

Fall 1995

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AIDS Research Pioneer at FIU
A Community of the Future
Animal Talk

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Fall 1985

magazine

WRITE TIME, WRITE PLACE

WRITE TIME, WRITE PLACE

FIU'S CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

FIU'S Creative Writing Program



One of the nation's top 10 creative writing programs -Gale Research Inc.

From where I sit...

This past August marked the start of my tenth year as president of Florida International University. A decade is a substantial chunk of time in any adult's life — or, in the case of FIU, nearly half its life since it opened for classes in 1972.

With the passage of a decade, it is often appropriate to review accomplishments, while taking stock of future goals to be achieved. With that in mind, our staff recently compiled information on key indicators of FIU's growth and quality in both 1985 and 1995.

Taken as a whole, this comparative profile reveals at a glance the extraordinary progress FIU has made in the past 10 years. Just consider the facts:



CATEGORY	1985	1995	NOTES
Student Headcount	16,539	28,096	70% increase
Annual FTE's	8,690	15,939	83% increase
Entering Freshman	622	2,127	242% increase
% of SUS FTE Enrollment	9.5%	13.0%	3.5% increase
Bachelor's Degrees	2,101	3,623	74% increase
Master's Degrees	398	1,042	162% increase
Doctoral Degrees	0	45	N.A.
Total Budget	\$85.8 million	\$208.5 million	143% increase
Alumni	26,000	58,000	123% increase
Volumes in Library	636,000	1,048,000	65% increase
Contracts & Grants	\$6.3 million	\$24.0 million	281% increase
Full-time faculty	516	799	55% increase
Carnegie Classification	Comprehensive	Doctoral	
Major Academic Bldgs.	11	17	55% increase
Existing Facilities GSF	1.7 million	2.3 million	32% increase
Construction Program	\$113 million	\$189 million	67% increase
Federal Research Centers	0	7	
NCAA Status	Division II	Division I	
Tournaments Division I	0	4	
Eminent Scholar Chairs	1	12	Funded/committed

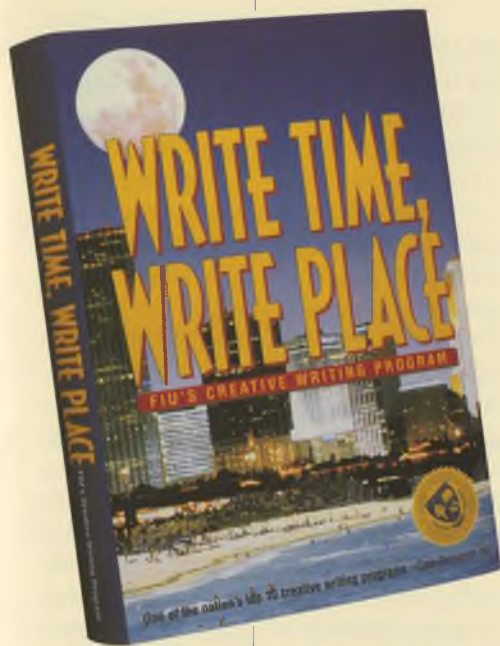
There are countless other achievements I could cite — and you'll find some of these in *FIU Magazine*. Collectively, they all confirm what many in Miami already know — that FIU is one of the great success stories in modern American higher education. And, given our progress to date, just imagine what we can accomplish in the *next* 10 years!

Modesto A. Maidique
President

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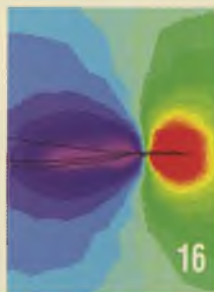
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Philip Stoddard of the FIU Department of Biological Sciences, who burns the midnight oil conducting advanced research, hopes his electric fish will shed some light on the evolutionary origins of communication.



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FIU's Creative Writing Program is Not For Everyone Touted as one of the nation's 10 best programs of its type, the FIU Creative Writing Program — which boasts a sterling cadre of publishing faculty and student writers — emphasizes down in the trenches writing. Plus, excerpts from the latest published works by Dan Wakefield and Les Standiford, members of the Creative Writing faculty.



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Editor's Note

Language speaks. If we let ourselves fall into the abyss denoted by this sentence, we do not go tumbling into emptiness. We fall upward, to a height. Its loftiness opens up a depth.

- Martin Heidegger

Some years ago, while treading the elusive path of self-realization and meaning (only to discover that there was no Meaning), I was exposed to the works of Heidegger — and, in particular, his thoughts on language. My colleagues and I tested the notion that *who we are is our language*. And it really brought home, on a whole new level, the power of language — and its other form, writing.

Think back to those early instances when you were seduced by the power of the written word. For me, "Green Eggs and Ham" in the late 1950s comes to mind. The same book that today, along with the other timeless tales of Dr. Seuss, enchants my two-year-old daughter.

The power beckoned again at college when I was smitten by the writing bug. The same bug that attracts student-writers to the FIU Creative Writing Program, a gem of a program at the University that has rapidly emerged as one of the nation's best. You'll get a glimpse of the program in Michael Malone's marvelous story on page 20 — plus a taste of the latest published works by two of its faculty members.

So enjoy the article. Pick up a book. And take a plunge upward into the depth.

Todd Ellenberg
Editor

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FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
FLORIDA

The Public University at Miami



WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER REACHES OUT TO ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

When people discuss the emergence of South Florida as a major business center, they often focus on its close ties with Latin America and the service-driven nature of its economy. There's a lesser known fact, however, that distinguishes the local economy: South Florida has one of the highest concentrations of women-owned businesses on the eastern seaboard, second only to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

That salient fact explains, in part, the presence of an agency at FIU that's assisting these entrepreneurs. The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC), which opened in September 1993, provides education, counseling, technical assistance and advocacy for women considering business ownership or seeking to expand their existing businesses.

The WBDC is funded by a three-year matching grant under the auspices of the Office of Women's Business Ownership of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Of the 39 such centers in the country, it is the only one in the Southeast and it's located in the most ethnically diverse area.

Over the past two years, the WBDC has assisted in 66 new business start-ups, counseled 297 clients in start-up and established businesses, and has offered 152 workshops throughout the community.

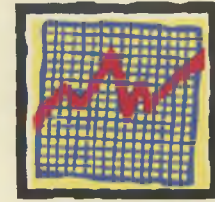
"Miami is a Mecca for small business," said Christine Kurtz-White, director of the WBDC, noting that projections indicate that by the year 2000 more than 50 percent of all U.S. small businesses will be owned by women.

Commenting on the reasons for the emergence of the WBDC, Kurtz-White said, "Women need a special kind of assistance, having been discriminated against in the workplace and by lending institutions for so long. They need to believe in themselves to explore what to do to establish a business. Women becoming economically empowered will solve a lot of problems."

One of the key programs offered by the SBDC is its "Fast Track" workshop, which features four sessions on key topics related to launching a business. These workshops have been offered at both FIU campuses and other community sites. In addition, the SBDC offers individualized counseling, workshops on other business topics and networking forums. They have a financial counselor who advises clients on how to develop business plans and secure loans from banking institutions. Kurtz-White noted that the Community Reinvestment Act mandates that banks grant loans to minorities and women, which has made it easier for them to secure start-up capital.

In addition to the services offered by its staff, the WBDC has an active executive board and advisory council of women business owners, professionals and community leaders who provide guidance, leadership, expertise and financial support to its programs and administration.

"Women can bring their nurturing qualities to the operation of a business," said Kurtz-White. "It's critical for us to reach them and offer our extra dimension of assistance."



FIU EXCELS IN NATIONAL COLLEGE RANKINGS

In its first year as a nationally ranked university, FIU scored extremely well in the 1996 edition of the *U.S. News & World Report* annual guide to "America's Best Colleges."

FIU is ranked among the top 150 national universities in the country by the magazine. Not only was FIU the youngest institution in its group, FIU completely bypassed the bottom quartile of rankings where most newly ranked national universities are listed.

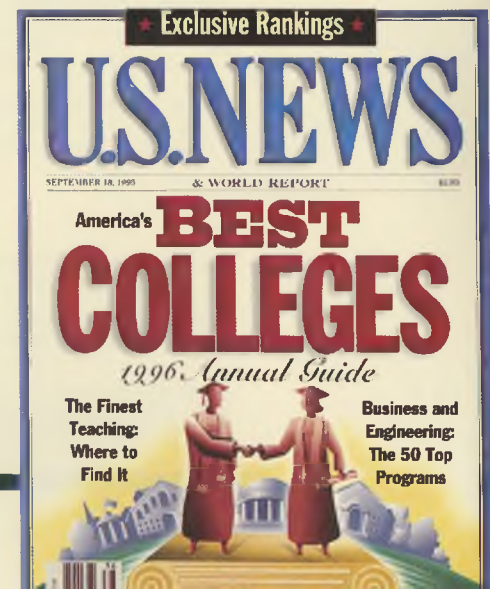
"FIU is proud to have been ranked so high by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine in the national universities category," said FIU President Modesto A.

Maidique. "This ranking is a prestigious honor and demonstrates that FIU has remained dedicated to preserving its educational quality while continuing to expand enrollment."

Last year, FIU was elevated to the national university category from the regional university category after being reclassified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a doctoral granting university.

From 1988 through 1994, *U.S. News & World Report* had ranked FIU as one of the top regional universities in the South. Last year, the university was in the process of being reclassified into the national category and was not ranked by the magazine.

U.S. News & World Report uses the following factors in determining their rankings: student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, student retention and alumni



satisfaction. The magazine then ranks the 229 national universities in four categories: top 50, second quartile, third quartile and fourth quartile. FIU was ranked in the third quartile.

"One of the reasons I believe that FIU scored so highly in its first year as a national university is the outstanding quality of our faculty and the low student to faculty ratio," said Maidique. "Even though we are a large institution, most of our classes are quite small."

Other Florida institutions that were ranked in the national university category include: University of Florida, ranked number 47; Florida State University, second quartile; University of Miami, second quartile; Florida Institute of Technology, third quartile; Florida Atlantic University, fourth quartile; University of Central Florida, fourth quartile; and University of South Florida, fourth quartile.

Last year, *Money* magazine named FIU as one of the top 10 public commuter colleges in the U.S. in its annual guide of "Best College Buys." The 10 public institutions on the list have at least three-quarters of their undergraduates commute to school and at least 40 percent of their entering freshmen graduate within four years.



AIR FORCE GRANT FUNDS NEW SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CENTER

FIU faculty and students started exploring the future of communications technology last summer when the University received the first part of a \$3.6 million grant from the U.S. Air Force's Office of Scientific Research.

The grant established a Future Aerospace Science and Technology (FAST) Center in Microwave Cryoelectronics for Space Applications at FIU. The center focuses on the development of integrated active antennas and low-loss feeds for micro and millimeter wave applications, technologies which could potentially increase the quality and range of satellite communications.

Grover Larkins, associate professor of Electrical Engineering and lead investigator for the FAST Center, said the grant allows the participation of approximately 20 graduate and undergraduate students annually on the project. The goal of the project is to develop technology that will make

military communications more efficient with greater bandwidths for information transfer and less costly to manufacture, power and maintain.

The grant was one of \$46 million in contracts awarded in March by the Department of Defense to historically black colleges and other minority-serving institutions. A key portion of the grant also affords FIU engineering students the opportunity to work side-by-side with government research personnel in Air Force and NASA facilities.

On the commercial side, Motorola also has expressed interest in the technology and its possible commercial applications. The corporation has promised access to their microwave test facilities here in South Florida to center personnel.

"When the government gets ready to manufacture this technology, where do you think they are going to come to find people with experience in the field?" said Larkins. "We here at FIU would be in a position to supply the work force to an emerging industry."

"This is a very ambitious project and a tremendous opportunity for FIU. As we increase our presence in this kind of research, the way Florida International University and its students are looked at on a national level will begin to change." ██████████



FIU CITINGS

Catching the bug

Andy Garcia explaining how he got hooked on acting while a student at the University: "FIU, then, was still a very new university and the theater department was really just getting off the ground. It had great facilities, but it was a small department. We were basically able to do whatever we wanted to do."

(Quoted in *The Orlando Sentinel*, September 15)

Papal politics

"We can expect that the Vatican will use Beijing as a platform against abortion," said Christine Gudorf, associate professor of Religious Studies, commenting on this past summer's United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. "There's a strong internal tension between a relatively recent desire to recognize the dignity of women but a need to portray them as instrumental roles in traditional families without recognizing their challenges."

(Quoted in New Orleans' *The Times-Picayune*, August 15)

Legal vision

"If a trial consultant tells you that he is reading things that others can't see, that's nonsense," said Gary Moran, a trial consultant and professor of Psychology. "It is just that the lawyers aren't always watching."

(Quoted in *St. Petersburg Times*, July 24)

Equal opportunity corruptors

Commenting on how officials in the United States, who scold the anti-drug efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean, also cannot resist the big money and influence of billionaire drug lords. "Americans need to take a step off their pedestal from time to time, off this high moral ground that they often take against Latin Americans and Caribbeans," said Ivelaw Griffith, assistant professor of Political Science and regional security expert. "Americans are just as vulnerable, just as corruptible."

(Quoted in *Chicago Tribune*, June 6)

Revolution on credit

Antonio Jorge, professor of Economics, on Cuban leader Fidel Castro's efforts to make the Cuban economy more attractive to international lending institutions and private banks: "I don't think it's an ideological shift at all. Castro is trying to convince the world that he's engaged in a transition from a socialist economy to a market economy. What he's really trying to do is obtain credit to refloat the revolution."

(Quote in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, September 11)

Engineering genetic genies

William Keppler, professor of Public Health, on the potential of genetic science to cure fatal diseases: "If we are ever going to control the HIV virus, we'll have to do so through manipulation of the genetic code. The same thing with cancer, that is basically a genetic disease."

(Quoted in *The Palm Beach Post*, May 29)



we will be able to bring some of the world's finest orchestras, ensembles, theater and dance companies to FIU. We are truly grateful for the Wertheims' continuing support of the University, which has enhanced our teaching, research and public service missions."

The center is scheduled for completion by spring 1996. The gala premiere season of the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center will begin in fall 1996, featuring internationally acclaimed performers in classical, jazz

benefits the University and our community's cultural life. We also hope it will encourage other donors to support the public university that does so much for South Florida."

Dr. and Mrs. Wertheim are prominent individuals in South Florida's corporate, civic and philanthropic communities. Dr. Wertheim is president and director of research and development of Brain Power Incorporated and 11 affiliated companies. Brain Power Inc. and its affiliates are involved in manufacturing optical

FIU RECEIVES \$1 MILLION

A gift of \$1 million from Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim will enable FIU to complete the equipping and furnishing of the University's 53,600 square-foot performing arts complex now under construction at University Park. This landmark gift, representing FIU's first \$1 million contribution from a private individual, will be matched with an equal amount in state funds.

In recognition of this and other significant contributions made by the Wertheims to FIU, as well as Dr. Wertheim's leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation, the University will name the facility the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center will be the centerpiece of FIU-University Park's emergence as a major cultural center in South Florida. The facility includes a 600-seat concert hall designed by one of the world's leading acoustical engineers; a 250-seat proscenium theater for theatrical and dance productions; a 150-seat flexible laboratory theater; a choral rehearsal and recital hall; an instrumental rehearsal hall; an electronic music studio; and offices and studios for the Department of Music and the Department of Theater and Dance.

"The generosity of the Wertheims will enable us to create a state of the art complex that will be the first and only major cultural center in western Dade County," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "With this new facility

University to honor donors with naming of the

Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

and popular music, and both dramatic and musical theater presentations.

The Wertheims previously gave \$350,000, also matched by state funds, to FIU to construct the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Conservatory, a unique fixture on the University Park campus which has enhanced the University's internationally recognized program in the biological sciences. The climate-control features of the conservatory's greenhouse are critical for research projects, while its lecture/seminar room enhances the department's instructional capabilities.

Last year, the Wertheims made a \$100,000 gift to the University to establish an endowed professorship in business leadership. Their charitable gifts to FIU have been made through the Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim Foundation.

"We have been interested in having our foundation support the arts as well as educational and research projects at FIU," said Dr. Wertheim. "We're very pleased that this gift

instruments, optical chemicals, solar research, robotics, real estate investment, consulting services and computer software. Brain Power Inc. produces more than 2,500 products and has facilities in Miami and Rugby, England.

Dr. Wertheim has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation since 1988, and serves on its Executive Committee and Grants Committee. He has served as a member of the board of directors of the Zoological Society of South Florida and the American Heart Association of Miami. He has also been involved with the University of Miami, the Young Presidents Organization, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Friends of Vail (Colorado). Among their other numerous philanthropic commitments, Dr. and Mrs. Wertheim have made major gifts to the South Florida Zoological Society in support of special exhibitions at Metrozoo and to WPBT-TV in Miami to support scientific programming on public television.



Donor gifts create Knight-Ridder Center for Excellence in Management

Major gifts

from Knight-Ridder, Inc. and Alvah and Betty Chapman will provide a \$5.3 million endowment to establish the Knight-Ridder Center for Excellence in Management in FIU's College of Business Administration. The gifts will endow five Eminent Scholars Chairs in the fields of management, marketing, and management information systems. The two gifts, totaling \$2.64 million will be matched dollar-for-dollar by state funds under the State University System of Florida's Trust Fund for Major Gifts program.

The Center, which will involve many other FIU business faculty in addition to the five chairholders, will coordinate and focus interdisciplinary research, teaching and training in five areas: management and ethics, management development, strategic management, international marketing, and the application of information technology and management information systems to a global business environment.

The Knight-Ridder gift of \$2.04 million which will establish four endowed chairs, is the largest corporate gift ever made to FIU. The combined total of the gift plus state match — \$4.1 million — makes it the largest single gift to the University.

"Our commitment to FIU will enable it to build on already existing strengths in management, marketing and information systems," said Tony Ridder, chairman and CEO of Knight-Ridder and a member of the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation.

"Knight-Ridder recognizes the significance of FIU and its business school to the future of our community," Ridder continued. "FIU alumni are increasingly taking their place among South Florida's business leaders. We are pleased to make this gift to enhance FIU's ability to serve our community in the 21st century."

A gift of \$600,000 from Alvah and Betty Chapman will establish the Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Eminent Scholars Chair in Management and

Ethics, which will be an integral part of the Knight-Ridder Center for Excellence in Management. Alvah Chapman served as chairman and CEO of Knight-Ridder and is currently a director and chairman of its Executive Committee. Now chairman emeritus of the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation, Chapman headed the foundation between 1988 and 1993.

"The creation of the Knight-Ridder Center for Excellence in Management with the gifts by Knight-Ridder and the Chapmans constitute a landmark for both the University and our College of Business Administration," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "The Knight-Ridder Center will enable FIU to become a leading regional center for management research and education in a very short period of time," he said.

"The areas of specialization of the five chairs reflect the hallmarks of excellence that have made Knight-Ridder a national leader in the newspaper and information industries," Maidique added. "They reflect the significant contributions to American business made by John S. and James L. Knight, and more recently by Alvah Chapman, Byron Harless and Jim Batten."

The chairs in Management Development and Strategic Management funded by Knight-Ridder will be named, respectively, after the late Byron Harless and the late James K. Batten. Batten, who served as chairman and CEO of Knight-Ridder, led the corporation's efforts to anticipate changes in customer needs and shape strategies to meet those changes. Harless, who served as Knight-Ridder vice president for human resources, developed innovative programs within Knight-Ridder in the areas of management quality, personnel selection and motivation, and employee training.

The Chapman and Knight-Ridder commitments were secured in conjunction with The Campaign for FIU, which will have a goal of \$65 million and be announced publicly in early 1996.

"The Knight-Ridder Center will enable FIU to become a leading regional center for management research and education."

FIU
A landmark for

Hurricane Andrew provides real

AUGUST 24, 1992:

The winds of Hurricane Andrew had barely died down before FIU faculty researchers recognized a rare and valuable opportunity — to study the consequences of the catastrophe as it related to their respective disciplines.

Since then, FIU faculty have conducted the most extensive research on Hurricane Andrew, as well as other hurricane-related studies. Research has focused primarily on three broad fronts:

- hurricane damage mitigation through building code improvement;
- behavioral studies on pre-hurricane planning and post-hurricane recovery; and
- developing solutions to the insurance woes that have plagued Florida since Hurricane Andrew.

"We certainly hope to emerge as a national leader in the area of hurricane-related research," said Tom Breslin, FIU vice provost for Sponsored Research. "We expect to have a good deal of involvement in the decision-setting arena as a provider of solid research to support decision makers."

A week after the hurricane, a team of research faculty and graduate students from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology was mobilized. While the team had diverse interests and expertise, it was united by a common interest in examining household and community preparation and response to disaster. In addition, faculty from several other academic units — ranging from Psychology and Construction Management to Public Administration and Civil Engineering — have conducted research in their disciplines.

In March 1993, FIU sponsored a two-day national conference, "Lessons Learned from

Hurricane Andrew," that featured approximately 100 experts participating in more than 20 sessions. It provided the opportunity for professionals from a wide spectrum of disciplines to share their findings on the storm.

Ongoing and future hurricane-related research is being further catalyzed by two key developments which took place earlier this year: the We Will Rebuild Foundation made a gift of \$1 million to FIU to establish and endow an International Center for Hurricane Damage Research and Mitigation; and the National Hurricane Center relocated its headquarters to FIU's University Park campus.

It is hoped that research partnerships between FIU faculty and the two centers offer the potential for greater results. This is particularly true given federal funding for hurricane-related projects. Routine federal funding for earthquake research and mitigation is about \$350 million per year, while funding for hurricane research and mitigation is about \$50 million per year, a 7 to 1 ratio.

FIU public relations students also have been involved in educating the public about hurricane preparedness. This past June they produced and distributed 100,000 copies of the second annual "Family Guide to Hurricane Preparedness," a project funded by Amoco Oil Co. and Weyerhaeuser.

Hurricane research that has been conducted by FIU faculty includes:

The Public Response

Harvey Averch and Milan Dluhy, professors of Public Administration, conducted a study on "Crisis Decision Making and Management: A Case Study of Hurricane Andrew." They found that "individual rationality on the part of key

The hurricane
experience
taught them
that they
should have
acquired
more
supplies.

life lab for FIU researchers

decision makers prevailed and collective rationality failed miserably." Specifically, the inter-governmental response system designed to handle the crisis collapsed and the federal government had to be called in to organize the recovery effort. They found that key local decision makers had little or no experience with disasters and there was little prior history of inter-governmental cooperation.

Food and coping

Marcia Magnus, associate professor of Dietetics and Nutrition, conducted a survey of 137 households to examine food-related coping strategies in Andrew's wake. In addition to the obvious problems of food stores being closed and lacking perishable food, the absence of water and electricity necessitated the preparation of meals without a stove, frequent use of grills and canned goods, and simpler meals. Respondents indicated that the hurricane experience taught them that they should have acquired more supplies (coolers, propane stoves, etc.), more water and ice, and more nonperishable foods before the hurricane.

Effectiveness of shutters

The FIU Department of Construction Management and the National Hurricane Center have completed a study that sought to determine the effectiveness of hurricane shutters used in homes during Hurricane Andrew. The study concluded that houses protected with engineered aluminum or steel shutters during the hurricane sustained 5.2 percent less damage than comparable houses in the same area without shutters.

"Although 5 percent may not sound like a

great difference, it is significant when you consider that in a \$150,000 building the damage could be \$7,500 less with shutters," said José Mitrani, chairperson of Construction Management and director of the study. "Shutters, which typically cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 for that type of house, would pay for themselves during the first storm."

Shutters also are instrumental in safeguarding lives during a hurricane and in preserving a home's contents, which could save homeowners tens of thousands of dollars following a major storm.

FIU Hurricane Andrew Survey

In order to obtain a picture of the impact of Hurricane Andrew on Dade County's households as a whole and to secure information on preparation and evacuation activities households undertook, the University conducted a telephone survey of 1,300 households throughout Dade County (including an over-sample in South Dade). Walter Peacock, associate professor of Sociology, and Hugh Gladwin, director of the Institute for Public Opinion Research, conducted the survey, which collected data on household preparation activities, evacuation, household damage, insurance settlements and other forms of aid.

Impact on families

Hurricane Andrew destroyed homes, not just houses. Disruptions included household and job loss or dislocation, extended commuting patterns, cramped or deteriorating living conditions, the maze of paperwork and tasks associated with loss recovery and household reconstruction — all sources of considerable stress and frustration.

Specifically,
the inter-
governmental
response
system
designed to
handle the
crisis
collapsed and
the federal
government
had to be
called in to
organize the
recovery effort.

hits South

Florida,

there won't

be enough

insurance

to pay for the

cleanup.

Betty Hearn Morrow, associate professor of Sociology, and Elaine Enarson, an adjunct faculty member, conducted a Family Impact Study. Its purpose was to provide insights into the dynamics of family responses to disaster, with special emphasis on families which appeared to be having the most difficulties in the recovery process. Morrow and Enarson were particularly interested in the experiences of women and used them as primary informants because women remain the chief care-givers in most families.

Weathering the winds

Berrin Tansel, assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, conducted a study funded by the National Science Foundation evaluating the amounts of damage sustained by 20,000 residences in areas most affected by Hurricane Andrew.

The research revealed a correlation between the type of roof covering and the amount of damage from the hurricane. Shingle roof material appeared to affect the amount of exterior and interior damage more significantly than the other two popular types of roofing. Asphalt and gravel roofs were least likely to be stripped from the roof, exposing the sheathing. Residences with tile roofs were the most likely to be uninhabitable and irreparable.

"We hope the study will influence how data will be collected after future hurricanes," Tansel said. "We initially wanted to find out how debris was being utilized, but we ended up analyzing construction."

Childhood memories

Professor Janat Parker and Associate Professor Lorraine Bahrack of the Department of Psychology conducted

a research project on children's memories of Hurricane Andrew in order to shed light on the relationship between stress and memory retention. They interviewed 104 three- and four-year-old subjects, who were categorized into low, moderate and high stress groups based on severity of the storm in each child's neighborhood.

The researchers found that the moderate stress group remembered the most about the hurricane, while the high and low groups remembered the least.

Florida's Insurance Crisis

Two faculty members from the FIU Finance Department, Krishnan Dandapani and Shahid Hamid, have been advisors to the state Academic Task Force on Hurricane Catastrophe Insurance (the task force includes FIU President Modesto A. Maidique). Hurricane Andrew exacted \$16 billion of insured losses, but it's believed that a comparable storm hitting a more populated area could easily cost \$50 billion. Experts say that if the "big one" hits South Florida, there won't be enough insurance to pay for the cleanup. The preliminary report prepared by the committee recommends that the private insurance industry continue to bear the financial risk of hurricane cleanup, but that premiums be increased and disaster surcharges be added, and that the state provide reinsurance from its catastrophe fund to the industry. They also recommend that economic incentives be introduced to encourage damage mitigation measures — such as shutters on homes — and by having variable deductibles on claims.

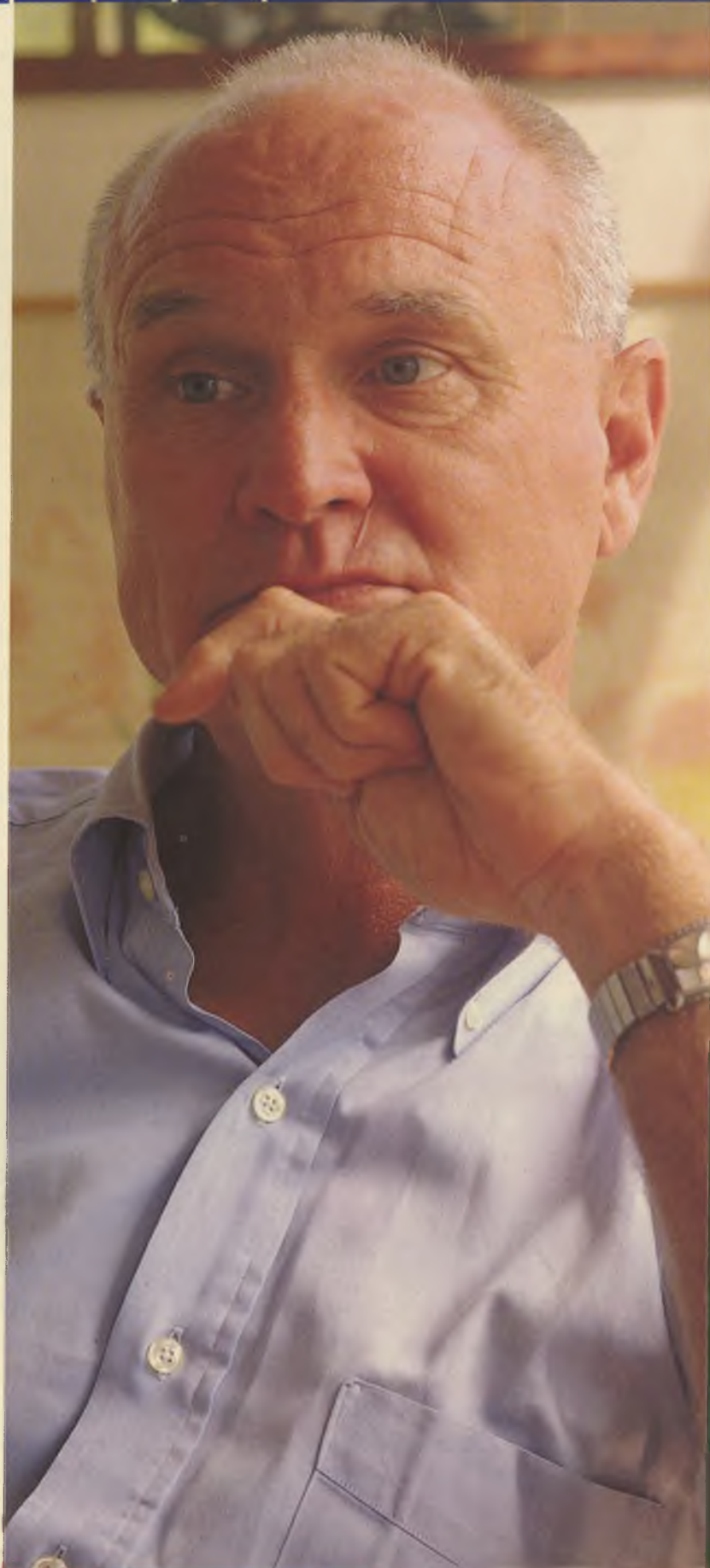


AIDS research pioneer joins FIU faculty

"I think we've got a terrible problem on our hands. This thing — whatever it is — is probably all over the country by now. It is infecting bankers, lawyers, artists, and many other influential members of our society, and hardly anyone knows about it."

Bill Darrow spoke these words in August 1981 about the unnamed epidemic that we now call AIDS. Darrow, currently a professor of Public Health at Florida International University, was a research sociologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when he first made the observation that AIDS was probably caused by an infectious agent.

Believing that many diseases are passed along socially — through networks of friends, peers and family members — Darrow predicted the insidious spread of AIDS.



"The most sexually active are the ones who are most likely to get it first," Darrow warned.

Darrow gained international acclaim for his discovery of "clusters" of patients in Southern California suffering from the mysterious disease who told him about their sexual partners. He identified "patient zero," an Air Canada flight attendant, as the common denominator in many of the early cases of AIDS.

Both discoveries were important because they pointed to the fact that AIDS was an infectious, sexually transmitted disease (STD), and not the result of a genetic glitch or exposure to a toxic substance, two other hypotheses under investigation at the time.

The pioneering role Darrow played in the early days of the epidemic was documented in *And the Band Played On: People, Politics, and the AIDS Epidemic*, the best-selling book by the late journalist Randy Shilts. The book later became an Emmy Award-winning HBO feature film. In 1993, the Society for Applied Sociology honored Darrow with their annual Award for Sociological Practice, in recognition of his career achievements and his work with AIDS in particular. Last October, he received the Thomas Parran

uate degree in economics, he saw a dog-eared, mimeographed notice for a job with the New York City Health Department tacked up on a bulletin board.

"It didn't look at all to me like anything I wanted to do, so I signed up thinking the interview would be good practice for a job I really wanted," he recalled. "The interviewer told me it was an opportunity to work with diverse sociocultural groups in New York City on a public health problem that they were going to address very seriously — and that was the eradication of syphilis. So the Health Department was looking for idealistic people who would be willing to walk the streets of New York, find people who might be infected and refer them for treatment. I said I'd give it a shot. And I found the work fascinating."

After two years in New York, Darrow was offered a position with the CDC in Atlanta, where he served as an apprentice to a sociologist helping medical scientists understand the social and behavioral factors associated with STDs. Later, he also pursued graduate studies in sociology, earning his master's degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1968 and his Ph.D. from Emory University in 1973.

a colleague at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City said he had seen a very unusual case of disseminated herpes in a young man who was gay and had sex with many partners. Her colleague had never seen anything like it before because herpes had completely devastated the young man's body — his immune system had been wiped out. When she reported this highly unusual case, she intimated that there might be other highly unusual cases in New York City."

Soon thereafter, Darrow and his colleagues at CDC learned about similar cases throughout the country. Although AIDS was still virtually unknown to the general public, Darrow had just completed an analysis of STDs in gay men for an article subsequently published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. He used that data to compare with AIDS case reports to predict that the mysterious disease was sexually transmitted and would become an international epidemic.

Within a few months, Darrow started working with the CDC's new task force to address the disease, and he has been working on HIV ever since.

Looking back on efforts over the past 14 years to combat AIDS — both in terms of arresting its spread and discovering a medical cure — Darrow had both

these health information booklets on venereal disease from the '40s through the '60s may seem dated or even irrelevant given today's aids epidemic. however, just as it was difficult to gain mass support in the '60s for the eradication of syphilis, it is still hard to win widespread public backing for hiv prevention efforts. and, it may surprise many people that syphilis is still a public health problem in south florida.

Award from the American Venereal Disease Association for his lifetime contributions to the field of public health.

Darrow's entry into the field of public health in the early 1960s was the result of a chance set of circumstances. Shortly before graduating from the University of Connecticut with an undergrad-

Darrow recounted the time in April 1981 when he first learned about an unusual case that would prove to be among the first known cases of AIDS.

"The first time I heard about it was in a weekly staff meeting. Mary Guinan, a physician conducting epidemiologic research on STDs reported that



praise and criticism. In the early 1980s, research focused on gathering information on the disease and its spread, steps that were necessary to launch prevention efforts.

"Then about the time that Rock Hudson

announced he had AIDS, a lot of interest and money was put into AIDS prevention programs," Darrow said. "I think that's when we could have done a better job than we actually did. A lot of the prevention at the time was focused on traditional medical-model interventions because it was hoped that a vaccine and effective treatments would be coming along very quickly. The idea was to get people tested, and if found to be positive, into medical therapy so their cases could be managed.

"I think more attention could have been paid to issues regarding discrimination against people infected with HIV to assure that they would be protected against harmful consequences. And I think that probably more attention should have been given to community mobilization and community responses to HIV disease instead of thinking that the current health care system could handle it. As a consequence, things are getting out of control again, particularly in places like South Florida."

Unlike other major cities, such as New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, Darrow believes that South Florida never mounted an adequate, well organized response to AIDS in the 1980s.

"HIV prevention doesn't seem to

one of the things that I sense. I'm trying to find evidence that people are really concerned about AIDS and aroused to take appropriate actions, and I don't see it. So we have a long way to go, we have to go hard and fast to really catch up with this virus, and get a better idea of where the epidemic is and what needs to be done. My interest is in trying to mobilize our diverse communities to take prudent actions."

Darrow's 1994 retirement as chief of the CDC's Behavioral and Prevention Research Branch didn't halt his contributions to the field of public health. As a faculty member in FIU's graduate program in Public Health, the research sociologist is focusing on research and community service, as well as a full teaching load.

"In line with the Department of Public Health's philosophy of concentrating on applied public health and working with communities to help them determine their health priorities and develop possible solutions to their perceived problems, I'm doing some really exciting things at FIU," Darrow said.

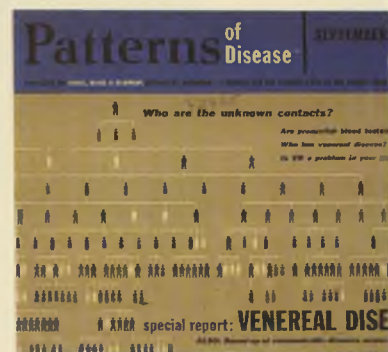
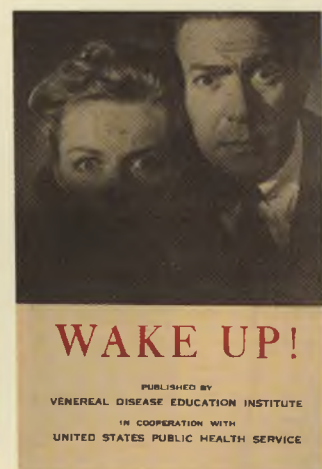
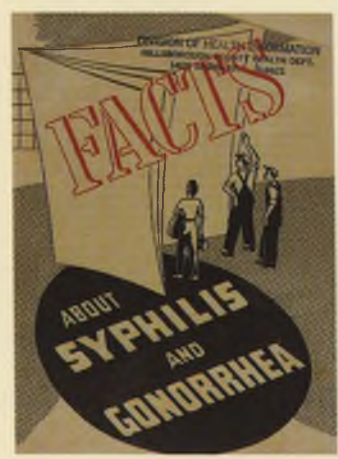
High on the list of exciting projects is Darrow's work with graduate students at FIU.

In an effort to make a substantial contribution toward solving some of South Florida's major public health problems — STDs, unwanted pregnancies, and low birth weight babies — Darrow and his colleagues submitted a proposal to work with CDC's Epidemiology Program Office to establish an Urban Center for Applied Research in Public Health at FIU. He also is actively working with several community groups to help expand and improve AIDS-prevention programs and public awareness.

Darrow is continuing to work on a dozen ongoing research projects, including one in which he is studying social networks in disease transmission. In addition to studying the characteristics of individuals in society and their behaviors, he is examining characteristics of their friends and associates and the things they do together "because the network of social relationships in and of itself can facilitate the transmission of disease."

Since Florida is one of the few areas in the country where portions of the population are still contracting syphilis, Darrow is consulting with Dade County's Public Health unit to attempt once again to eliminate syphilis as a public health problem.

"Although we never gained public support to eradicate syphilis in the 1960s, the rate



be a major issue down here," he said. "Major issues are clearly more focused on what's happening in the Caribbean and Latin America than what's happening in our own backyard. That's

"My students are doing hands-on research right now," Darrow said. "They're interviewing staff members at local health organizations and conducting health surveys with their peers to help determine our community's concerns and how to best address their needs."

of syphilis has gone down rapidly in the U.S. in the past five years," Darrow said. "Unfortunately, however, the transmission rate has always been higher in the southeast, particularly in Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, and pockets of syphilis still exist in these areas today."

Jack Parker, professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science at FIU, says it will redefine affordable housing. Tom Wilson, assistant director of the FAU-FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems, calls it "the most comprehensively planned development I've ever seen." Dorothy Adair, executive director for Homestead Habitat for Humanity, claims it's "the silver lining in the cloud of Hurricane Andrew."

It is Jordan Commons, a 40-acre community designed to house 187 ethnically diverse families in energy-efficient homes in a neighborhood that provides trees, parks, a recreation center, a day care center and a community store. The largest project ever undertaken by Habitat for Humanity, Jordan Commons has been planned with input from national and local architects, urban planners, environmental agencies, building material manufacturers and energy experts. Central to the enterprise are faculty, staff and students at FIU, including Parker, Wilson, and professors Gene Farmer and Ted Baker.

Established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity (HFH), which includes more than 900 affiliates in 40 countries, supervises the volunteer building of houses for people in need. After spending 400 "sweat equity" hours doing volunteer construction, a family can purchase a Habitat home with an interest-free mortgage. Funds from repaid mortgages are used to assemble more homes. Traditionally, Habitat builds houses in already existing communities. Its busy Homestead affiliate had put up almost thirty buildings in South Dade before Hurricane Andrew devastated the area in August 1992. But with so many people left homeless after the storm, Homestead HFH began to search for a place to create an extensive neighborhood from the ground up.

Architect Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, known for her innovative design of Seaside, an upscale community in the Florida panhandle, offered pro bono consulting services. For the first time, Plater-Zyberk's "neo-traditional" principles, in which the position of houses, streets, walkways and parks encourage community closeness and neighborhood pride, would be applied to an affordable housing site.

A COMMUNITY
Jordan
 out of the

FIU researchers help design innovative Hab

Parker was on the hunt for a neighborhood site as well, where he hoped to illustrate energy saving principles through a program known as Cool Communities. Based on research done by Parker and other scientists at the University of California at Berkeley and American Forest, the oldest conservation group in the country, the United States Department

of Energy devised Cool Communities to significantly

reduce energy usage in hot weather climates

like South Florida and to alleviate global warming.

"The basic premise," explains Parker, "is that by planting energy conserving landscapes like shade

trees 15 to 20 feet from a

house and by putting white

reflective roofs in an entire

area, you can dramatically

reduce air conditioner usage and

cool a whole neighborhood." With

Parker's recommendation, American Forests and

the Department of Energy specified Jordan Commons as a demonstration site for Cool Communities' advanced techniques.

After three years of planning, ground-breaking ceremonies for Jordan Commons took place this past June in the Princeton area of South Dade.

Since then, three steel structures have been raised, skeletons for the first of the 187 homes (all designed by Gene Farmer) to be built on the site. It is expected that the first 30 homes will be completed next year and occupied by families who will have helped build them.

Along with white roofs and strategically planted foliage, each house features maximum cross ventilation, ceiling fans, high-efficiency

appliances, low-cost solar water heaters, low-volume toilets and reduced-flow showerheads, elements that should decrease utility bills by

38 to 48 percent. Throughout the site, drought

and disease resistant, low maintenance plant

species will reduce the need for pesticides and

fertilizers, while native plants will provide

habitat for local wildlife such as lizards, butterflies and birds. Green spaces comprise almost

one-third of the entire 40 acres, including

three small parks, two baseball fields and a

soccer field. Wide, shaded sidewalks, narrow

streets, easily accessible common areas

including a family resource center providing a

host of services, and bicycle paths and bicycle

Community
Commons

Future

Habitat for Humanity community in South Dade

by Pamela Gordon



Tom Wilson

Precedent setting design promises to make Jordan Commons a national model for what planners call "sustainable development."



Jack Parker

racks advocate walking and bike riding. Front porches on every home should encourage contact between neighbors.

Such precedent setting design promises to make Jordan Commons a national model for what planners call "sustainable development." Broadly translated into lay terms, sustainable means advanced planning that anticipates both the current needs of people in a community as well as the needs of future generations in the same community. FIU's Tom Wilson, who

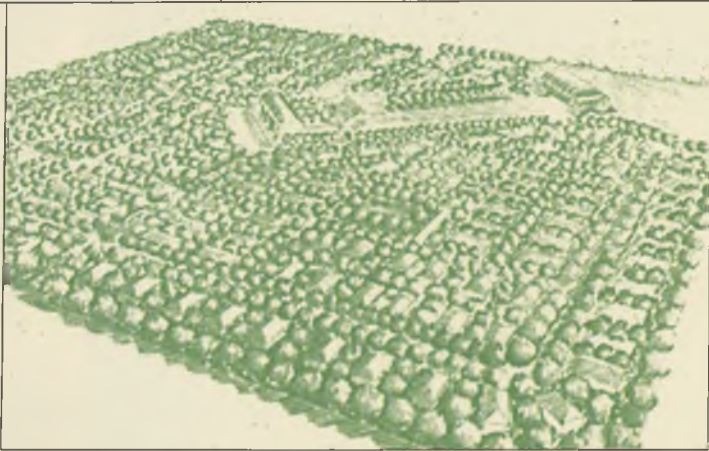
years. It's more expensive at first but it avoids the cost of a new roof in 10 to 20 years when a homeowner is still carrying a mortgage."

These state of the art measures would prove superfluous without follow-up monitoring, particularly since Jordan Commons' anticipated success stands to influence public policy on housing and community development.

According to Parker, "The Florida Solar Energy Center will install electrical and climate measurement instruments on ten houses for a year to determine energy consumption." But Parker adds that progressive design approaches are only part of the sustainable development story. Not only does "education play an extremely important role in making energy efficient techniques work," education is integral to the success of community building goals, as well. To this end, Parker and Wilson plan to offer residents an array of training courses from household conservation and financial management to recycling and nutrition.

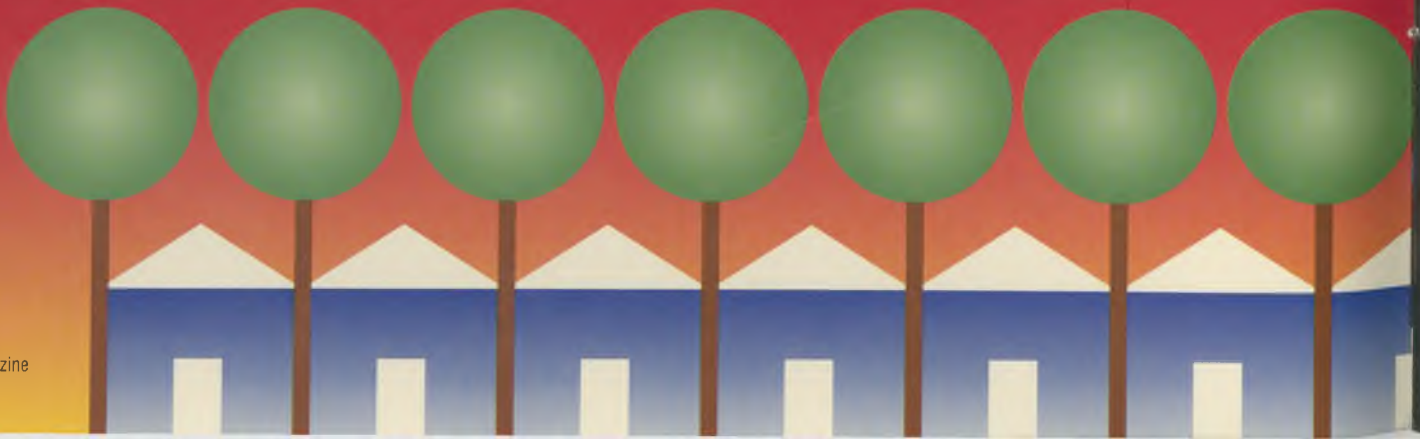
Housing advocates in South Florida and around the country will be looking to Jordan Commons to see how this is done.

"We're getting away from the era of just creating communities designed for their physical characteristics," Wilson asserts. "We're looking at the human characteristics of a neighborhood as much as possible." ■



Architectural renderings of Jordan Commons illustrate the development's extensive use of energy conserving landscaping.

worked with Habitat staff to conceive the social and economic aspects of life at Jordan Commons — including the possibility of residents running a small import-export business — gives this example: "With sustainability in mind, a planner would go with a roof that lasts 30



Breaking new ground on disposal of deadliest wastes

Research spearheaded by a professor in FIU's Department of Mechanical Engineering is developing new methods to manage perhaps the deadliest of all pollutants — **radioactive waste**.

M. A. Ebadian has been investigating the use of technologies to significantly reduce the bulk of radioactive waste and to decontaminate radioactive materials. The work of him and his colleagues has attracted considerable research support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the attention of fellow scientists in foreign countries.

"Since the DOE first began seeking scientific and technical help from FIU five years ago, we have grown increasingly toward the shared vision of, and commitment to, changing the way and rate in which this nation, this hemisphere, and this planet solve today's environmental problems," Ebadian said. "In all projects that FIU handled for DOE the attempt was to break new ground in the development of new and innovative methods for the handling and final disposition of radioactive and hazardous waste."

Earlier this year, as a result of the partnership between FIU and DOE, Ebadian was named director of the newly established Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology. The Center coordinates all activities related to the DOE-FIU partnership and focuses on environmental technology development with partners in Central, South American and the Caribbean nations.

Ebadian's work in radioactive waste management dates back to the early 1980s, when he held a summer appointment at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"When I went to the national labs I saw that this is an international problem," he explained. "I decided I wanted to be involved with applied research that could help reduce this problem."

Ebadian noted that at Oak Ridge there are five massive tanks, each with a capacity of 50,000 to 70,000 gallons, temporarily storing liquid radioactive wastes generated by laboratory research. For long-term storage, the waste is converted to a solid form by mixing it with grout and concrete — which increased its volume — and then buried at an underground site. He thought there had to be better ways to deal with the deadly materials.

In the late 1980s, Ebadian secured a project contract with Oak Ridge for a process to evaporate water from their waste storage tanks to produce a liquid concentrate form, thereby extending the deadline of reaching full storage capacity.

Two years ago, the DOE funded research on a new method, the **Nitrate to Ammonia to Boronate Process**, that can reduce the volume of waste by 50 percent. The process — the first of its kind to reduce radioactive waste to such a great extent — adds material to the contaminated waste, which is then evaporated, dried, and sintered using microwave technology.

Another research project is investigating the use of microwave technology to decontaminate radioactive surfaces, a process that could have tremendous applications in the decommissioning of nuclear reactors.

This past summer, researchers in the Mechanical Engineering Department conducted tests on the seven leading commercial technologies used to decontaminate structural steel. It was the first comparative analytical testing focused on surface blasting decontamination technologies in the U.S.

FIU researchers worked closely with officials on the DOE's Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), a contractor-operated facility located outside Cincinnati, Ohio. FEMP produced high-purity uranium metal products for the DOE and its predecessor



Ali Ebadian, professor of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology.

agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, from 1952 to 1989. The federal government is now in the process of dismantling the facility and environmentally restoring the site.

During the dismantling process at FEMP, approximately 15,000 tons of contaminated structural steel will be generated from more than 200 buildings and other structures at the site. Most of the steel's surface layer is radioactive and must be decontaminated in order to safely recycle the remainder of the material.

The seven surface blasting decontamination technologies tested at FIU include ultra-high pressure water, high pressure water, ice, sponge, plastic, steel shot and carbon dioxide pellet.

A group of DOE officials and industry representatives toured the testing facility at FIU to learn more about how the test results may be applied to government and industry needs.

Ron Hinds, who is charged with securing technology to clean up radioactive waste at the DOE's Savannah River Site, commented, "FIU can do in a few weeks what it takes us years to do. FIU has developed an outstanding capability."



Philip Stoddard

Anim

FIU scientist studies electric fish to unlock

They're electric knife fish, small, elegant cousins of the notorious electric eel.

They only come out at night. So Philip Stoddard, assistant professor of Biological Sciences at FIU, keeps unusual hours.

They're electric knife fish, small, elegant cousins of the notorious electric eel. The size and shape of a French paring knife, the fish generate tiny electric pulses to sense nearby objects and to communicate among themselves in the dark waters of neotropical forests and savannas. And due to their nocturnal lifestyle, Stoddard spends his evening hours — often past midnight into the wee hours of the morning — conducting research on the fish's communication systems.

It requires a complicated laboratory set-up. A jerry-built "tent" of PVC and black plastic sheeting in his lab provides the fish with a comfortable atmosphere of total darkness, illuminated only with an infrared light that they cannot see. A video camera within the tent records their movements while an electrode in the tank measures the electrical signals they generate. These are hooked up to a video recorder, computers, oscilloscope and an audio monitor.

Although the fish are silent, a steady buzz emanates from the audio speaker as the electronic monitor converts the fish's electric pulses into an audible signal. The buzz changes pitch and Stoddard's eyes dart to the computer screen, the video screen, and last to the oscilloscope. He is checking to see if the signal is unique and what the fish are doing.

Bats, barn owls, and electric fish are the big three for scientists investigating neural networks in vertebrate animals. Stoddard's research

focuses on two questions: the evolutionary origins of communication and the neural mechanisms of sensory processing. His abiding interest in these topics dates back to his youth in the Maryland suburbs outside Washington, D.C.

As far back as he can remember, Stoddard has been fascinated by animals and their unique behaviors. As a youngster, his household

menagerie of pets included typical birds, rodents, dogs and cats, as well as turtles, lizards, frogs, newts, a skunk and lots of snakes. His budding interest in the ways of animals, particularly birds, intensified when he went to wildlife camp in West Virginia. He participated in the bird-banding sessions offered as one its activities.

"It was a real thrill to get a warm, little pulsing bird in your hand," he said. "So here I had a way to catch birds and it was a helluva lot of fun. So that inclined me toward birds — that and the fact that on a good day I could see 100 species of birds."

After receiving a bachelor's degree in biology from Swarthmore College (where he developed a special interest in bird migration) and working for a year for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stoddard attended the University of Washington in Seattle where he studied for a Ph.D. in animal behavior.



al Talk

by Todd Ellenberg

ck mysteries of communication evolution

Color animations
of a fish's
electric field
— visualized
electric auras
with a known
biological origin
and purpose —
reveal unseen
complexity in
the electric field
geometry that
had confused
scientists since
the study of
electric fish
began in the
mid-1950s.

During his nine years in Seattle, Stoddard was scooped on his first two dissertation projects before settling into a productive research program on communication in birds. He and his advisor found that species breeding in dense colonies have evolved special abilities for recognizing individual family members, an ability that humans take for granted but which is unusual among birds.

Stoddard discovered that a classic colonial breeder, the cliff swallows of San Juan de Capistrano fame, produce individually distinctive vocalizations that let them recognize a family member in a colony of 10,000. To humans, however, each bird sounded nearly the same. Studying these vocalizations, Stoddard became intrigued with apparent differences between the perceptual capabilities of human and avian listeners.

want to say something to it like, 'Come mate with me' or 'Get the hell off my territory.' You've got to focus your signal into the sensory band of your listener — and that sensory band has been guided by food and predation. Of course, you don't want to sound like food necessarily and you probably don't want to sound like a predator, but at least you want to get the attention of your listener by honoring that sensory bandwidth."

To further his work in this area, Stoddard turned his focus to neurophysiology and electric fish as research subjects. In 1990, he secured a postdoctoral position in the Section of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University, where in-depth research on the fish has been conducted. Stoddard came to FIU in 1993, and is currently engaged in several projects relating to the electrosensory system of electric fish.

With funding from the FIU Foundation, Stoddard is studying the way electric fish "see" by using their electric fields. His first summer at FIU, Stoddard collab-

He's farming electric fish on a roof

"In the process of asking how a bird call sounds to a bird, we realized that we had to be able to talk with the birds interactively," Stoddard recalled. "So I put together a computer that could reproduce bird calls, and I made a little birdie keyboard using vibration sensors that the bird could operate."

Talking with swallows across a computer interface, the scientist learned that birds and people listen for different acoustic features and that the vocal signals are far more flexible in the face of natural selection than is auditory perception. So began Stoddard's fascination with the coevolution of signals and perception, the theme that led him into studies of electric fish.

"It occurred to me that maybe the sensory system could guide the evolution of the signal system. My logic was that sensory systems initially evolved to help find stuff to eat and to avoid becoming someone else's dinner. Before a particular communication system existed, members of a species had some initial sensory biases to the signal characteristics of food and predators.

"Imagine some protospecies out there looking out for predators and food, and you

orated with researchers at the California Institute of Technology to make detailed measurements of the electric fields generated by different species of electric fish. The results were color animations of the fish's electric field, visualized electric auras with a known biological origin and purpose.

"For the first time we are able to see the electrical fields of these fish," Stoddard explained. "The fish turns on a little column of electrocytes in its body and puts out an electric field. It's just like putting a battery in the water, because current flows from one end of the battery to the other end of the battery — and so it is with the fish. So if there's an object in that return path it makes an electric 'shadow.'"



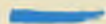
Stoddard also continues to study how sensory systems have guided the evolution of signal systems, this time with the electric sense instead of audition. According to Stoddard, all living things produce weak electric fields, and in water the electric field strays outside the organism. The structures and capacity to detect these electric fields — electroreception — was the ancestral vertebrate condition. The first electric fish capitalized on their electroreceptive capability by generating low frequency signals that enabled detection of objects. The problem was, however, that their predators could also detect their electric signals.

Predatory catfish and electric eels are close relatives of the electric knife fishes and share their sensitivity to low frequency electric fields.

“The best way to fix a problem like this was to make their signal undetectable to the predators.” Stoddard explained. “The group I study shortened their signal duration to raise its frequency. They also evolved a compensatory signal in the tail that masks the low frequency energy generated by the rest of the electric organ. These two adaptations mask the signal from predators — the original stealth technology.”

To go along with a higher frequency signal, the fish split their electrosensory systems in two, retaining the ancestral low frequency system and evolving a new high frequency system to go with the new signal.

In addition to his work with electric fish, Stoddard has some ongoing research on birds: one project is studying how birds determine the distance of sound and another is focused on peregrine falcon migration through the Florida Keys. He’s also farming electric fish on the roof of Owa Ehan at FIU’s University Park campus; since the fish are indigenous to South America, he’s become the largest supplier to other researchers throughout the country.

Looking back on his research accomplishments to date and his goals for the future, Stoddard said he would be “satisfied with trying to discover and illustrate the basic principles underlying the evolution of communication.” To which he wistfully added, “I got into this business to spend as much time as I could outdoors. Now I spend most my time indoors in a laboratory. 



top at FIU.



Excerpt from

EXPECT

The Miraculous Things That Happen to Ordinary People

by Dan Wakefield

Introduction Accepting Miracles

Sirens wailed and red lights flashed in the dark of four o'clock in the morning. I crawled from a car that a friend had just driven head-on into a cement retaining wall on an S-curve in south Chicago. Barry had a skull fracture and was still unconscious as I listened to the doctors calling to him while they worked through the night to try to save his life. As the passenger beside him in a car that was moving forty miles an hour when it hit, I "should have been killed," according to one of the policemen who first arrived on the scene. Yet all I had suffered at first glance was a broken thumb. "Your son is lucky," the attending doctor told my parents with a jolly laugh when they arrived from Indianapolis the next day. "He can go home this afternoon."

When I complained that my back hurt so badly it felt like it was on fire, the doctor shrugged it off with the diagnosis that my discomfort must be from "sleeping in a strange bed." When taken to emergency the night before, I had said my shoulder hurt, so they had taken an X ray of it; but nothing appeared to be wrong. Now my worried parents insisted on a further examination, and after a full set of X rays was taken, two doctors and a nurse

came running toward my bed with sandbags and pulleys, shouting, "Don't move!"

I was put into traction, where I would remain immobilized for the next three months. The X rays revealed a broken and dislocated fifth cervical vertebra. Had I jerked my head strongly to the left or right, I could have been killed or paralyzed from the waist down. That I was going to emerge unscathed, after walking around at the scene of the crash, walking in to emergency, getting into bed, tossing and turning in sleep, waking and sitting up, and moving around for more than twelve hours without restraint or caution was "a miracle," the doctors said.

Oh yeah? "Miracles" weren't part of my vocabulary as an Ivy League intellectual, a freshly minted collegiate atheist, with a head full of Sartre's nothingness and Hemingway's anti-prayer "Our nada, who art in nada." Miracles were part of the unenlightened understanding of my middle-class, middle-western parents, part of the world I'd left to go East to college and now scorned. I called it "lucky" and attached the same term to the full recovery of my friend who was driving the car, after he lay unconscious for sixteen

A MIRACLE

days. I managed to turn our good fortune around to a negative interpretation more appropriate for my sophisticated image as a college wise guy: "If we really were lucky, we wouldn't have been in an accident at all!"...

...I had to dismiss the "miracle" talk, which didn't jibe with my brash new skepticism. After all, I reasoned, no force had snatched me out of the way, no voice (that I heard) had told me to keep myself still—I was just in a nasty accident and had the luck to get out alive and fully functional. Cursing my "bad luck" became even more intense when I was put in a body cast that went from my waist up over my head with a hole cut out for the front of my face. My forehead and most of my cheeks and chin were covered by the plaster. The most terrifying part of this was not primarily the confinement (though that was frightening enough, especially when the hot plaster was wrapped tightly over me the first time), but even more the fact that I wouldn't be able to wash my face for three months. My parents worriedly warned me that our family doctor confirmed what I already feared: The acne that tormented and depressed me through high school and college (so deeply troubling it led to thoughts of suicide) would inevitably grow worse with my skin encased in plaster, without soap or water or even air to reach it for this extended length

of time. I had nightmares of how awful I would look when the cast was removed, and I braced myself, fearing the worst.

Knowing my anxiety, my parents came to be with me when the cast was removed, and when the plaster was cut away from my face, they gasped. My God, was it even worse than they expected? There were tears in their eyes. The doctor handed me a mirror. I looked to see my face, uncovered. It was clear. For the first time since the acne erupted with a vengeance during my freshman year in high school, seven years before, it was gone. It would never really bother me again. In some unforeseen way, some way not explainable by physical, medical knowledge, coming as the result of a circumstance anticipated to make matters worse, the scourge that darkened my adolescence and early youth was suddenly removed.

The word miracle flashed in my mind. I didn't speak it out loud, though, even then. It was 1953. My heroes were Hemingway and Fitzgerald (who declared "all wars fought, all Gods dead" when his own generation came of age in the twenties), and I didn't want to be square. But miracles were still familiar to me, part of my heritage.

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Excerpt from
DEAL TO DIE FOR

by Les Standiford

CHAPTER 16

A light rain had drifted in off the Atlantic, slowing traffic so that it was nearly an hour before he found his way to Barbara's place, a rented cottage on the back end of a once-grand property on Commercial Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. What must have been one estate among many was flanked these days by a strip shopping center and a series of used car lots. The former main house had been converted to a set of offices that held an insurance agent and a direct mail advertiser. The broad lawn had gone bare in spots, the ancient fruit trees were scraggly, the driveway crumbling.

Deal swung the Hog around a fender-bender that seemed to have involved a pick-up and an ancient VW van, then made a right into the drive. A wrecker lit up like something from a flying saucer movie had arrived at the scene of the accident behind him, and Deal spotted the lane that led off to the rear in its glare.

As he moved further along, he noted that the back end of the property had maintained some of its original charm. The drive changed from asphalt to crackling white shells and curled under a thick canopy of banyan limbs and ficus, giving out in a leaf strewn parking area beside an old Florida cracker house with a wraparound porch and a steep-pitched tin roof, a dim yellow lamp burning at the entry, another alive in one of the inside rooms.

Despite the questionable neighborhood, Barbara felt safe. "Nobody even knows there's a house back here," she'd told him more than once. And the rent, by South Florida standards, was a joke.

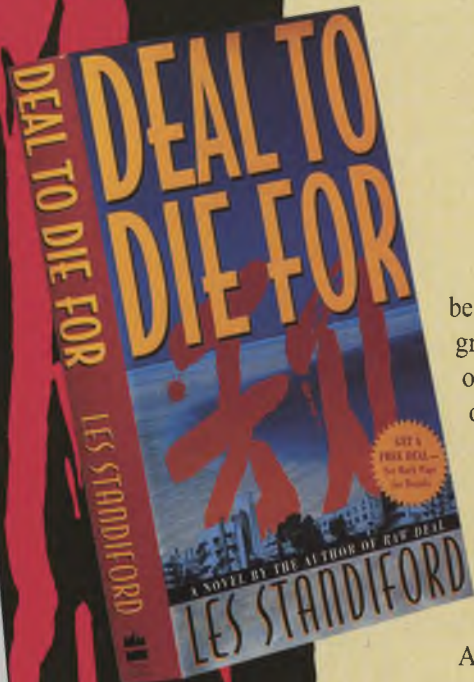
Deal got out of the Hog and stood in the shelter of the great trees, hesitating, listening to the hiss of the rain in the leaves. Except for that sound, and the distant crackle of the wrecker truck's CB, it was quiet, the essence of peacefulness. Maybe she'd fallen asleep, he thought.

He swung the door of the Hog closed and kicked through the shoals of fallen leaves to the front stoop. He knocked firmly on the wooden screen of the porch, listened to the sound die away, knocked a second time. He called her name, then, feeling the first stirrings of concern.

The screen gave at his touch, as did the inner door. He was inside the living room then, his eyes drawn toward the lamp that tilted crazily in a far corner. He saw the streaks on the walls first, and found himself thinking someone had started to paint.

Then, his feet caught on something beneath him, and he stumbled. He tried to catch his balance, but the floor seemed as though it had been greased. His feet flew out from under him, and he felt a painful crack as his elbow landed on something hard.

It seemed, as his eyes adjusted to the dim light, like a series of terrible snapshots slowly fitting together into one awful whole: one hand reached beneath him, groping for the thing he had fallen upon — some rock, some bookend, something tossed aside — and, finding it, raised a pistol into view; at the same time, the paint-splattered walls, lit in random shafts from the tumbled lamp, came into focus as the blood drenched backdrops that they were; and the last, of course, was the worst — turning, knowing, even before his eyes confirmed it, the awfulness of what had thrown him to the floor.



[focus on life's seedy side]. Between the three of us there are three distinct categories of writing lumped as 'South Florida crime' for the convenience of book seller organization."

Merited or not, the image of FIU as a "suspense and crime fiction" school may be hard to shake. In this "perfectly seasoned" city, the legacy of Miami Vice dies hard. Maybe that's not all bad.

"The publishing world eats it up, there's lots of money in it," says Bob Shacochis, one of Florida's most acclaimed writers. "If you carve out a niche for yourself it's fine, though in the purest sense it can work against you." Shacochis alludes to an elitist "clubhouse" epicentered in New York and says that FIU, like everybody else outside of the Big Apple, is barred at the door.

Shacochis, who's taught at programs around the country and most recently at Bennington College in Vermont, describes FIU as a "quiet, respectable program" and tops among its state brethren. Still, he says, a program is only as strong as its students.

"There's no question that students here are as good if not better than anybody," says poet McGrath. Their wide range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, he says, contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of the program. McGrath points out that VOX, the FIU literary magazine, won an honorable mention last year in the Best Undergraduate Literary Journal Competition sponsored by the Associated Writing Programs.

Wakefield returns to Miami and FIU's working class persona. "Many are working students and therefore more serious and appreciative of what you're trying to do. When students enter programs right out of high school or have their way paid all the way and haven't been out in the world, they take things for granted." He echoes the wide diversity in students, themes and writing styles as evidence of a vibrant program. "A number of my students have been out of school and are working full-time jobs. In my grad seminar, I had two women in their fifties and a man in his forties, an engineer with the city. Another student works full-time as a fireman and writes of his experiences; one Cuban-American writes about the pressures between the Cuban

and Anglo communities; and another woman writes about AIDS. There's great diversity. For some younger students, who can only write about when they first fell in love, this range of experience is helpful."

So roll up your sleeves, FIU's is a demanding program. Students must complete 48 credit hours to earn their MFA, a terminal, or top of the line, degree. Three years are needed to finish, two for classes and one to produce a thesis, a book-length manuscript of professional — read publishable — quality.

"That allows us to make sure that people take writing workshops and enough English and literature classes so that when they get out and go looking for jobs that they can actually go in and teach an Intro to Lit or Composition Class," Standiford explains.

"You come to FIU you're going to learn all about plots and characters and marketplace with Jim Hall and Les. With John Dufresne and Lynne Barrett you get intricacies of the short story and novel. With me you talk about poetry," says Campbell McGrath. "The students are well rounded. They get the literary tools to make a superior product. Whatever you come to do you're going to get it all. Lots of people are writing thrillers, but the 'Miami thriller' stands out because it's a thriller with good characters, dialogue and plot."

Despite the payoffs of camaraderie, training, and insight, Standiford reiterates a former instructor's "great and wonderful" operable advice, a litmus test for students who want to know if they should dedicate themselves to the daunting task of writing today.

"Quit if you can. And that's not as negative as it sounds because if you can quit, you shouldn't be doing this. There's no practical reason for wanting to be an artist. Any kind of success is wonderful.

"No teacher has any business going out there and trying to convince people to become a performing artist. It's something you can't help but do. Once you make that decision, then you look around and say: 'Where should I go? How can I develop this talent? Where can I go to study so I can hone this gift, or indulge this urge that just won't leave me alone?'"

LES is more

Les Standiford grew up in a working class family and "gravitated naturally" toward books and the libraries of his small Ohio town.

"It seemed as though I always wrote, but I thought it was something everyone did as part of a well rounded life."

He attended the Air Force Academy, then earned a B.A. in psychology and literature. Dissatisfied with law school and graduate psychology, Standiford talked his way into a creative writing class at Ohio State. Bob Canzoneri, whom Standiford hails as the first "to indicate I had any kind of talent as a writer," urged him to attend a writing conference.

After attending a summer conference in Utah, Standiford enrolled in their writing program in the fall, "got a lab retriever, an apartment on the side of the mountain, and never looked back."

He taught writing at University of Texas at El Paso, then a two-year stint in Hollywood at the American Film Institute where he studied "film noire," a genre of film shot in dark, somber tones that depicts life's seedy side, and the basis for his later writing success. On the eve of returning to UTEP, an old grad school colleague called.

When FIU opened in 1973, James Hall was on hand to teach creative writing. In 1981, he offered Standiford a "Prince and Pauper" proposition: "Take my classes, home and car; I'll take yours." "Jim's line is that nobody knew the difference," Standiford laughs today.

By the mid-80s, FIU still lacked a formal writing program. A few potential directors had sifted through. None stuck. Standiford's wife, Kimberly, originally from Miami, was pregnant. He had grown "tired of the desert." Miami had its draw. He arrived in 1985, charged with getting the program off the ground, and spent three-plus years embroiled in the agonizing process of accrediting the graduate program with the Board of Regents. FIU's MFA Creative Writing Program opened its doors in 1989.

'This is a



Miami Police Chief Warshaw

For many young boys, the thought of being a policeman is filled with dreams of thrilling adventures found in comic books and action films.

But Donald Warshaw '75, chief of the City of Miami Police Department, says that as a kid growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., he never thought of becoming a cop. "It never crossed my mind," he casually remarked.

Actually, it was a chance set of circumstances that led Warshaw on the path that would culminate in his leading one of the nation's largest police forces.

"In 1972, after I was here (in Miami) for a few months,

I decided it was time to find a job," he explained. "So I started looking for a job, and one day I saw an ad in *The Miami Herald* that said the city of Miami was looking for police officers. So I decided, 'Why not?' It sounded like something different. I'd give it a try."

Although he never planned to enter law enforcement, it's obvious that Warshaw truly loves his work, his city and his colleagues. And after chatting with the gregarious chief for a few minutes, it becomes more apparent why he found a home in the police department.

A former computer programmer, Warshaw owned an

Lieutenant Kevin McKinnon (left) and Officer Joe Bradwell (center) chat with Miami Police Chief Donald Warshaw.

Business'

FIU alumnus aims to change public perceptions on crime

executive recruiting firm, which dealt primarily with the placement of high-level data processing executives. After less than four years, Warshaw closed his Madison Avenue company. He'd had enough of the fast paced New York scene and moved to Miami in late 1971. A few months later he was working at the police department.

"I liked it right away," Warshaw said, pointing out that he was attracted by the interpersonal and community service aspects of the job. "I'm a people kind of person, that's who I am."

After two years as a street cop, Warshaw was approached in 1974 to get involved in the department's new Public Service Aide Program, a federally funded project to hire young interns who would handle non-enforcement duties. The program became a national model for police interns and provided a start for some staffers who are now majors on the force.

During the mid-70s, Warshaw found time to return to college, taking advantage of a federal program that paid full tuition for police officers. He received his bachelor's degree from FIU in 1975.

"Everybody in the Miami Police Department was in FIU back then," he commented.

Warshaw then spent several years handling a variety of administrative duties, and in 1984 he was promoted to major, a position in which he oversaw the business management section. He served as assistant chief of the Administrative Division before being tapped for the top spot last year.

"In my opinion, you can't do this job right unless you have a full understanding that this is a business," he asserted. "This is a business with a budget in excess of \$100 million. If you don't understand budget, if you don't understand hiring, if you don't understand labor, if you don't understand those aspects of how to run a major organization, you're going to fail."

Since becoming chief, Warshaw has focused on several key priorities, including boosting department morale and expanding community policing programs. There's been a renewed emphasis on expanding the city's Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) program,

which offers a variety of services at neighborhood centers and helps area residents become more familiar with local officers. He's also been having regular breakfast meetings with randomly selected rank-and-file officers, offering them the opportunity to voice their concerns and gripes.

"I've encouraged staff people to go to the roll calls, become visible and open up the lines of communication," he explained. "This is a stressful job. There's frustration in being a street cop. If you don't give people an outlet to vent and don't give them a chance to share in the decision making, their frustration level goes even higher. If we can make the work environment more pleasant, you can bring the stress level down."

In addition to the ongoing challenges of running a department of 1,500 employees (1,100 sworn officers and 400 other employees) and preserving public safety, Warshaw would like to help change public misperceptions on crime which he believes are fueled by the media.

"It's a lot safer to walk on the streets of Miami than it is in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit," he said. "Because we're a tourist destination and because there's so much national and international focus on Miami, when anything happens here it's blown up tremendously. This is not necessarily out of proportion because it happens to a tourist. The death of anyone is not minor. But, of course, when a tourist dies in

"Everybody in the Miami Police Department was in FIU back then."

New York City it's not even in *The New York Times*. So it is as safe or safer here than anyplace else in the world as far as I'm concerned.

"Crime stats don't always tell the whole story. There's no comparison between the quality of life down here and some of those other cities. We have crime like other places, we have to deal with it, we have to make the streets safer, we have to deal with juvenile crime, and all the things that they're dealing with elsewhere. But we take a bad rap at times. Miami is a very exciting and vibrant, wonderful place."

High school coaching legend

Whole lotta

by Pedro F. Fontebao



It was 1973. A handful of kids played basketball in the Tin Gym, an affectionate nickname for the old Tamiami Airport airplane hanger which served as FIU's indoor basketball court on the west side of campus.

It was a scrappy bunch that called themselves the FIU Basketball Club. One player, in particular, always had an opinion on how things should have been done. One day, the coach finally turned to this youngster and said "Son, if you know so much, then maybe you should be coaching this team."

Well, 22 years later the scrappy kid from Little Havana is coaching the team. This past March 20, at a press conference attended by more than 100 fans and media, FIU named that kid as its new head coach for men's basketball.

Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez, a national high school coaching legend and graduate of FIU, finally made the leap into Division I college basketball. Rodriguez had long been sought as an assistant coach by many of the nation's elite college programs. But the 43-year-old said he would not leave Miami.

"I wanted to stay in Miami with my family. I didn't want to go all over the country. Besides, I had a great program at Miami High. I would not have left Miami High, except to be a head coach at a Division I university in Miami," said Rodriguez, who received his bachelor's degree in 1975 from FIU's College of Education. "Obviously, that only left me two options. I'm very happy it was my alma mater."

Rodriguez, who was given the nickname of "Shakey" by his high school coach because he wouldn't stand still during practice, became the Golden Panthers' third head coach since

#12 - Shakey Rodriguez, Miami Senior High



#12 - Shakey Rodriguez



FIU Basketball Club (Shakey is front and center.)



back at his alma mater

'Shakey' goin' on

the program began in 1981 under Rich Walker. He replaces Bob Weltlich, who resigned at season's end in March. Weltlich left FIU after five years and a 59-84 record.

In Rodriguez, FIU landed a coach that is not only a proven winner on the court, but who has a great following in the community among fans and media.

"I believe Coach Rodriguez brings the total package to FIU basketball: Xs and Os, public relations, marketing, recruiting and a commitment to excellence," said FIU Athletic Director Ted Aceto.

Others also are excited about Coach Rodriguez. "I know it's the perfect fit for FIU," said Ramon Usategui, a senior vice president at SunTrust who is the president of the Golden Panther Club. "He's a community guy and the one person we need to motivate people to support men's basketball."

The Cuban-born Rodriguez was considered among the best two high school coaches in the nation. His varsity record in 14 seasons is an incredible 428-62, a winning percentage of 87.3. During that period, his teams averaged 90 points per game and mastered the three-point shot, along with playing full-court pressure defense.

"My style of coaching won't change," Rodriguez said. "This year's FIU team will be different from past teams. We will get up and down the court after people on defense, creating turnovers and turning them into points. On offense, we will play a fast tempo game and probably break all team records for three-point attempts and, hopefully, three-pointers made."

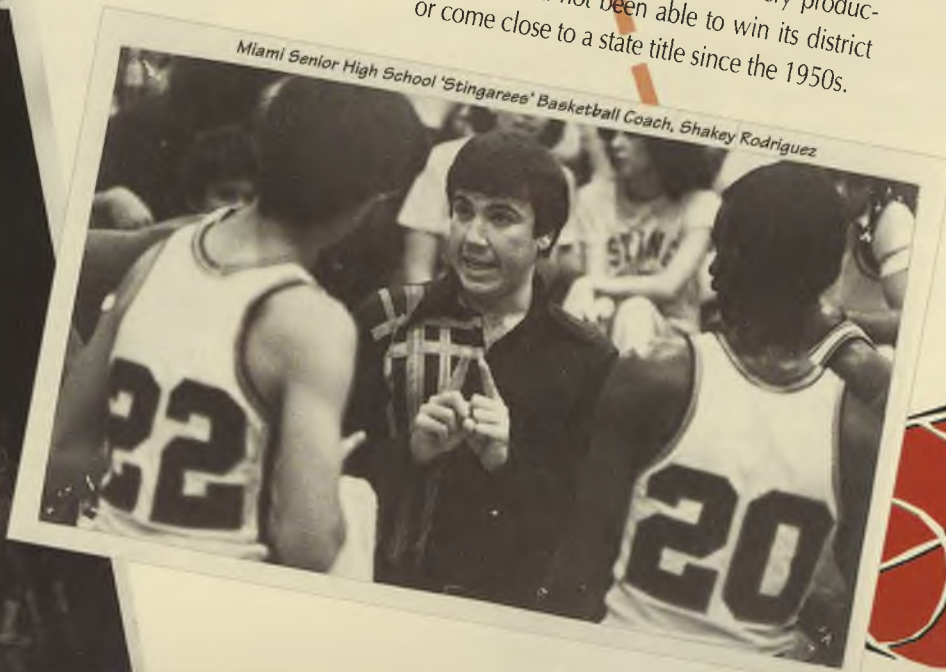
It was that type of defense-dominated, fast-breaking offense, long-distance shooting teams that Rodriguez created when he took over Miami High's program in 1981. The Stingarees' program, although a very productive one, had not been able to win its district or come close to a state title since the 1950s.

Shakey Rodriguez



FIU Basketball Coach

"to be quite honest, i would not have taken this job if i didn't expect to raise the quality of play here and take this program to the next level"



Miami Senior High School 'Stingarees' Basketball Coach, Shakey Rodriguez

rodriguez built a powerhouse.

In 14 years, Miami High rose to national prominence, being ranked in the nation's Top 10 by several national publications six times and almost won the national title in 1989, finishing second. Under Rodriguez, Miami High won five state championships (1987, '89, '90, '91, and '93). It also claimed 11 district and 11 regional titles and made seven Final Four appearances.

Rodriguez never won fewer than 21 games in a season and reached an unprecedented goal last year when his teams won 30 or more games in each of the past ten years.

He has coached six All-Americans, 10 All-State players, 22 All-Dade players and has placed 54 players in college on basketball scholarships, 17 at the Division I level. He also coached the 1988 Miami AAU team to the national title. He was selected to coach all star teams in 16 national tournaments, winning eight and finishing second in the other eight.

But the one fact that Rodriguez is most proud of is that every player he ever coached, the stars and the reserves, was admitted to colleges or universities.

This past season may have been Rodriguez' finest when he took a team of sophomores and one senior and upset highly-ranked Norland and Northwestern in the high school playoffs before losing in a state semifinal by three points. Rodriguez was recognized in June by *The Miami Herald* as its outstanding Coach of the Year, only the second time *The Herald* has ever given the award. Previously, Rodriguez was awarded Dade County Coach of the Year honors by *The Miami News* in 1982 and 1986.

It is that kind of success that Rodriguez intends to bring to FIU.

"To be quite honest, I would not have taken this job if I didn't expect to raise the quality of play here and take this program to the next level," Rodriguez said. "I believe FIU can become the dominant team in its conference. We should strive to be at the point where our men's basketball team reaches post-season play every year."

Rodriguez has the tough task of following last season's Cinderella finish by the men's team. Despite finishing the regular season at 8-18, the Golden Panthers shocked three opponents and won the conference postseason tournament.

The victory qualified the men's basketball team for its first NCAA tournament. The Golden Panthers luck ended, however, when they were seeded last in a field of 64 teams and were sent to the West Regional at Boise, Idaho to play No. 1 ranked, and eventual national champion, UCLA. FIU lost 92-56.

Unfortunately for Rodriguez and FIU, star forward James Mazyck, who averaged 16.4 points and 5.8 rebounds, and five other seniors played their final game in Boise.

Rodriguez inherited three freshmen recruits, signed to early scholarships by former coach Weltlich. Rodriguez was able to sign one other freshman and one junior college transfer.

"There is a good group of kids here, especially the freshmen, and I believe they will be a tough team to contend with come postseason tournament time," Rodriguez said. "For now, though, this will be a young team that will learn as it goes along. They are going to learn a lot, but mostly they are going to learn to be winners."

Pedro F. Fonteboa is FIU's assistant athletic director for development. He was previously a sports writer for 15 years for The Miami News, The Miami Herald and Associated Press. He currently remains an active correspondent with The Miami Herald and AP.

1995-96 FIU Women's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 24	INDIANA STATE	5:00 pm
Nov. 25	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	5:00 pm
Nov. 29	at Wake Forest (WAXY)	7:30 pm
Dec. 9	SOUTH FLORIDA	2:00 pm
Dec. 16	at Miami (WAXY)	7:00 pm
Dec. 18	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	7:30 pm
Dec. 29-30	at Red Storm Invitational	
Dec. 29	FIU vs. James Madison	2:00 pm
Dec. 30	St. John's vs. Colorado State	4:00 pm
Dec. 30	Consolation/Championship	2/4:00 pm
Jan. 2-4	FIU SUN & FUN CLASSIC	
Jan. 2	FIU vs. Murray State	6:00 pm
Jan. 3	Ga Southern vs. So Miss	8:00 pm
Jan. 6	Consolation/Championship	6/8:00 pm
Jan. 11	at Florida Atlantic*	5:30 pm
Jan. 11	at Mercer*	5:30 pm
Jan. 13	at Georgia State*	12:00 Noon
Jan. 18	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	6:45 pm
Jan. 20	SE LOUISIANA* (WAXY)	2:00 pm
Jan. 25	at Central Florida*	5:15 pm
Jan. 27	at Stetson*	5:15 pm
Feb. 1	CAMPBELL*	7:30 pm
Feb. 3	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON*	2:00 pm
Feb. 8	GEORGIA STATE* (WAXY)	7:30 pm
Feb. 10	at Jacksonville State*	4:00 pm
Feb. 15	STETSON*	7:30 pm
Feb. 17	CENTRAL FLORIDA*	2:00 pm
Feb. 22	at College of Charleston*	7:00 pm
Feb. 24	at Campbell*	2:00 pm
Mar. 2	FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	2:00 pm
Mar. 7-9	at TAAC Tournament (WAXY)	

*Trans America Athletic Conference opponent • (WAXY) broadcast game on WAXY, 790 AM • Home games appear in bold face.

1995-96 FIU Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 25	PALM BEACH ATLANTIC	7:30 pm
Nov. 28	at Florida State (TV)	7:00 pm
Dec. 2	at Fairleigh Dickinson	7:30 pm
Dec. 4	at Virginia Commonwealth	7:00 pm
Dec. 9	BARRY	7:30 pm
Dec. 16	LIBERTY	2:00 pm
Dec. 20	NORTHEASTERN	7:30 pm
Dec. 27	Columbia (Orange Bowl Classic)	7:00 pm
Dec. 30	FORDHAM	7:30 pm
Jan. 2	at Evansville	8:05 pm
Jan. 4	at Southeastern Louisiana*	8:15 pm
Jan. 6	CENTENARY*	7:30 pm
Jan. 11	at Georgia State*	7:15 pm
Jan. 13	at Mercer*	7:45 pm
Jan. 18	CAMPBELL*	8:30 pm
Jan. 20	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON*	7:30 pm
Jan. 25	at Stetson*	6:00 pm
Jan. 27	at Central Florida* (TV)	2:00 pm
Feb. 1	at Florida Atlantic*	7:30 pm
Feb. 3	SAMFORD*	7:30 pm
Feb. 5	JACKSONVILLE STATE*	7:30 pm
Feb. 10	FLORIDA ATLANTIC*	7:30 pm
Feb. 15	at College of Charleston*	7:00 pm
Feb. 17	at Campbell*	2:00 pm
Feb. 22	CENTRAL FLORIDA* (TV)	7:30 pm
Feb. 24	STETSON*	7:30 pm
Feb. 29	at TAAC Tournament	7:30 pm
Mar. 1-2	at TAAC Tournament	

*Trans America Athletic Conference opponent • (TV)-Sunshine Network Telecast • Home games appear in bold face.



A message from the Alumni Affairs Director...



Eduardo "Eddie" Hondal

Congratulations are in order for our alma mater. FIU received its first national university category ranking in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual report on "America's Best Colleges." What an impact FIU made! The national university category is made up of some 225 private and public universities. The rankings are determined by analysis of six distinct attributes: reputation, selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, retention and alumni satisfaction.

Once in this premier category, you are placed in one of four quartiles. Usually, the first time a university is ranked as a national university, it is common to be listed in the fourth quartile. However,

FIU did not follow tradition and landed solidly in the third tier. This is a great accomplishment for such a young university. As a matter of fact, FIU is the youngest institution among the top 150 national universities in the country!

Many of you may say, "Well there goes the alumni director sounding off about FIU again." To that I say, it's for the alumni's own good. Being bullish about FIU is my job, and I love doing it. I always try to communicate to our alumni the importance of increasing the value of their diplomas. Personally, I do this by proudly bragging about FIU. I talk about FIU at chamber events, Dolphin games, basketball pick-up games — and to anyone who will listen. I wear my FIU colors proudly whenever possible. My office displays my allegiances to FIU (and the Dolphins). From the perspective of those community leaders I interact with who did not attend FIU, they see my total enthusiasm about FIU and my career development. Hopefully, they conclude that FIU produces qualified professionals and FIU must be developing strong ties to garner this type of support from its alumni.

This overall positive perception of FIU increases the value of *all* our diplomas. The fervor that I always display helps spread this perception in the community. These individuals now see FIU as a thriving, valuable and productive part of the community. Imagine if 60,000 alumni were FIU zealots. Visualize the impact of all our alumni proudly displaying their support of FIU by purchasing FIU license plates, wearing FIU merchandise, displaying FIU pride in their offices through posters, paperweights, bragging about the Golden Panthers, etc.

FIU alumni continue to develop and make inroads into the senior ranks of both the private and public sector. Meanwhile, FIU continues to achieve academic recognition unprecedented for such a young university. We, as alumni, need to be aware of the role FIU has played in our careers. There are many factors that influence our professional success — and one common factor is education. The quality education provided by FIU is something we should all be proud of. Display your pride in FIU. Wear the colors, support the teams, ardently tell everyone about this special place and optimize the value of your FIU degree!

We wish all of our alumni, friends and their families a wonderful holiday season. See you in 1996!

Eduardo "Eddie" Hondal, Director, Office of Alumni Affairs

BE PART OF HOMECOMING Week

It is that time of year again!

FIU Homecoming 1996 is right around the corner! Last year was our first alumni Homecoming and it was a great success. The alumni were treated to an Alumni Career Expo, over 500 enjoyed loads of laughs with Howie Mandel in Concert at the Golden Panther Arena, and our victorious Homecoming Basketball Game featuring our NCAA-bound basketball teams.

Expect the same plus more in 1996!

This year we have scheduled:

FIU Alumni Career Expo Night

Monday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Graham Center Ballroom : Over 100 companies expected. Free for FIU Alumni Association members, \$5 for non-members. (A daytime job fair also will be held 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

FIU Homecoming Reception

Saturday, January 27, 7 p.m. - FIU Faculty Club.

FIU Panther Prowl Night

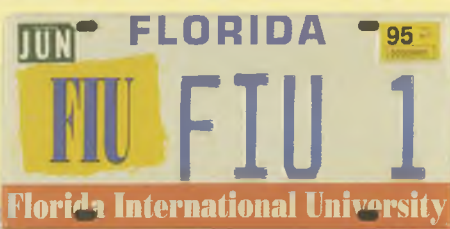
Saturday, January 27, 9 p.m., Golden Panther Arena: Featuring Allen Covert and Adam Sandler from "Saturday Night Live." FIU Alumni Association members receive two free tickets, non-members' tickets are \$10.

FIU "Road to NCAA" Night

Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m., Golden Panther Arena - FIU Women's Basketball Team vs Campbell.

All Homecoming events will be held at FIU-University Park. For more information, please call the Office of Alumni Affairs at (305) 348-3334.

more... →



FIU ALUMNI, FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS!!

Be part of our **FIU License Plate Brigade!** If you are interested in having your company or organization covered in a future Alumni News newsletter, call the Office of Alumni Affairs at **(305) 348-3334** to get more details.

The candidate organizations for the **FIU License Plate Brigade** program are:

- organizations that own or lease a minimum of 10 cars for business purposes;
- organizations located in Florida;
- organizations willing to place an FIU vehicle license plate on their company cars (minimum 10 cars).

The benefits of joining the **FIU License Plate Brigade** program:

- Free coverage for your organization in our award-winning newsletter, which is circulated to more than **60,000** alumni, boosters and friends.
- Possible tax write-off or business expense for organization (Check with your accounting department).
- Article would include a feature on your organization, picture(s), quotes from management or alumni and a phone number where potential customers can call.

This is a win-win situation. Call today! Our next newsletter will be completed soon, so hurry!

A call for action to FIU alumni!

We need your help getting FIU merchandise in South Florida stores. Beside all the benefits and services your Office of Alumni Affairs works on throughout the year for its association members, we also handle all licensing, logo and trademark issues for FIU.



We started a very successful program with Kmart this year and had hoped to continue with all the major retailers in Dade and Broward counties. However, the local retailers have not been receptive to our program. The reason for their reluctance has been the fact that the FIU community does not ask for FIU merchandise. We have explained to the retailers that the reason a majority of our 60,000 alumni, 28,000 students and 3,000 employees do not ask is that they assume the retailers do not carry it. These retail-

ers have never carried FIU merchandise before, prompting the FIU community to assume they never will.

Here is where the FIU community needs to take ACTION! While shopping, take an extra minute and ask these retailers where you can find FIU merchandise. If they tell you they do not carry it, ask them why. Inform them about the potential target market they are missing. If these retailers realize they could reach over 90,000 (60,000 + 28,000 + 3,000) consumers they would most likely reconsider. If they show interest, give them the number to the Office of Alumni Affairs (FIU-3334 or 348-3334). We will get merchandise on those shelves!

One or two people will not make a difference. One or two thousand FIU supporters will! In these times of budget cuts, we need to find alternative ways to generate scholarship dollars. Remember, for every FIU item sold, FIU receives six percent royalties from the manufacturers. The royalties go toward scholarships and programs. Please think of FIU when you shop.

Golden Panthers on the air

Once again, Golden Panther fans won't miss a shot or slam dunk this season when they follow their teams on FIU's flagship radio station in 1995-96, WAXY 790 AM.

For its second consecutive season, MZM Productions, Inc. will handle all responsibilities involving the broadcast and production of FIU Radio Sports. MZM is recognized throughout South Florida for its weekly production of the area's most comprehensive local sports program, "Sunday Night Sports Rap."

The FIU Radio Network returns for its second season with Randy Kassewitz and Ted Aceto Jr. providing the play-by-play and color. The radio team also hosts the "Shakey Rodriguez Coach's Show," featuring post-game interviews and college scoreboard updates.

Kassewitz is the former radio voice of the University of Georgia student station where he served as play-by-play announcer for Bulldog football and basketball, as well as sports anchor and talk show host. He currently serves as executive producer and field reporter for "Sunday Night Sports Rap."

Aceto enters his first full season as color commentator on FIU game broadcasts. A four-year basketball and baseball letter-winner at Bucknell University, Aceto went on to play with the New York Mets minor league organization following graduation.



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, FL 33199-0001. We love to hear how you're doing!

CULTURAL CALENDAR

THE ART MUSEUM

Neo-Dada: Redefining Art, 1958-62

The exhibition will focus on the work of European and American artists from 1958 through 1962, whose primary source of inspiration was the Dadaist movement. January 12 - February 10 (Opening: Friday, January 12, 8 p.m.)

American Art Today

An exhibition exploring the way contemporary artists interpret traditional themes. Curated by Dahlia Morgan, director of The Art Museum at FIU. February 23 - March 30 (Opening: Friday, February 23, 8 p.m.)

B.F.A. Exhibition, Spring '96

The culmination of the FIU Visual Art students' undergraduate program. April 12 - 19 (Opening: Friday, April 12, 8 p.m.)

Annual Student Show

Annual juried exhibition of FIU student works. May 10 - June 1 (Opening: Friday, May 10, 8 p.m.)

Faculty Show

Featuring the work of an FIU Visual Arts faculty member. June 14 - July 20 (Opening: Friday, June 14, 8 p.m.)

All Art Museum events are free of charge. For more information, call The Art Museum at 305-348-2890.

SGA LECTURE SERIES

James Earl Jones, award-winning actor of the stage and screen. Monday, February 19 7:30 p.m.

C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General. Monday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

All lectures are held in the Graham Center Ballroom at University Park. Free tickets will be available two weeks prior to the lecture in GC 340 at University Park. Two ticket limit per person. For more information, call 348-2137.

FIU MUSIC

The Diaz Trio with Susan Starr

Wednesday, January 24 8 p.m., Graham Center Ballroom -University Park

Sergio Schwartz, violin, and Roberta Rust, piano

Tuesday, January 30 8 p.m., Graham Center Ballroom -University Park

Susan Starr, piano
Friday, February 2, 8 p.m.
Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

Collegiate Choral Festival

Saturday, February 10 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Coral Gables Methodist Church

FVA Solo/Ens Festival

Friday (3-10 p.m.)
Saturday (8 a.m.-6 p.m.)
February 16-17
All music rooms
University Park

Diaz Trio

Thursday, February 22 8 p.m., Faculty Club
University Park

FIU Symphony Orchestra and Concerto Competition Winners

Saturday, February 24 8 p.m. Graham Center Ballroom -University Park

FIU Wind Ensemble
Monday, February 26 8 p.m.

Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

Paquito D'Rivera & the FIU Jazz Band

Monday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.
Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

Opera Workshop

Tuesday-Wednesday,
March 26-27, 8 p.m.
Location TBA

FIU New Music Ensemble

Tuesday, April 2, 8 p.m.
DM 100 - University Park

Diaz Trio, Susan Starr, Arturo Sandoval, Sergio Schwartz

Monday, April 8, 8 p.m.
Location TBA

FIU Symphony Orchestra and FIU Studio Jazz Band, with Arturo Sandoval

Tuesday, April 9, 8 p.m.
Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

FIU Men's and Women's Choir

Wednesday, April 10, 8 p.m.
Location TBA

FIU Wind Ensemble

Thursday, April 11, 8 p.m.
Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

"An Evening of Just Desserts:" Delights both musical and gastronomic, featuring the FIU Concert Choir

Friday, April 12, 8 p.m.
Graham Center Ballroom
University Park

Student Composers Concert

Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m.
DM 100 - University Park

FIU Jazz Festival

Airmen of Note
Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.
DM 100 - University Park

FIU Jazz Festival Airmen of Note & the FIU Jazz Band

Friday, April 19, 8 p.m.
AT&T Amphitheatre,
Bayfront Park, Miami

"A Grand Night for Singing:" Favorite choruses from Grand Opera and Broadway, performed by the Miami Master Chorale.

Friday, April 19, 8 p.m.
Location TBA

For ticket prices and additional information, call the FIU Music Department at 305-348-2896.

FIU THEATRE AND DANCE

The Marriage of Bette and Boo

by Christopher Durang
Feb. 15-18, 22-25
A brilliant and funny dissection of marriage and the family in contemporary America. Directed by Ken Bryant. DM 150

FIU Dance Ensemble 1996

March 6-10
Featuring FIU student dancers in works created by faculty and guest choreographers.

Dancing at Luogasa

by Brian Friel
April 6-7, 10-11-14
The wonderful sad and funny memory play about five sisters coping with spinsterhood and economic adversity in 1930s Ireland. Directed by Therald Todd.

All performances are at 8 p.m., except Sundays at 2 p.m., in the University Theatre, Viertes Haus 100, FIU-University Park, SW 8th Street and 107th Avenue, Miami. For ticket information, please call 305-348-3789.



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