Campus of the Michael Ann Russell Jewish Community Center and the Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida.



▲ John W. Kluge

Gifts of \$500,000 from the **John W. Kluge Foundation** and \$100,000 from **Metromedia Restaurant Group** will be matched by \$420,000 in state funds to establish a \$1.02 million scholarship endowment and internship program at the School of Hospitality Management.

Kluge is the chairman, president and principal general partner of Metromedia Company — one of the largest privately held companies in the United States and parent company for Metromedia Restaurant Group, which owns 1,200 restaurants.

"We are pleased to partner with one of the nation's leading hospitality management schools to encourage and support the pursuit of restaurant management careers for minority students," said Michael Kaufman, president of Metromedia Restaurant Group. "This partnership makes

sense because a significant number of our Bennigan's, Steak and Ale, and Ponderosa Steakhouse restaurants are located in Florida, providing a valuable training ground for FIU students while they are in school. After graduation, the horizon of opportunity broadens to our restaurants throughout the U.S. and internationally."

"My foundation is committed to providing educational opportunities to students of minority heritage," said Kluge. "It is particularly gratifying to me to have the foundation further support diversity in the hospitality industry, one of the key business segments of Metromedia Company's holdings."

"The significance of this gift cannot be overstated," said Anthony G. Marshall, dean of FIU's School of Hospitality Management. "Support from leading corporations in the restaurant and lodging industries — corporations that are committed to excellence in hospitality education — ensures the excellent quality of academic programs at FIU. This scholarship endowment is critical to the school's continued success because it will attract the best and the brightest minority students to the school and to the fields of restaurant and hotel management."

The first scholarships will be available in fall 1997. Scholarship recipients also will participate in a paid internship program at an area Bennigan's or Steak and Ale restaurant.

OTHER RECENT MAJOR GIFTS INCLUDE:

\$293,350 from the **Spencer Foundation** for research in psychology

\$287,000 from the **United States-Japan Foundation** for the College of Education's international education in local public schools

\$200,000 from **Citicorp Foundation** for scholarships for students in the College of Education's FOCUS Program

\$175,000 from the **Carnegie Corporation** of New York for research on immigrant youth in Miami

FIU CHEMIST ON THE FRONT LINE

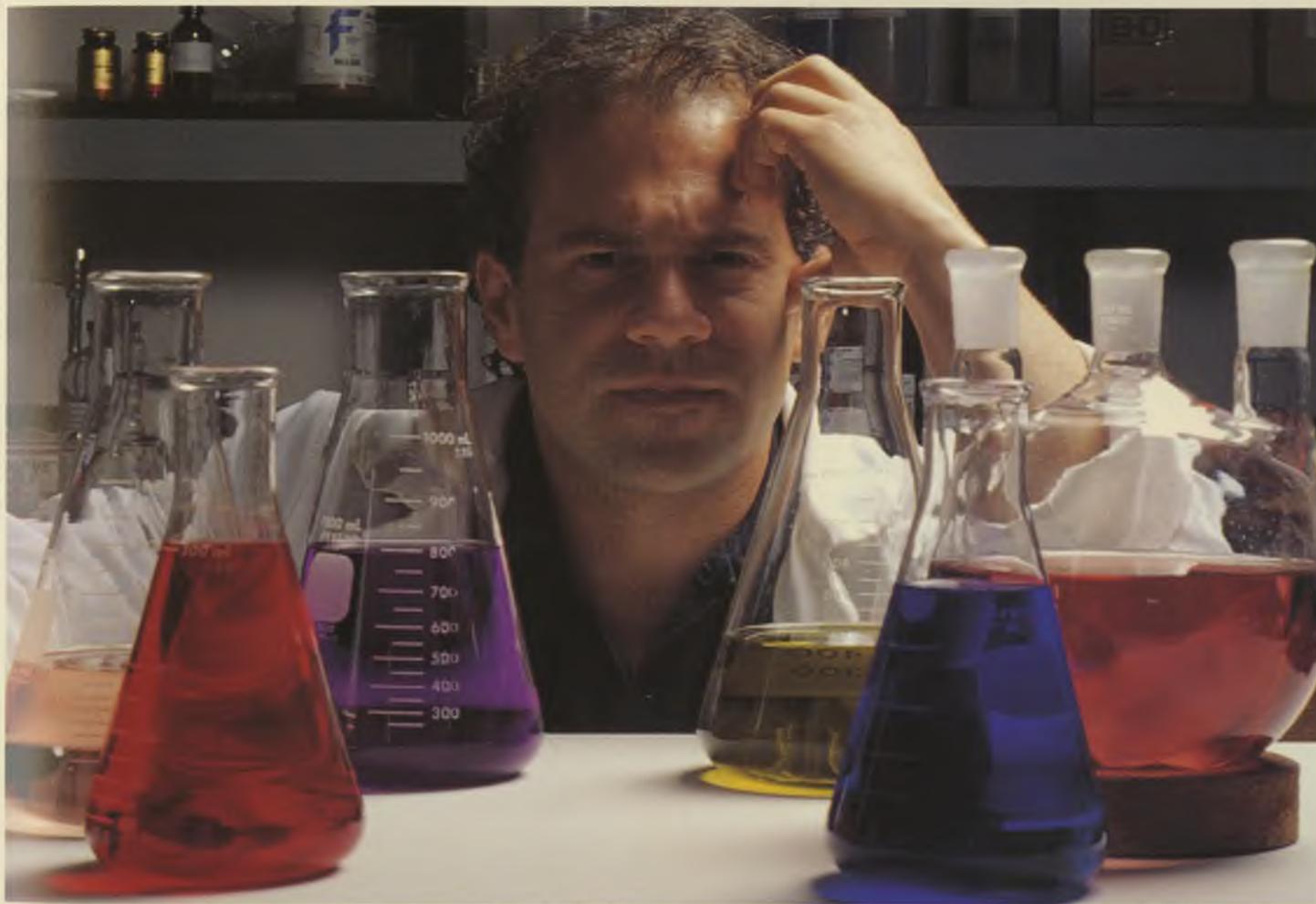
RESEARCH
in review

Becker's compounds battle

free

radicals

to conquer disease and aging



Imagine an attacking army. While most armies favor a swift, shattering offense, this force opts for a slow, insidious approach. It strikes here and there, taking advantage of many strategies that can weaken your defenses before striking the final blow.

The "army" is a force of free radicals, and they have been implicated in more than 100 human and animal diseases, ranging from rheumatoid arthritis and cancer to cerebral stroke and AIDS.

Free radicals are extremely reactive molecules that contain one or more unpaired electrons and can cause cell injury. They are continually produced by the body through biochemical reactions and in response to environmental conditions such as radiation, pollution or cigarette smoke. In addition to their destructive capacity, free radicals are also used by the body's immune system to attack invading bacteria.

There are forces to combat the nefarious destruction caused by free radicals. They can be quenched within the body following reactions with the antioxidant system: a collection of enzymes, vitamins and other internal molecules that works fervently to hold these renegades in check. The bad news is that as we age, the antioxidant defenses weaken. That's inside the body. Here, in the outside world, an FIU chemistry professor has joined the drive to locate and neutralize free radicals.

David Becker, who joined the FIU faculty in 1993, has been conducting research with nitrones, chemical compounds that have both free radical scavenging and antioxidant properties.

Due to their highly reactive nature, most free radicals are often very difficult to detect. The electron spin resonance (ESR) spectrometer, an expensive and sophisticated piece of equipment, is often employed to study reactions involving such radicals. Scientists add to their experiments molecules — spin traps — such as nitrones that react with the unstable radicals and create less reactive radicals that can be analyzed, known as spin adducts. However, it's often a race against time to diagnose the frequently unstable spin adduct before it decomposes. And that's just one of the reasons why Becker's research holds such tremendous promise.

Becker has been synthesizing and experimenting with azulenyl nitrones (AN), compounds that have a marvelous quality: they tag free radicals with a distinctive colored marker that persists even if a highly unstable spin adduct has decomposed. As a result, the new compounds allow for the study of spin adducts that cannot be detected by ESR and labs that don't have access to ESR can still study radicals and their related products. Becker's azulenyl nitron spin trap is green. When it reacts with a free radical, however, it turns a striking shade of violet.

"You're tagging the free radical in the process," Becker said. "The AN tracks the free radicals and the color change can be very useful for subsequent isolation and structure determination."

AN could potentially be used to determine what and where free radicals are in the body. They could also serve as screening agents to help identify new antibiotics that function through the generation of free radicals and reveal adverse side effects caused by free radical metabolites of drugs under development. And there are also potential industrial applications.

The compounds have the ability to track the free radicals involved in the oxidation of fats — which, for instance, cause cooking oil to go rancid or lubricants to deteriorate. In laboratory experiments, AN was dissolved in corn oil; the green solution turned red when the corn oil had become oxidized. In commercial applications, a small amount of a solution of AN could be placed in the cap of a bottle of vegetable oil at the time of packaging or added to industrial lubricants to assess decomposition.

Chevron Corporation has expressed interest about testing the compound as an additive in some of its products.

That's just one side of AN. There's also a lot of interest in its therapeutic antioxidant properties. The potency of an antioxidant is typically related to a property known as oxidation potential. The lower the oxidation potential the better the antioxidant. ANs have significantly lower oxidation potentials than nitrones currently being examined as potential therapeutic antioxidants.

"Free radicals have been suspected of being damaging agents for some 40 years now," Becker said. "As we age, cellular membranes, proteins and DNA get oxidized and damaged. Evidence shows that antioxidants — and nitrones in particular — can significantly extend the lifetime of a human cell in culture. For the past five to 10 years, nitrones have been studied as antioxidants in biological systems."

And if you can extend the lifetime of a cell, it is theorized that you can slow down the entire aging process. Becker's interest in this aspect of his chemical research was piqued by a personal loss — the death of his 13-year-old fox terrier in 1994.

"In my sadness, my mind drifted to pondering the mystery of the aging process," he said. "The free radical theory of aging is one that is considered quite viable. I wondered if nitrones could function as antioxidants in biological systems."

Becker is now engaged in collaborative research with Pharmacia & Upjohn, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, on the potential utility of AN in the treatment of a range of neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and cerebral stroke. Bristol-Meyers Squibb has also expressed interest in his work with the compounds. Becker was on leave in fall 1996, conducting a study with Harvard University Medical School's M. Flint Beal on nitron spin traps in neurodegenerative disease and serving as a visiting professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Dr. Becker's research is a testimony to the creativity of our faculty," said Tom Breslin, FIU vice provost and director of Sponsored Research. "It is encouraging that so many major corporations in different fields have expressed an interest in the applications of his work."

By virtue of Becker's work to date, which has tremendous potential for future development, the scientist and the University have applied for a U.S. patent on the synthesis and use of ANs.

"Although we are still in the early stages, in addition to elucidating the pathways of free radical processes, it's my hope that these compounds have potential as neuroprotectants to preclude the harmful effects of a stroke and slow the progression of Alzheimer's as well as other types of diseases," Becker said. "There are a lot of things coming to a head now in free radical biology."

FLORIDA'S MOST
SUCCESSFUL
BASKETBALL
COACH OF THE
'90S

Russo's belief
in 'little things'
brings big results

BY PEDRO F. FONTEBOA

A WINNING PERCENTAGE OF .717

BEST OF ANY COLLEGE PROGRAM IN FLORIDA IN THE 1990s

15 STRAIGHT WINNING SEASONS

10 POSTSEASON APPEARANCES

R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Aretha Franklin once sang about Florida International University's women's basketball head coach Cindy Russo and her team know the feeling. They could adopt Franklin's Motown hit as their team's theme song.

There's no doubt Russo, in her 18th season at FIU, is among the nation's best basketball coaches, with a winning percentage of .717. Internationally, she recruits Europe's best young talent. She and her team's record are the best of any college program in Florida in the 1990s.

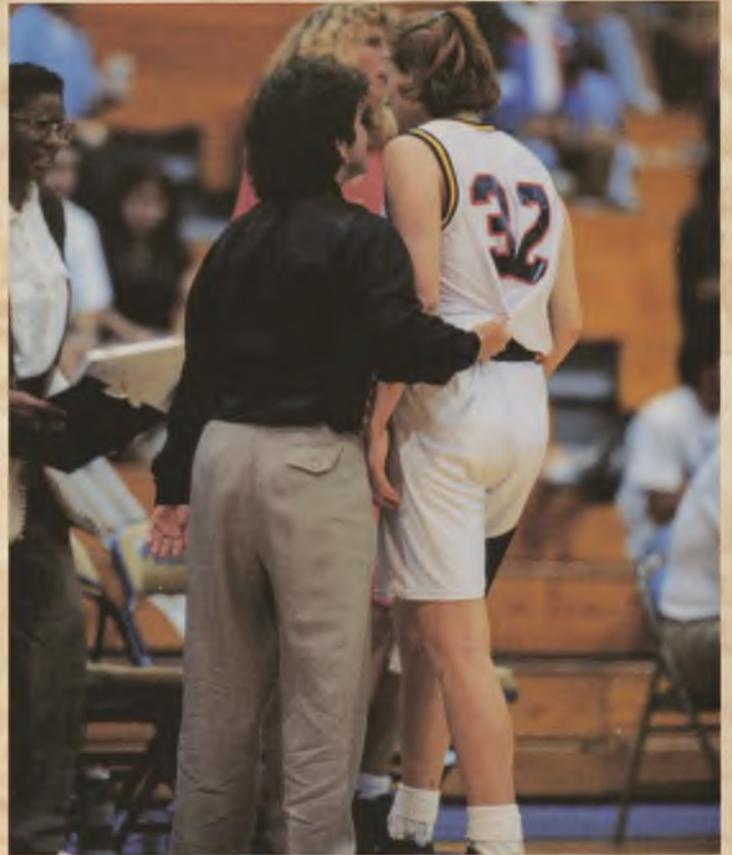
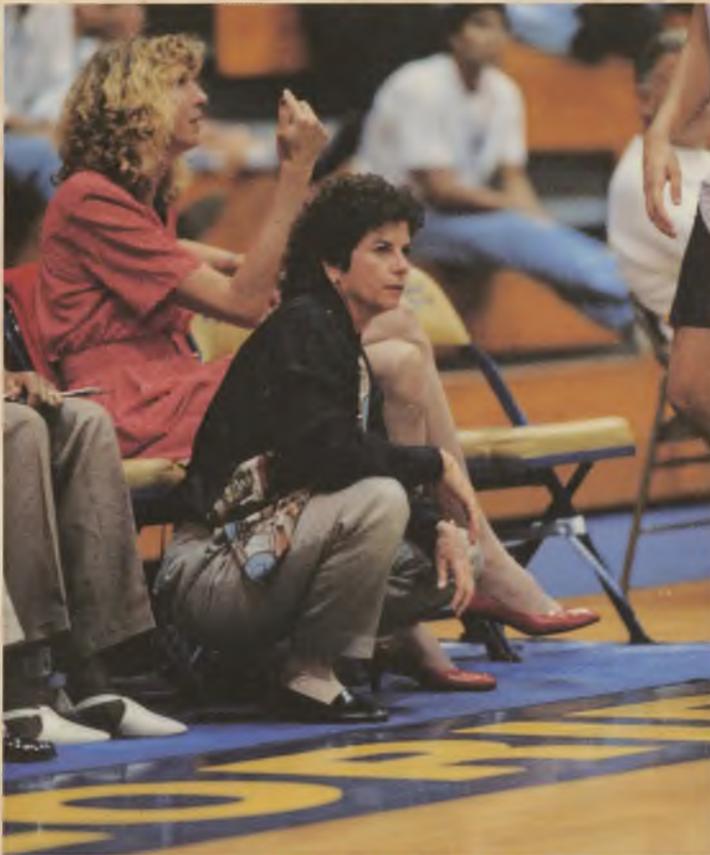
Given those facts and many others, one has to ponder why Russo and the FIU women's basketball team, who have had 15 straight winning seasons and 10 postseason appearances, do not get the respect they richly deserve.

"I don't know," says Dr. Mark Baum, the team's chiropractor

"There can be support of the four pro teams in Miami and for college athletics too. We are very entertaining in our own way. Women's basketball has come a long way in the past few years, and the Summer Olympics showcased women's basketball as one of its premier events."

Russo's final victory last season gave her 390 wins overall and 350 at FIU. NCAA statistics indicate that Russo's 390 wins ranks her 33rd among all active women's coaches.

There is an emerging national frenzy about women's basketball. However, it's a frenzy only a handful of loyal FIU followers have caught. Game attendance and media coverage haven't been on par with the success on the floor. So, Russo settles for controlling what she can — her players and their performance on the court.



and a member of the FIU Golden Panther Club. "Cindy runs the best program in Florida — no matter which way you look at. She has the wins, she has the winning percentage and she has the postseason appearances. Cindy has made FIU a nationally recognized program, yet few people in Florida, and especially South Florida, seem to care."

Baum is not the only fan who is upset. There are many. And while Russo also is disturbed by the lack of recognition of her teams' accomplishments, she is not one to go looking for praise.

"I go about doing my job and work hard each and every day to improve myself, my players and my program," Russo said. "I can't control what I can't control.

"My team has had the support of the university administration and I am thankful for that. Not every college coach has the support I have been given here," said Russo, who received her master's degree in Education from FIU in 1978. "I love the diversity of the area. I'm very happy where I am. I have put a lot of work into the FIU program for many years and I want to play it through to the end, whatever that may be."

No college basketball team — men's or women's — in Florida has had the success of FIU women's team in the '90s. According to the NCAA, FIU ranks 15th nationally in winning percentage and 17th overall in total wins.

Among Russo's and FIU women's successes in the '90s were four straight trips to the postseason from 1992-95. The 1992

and 1993 seasons culminated with trips to the Women's National Invitation Tournament. In 1993, FIU reached its highest national ranking ever at No. 11 and earned an NCAA tournament berth. A heartbreaking, one-point loss at home to Clemson ended the dream of advancing further.

But the Golden Panthers were even better in 1994-95.

FIU played in the preseason NIT, won 27 of 32 games and was ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation. They cruised through the TAAC tournament to receive another NCAA automatic berth. FIU upset Russo's alma mater, Old Dominion, in the first round of the NCAA Mideast Regional in Knoxville, Tenn. In the second round, FIU fought valiantly before losing to the Tennessee Volunteers on their home court. The Vols reached the NCAA title game where they lost to Connecticut.



"That was a pretty good run for us with our two All-Americans and Desi," said Russo, referring to the best trio FIU ever put on a court at one time — guard Andrea Nagy, center Albena Branzova and Desi Dakova.

The easy-going Russo likes to share her success. But no one has been more valuable to Russo and the team's success than associate head coach Inge Nissen. The two met when Russo, then an assistant coach at Old Dominion, recruited Nissen. Nissen was a great player who revolutionized the post position in leading Old Dominion to one NIT championship and two national championships. Russo didn't hesitate to bring Nissen to FIU as her assistant when the opportunity presented itself.

"I have to share a lot of my success as a head coach with Inge," said Russo.

Russo and Nissen, who speaks seven languages, have been a formidable recruiting team in Europe. They truly have put the word international in Florida International University. The two are supported at FIU by assistant coach Kathy Russell.

This season's team is relying heavily again on its international players, among them Spain's Yoana Aramberri and Laura Camps, Bulgaria's Gergana Branzova, Sweden's Aila Menguc, Slovakia's Zazana Michalcova, and Hungary's Viktoria Nagy and Dalma Ivanyi, who was voted TAAC Newcomer of the Year last season. They will blend well with Maesha Freeney, Donna Carrell, Melissa James, Adaya Powell, Masheika Allen and Miami Killian's Crystal Jenkins.



Despite, a 23-5 overall record and 16-0 in the TAAC, last season came to an abrupt and very disappointing end. The Golden Panthers lost in the second round of the TAAC postseason tournament, which cost them the automatic NCAA berth.

Russo expects to return to the NCAA tournament this year.

"I don't set many long-term goals," said Russo. "I believe in doing the little things each day that make you better. Day after day, if you do what you are supposed to be doing, you will improve and the long-term goals take care of themselves. We haven't been in the Top 20 and the NAAs since the end of the 1994-95 season. I'd like to see us get back up to that level.

And I believe we will."

Message from the director of Alumni Affairs

Greetings from your Office of Alumni Affairs. I am pleased to share with you two recent developments which will have a great impact on FIU's visibility in South Florida and the rest of the nation. They are a new logo and a football team.

In my job, I often ask alumni to join the association, go to events or support the University. In all these instances I am selling FIU. I want to create a spirited, enthusiastic and supportive alumni constituency. I promote the fact that FIU is becoming a "major league" university — but to be a "major league" university you must look the part.

In October, FIU unveiled their new athletic mascot to the community. The response to this new look has been exceptional. Designed by SME (Sean Michael Edwards) Designs, the new logo gives us a look



comparable to those of the nation's top collegiate programs. This new logo has also opened new doors in the retail market. JC Penney (International, Dadeland, Westland and Aventura malls), Pro Image (Dade, Broward and Monroe county stores) and Midway Sports are the first stores to carry merchandise with the new panther. Retail sales generate royalty dollars that flow back to FIU for scholarships and programs. Notre Dame raises nearly \$8 million annually through retail royalties, while University of Florida, Florida State and University of Miami generate more than \$4 million each. These dollars come primarily from fans of the universities' sports programs — especially football. These fans include FIU alumni who can't support FIU football because it doesn't exist. It looks like that is going to change.

The Student Fees Committee recently approved an increase in the athletic fee, with the additional funds to be set aside to start a possible football program at FIU. FIU FOOTBALL — it's no longer an April Fools' joke. FIU football could be a reality by the year 2000! For many years, students, alumni and friends of FIU have known about our academic accolades and the success of FIU's nationally ranked athletic programs — but I am constantly asked, "When is FIU getting a football team?" Football, whether one is a fan of the sport or not, is one of the best ways to increase a university's recognition. In Florida, football is king. The sports talk shows discuss football year-round while other sports receive seasonal coverage. I have been told numerous times that FIU is not considered a "real" university because we don't field a football team. While I don't agree with that assessment, I understand the attention football brings to the universities in this state. Football at FIU will help galvanize support from the alumni, students, employees and the community at large.

Eduardo Hondal



FOOTBALL: THE TIME HAS COME

Picture this: A sunny fall Saturday in November as a family prepares to attend a Golden Panther football game. They get to the FIU Community Stadium a few hours before the game for tailgate parties. They toss around the pigskin with friends and family, predicting another Golden Panther victory.

No, it's no longer just a dream. FIU is on the road to launching a football program.

In October, the Student Fees Committee, composed of FIU students, faculty, and administrators, unanimously approved a 50 cents per-credit hour increase in the athletic fee starting in fall 1997 to be used for the possible development of a football program. It is estimated that the increase will generate approximately \$320,000 per year, and it would take four to five years to get a team on the field. If a football program is not started, the revenue will be given back to the Student Government Association for student programming.

A committee of faculty, students, FIU Foundation trustees and alumni are now studying the feasibility of establishing a football program at the University. It is anticipated that they will complete their report this fall, and the president will make a decision on the issue early in 1997.

The estimated yearly budget for a Division-IAA program (the NCAA's second highest level) at FIU is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million. The remaining dollars need to be raised from FIU alumni, friends and the community.

The University of South Florida will be fielding its first football team next fall. Increased student fees helped support part of its \$1.4 million football budget.

"I always felt that someday FIU should have a football team," said Paul Gallagher, FIU vice president for University Advancement. "And in the last year in particular, we've had a tremendous groundswell from our students and alumni for us to seriously look at football."

NEW LOGO TO APPEAR ON ALL CARDS

MBNA introduces new Platinum Plus program

One of the strongest affinity programs offered by the Office of Alumni Affairs, the new MBNA Platinum Plus Mastercard/Visa program will be available to all alumni and friends of FIU with *no annual fee*. In addition to the features of the MBNA credit card, the Platinum Plus MasterCard/Visa includes:

- A higher line of credit (up to \$100,000)
- No annual fee
- MBNA Platinum Plus MasterCard/Visa preferred rates — annual percentage rate is currently the U.S. Prime Rate+8.4 percent, a full .50% below the APR for your group.
- Low introductory APR on cash advance checks and balances transferred from other accounts — currently only 5.9 percent for the first five months.
- An exclusive toll-free number connecting to a group of MBNA Platinum Plus MasterCard/Visa Customer Service Representatives who can answer questions, resolve billing disputes quickly, order cash advance checks or additional cards, or help with other requests.
- Special preferred rates on jumbo deposits.
- Exclusive access to Platinum Passage, a full-service travel agency that guarantees the lowest available airfare at the time of ticketing.
- \$1,000,000 common carrier travel accident insurance at no additional cost.

MBNA has also updated the cards they provide alumni. New cards will incorporate the new Golden Panther logo for regular, gold and platinum cards. Be on the lookout for these great new cards.

Remember, royalties from this program benefit scholarships and programs at FIU.

Health care improved

The FIU Alumni Association recently upgraded its health care program by creating a partnership with **Physician Healthcare Plans, Inc. (PHP)**. Now members of the FIU Alumni Association will be able to enjoy the best health care service from one of the premier health care providers in Florida. PHP, ranked as one of the superior health care providers in Florida, maintains service offices throughout the state and emphasizes customer service by assuring operational excellence. PHP services over 100,000 individuals in Florida and is one of the fastest growing health care providers in the state.

Some of the features offered by PHP for as little as \$87 (adult) and \$55 (children) include: comprehensive health benefits, no deductibles, no copayments for physician visits, maternity, prescription drugs, vast network of physicians, leading area hospitals, no claim forms, Florida-based customer service and underwriting.

"We have identified a benefit that is integral to everyone in today's world — a real 'value-added' product from one of the premier HMOs in the health care industry. We are proud to offer this product to our alumni," said Gerald Grant Jr., president of the FIU Alumni Association.

For more information on the PHP program, please call (305) 348-3334 or 1-800-FIU-ALUM. You can also notify us by accessing our web page at www.fiu.edu/orgs/alumni.



Please... inform us of your latest accomplishments, career changes, geographical moves, family news, etc. for upcoming Class Notes in the Alumni News. Give us a call at 1-800-FIU-ALUM (348-2586) or drop us a line at Florida International University, Office of Alumni Affairs, University Park, PC 225, Miami, Florida 33199-0001. We love to hear how you're doing!



ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Friday, January 31, 7 a.m. (registration)

FIU FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are looking for all our alumni golfers, from beginners to so-called pros. PGA touring pro Greg Martin will start off the tournament with a morning clinic. All golfers are automatically entered into contests, including longest drive, closest to the hole and hole-in-one. Price includes a full buffet luncheon and FIU Alumni Association goody bag. All activities will take place at Doral Park. Price is \$110 per person.

Saturday, February 1, 11:30 a.m.

ALUMNI FAMILY BARBECUE

Alumni and their families will enjoy a fun-filled barbecue. Then at 3 p.m., watch the high-powered Golden Panthers baseball team kick off their season aiming toward the College World Series. Alumni Association members, \$5 per person; non-members, \$8 per person

1997

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

MOONLIGHT MOVIE

Alumni are invited to join students, employees and friends of FIU to enjoy the movie "Independence Day" or "The Rock" under the moonlight on the GC Lawn at University Park. This event is free to all alumni. Bring a blanket.

Friday, February 7, 9 p.m.

PANTHER PROWL

The annual highlight of Homecoming will once again feature a nationally renowned comedian in concert at the Golden Panther Arena. Howie Mandel and Adam Sandler have performed the previous two years.

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY HOMECOMING EVENT, CALL 348-3334.

Saturday, February 8, 11:30 a.m.

PARADE/TAILGATE PARTY

Alumni and families are invited to attend our homecoming parade, starting at the FIU Engineering and Applied Science building (SW 8th Street and Flagler Street) then proceeding to the University Park campus. The parade will be followed by a tailgate party with food, fun and games prior to the evening's basketball double-header.

Saturday, February 8, 6 p.m., 8 p.m.

HOMECOMING BASKETBALL GAMES

Homecoming closes with exciting Golden Panther basketball as Cindy Russo's women's team take on Southeastern Louisiana and Shakey Rodriguez's men's squad oppose the Owls of Florida Atlantic in a TAAC conference game. Chairback seats are \$7 per person and general seating is \$5 per person.

The Wine Spectator
Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida
and
Florida International University

present
The
Florida Extravaganza

A Unique Wine, Spirits and Culinary Celebration



Over 100 of the World's Finest Beverage Companies will be on Hand.
Meet the Owners and Winemakers of the World's Finest Properties.

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The net proceeds from The Florida Extravaganza will support the Beverage Management Studies Program Endowment at the
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