

Spring 1995

Florida International University Magazine Spring 1995

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GR. 42-1

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Conquering Childhood Fears
FIU Honors Program

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Spring 1995

magazine



Haiti

How many more mango seasons?

COMBINATION

FIU Golden Panthers

Basketball teams prowl the

NThe FIU athletic program made history in March when both the men's and women's basketball teams advanced to the NCAA National Tournament. FIU was one of only 20 schools, of nearly 300 Division I basketball programs, to have both teams qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

Under the direction of outgoing head coach **Bob Weltlich**, the men's team defeated Stetson in the final regular season game to qualify for the TAAC Tournament. The men then surprised the field by winning three consecutive games in the TAAC Tournament to qualify for the "Big Dance." The Golden Panthers dropped their opening round game in the West Regional in Boise, Idaho, 92-56 against UCLA, who became the NCAA champs. FIU finished the year with an 11-19 record.

FIU became a team of destiny as last-second finishes and come-from-behind victories became the norm. In the opening round of the TAAC Tournament, **James Mazyck** scored 19 of his game-high 21 points in the second half, as FIU rallied from a nine-point deficit for a 63-56 victory. In the semi-finals, **Matt Tchir** connected on a three-point shot with four seconds remaining in overtime to lift FIU to a 65-64 victory over Southeastern Louisiana. In the finals against Mercer, FIU controlled most of the contest for a 68-57 victory, the school's first-ever TAAC Tournament Championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Mazyck was named the TAAC Tournament MVP, while Tchir and **Scott Forbes** were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

On the women's side, **Andrea Nagy** earned her fourth consecutive TAAC Tournament MVP award, as the Golden Panthers held off Southeastern Louisiana, 76-74 in the TAAC Tournament Championship Game. It was the fourth consecutive TAAC Tournament title for **Cindy Russo's** squad.

FIU opened the tournament with an 84-62 victory over the host, College of Charleston. **Albena Branzova** tallied 20 points in the victory. The Golden Panthers then defeated Campbell University, 69-48, gaining revenge for the team's only regular season conference loss.

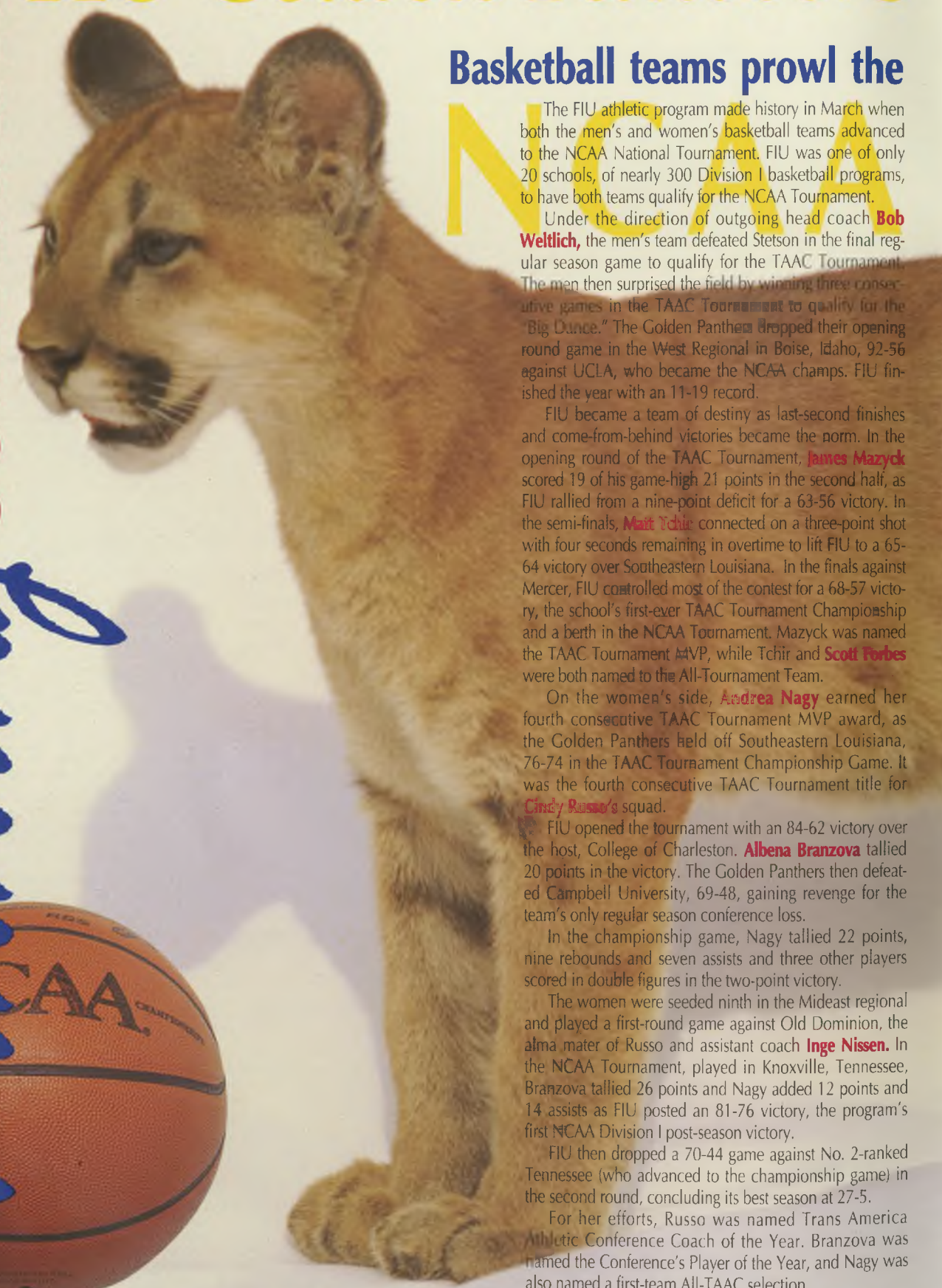
In the championship game, Nagy tallied 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and three other players scored in double figures in the two-point victory.

The women were seeded ninth in the Mideast regional and played a first-round game against Old Dominion, the alma mater of Russo and assistant coach **Inge Nissen**. In the NCAA Tournament, played in Knoxville, Tennessee, Branzova tallied 26 points and Nagy added 12 points and 14 assists as FIU posted an 81-76 victory, the program's first NCAA Division I post-season victory.

FIU then dropped a 70-44 game against No. 2-ranked Tennessee (who advanced to the championship game) in the second round, concluding its best season at 27-5.

For her efforts, Russo was named Trans America Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Branzova was named the Conference's Player of the Year, and Nagy was also named a first-team All-TAAC selection.

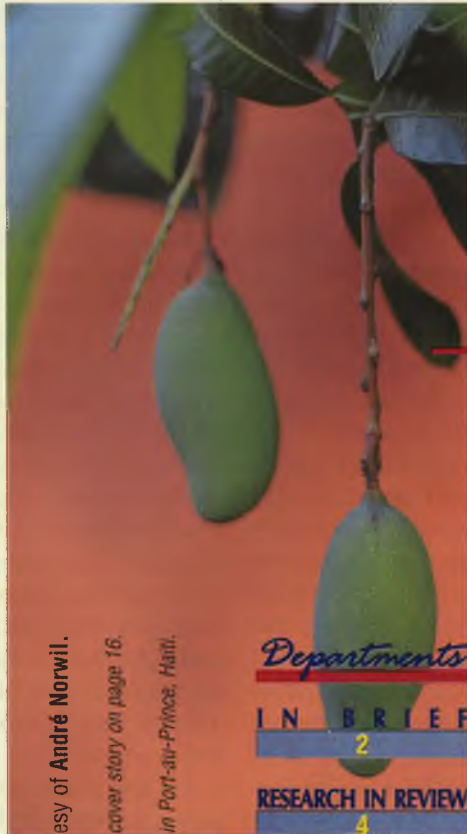
Winning



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Cover illustration: *Paradis terrestre (Paradise on Earth)* courtesy of André Norwil.

See cover story on page 16.

For more information on the artist and his work, contact the Nader Gallery in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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Editor's Note

Many of the country's most significant transformations and challenges are focused in South Florida — and the way in which our region addresses these problems may be a harbinger of the national response. By the same token, FIU is an archetype of a contemporary urban university that reflects its community and is confronting these and other complex issues with the intellectual resources that only a major university can muster.

In this issue of FIU Magazine there are several articles on such issues. Anthony Maingot, professor of Sociology and Anthropology at FIU and a highly regarded authority on the Caribbean, discusses the current political and economic climate in Haiti and its tragic implications. The FIU Leberman Center for Transportation Research is working to develop new transit systems to accommodate the ever growing number of commuters snarled on congested roadways, and the Southeast Florida Center on Aging is addressing the needs of our elderly, particularly in the area of long-term care. You'll also be afforded a glimpse of life in Florida in the 1930s and learn about a unique FIU program that represents the best in undergraduate education. And there's lots more about our faculty, students and alumni.

Just as FIU mirrors the South Florida community, we hope you'll find that FIU Magazine mirrors the spirit of our ever changing, dynamic institution.

Todd Ellenberg
 Editor

Editor Todd Ellenberg **Creative Director** Terry Witherell **Art Director** Bill Stahl **Writers** Sharon Akinde, Connie Crowther, Pedro Fonteboa, Dan Kalmanson, Susan Lichtman, Anthony P. Maingot, Steve Rios, Max P. Rothman, Victoria Stuart, Margaret Gibbons Wilson **Photographers** Gloria O'Connell, Bill Stahl, Michael Upright, George Valcarce, Terry Witherell

President Modesto A. Maidique **Vice President, University Advancement and University Budget** Paul D. Gallagher **Assistant Vice President, University Relations** Connie Crowther **Director of Publications** Terry Witherell

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WE WILL REBUILD FUNDS HURRICANE RESEARCH CENTER

The We Will Rebuild Foundation has made a gift of \$1 million to FIU to establish and endow an International Center for Hurricane Damage Research and Mitigation. The state of Florida will match the gift with an additional \$750,000.

The center will focus on developing interdisciplinary projects to promote and coordinate research related to hazard mitigation, disaster preparedness, response, recovery and redevelopment. The center will work closely with faculty at FIU, other universities and the National Hurricane Center, which recently relocated to a new building at University Park.

"On behalf of all of the donors and volunteers who supported the We Will Rebuild effort, we are pleased to create this center which will be the worldwide clearing-house and communi-

cations center for hurricane recovery and mitigation research and methods," said Rod Petrey, chairman of the We Will Rebuild Foundation.

At the March 17 luncheon held at University Park to formally announce the partnership, Petrey said that former Congressman Dante Fascell has agreed to serve as convening chair of the center's advisory board.

FIU's International Center for Hurricane Damage Research and Mitigation will continue the spirit of the work accomplished by We Will Rebuild, the local communitywide recovery organization begun after Hurricane Andrew.

"By endowing this center, We Will Rebuild has provided this community with a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations by allowing us to study the valuable recovery lessons we learned from Hurricane Andrew," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "The primary mission of the center will be to dramatically increase practical knowledge about ways to prevent and mitigate damage to human beings, structures and the natural environment caused by hurricanes."



FIU AND DOE ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE AMERICAS

Among the major issues addressed at last December's Summit of the Americas in Miami was the promotion of sustainable development while preserving the hemisphere's delicate ecosystems.

Thanks to a newly formed partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Development, FIU is poised to play a major role in the implementation of Summit accords and recommendations on the environment. The partnership focuses on innovative environmental technology development with partners in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The goal of the partnership is to strengthen the environmental technology industries of partner nations and stimulate economic growth while working to solve the environmental problems of the region.

"This partnership is important if environmental cooperation is to

become an international reality," said Clyde W. Frank, deputy assistant secretary of the DOE Office of Technology Development.

To help lead U.S. efforts in developing and exporting environmental technologies, FIU will establish a Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology on its University Park campus. Pending final Florida Board of Regents approval, the new center will become a cornerstone of FIU's College of Engineering and Design.

The center will coordinate all activity related to the DOE partnership and will serve as the primary gateway for technology transfer from the U.S. to Central and South America. The DOE has committed a minimum of \$7 million in support over the next two years and up to \$40 million over the next five years.

"The partnership between FIU and the Department of Energy to enhance the environment by improving environmental technologies may well be the most important event in the history of our engineering program," said Gordon Hopkins, dean of the FIU College of Engineering and Design. "The objectives of this partnership are clearly focused on the White House's initiative to support a sustainable hemisphere.

"I believe that as we fulfill our mission to enhance environmental technologies through research and become the Department of Energy's bridge to South America and the Caribbean, environmental research, technologies and education will flow freely between the hemispheres. Success in this endeavor will surely result in the long-term improvement of the environment for the hemispheres and economic growth for South Florida."

According to University officials, FIU is uniquely qualified to serve as the site for the international center. FIU's strategic location as well as the expertise of its faculty in the areas of hazardous waste management and environmental restoration enable it to serve as the primary source for the latest technology and information in the field.

Last year, FIU hosted several conferences dealing with environmental technology issues. At an October conference organized by the White House, "Technology for a Sustainable Future," ambassadors and scientists from several Central and South American and Caribbean countries met with DOE officials to identify environmental problems and innovative technologies. The conference enhanced participants' understanding of the environmental concerns and needs of their respective countries.



FIU RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT TO ESTABLISH NUTRITION AND AGING CENTER

Nearly three-quarters of Dade County's elderly are at-risk of malnutrition, according to a major study conducted by two Dietetics and Nutrition professors at FIU and sponsored by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Identifying the scope of the problem, however, is only part of the solution. Now, FIU professors Nancy Wellman and Dian Weddle, who conducted the study, will be able to help address this serious health issue as directors of the new National Resource and Policy Center on Nutrition and Aging based at FIU.

Following a national competition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, awarded a \$1.1 million collaborative agreement grant to FIU's College of Health for the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition to establish the nation's first National Resource and Policy Center on

Nutrition and Aging.

The center is charged with reducing malnutrition and promoting good nutritional practices among older Americans and their families. It will serve as a national source for information related to nutrition and aging and will work with the federal Administration on Aging in continuing its priority focus on the prevention of malnutrition.

"Florida is the perfect location for this national center," said Wellman, past president of the American Dietetic Association. "A quarter of Florida's population is older than age 65, double the national average. In terms of age and ethnicity, Florida reflects America's future."

The Administration on Aging established its malnutrition initiative in 1993 in response to studies indicating that one of the primary causes of premature or unnecessary institutionalization and hospitalization of the elderly is malnutrition. The federal agency also developed the malnutrition initiative to highlight home-delivered and congregate meal programs for older Americans.

Wellman and Weddle's research conducted over the past two years shows that almost three-quarters of Dade County's elderly ethnic population are at risk of

being malnourished, even though many of them receive one meal daily from federally-funded meal programs.

"We took a snapshot look at Jewish American, Hispanic American and African American elders in our study," Weddle said. "We found that, on average, 74 percent of them showed signs indicating potential for malnutrition."

Wellman and Weddle also conducted a second study for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs which indicated that 74 percent of elders in urban Dade, suburban Broward and rural Osceola counties were at risk for malnutrition.

"Even though these elders were getting one meal a day either at their home or at a publicly-funded facility, other factors affected how much of the food was actually eaten," Weddle said.

Wellman said the national center at FIU will become the premier storehouse of electronic information on nutrition and aging, as well as a high-tech training center for nutrition and aging providers.

"Elders need individualized and targeted nutrition and social services," Wellman said. "The center will mobilize efforts toward these goals."



FIU CITINGS

The question, please?

John Dufresne, assistant professor of Creative Writing and author of the critically acclaimed *Louisiana Power and Light*, on the troubled life of his novel's protagonist: "Fiction writers don't have any answers, they just have questions. I guess I believe there aren't any answers."

(Quoted in *The Houston Chronicle*, November 6)

Market politics

Lisandro Perez, director of the FIU Cuban Research Institute, on the opening of 160 farmer's markets in Cuba: "It's difficult for me to conceive that the government would actually turn back what it has instituted since October in terms of these markets without really meeting quite a bit of popular resistance and, perhaps, creating a political problem for them. So I think that they perceive that it's probably steps that are fairly irreversible."

(On National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition*, January 28)

Tax-cut fever cooling down?

"We were surprised two years ago to see a sudden shift in public attitudes; there was an increase in willingness to consider tax increases," said Douglas McLaughen, associate director of the FIU Institute for Public Opinion Research. "If you look at the economics of the middle class, I'm not sure that a \$500 tax cut is going to correct the problems these people have. I don't know that that was what they were really voting for last November."

(Quoted in Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel*, January 9)

Backyard spiritualism

"People look for spirituality elsewhere," said Nathan Katz, chair of FIU's Judaic Studies Program. "We want to show them the rich spiritual traditions right here at home." Katz, who met with the Dalai Lama four years ago, and other local Jewish leaders presented a conference at FIU on Jewish mysticism.

(Quoted in Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel*, February 3)

Calling Miss Manners

"It's an ethnic mix and a culture clash. A lot of it is communication," commented Christine Kurtz-White, director of the FIU Women's Business Development Center, on Miami's reputation as the "rudest" U.S. city. "I'd never want to go back to the way Miami used to be, with its lack of diversity and culture, even though you may pay a price."

(Quoted in *USA Today*, November 25)

What? Me Worry?

William Wilbanks, professor of Criminal Justice, commenting on how FBI national statistics paint an inaccurate picture of crime in Florida: "Does anyone seriously believe the Sun Belt cities are more dangerous than Chicago or Detroit? That's incredible."

(Quoted in *USA Today*, December 9)



TRAFFIC

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEEKS REMEDIES FOR FRUSTRATED COMMUTERS

The typical American worker drives 10 miles to work, a trip that takes about 20 minutes. Not bad, right?

Well, then consider this: The average rush hour speed on the Los Angeles expressway system is 20 miles per hour — and it is expected to slow down to 10 miles per hour in the next decade.

The situation is comparable (although perhaps not as severe) in any number of urban areas, with overcongested highway traffic slowing down to a snail's pace. The mess on the nation's highways underscores the urgency of developing new transit systems to accommodate the ever growing number of commuters.

FIU's Lehman Center for Transportation Research, established in 1993, is assuming a leadership position in developing affordable and convenient transportation solutions. Currently, the center is conducting a three-year research project, supported by \$3 million from the Federal Transit Administration, on factors influencing the successful development of intermodal guideway public transit systems. The federal project is a joint research effort with the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida. While there are other university-affiliated transportation research institutes in the country, most of them are highway-oriented and none of them are dedicated to guideway transit research.

Intermodal guideway public transit systems operate more than one mode of service with

intermodal connections between public guideway transit service and other public or private transportation service. Guideway transit systems follow a fixed guideway — such as heavy rail (Tri-Rail), light rail (Metrorail), automated guideway transit (Metromover) or trolley.

Although only five percent of American workers now use mass transit to commute to their jobs, intermodal guideway systems are being increasingly viewed as critical investments to meet the nation's growing transportation needs. In many cases, the cost of expanding freeway systems in highly developed urban areas may be prohibitive. In Miami, for instance, the cost of extending State Road 112 — a key east-west expressway — westward to the Florida Turnpike was estimated to be \$3.2 billion or \$400 million per mile.

"In order to accommodate the growing traffic demand in urban areas, we cannot keep building freeways," said L. David Shen, director of the Lehman Center and chairperson of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Issues being addressed by center faculty and projects on which they are collaborating include:

- consulting with the Florida Department of Transportation on an intermodal station two miles east of Miami International Airport which will link TriRail, Metrorail, Metromover (to the airport) and buses;
- working with transportation agencies across the nation to develop a multimodal transportation center handbook;

JAM

“IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWING TRAFFIC DEMAND IN URBAN AREAS, WE CANNOT KEEP BUILDING FREEWAYS.”

RESEARCH
in review



The Miami Herald

- consulting on the development of a guideway system in the downtown area of Manizales, Colombia;
- research on the technical aspects of intermodal systems, including their safety and security, as well as new fare structures for intermodal use;
- collecting data from cities with intermodal systems to determine riding habits and future ridership, as well as factors that will ensure the greatest success.

The overall goal of the center is to become a “one-stop” clearinghouse in the U.S. for intermodal guideway transit systems. South Florida will be a prime beneficiary since it will be able to take advantage of the center’s state of the art research and training to keep its transportation system efficient and up-to-date.

Shen believes that the key to future mass transit is the integration of different transportation systems in a coordinated network. He also noted that computerized operation of transit systems can reduce operating costs. He cited the example of the New York City subway system, in which 80 percent of operating expenses are for labor costs.

Even after new mass transit systems are introduced, the next great challenge will be to change people’s traveling habits. The average American travels 15,000 miles per year — and 90 percent of all travel is done in an automobile.

“The automobile will be very difficult to beat; but if we can increase the use of mass transit by 20 or 30 percent, we can help prevent an increase in road congestion,” Shen said.

The average rush hour speed on the Los Angeles expressway system is 20 miles per hour — and it is expected to slow down to 10 miles per hour in the next decade.



“The legal admissibility of DNA evidence is almost unquestioned now in this country, although there are a lot of smokescreens from the (Simpson) defense to discredit it,” Tracey said.

Professors Rene Herrera and Martin Tracey



‘FINGER PRINTING’

FIU faculty call for standards, certification on DNA ‘fingerprinting’

Years from now, 1995 will be remembered as the year of the O.J. Simpson murder trial. Most of us will probably recall the lurid headlines, the televised freeway excursion throughout Los Angeles in the white Bronco, or the twists and turns of the courtroom drama. But the O.J. case will also be remembered as the crime that thrust DNA “fingerprinting” into the national consciousness as a viable technique in forensic science.

Two members of FIU’s Biological Sciences faculty, Rene Herrera and Martin Tracey, are widely recognized experts in the field of DNA fingerprinting, having conducted extensive basic research on the technique and acted as expert witnesses in countless legal cases. Ironically, they have even found themselves acting as consultants on opposite sides of the same case.

“Last fall the frequency of inquiries about DNA fingerprinting increased dramatically, as well as the number of trials I’ve been involved in,” said Tracey, who served as prosecution consultant for the infamous Danny Rolling murder case in Gainesville, Florida.

“People think of DNA fingerprinting as something new, but it’s been around for quite a while in basic research,” Herrera noted. “About the time Dr. Tracey and I became quite involved with this work was when the techniques were being applied to forensics. If done properly, it allows you to unequivocally identify a person as the source of the DNA that may be evidence of a crime.”

While other genetic tests, such as blood groups and tissue matches, can exclude a suspect or suggest that he or she is guilty, DNA fingerprints can identify an individual positively by inclusion. Although it has been used by biologists and geneticists for decades to identify different species, it was first used in criminal cases in the mid-1980s.

Although people tend to associate DNA fingerprinting with the guilt of a suspect, in 30 percent of the cases in which it is used it eliminates suspects. There also are uses that the public is not as aware of: The process is used to identify the remains of unidentified bodies and in disputed paternity/maternity cases. Other potential projected applications include tagging oil tankers by putting a gallon of DNA in each vessel and storing DNA profiles of individuals in computer banks, a futuristic twist on the current cataloging of people with social security numbers.

Given the enormous implications of the technology, Herrera and Tracey believe that critical issues must be addressed. These include technique acceptance by the scientific community, technical standardization, and calculation of probabilities on the likelihood of a match between a crime-scene sample and a suspect.

“The big hang-up is the lack of national standards for crime lab testing and a certification process,” Tracey said. “This is a problem for everybody. There are national standards for medical laboratory testing, but not for crime laboratory testing.”

Herrera also believes there are serious ethical considerations.

“The fact is that the federal and state governments and the legal system are taking a very passive attitude,” he opined. “We need to acknowledge this technology which has such dramatic ramifications and can be put to either good or bad uses. It needs to be well controlled with a centralized system that conducts monitoring and ensures the right procedures so it can be applied for the good of humanity.”



WHAT WIPED OUT THE DINOSAURS?

FIU RESEARCHERS STUDY 65 MILLION-YEAR-OLD CLUES

A GIANT METEOR OR INTENSE METEOR SHOWER WAS THE CAUSE OF THE SUDDEN MASS EXTINCTION, WHICH WAS RECORDED IN ROCK 65 MILLION YEARS AGO.



TWO FIU GEOLOGISTS are uncovering answers — literally — to one of history's greatest mysteries: What caused the sudden extinction of dinosaurs on earth?

Professors Jose Longoria and Florentin Maurrasse are continuing their extensive research on sites in Mexico and Haiti where they have found physical evidence of giant extraterrestrial bodies, such as comets or meteors, that struck the planet simultaneously some 65 million years ago.

The impact of these objects caused massive fires and tidal waves and sent tremendous amounts of ash and dust into the atmosphere. These cataclysmic events darkened the skies and created a type of "nuclear winter" that decimated the dinosaurs.

In the early 1980s, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Luis Alvarez of the University of California at Berkeley first proposed the idea that a giant meteor or intense meteor shower was the cause of the sudden mass extinction, which was recorded in rock 65 million years ago. Although his theory was initially regarded with considerable skepticism, the work of Longoria and Maurrasse (as well as other geologists) has helped confirm this version of history.

"Since 1991 there has been mounting physical and chemical evidence that this catastrophic impact occurred," said Longoria, who has conducted much of his research with his wife, Martha Gamper, another member of FIU's geology faculty. "Now we're studying the biotic effects."

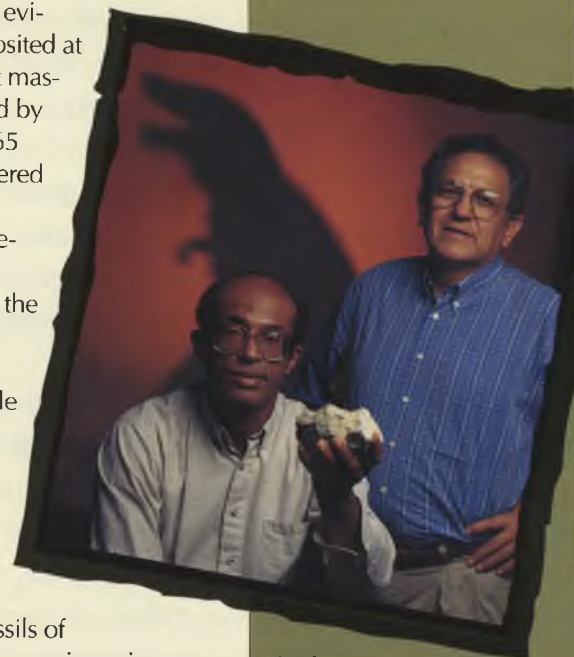
Maurrasse said that evidence from rocks deposited at that time indicates that massive tidal waves caused by the devastating event 65 million years ago triggered environmental disturbances that led to widespread extinctions.

"When you mix up the ocean to such a great magnitude, some species may not be able to survive," he noted.

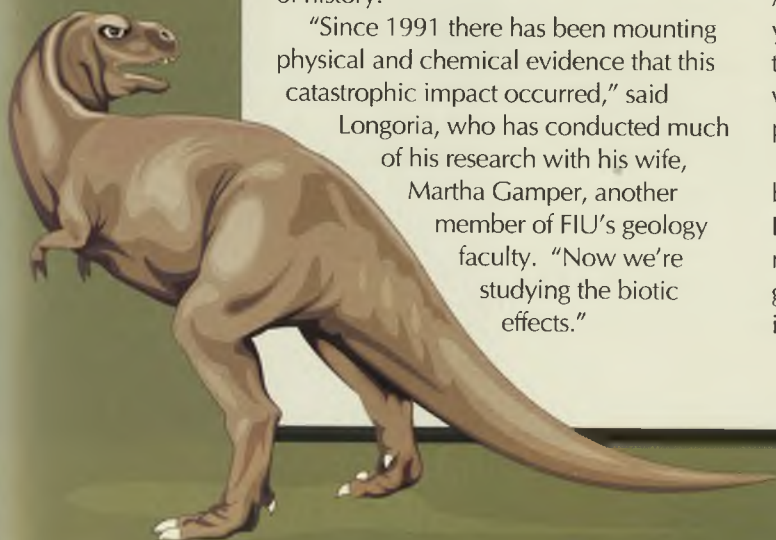
The FIU scientists, whose work has been supported with grants from the National Science Foundation, have been studying fossils of planktonic foraminifera, marine microorganisms, to help better understand the biotic consequences of the cataclysm. Some scientists believe it caused the extinction of species, while others feel it may have caused biological transformations.

Maurrasse had his field work in Haiti interrupted by the nation's political upheavals — he hasn't been there since the 1991 coup that overthrew President Aristide — but is planning to return this year. In 1992, FIU organized a field trip to the geological sites in Mexico, and a workshop/field trip to the sites in Haiti is planned for 1995 or 1996.

"We need to further document the biotic effects of the impact," said Longoria. "It's an extraordinary opportunity to document how one of the largest global catastrophes on Earth can impact its environment."



Professors Florentin Maurrasse and Jose Longoria



LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE

FIU ALUMNA ASSUMES POST AS *Coral Gables* CITY ATTORNEY

“Attending FIU was a wonderful experience. It was like a family, everybody knew everybody,” Hernandez remarked. “The professors were unsurpassed — they really took an interest in the welfare and well being of the students. That was important.”

Elizabeth M. Hernandez '80 loves to spend weekends in her backyard, tending to the needs of her garden. It provides moments of solace from the demands of juggling a busy career and raising two young boys.

“My hobby is gardening, and there is no peace greater than in the garden,” she said. “And I think of the city of Coral Gables as a garden.”

Which makes Hernandez the legal guardian of Dade County's largest “garden.” As the new city attorney of Coral Gables, Hernandez manages the legal affairs of the “City Beautiful.”

“This position is perfect for me,” said Hernandez, who assumed her post in January. “I'm not only managing the legal affairs of the city, but also litigating those issues that the citizens or the Coral Gables City Commission designate as top priority.

“When you work for the government, the philosophy is to serve the public good. You're deciding what needs to be done, and you're advising the commissioners on what course to take.”

From an early age, Hernandez knew what course she would take, commenting, “I decided a long time ago that I wanted to go to law school.”

Her interest in law also was piqued by an adjunct instructor at FIU — Chuck Blowers, director of research for Metro-Dade's Planning Department. She received a bachelor's degree in economics, a major she selected because of her interest in government and public financing.

“Attending FIU was a wonderful experience. It was like a family, everybody knew everybody,” Hernandez remarked. “The professors were unsurpassed — they really took an interest in the welfare and well being of the students. That was important.”

After graduating from the University of Florida Law School (where she met her future husband, Eugenio) in 1983, Hernandez



'City Beautiful'



practiced law for Legal Services of Florida, specializing in public benefits cases, consumer law and landlord/tenant cases. Two years later she made the move to private practice, first with Kimbrell & Hamann, P.A. and in 1991 became a partner at Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A. At both firms she developed an expertise in zoning and municipal liability litigation, handling cases for cities including Hollywood, Hialeah, Miami Beach and Coral Gables. She successfully handled a number of police and zoning suits in state and federal court for the city that would become her future employer.

When former Coral Gables City Attorney Robert Zahner announced his plans to retire, several department heads in the city recommended that she seek the post. "The city of Coral Gables was one of my favorite clients, and it was a unique opportunity to get into the public sector," Hernandez commented.

Hernandez said she's still adjusting to the ways of the public sector and city commission. She said, "Every city is different, and policy is made according to what their goals are." In the case of Coral Gables, this includes an emphasis on preserving the unique character of the city.

"The city puts a tremendous emphasis on historic preservation, and that's important in Florida," she said. "They want to maintain its architectural beauty and its beginnings. There are 27 municipalities in Dade County. Take a look at all 27, and tell me which one is the most beautiful." ■



A window on the 1930s:

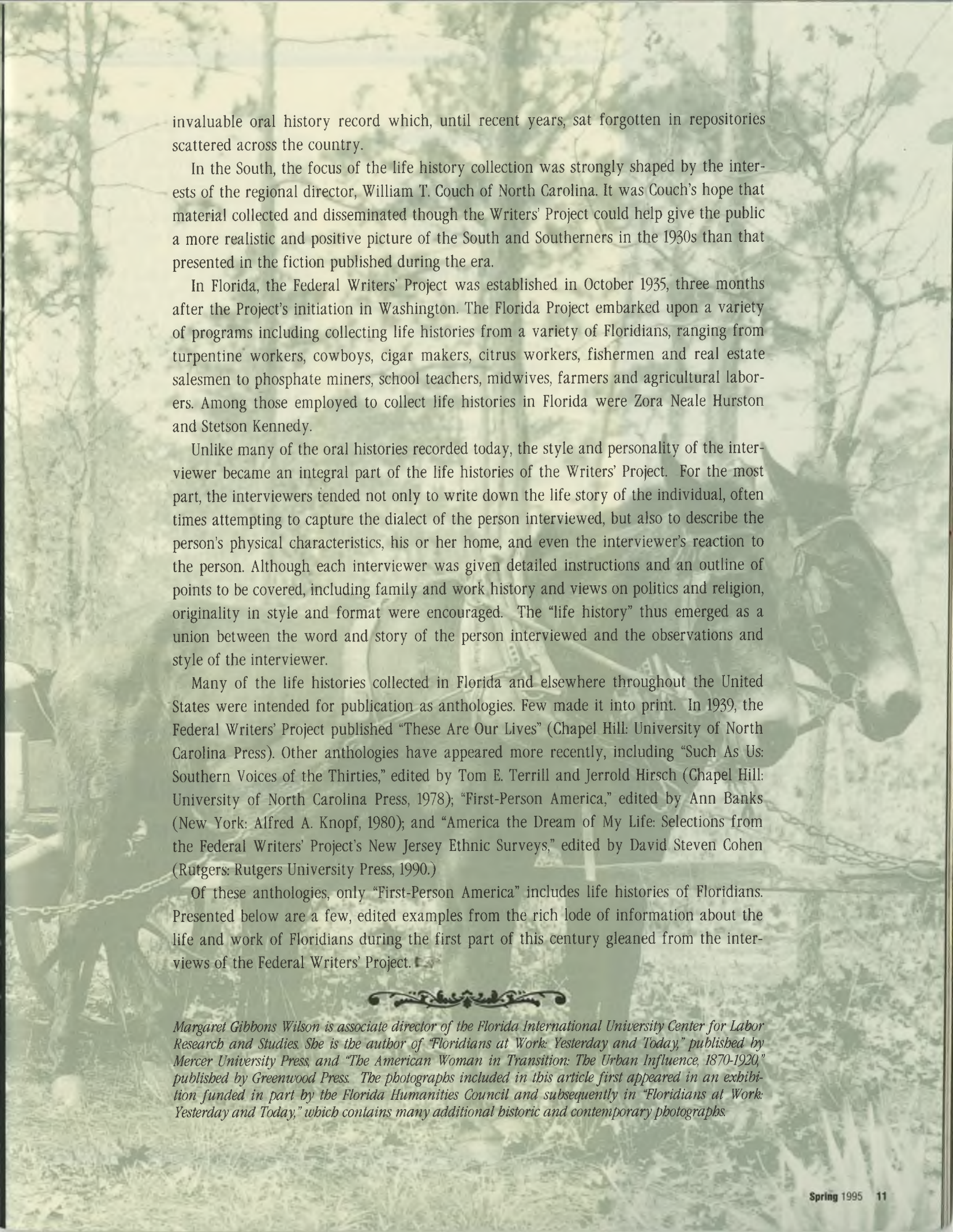
THE FEDERAL
WRITERS'
PROJECT
IN FLORIDA

by Margaret Gibbons Wilson



In Florida, as elsewhere in the United States, the Great Depression of the 1930s saw the development of myriad relief programs. One project which blossomed during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. Under the leadership of Henry G. Alsberg, the Writers' Project hired unemployed writers and aspiring writers and directed their energy and talents into a number of imaginative programs. These included the preparation of the renowned American Guide Series as well as innovative work in the area of folklore, socio-ethnic, and African-American studies.

In the midst of the economic and social upheaval of the Depression, the Federal Writers' Project set about to capture the history, lives and lore of forgotten "common folk" across the nation. In doing so, the Project's writers chronicled and preserved an



invaluable oral history record which, until recent years, sat forgotten in repositories scattered across the country.

In the South, the focus of the life history collection was strongly shaped by the interests of the regional director, William T. Couch of North Carolina. It was Couch's hope that material collected and disseminated through the Writers' Project could help give the public a more realistic and positive picture of the South and Southerners in the 1930s than that presented in the fiction published during the era.

In Florida, the Federal Writers' Project was established in October 1935, three months after the Project's initiation in Washington. The Florida Project embarked upon a variety of programs including collecting life histories from a variety of Floridians, ranging from turpentine workers, cowboys, cigar makers, citrus workers, fishermen and real estate salesmen to phosphate miners, school teachers, midwives, farmers and agricultural laborers. Among those employed to collect life histories in Florida were Zora Neale Hurston and Stetson Kennedy.

Unlike many of the oral histories recorded today, the style and personality of the interviewer became an integral part of the life histories of the Writers' Project. For the most part, the interviewers tended not only to write down the life story of the individual, often times attempting to capture the dialect of the person interviewed, but also to describe the person's physical characteristics, his or her home, and even the interviewer's reaction to the person. Although each interviewer was given detailed instructions and an outline of points to be covered, including family and work history and views on politics and religion, originality in style and format were encouraged. The "life history" thus emerged as a union between the word and story of the person interviewed and the observations and style of the interviewer.

Many of the life histories collected in Florida and elsewhere throughout the United States were intended for publication as anthologies. Few made it into print. In 1939, the Federal Writers' Project published "These Are Our Lives" (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press). Other anthologies have appeared more recently, including "Such As Us: Southern Voices of the Thirties," edited by Tom E. Terrill and Jerrold Hirsch (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1978); "First-Person America," edited by Ann Banks (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1980); and "America the Dream of My Life: Selections from the Federal Writers' Project's New Jersey Ethnic Surveys," edited by David Steven Cohen (Rutgers: Rutgers University Press, 1990.)

Of these anthologies, only "First-Person America" includes life histories of Floridians. Presented below are a few, edited examples from the rich lode of information about the life and work of Floridians during the first part of this century gleaned from the interviews of the Federal Writers' Project.



Margaret Gibbons Wilson is associate director of the Florida International University Center for Labor Research and Studies. She is the author of "Floridians at Work: Yesterday and Today," published by Mercer University Press, and "The American Woman in Transition: The Urban Influence, 1870-1920," published by Greenwood Press. The photographs included in this article first appeared in an exhibition funded in part by the Florida Humanities Council and subsequently in "Floridians at Work: Yesterday and Today," which contains many additional historic and contemporary photographs.



A. J. MANNING

BOOM OF THE 20'S

MARCH 23, 1939

Miami, Florida

Elvira E. Burnell, Writer

One of the most active real estate dealers in Miami and vicinity during the 20's was A. J. Manning, who was known to all of his friends as "A. J." He opened his Miami office during 1924, his business reaching its highest peak during the fall of 1925 and spring of 1926. At that time, during a period of 27 consecutive days, he sold \$1,500,000 in real estate.

"Before coming to Florida, I was in the real estate business in Washington, D.C. and making good money. In the winter of 1918, I opened a real estate office in Miami and when the boys were mustered out of the service, I opened a paint shop for them. Things were moving along slowly then and, in 1922, there was a panic. Naturally, business dropped off some but from 1923 thru 1924 real estate picked up strong, reaching a peak during 1925-26.

"Yes, indeed, those were hectic days," A.J. continued, as he puffed on a cigar. "It was then that the 'binder boys' came into existence. All the men wore knickers and heavy wool stockings. With the exception of Burdine's, Sewell's and the dime stores, all the stores along Flagler Street were occupied by real estate firms; but this was not sufficient, the binder boys worked right on the street, holding receipt books and pencil in hand, calling off the acreage and amount of "binder" required, obtaining the deposits from people, who bought lots without having any idea how far in the woods of Florida they might be. Lots at \$5 or \$10 down and so much a month sold like hot cakes, the buyer not even caring where they were or how much the total selling price. They'd have a map and make an x in various places where plans were made to construct the City Hall, Public Utilities Building, Administration Building, and so on. 12 foot sidewalks were already laid, and boulevards mapped out. The people were like wild; the money went to their heads.

"I'll give you one instance of the exorbitant prices of real estate in those days. A client of mine, a French woman named Corleaux, was here on her vacation and couldn't resist the temptation to buy some real estate. I sold her a double corner for \$18,000 on what is today the Boulevard. She listed the property with me and went back to France. The first offer I cabled her was \$90,000. She refused this, replying she wanted at least \$95,000; the buyer agreed to pay that amount, and, in the meantime, she changed her mind and cabled me not to let it go for less than \$105,000. The buyer still wanted the site and paid the price, making cash payment of \$50,000, balance on terms. Then the bubble burst and he lost his \$50,000 and the property went back to her. A little later that same piece of property was not worth more than \$10,000.

"Another transaction typical of the boom was a sale that I made of a lot 110 ft and 135 feet deep on the Dixie Highway, just north of Buena Vista, for \$8,500. Two weeks later the same lot sold for \$19,500, and three months later for \$100,000.

"Well, after the bubble burst, I still think Miami could have made a rapid come-back if it hadn't been for the hurricane of Sept. '26. That finished the job. Miami looked exactly like a war-torn town just evacuated by the enemy after a battle. It's wonderful how it has come back in the face of all that has happened since."



ALBERT J. KERSHAW, JR. M.D.

FEB. 20, 1939

Miami, Florida

Elvira E. Burnell, Writer

In the congested business district of Miami's "Colored Town" there dwells Dr. Albert J. Kershaw, an outstanding physician who is seeking neither riches nor publicity, but who devotes his time and energy to the welfare and uplift of his race. His main interest is in the nation's fight against tuberculosis. He is in charge of the anti-tuberculosis work in the schools for Negroes and does a great deal of charity work connected with his interest in the battle against T. B.

"My paramount interest lies in the fight against tuberculosis. I have several physicians who work with me and I supervise the tuberculin tests, which are administered by the nurses. Each child in the schools is tested, and where there is an infection, treatment is given, parents are advised, and instructed. All cases are followed closely. I also do a great deal of charity work among my T. B. patients. The lack of food among the colored people is appalling. I also conduct an ambulatory clinic. 99% of my patients are not able to pay the fees but none of them are refused treatment. Altho I am late in getting into the field, I can see a marked decrease in the disease.

"Negro doctors and dentists should be allowed to practice regardless of race, and I seen no reason why any white woman should hesitate to call a colored doctor or patronize a colored dentist.

"You would like to hear a little about my family history?" he asks as he took a cigar out of his pocket and smoked leisurely. "Well, my ancestors were slaves of the Kershaw family for whom the county of Kershaw, South Carolina was named. My father used to speak of our ancestors and how most of their time was spent picking cotton. At the time of emancipation, my parents lived in West Florida. They were born in Jefferson County and also were married there. They had three sons and two daughters all of whom are graduates of the A & M University.

"Why I chose the medical profession? While a young boy I came under the influence of an elderly physician and I greatly admired this man. He encouraged me in my desire to study medicine. My father also was pleased, because he felt that it would be an avenue of helpfulness to our race. He helped me with my expenses in college to a certain extent, then too, I worked at different jobs during the summer.

"I first practiced medicine in West Florida; Suwanee County. I came to Miami 15 years ago, because there was a more fertile field for service among my people; also the financial inducement, there being better prospects in Miami for a man in the medical profession.

"Politics? Yes, they interest me a great deal and I always vote. I keep up with politics thru reading and other sources. Regarding the mess we have at City Hall, I think the mayor and two of his commissioners should be ousted."



DOMINGO GINESTA

Ybor City, Florida

(Writer and date unknown)

"I was born of Spanish parents in the little town of Guanabacoa, in the province of Havana, Cuba, early in the year 1865. My father was a cigar-maker, and I followed in his footsteps.

"When I was twenty-one years of age I decided to try my fortune in the United States. I arrived in Key West with my parents in the year 1886. It was during this year and subsequent years that the cigar industry in Key West was leaving for Tampa, so in the year 1889, I came to Tampa, leaving three brothers and three sisters in Key West.

"Around that time we used to form picnics on a little island Southeast of Port Tampa, from whence its present name: "Picnic Island". It was in one of those picnics that I met and wooed my wife. We had ten children, four of whom died, leaving six that are living today: three boys and three girls.

"Many are the hardships through which I have gone, but none like the different strikes that arose here from time to time. The first strike of importance was one that lasted seven months. It was called the "Weight Strike". It had been the custom of the manufacturers to weigh out 8 or 9 ounces of filler tobacco, and the workers had to produce fifty cigars from this amount. It was practically impossible to produce the required number with this amount, so we went on strike to eliminate the weighing of the material.

"After this there came another strike that lasted seven months. This strike was called in order to have an increase in price and in order that a Regulation Committee be appointed. However, when we gained an increase of \$1.80, the cost of living went up \$2.00 so we were always the losers.

"Still another strike was called in the year 1920, and which lasted ten months. During this strike we put up a sort of restaurant, owned by all the workers. All the cigar-makers on strike were fed here, or food carried to their homes. By means of this joint ownership we could carry on the strike better. However, the manufacturers made some combination with the authorities with the result that one day a few policemen came to this place, destroying everything they could lay their hands on.





Jackson Memorial Hospital, Children's Ward, 1933. By William A. Fishbaugh, Florida State Archives.



Chez Maurice Beauty Salon, 1910. By William A. Fishbaugh, Florida State Archives.



Oyster shuckers, Apalachicola, 1909. By Lewis Hines, Florida State Archives.

"When we formed the "Partido Revolucionario Cubano" (Cuban Revolutionary Party), a great number of patriotic clubs came into existence. The Cuban apostle, Marti came to Tampa in the year 1871, right after the shooting by musketry of the Cuban students in Havana. Many sustain that he visited Key West first, but I am certain that he first came to Tampa. The outcome of the Revolutionary Party and the patriotic clubs, was that twenty-seven expeditions were sent from Tampa against Spain. At that time I was collector for the factory of Bustillo. I was in charge of collecting a certain percentage from the weekly earnings of the cigar-makers, in order to help finance these expeditions. I was also collector for one of the patriotic clubs that had been formed.

"Ybor City today is in a steady decline. Families after families are leaving for the North. This exodus is chiefly observed among the younger generation, who finding themselves here without work, migrate to New York where they find many opportunities. At one time there were more than sixty cigar factories dealing exclusively in pure Havana tobacco. Today there are only six."



IZZELLY HAINES

JUNE 20, 1939

Riviera, Florida

Veronica E. Huss, Writer

Izzelly Haines lives with her daughter and son-in-law who have several children. Across the shady front porch, she sits on the side of the clean bed, a tall woman, well built and of middle age. Her mother was a full-blooded Bahamian Negro, her father a white man of English descent.

"I been a midwife ever since I was 17. I uster tend all the women around where I lived in the Bahaymees. I've tended me own girls as well as meself. I still go when I'm called ere in Riviera, but if it gits beyond me I always calls a doctor.

"I was seventeen when I took my first case. This ere case was sure pitiful, that's ow come me to take it. If I adn't, the litle mother woulda died. You know in them days folks was ignorant about sech things, and in the Bahaymees there warn't no doctors stall.

There haint many now, and midwifes does most everything, but it's better than it was in them days. Well all I knowed about this work was what I read in them books and what I'd already seen.

"This woman that I'm about to tell you about ad given birth to er baby at about six o'clock in the morn'ing and by four o'clock that afternoon the afterbirth adn't come and she was dying from the pizen what sets in. There warn't a soul around what could do nothin about it, so remembrin what I could, I took two pounds of onions and pulverized them; then soaked it in a pint of gin. Then I took it all and put it in two cloth bags. One bag I put to the lower part of the woman's stummick and the other to er back. Inside of a alf our it ad come and she was gittin along fine.

"As for pay I takes whatever they give me. I can't expect much for folks ere is most as poor as they was in the Bahaymees, so I'm willin to tend the women for whatever they can afford and am glad to do it. What little I does git out it elps though, cause there haint much in fishin now days.

"My girl's usband it out fishin today. The blues is runnin eavy. These ere windy days what's chilly brings them down fast from the north, and I'm opin the ketch will be a good one. The men been out ever since early this mornin, they gotta work and work ard while they can. They work nights too every time they git a chance.

"So far the weather as been jest right for blue fishin. The run is eavy and they been doin purty well. Prices haint so good, but they never is, so that haint nothing neither. That's another reason how I'm always glad to make whatever money I can, you know, like as a midwife or by weavin."



C.W. WIMSTER

LIFE HISTORY OF A TURPENTINE MAN

AUGUST 22, 1939

Tampa, Florida

Lindsay M. Bryan, Writer

"Yeah, man. I was born in a turpentine camp, spent near about forty years in the business, an woulda been in it yet if the bottom hadn't-a dropped out of it. I've soaked up so much turpentine in my

life that if you run me through a still right now, I reckon you'd git about ten gallon outa me."

The speaker, a 40-year old veteran of the turpentine woods, chuckled at his jest as he sat on the front porch of his weathered one-story home in an old residential part of Tampa. He went on:

"When I say I was born in a turpentine camp I mean jist that. My father was manager of a 20-crop naval stores place, an we lived in the camp near Eastman, Georgia, an I was bawn right in that camp in 1899. There was six children of us, an as soon as us boys was old enough we shore had to work, helpin around the still or the commissary or work as water boys.

"By the time I was 12 years old I begun to learn how to make boxes an streaks, an do everything else in the woods an at the still. A box is a deep cut in the tree to ketch the gum, an streaks are shallow gutters cut in the trunk of the tree to lead the gum down into the box. In late years most turpentine men use cups attached to the tree to ketch the sap or gum, instead of the deep boxes they used to cut. The cup system makes the trees last longer. The dip

squad travels through the woods with a team or truck loaded with barrels into which they collect the gum, an then haul it to the still to be refined into spirits of turpentine. The gum is about as thick as thick syrup, and when heated the rosin settles to the bottom of the still, and is drawn off hot into barrels.

"In 1922, I think it was, I was offered a better job, as manager of eight camps owned by a New York concern at Opal, Okeechobee County. This was a big virgin woods in low, swampy country, and the outfit was a big one of 120 crops. I got \$250 a month and held that job for two years. Then came the damdest rainy season I ever saw in Florida. It poured down for weeks, and water stood knee deep all over the woods. We had to set around camp and do nothing. An to make everything worse the big bosses in New York kept telegraphin me an wantin to know why no production. Finally I got mad an told em to go to hell an git somebody else, an I walked and waded off the job.

"Yes, them was the days, but I reckon they're gone for good. The turpentine business is done for in this country, an I don't think it will ever come back."



FIU CENTER OFFERS EXPERTISE ON LABOR ISSUES TO LOCAL, INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES

The FIU Center for Labor Research and Studies is the state's only institution dedicated to research and education on labor-related issues. Established in 1971, it serves students, faculty and administrators throughout the State University System, as well as labor, business, community organizations, policy makers and journalists, through a series of diverse activities.

Research, publications, comprehensive labor education programs, community service and high-level international programming complement credit instruction. The bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in labor studies and labor relations is offered, as are two 18-credit certificates in labor studies. Additional service is provided through applied research and public policy issue programs.

Over the past few years, the center has hosted a wide range of seminars and conferences for labor leaders from Florida and from more than 20 foreign countries. Last December, the center hosted a conference with top ranking officials from Russian labor federations, the Russian Parliament and the Russian Labor Ministry.

"For the members of the Russian parliament and the Commonwealth's major labor leaders to come to our Labor Center demonstrates the impact that it has made," said Guillermo Grenier, director of the center. "By bringing international labor leaders to campus, we can use the University's expertise to help them and better understand how international labor issues affect workers in Florida and throughout the U.S."

In 1992, the Florida legislature appropriated funds to build a new facility for the Labor Center. The new 17,368 square-foot building, which also houses the University's English Language Institute and the Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, was dedicated last November. Among the federal, state and local officials who participated in or attended the ceremony were Joaquin F. (Jack) Otero, deputy undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Representative Carrie Meek; U.S. Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart; state Senator Mario Diaz-Balart; state Representative Jorge Rodriguez-Chomat; state Regent Welcom Watson; and Dade County Commissioner Miguel Diaz de la Portilla.





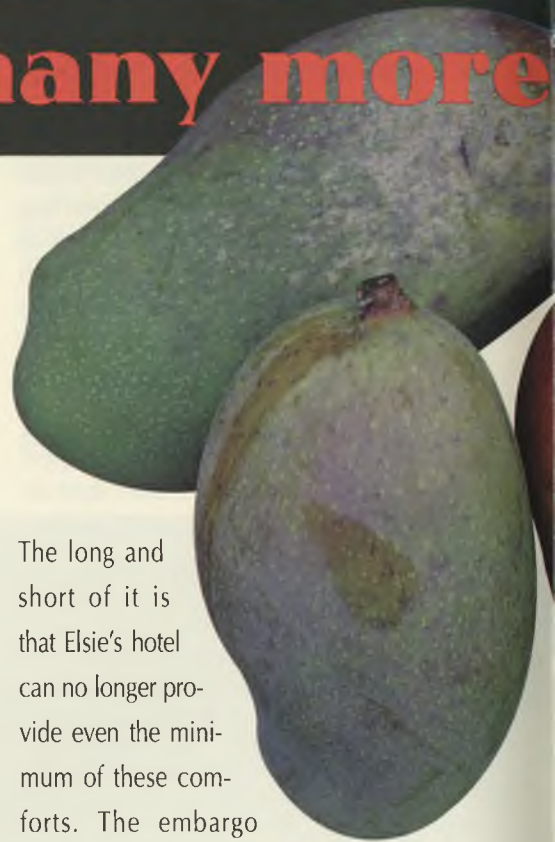
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How many more

**You see,
the mango
does not
tolerate
being
crowded;
it is
jealous of
its soil,
light and
elbow
room and
bears only
if these
meet its
precise
require-
ments.**


Elsie's father had bought the big house some 50 years ago. Located in central Port-au-Prince, it was logical to convert something with this much space into a hotel. This he did, not for tourists but for Haitian journalists, clergymen and businessmen sojourning from the provinces. For decades it performed this function with the egalitarian elegance born of cultural self-confidence and breeding. "*Vous etez chez vous*" would be the traditional greeting to the repeat borders, "you are in your house."

Today, with the bigger, more modern hotels packed with foreign reporters and international technocrats, Elsie's hotel lies nearly empty. First, there is little electricity. This means a candle for light and, of course, no air conditioning. This calls for open windows which means that there is no relief from the insatiable mosquitoes which the piled up garbage and stagnant waters of the surrounding city send off in malevolent swarms. As if all this were not hardship enough for the Western journalist or tourist accustomed to certain comforts while in the tropics, a poor supply of water has left the archaic swimming pool empty.



The long and short of it is that Elsie's hotel can no longer provide even the minimum of these comforts. The embargo made sure of that.

The one thing which Elsie can provide, because it has not changed in 50 years, is the kitchen: it still operates on coal. The hotel's cast iron coal pots, like the thousands of others which are lit every morning with the punctuality of a rooster's crow, send out wafts of coal smoke, giving mornings in Port-au-Prince that distinctive half-urban, half-rural smell. That the burning coal lends a subtle but distinctive flavor to the strong Haitian coffee brewed on it, is the *lagniappe* which poor countries offer those who take a sincere interest in them.



by Anthony P. Maingot



mango seasons?

Beyond issues of smell and taste, it is evident that coal pots are indispensable when international embargoes deny the common folk any

other means of cooking. In short, there is something reassuring in a coal pot: simple, reliable and economical, a model of the "appropriate technology" which developmental economists like to recommend.

Unfortunately, nothing in Haiti, not even the innocuous coal pot, is without its tragic side. Predictably, danger lurks behind these ancient and serviceable cooking utensils. For one, they threaten the survival of the few trees left on the island. Specifically, Elsie's and everyone else's coal pots are a menace to the other element of continuity in the hotel: Elsie's mango tree. Let me explain.

In Haiti like in the rest of the Caribbean, all respectable homes have at least one mango tree. In exact contrast to Victorian England, where a spotless and treeless lawn in front of the house notified the world that you did not have to plant your own food, in the Caribbean a mango tree indicates that you have the necessary space to engage in a luxury: growing the aristocrat of all fruits, *Mangifera indica*. You see, the mango does not tolerate being crowded; it is jealous of its soil, light and elbow room and bears only if these meet its precise requirements.

Elsie was not yet born when the hotel's "Jacmel" variety mango tree was planted with all the pomp attendant to such occasions. She grew up with the tree and eagerly awaited the arrival of one of the most cherished seasons in Haiti and the Caribbean: mango season. A bountiful crop could be shared with relatives and friends alike, all eager to compare this year's fruit with last year's or with some vaunted vintage season which everyone speaks of with the awe normally reserved for things divine and celestial.

Good mango trees have a way of becoming members of the family, and for good reason.

Good mango trees have a way of becoming members of the family, and for good reason.





To sit under Elsie's mango tree and listen to her 90-year-old father educate the great grandchildren on the comparative merits of the Jacmelian variety ("Philipine" in much of the Caribbean) is to sense continuity, love of place and a firm belief that when everything else fails, nature somehow

comes through. Generations of children knew that they could depend on Elsie's tree and knew virtually by instinct that they are tastiest before fully ripe.

Even as she waits for May when the fruit will be at their best, Elsie is worried. She wonders whether her grandchildren will know a mango season. She frets as the sidewalks in front of the hotel become what the rest of the city has become: one giant mass of humanity crowding every available open space. It is a crisis of Malthusian dimensions. Street vendors by the tens of thousands have overflowed the confines of the regular markets and line the roads from Port-au-Prince all the way up to elegant and erstwhile distant Petionville. The crowding in Port-au-Prince gets worse by the month as waves of peasants flee from the devastated countryside and impoverished provinces.

A city originally planned for some 200,000 today has a mass of perhaps two million. Evans Paul, the articulate and charismatic mayor of Port-au-Prince, calculates that it will reach close to four million by the turn of the century. Though it is not politically correct to speak of the effects of what was both official

U.S. policy and the path recommended by President Aristide, it is patently evident that three years of embargo and blockade accelerated this migration to the capital by bringing ruin to the rest of the country. Elsie understands this only too well.

"Every day I see them, with their faces pressed against the fence, looking at my mango tree. I know what they are thinking: 'Why should she have all that space? Why should she enjoy fruit when we need firewood?' I understand their need and despair but I intend to defend my tree to the bitter end."

Tragically, that bitter end might not be too far away, for two reasons: demographics and populist politics.

The decline of the Haitian countryside goes beyond food cultivation. The pressure on the land and its remaining wood resources advance the inexorable march towards total ecological disaster. It is an ongoing structural situation which can be redressed only with a dramatic reduction in population pressure on the land. Migration, whether to the Dominican Republic or through waves of boat people on their way to Florida, is not a structural solution. To be anything more than merely marginal, a solution has to have both economic and demographic dimensions. Because any demographic changes will be very long-term—the procreation-aged population is already there and will continue the "population momentum" for decades—a short-term economic policy would be to create urban employment in labor-intensive industries as one waits for a dramatic reduction in the birth rate. Given present demographic and political trends, neither appears likely to occur soon.

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enjoy fruit when we need
firewood?'"**

The population is growing at an annual rate of 3.1 percent, certainly extraordinary even in Third World terms. And, neither of the two factors which bring down fertility is presently operating: natural birth control resulting from substantial increases in the standard of living or widespread and effective artificial birth control measures. Whereas 55 percent of Jamaican women, married or not, practice artificial birth control, in Haiti only seven percent do so. As a result, the known demographic facts are that Haitians will not reach a net reproduction rate of one until the year 2030 and, even after that, actual population size will not become stationary until the year 2145, at which point it will stand at 17 million. At least half of these will reside in Port-au-Prince.

Haitian populist politics — by scaring off potential investors — will hardly alleviate the situation. And, yet, in Haiti today, that is the only politics which animates and mobilizes the electorate. There is no mystery or conspiracy behind this. It is only logical that after so many decades of tyranny, exploitation and corruption, the masses hunger for leaders who are at the same time redeemers and punishers. Other forms of politics are rendered irrelevant by this collective urge to *lavalas*, to wash away, a hated past. Listen to the master of populist politics and of metaphorical and allegorical appeals, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in his February 7, 1991 presidential inaugural address:

"If one finger does not eat okra, whether they like it or not, no matter what, stones in water will get to know the pain of stones in the sun."

The promise is not lost on the vast majority who are in the sun.

There is, however, a potential tragedy in this. Clearly, the changes needed in Haiti have to involve the masses — and to achieve that, leaders have to promise them tangible things. The problem is that since producing for so many with so little is difficult, the emphasis shifts to distributing that which exists. Unfortunately, there is so desperately little to distribute. With ecological disasters impinging from every side, with the massification of urban populations being both a problem and the source of electoral victories, with idealist and well-intentioned aspirations and programs gliding over intractable realities, there is little inclination to be nuanced and discriminating in one's political appeals. And so today, merely having a mango tree is perceived as being a "stone in water." An Elsie, who defends her mango tree as part of her cultural and natural heritage as well as a promise to her grandchildren, is lumped with the drug runner and the politician who plunders and corrupts. With their illicit gains securely hidden away in Miami and Cayman Islands banks, the latter build 20-foot-high walls behind which to grow their mango trees or they simply grow them in their Coral Gables and Kendall homes. After all, securing an American resident visa never seems to be a problem for these people.

As much as one wishes that Haiti's future generations could enjoy all the delights which the mango tree provides, one is not sanguine. Generations of greedy politicians and hemispheric indifference make it very unlikely that many of those youngsters will really know the true magic of a Haitian "mango season."

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Anthony P. Maingot, a native of Trinidad, is professor of Sociology and Anthropology at FIU. His most recent book, *"United States and the Caribbean: Challenges of an Asymmetrical Relationship,"* is published by Westview in the United States and MacMillan in Europe. He is currently on sabbatical, serving as senior research associate at the University of Miami North-South Center.

FIU and LACC are leaders in post-Summit of the Americas activities

In the wake of last December's Summit of the Americas, officials from FIU and its Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC) have developed a plan for the University to be at the forefront of post-Summit activities in Florida and the hemisphere.

The FIU/LACC proposal includes the establishment of a Summit of the Americas Center as a cooperative venture with the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies and the University of Miami North-South Center.

Complementing FIU's recently-announced Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology in the College of Engineering and Design (see story on page 2), the Summit of the Americas Center will be headquartered in LACC. The center is being funded by a \$500,000 annual recurring appropriation that was approved by the state legislature.

Eduardo Gamarra, director of LACC, said, "Summits go into oblivion if there is no follow-up. The accords must have a monitoring mechanism, and we hope to be a key part of that mechanism."

He emphasized that the mission of the center is focused on Florida, primarily enhancing hemispheric trade and commerce and continuing to educate Floridians about the Summit.

The FIU-based center will promote and facilitate conferences, meetings and working groups that will take concrete steps to implement the Summit's action steps.

SummitNet, FIU's internationally recognized Internet site for Summit-related information, will be a key aspect of the University's follow-up activities. LACC expects that SummitNet will be the electronic information backbone of post-Summit activities. LACC's successful partnership with Tandem Computers, Sprint and other private sector support is expected to continue for SummitNet, Gamarra said.

Proud of the success of SummitNet, Gamarra said, "For the limited resources we had available here, SummitNet has been the single most successful project we developed last year, and one of the most successful tangible projects of the Summit."

During its first year, the center activities will include:

- assessing the implications of the Summit Action Plan for the Florida business and public affairs communities and offering statewide workshops to share findings;
- carrying out facilitation assessments that address key Summit concerns — customs, financial issues, and the role of inter-American agencies such as the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank — and assessing Florida's potential roles in furthering related cooperation;
- providing support for implementation of working group efforts on trade and environment in conjunction with the UF Center for Latin American Studies and the UM North-South Center; and
- assisting the UF Center for Latin American Studies on the development of follow-up meetings on sustainable environment in Latin America, with special attention to the dissemination of recommendations to the hemisphere's heads of state during the 1996 Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Bolivia.

Other center projects under consideration include:

- a baseline assessment of Florida-hemispheric trade and commercial relations; compilation and dissemination of regional trade agreements; inventory and dissemination of information on Florida-based energy technologies; linkage of science and technology communities in Florida and the hemisphere;
- tourism-based Internet node housed with SummitNet; and
- micro-enterprise and small business development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to the activities proposed through the center, several University officials are actively involved in Summit follow-up. Paul Cejas, a member of the state Board of Regents and the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees, chairs a statewide post-Summit committee. Members include Mark Rosenberg, acting dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Alan Rosenbaum, director of the FIU Institute for Public Management and Community Service, and Gamarra. Several academic research projects also focus on the Summit.

"FIU being the local state university makes it a natural partner to coordinate some of the education and training in the hemisphere."



FIU STUDENT TO LEAD POST-SUMMIT ACTIVITIES

by Connie Crowther

FIU student Susan Vodicka sits behind her elegant, giant mahogany desk, glancing out her lofty office window at downtown Miami, spread out at her feet 26 floors below. Summit of the Americas souvenirs — framed posters, pins, notebooks, banners — accent her office walls, desk and table.

Vodicka has been the toast of the town since her stellar success as chief of operations for the Summit of the Americas. She coordinated President Clinton's December 1994 three-day summit of all 34 democratically-elected leaders of the Western Hemisphere.

Now Vodicka is poised to become the senior staff member of the Florida Partnership of the Americas, a statewide post-Summit non-profit organization Governor Lawton Chiles has proposed.

Regarding this career step, Vodicka said, "The opportunity to participate in something that amplifies the recognition that came to Florida during the days of the Summit is very attractive to me because of the impact it will have on economic development issues for the state."

Vodicka has earned a reputation as an even-tempered, can-do, will-do executive, in charge at all times, and especially deft at handling crises and setting prickly priorities.

"I do volume well," she said. "I'm pretty good at juggling a lot of assignments."

Her colleagues joke that Vodicka wears a permanent smile no matter how dire the current situation is.

"I admit that I did encourage humor at the Summit offices," she said. "We had to stay upbeat, even in difficult times. Humor carried people a long way when they were overwhelmed at the task, frightened about their ability to deliver, or just plain exhausted."

"Because we were making history, we had to make it up as we went," Vodicka added. "I would love to say that there was some grand master plan

driving everything, but the truth is that there was no prototype for hosting 34 heads of state."

Outside her Summit world, which has consumed her life since she was appointed to the post last May, she is a frustrated FIU student.

"I'll probably get my Ph.D. when I'm 96," she joked. "Throughout my life, every time I have gone back to school my studies have been interrupted by some fabulous job offer."

Those jobs included administrative aide to state Senator Sherman Winn, director of public affairs at the New World School of the Arts, vice president of the South Florida Coordinating Council, executive director of the Dade County Democratic Executive Committee, and administrative director of Florida's Office for Latin American Trade in the Department of Commerce.

For several years, Vodicka has studied international relations at FIU. She calls FIU "a university of the future" because of its programs, faculty, location and mission. She has been a part-time student, nestling classes in among her duties at the Florida Department of Commerce, meetings, travel and family life.

Vodicka looks forward to finding the time to finish her degrees here, and studying again with several professors she adores: Mark Rosenberg, Ralph Clem, Farroukh Jhabvala and Eduardo Gamarra. Rosenberg originally recruited her as an FIU student, convincing her that she could balance the classes with her heavy work responsibilities.

She plans to return to classes at FIU after she gets her new job under way and under control. Vodicka also views the University as an obvious site for post-Summit research, conferences and other activities.

"We have built a strong alliance with the State University System, and FIU being the local state university makes it a natural partner to coordinate some of the education and training in the hemisphere," she said.

"There was a certain amount of chaos, with all the leaders and their entourages, thousands of news media, and the complex logistics."

Childhood

Children with phobias get help from

Deep
into
that
darkness
peering,
long
I
stood
there,
wondering,
fearing . . .

—The Raven

Edgar Allan Poe

The invisible hand, clawing at night's window. The callous creature in the closet, hiding from light, and other eyes. Whispered voices under the bed; a dog, howling; lightning flashing; thunder.

These are some of the terrors of childhood: unnameable horrors of our innocence and helplessness, hopefully outgrown through maturity and experience. But for many children, these and other fears may linger longer than normal or be drastically magnified. They can develop into an acute phobia that interferes with the child's life, social and educational development, and any chance for a fulfilling future.

The causes of these phobias are as varied as the children who suffer from them. No single theory has yet been developed by psychologists to explain why some children are afraid of dogs, others of school, some even of other children. Now a groundbreaking program at FIU is developing new ways to help children conquer extreme fears.

"We don't spend a lot of time figuring out why a child has a phobia; that process can take years, and discovering the cause is not always the cure. Our philosophy is that fear is a learned behavior — and it can be unlearned. Our focus is on solutions," says Psychology Professor Wendy Silverman, founder and director of the FIU Child and Family Psychosocial Center.

Established in 1991 through a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the center has worked with more than 200 seven-to-16-year-olds, and gained national recognition for its

pioneering work in the field of child psychology. Last year, Silverman was cited in a survey conducted by *Good Housekeeping* magazine on the nation's leading mental health experts.

"There's nothing magical about what we do here. We don't use medicine or potions," says Golda

Ginsburg, the center's research associate and clinic coordinator. "Every person

has fears; we need fear to survive, to remind us to lock

our doors and be cautious of danger. So

the goal of our program is

not to get

rid of the



child's fear, but to decrease its impact and teach the child how to cope so that their fear is no longer controlling their life."

In many cases, a child's phobia may be so extreme that it traps them in a numbing, solitary existence: too scared to leave their home, to go to school, to play with other children, or even to sleep alone. For 10-year-old Lisa, it was an unreasonable fear of dogs.

"From a very early age she was afraid of dogs, cats, rabbits, little kittens, ducklings, even moveable toys, the size didn't matter," says Lisa's mom. "We always thought she would outgrow it, but when she reached the age of 10, I started to get really concerned. She wouldn't go to friends' houses, she wouldn't walk down the street, she wouldn't even play in the yard in case a dog or cat might wander by.

"The strangest part is that she's so strong and capable and brave in all the other areas of her life. Even though she's an above-the-knee amputee, she

Terrors

progressive FIU clinic

takes jazz classes and Latin dancing, and is even on the swim team.

"We were really desperate to help her get over her fear. So when my sister-in-law told us about the FIU program, we decided to give it a try. We started going to therapy sessions last November. At first, I was very skeptical, but at the same time I really hoped it would work," Lisa's mom explains.

For Lisa, the program has worked incredibly well. Today she can play outside in the yard with her eight-year-old brother and friends, and she can walk around the block with

no problem.

Two weeks ago, her family brought home a new puppy.

"We know we can't cure these kids in 10-12 weeks when they've been suffering from a complex problem for most of their lives," Silverman explains. "But what we hope to accomplish is to reduce the stress caused by their problem and help them manage it so that it is no longer disruptive."

Part of Silverman's unique approach includes involving the parent in the child's therapy.

"Sometimes a parent's behavior can accidentally reinforce their child's phobia in subtle ways. It's only natural. Parents want to protect their child, so if the child is upset in certain situations, the parent may help them continue to avoid that situation. One example would be letting a frightened child sleep with them. But when it continues to occur night after night until the child is 12 or 13, this can become detrimental to the child's healthy development.

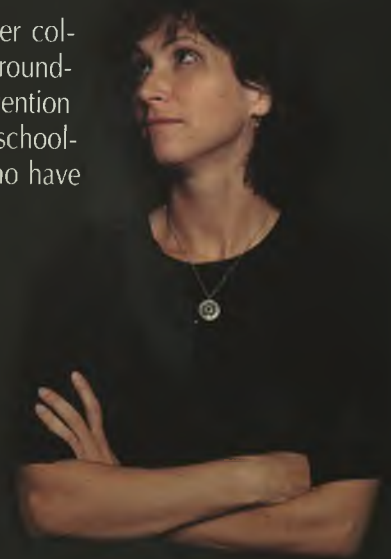
"So, while we're helping the child learn coping strategies, we also teach the parents basic principles and skills to encourage their child's new behaviors. In other words, we help the child learn to be in control of their fear instead of the other way around, and we

try to transfer our knowledge and experience to the parent so that they, too, can be in control and transfer this to their child."

Treating children's phobias is just one aspect of this unique program. It also serves as a research center, providing a new perspective for psychologists in the field of child psychology. A new book to be published this fall, "Anxiety and Phobic Disorders: A Pragmatic Perspective," was written by Silverman and FIU Professor of Psychology William Kurtines, based on their research and results at the center.

For their next project, Silverman and her colleagues hope to accomplish some equally groundbreaking results in the areas of phobia prevention and intervention. They plan to develop a school-based intervention program for children who have been witnesses or victims of violent crimes, and to work with parents and children who suffer from the same phobias.

"We, as child psychologists, need to be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things," Silverman says. "We don't start out with any assumptions; we're completely open. This is the orientation which guides all our work."



Wendy Silverman

★
Honors
students
describe
themselves
as

highly
motivated,

disciplined,

success-
oriented,

focused,

ambitious

future
leaders.

'The very finest in undergraduate education'

THE HONORS PROGRAM AT FIU

by Susan G. Lichtman

Sixteen talented people from FIU boarded the plane one day last fall for San Antonio, Texas. They were on their way to present papers at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference '94.

Still bubbling with excitement at having all of their papers accepted (typically only 30 percent are selected nationwide) and full of anticipation, they rehearsed their presentations on the plane. By the time they arrived at San Antonio's River Walk Hyatt Hotel, they couldn't have been more prepared for the three-day conference.

University professors regularly share their research findings at professional meetings. It's an integral part of the culture of higher education. But this time, it was not "business as usual." This time, students from FIU's Honors Program were the ones making the presentations.

"From the first day our students walk in as freshmen, we begin to prepare them to leave — not only intellectually, but educationally and professionally," said Joe C. Wisdom, director of the Honors Program. "By participating in publications and conference presentations (such as the recent gathering in San Antonio), students get introduced to the 'culture' of higher education."

The University is moving forward with plans to transform the Honors Program, in existence less than five years, into the University Honors College. According to Undergraduate Dean Fernando Gonzalez-Reigosa, under whose leadership the program has developed, "We have succeeded in establishing a community of undergraduate scholars who enjoy the intimacy of a small liberal arts college within the larger infrastructure of a major state university."

"Of all the accomplishments that have taken place during my tenure at FIU, the creation of the Honors Program is among those of which I am the proudest," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "The establishment of the program and its planned elevation into a college says to students, faculty and the community that FIU is committed to the very finest in undergraduate education."

While many qualities set it apart, the program's most distinctive characteristic is its curriculum. All classes, except the senior seminar, are interdisciplinary and team-taught by five faculty members. Students and faculty meet twice weekly — one day in a large group setting (limited to 100) for lectures, panel discussions, case studies and student presentations, and the other day in small groups of 20. The curriculum emphasizes critical, integrative, and creative thinking; group and independent research; oral presentation; close faculty-student contact; development of leadership skills; and integration of class work with the broader community.



FIU Honors Student, Ginger Gossman



FIU Honors Student Malcolm Nathan

Every term, one three-credit honors course is offered toward fulfillment of the eight-semester academic program. The freshman course, "The Idea of Origins and the Origin of Ideas," focuses on the nature of truth, reality and each person's role in the world.

The second year's course, "Inhabiting Other Lives," exposes students to issues of cultural commonality and diversity while inviting them to investigate the interconnectedness of various cultures.

Building on the studies of the first two years, the third year's course, "Aesthetics, Values, and Authority," examines the aesthetic underpinnings of culture and the foundations of western culture.

Summer study abroad programs and a variety of extracurricular activities also are a component of the program. Faculty members took groups of honors students to Czechoslovakia in 1992 and 1994, to Trinidad and Tobago in 1993, and to Spain in 1994. Closer to home, faculty and students have attended performances of the Miami City Ballet, Greater Miami Opera and New World Symphony, and assisted in such community service projects as Miami Rescue Mission, Miami Bridge, Habitat for Humanity and Hurricane Relief.

The Honors Program admitted its first 100 students in the fall of 1990. Today, 375 students are enrolled, but Wisdom hopes that with the forthcoming elevation of the program to the status of an Honors College, the number will eventually increase to 800.

Students accepted into the program have average SAT scores of close to 1200 and nearly perfect high school GPAs. Seventy-one percent are minority students, and they represent 43 different foreign countries. Their selection is based not only on their academic records and test scores, but also on teachers' recommendations and their "eagerness to explore and

driven

understand clearly abstract ideas," Wisdom said.

Honors students describe themselves as highly motivated, disciplined, success-oriented, focused, ambitious future leaders.

"As a student who wants to excel, I needed a program offering strong academics, leadership growth opportunities, extracurricular activities, and some sort of athletic pursuit. The FIU Honors Program offers most of these qualities," said Malcolm Nathan, a senior history major/philosophy minor who is planning to pursue post-graduate education in law or business.

"We all know what we want to do with our lives," said Ginger L. Gossman, a senior anthropology/sociology major who wants to study Florida's history. "We're using the (honors) program to propel us in the direction we want to go."

Professors are as challenged by the innovative curriculum as the students.

"The Honors Program is the best thing that's happened to me," said William J. Keppler, a geneticist and former dean of the College of Health. "It has provided me with the opportunity to teach with the very best FIU faculty and to learn from a variety of disciplines."

Keppler, who has been with the program since its inception, added that teaching freshmen is particularly exciting, because "you have the chance to mold their views of knowledge and society and get them focused on contemporary issues."

Jaime Canaves, associate professor of Design, finds the experimental nature of the Honors Program appealing.

"Anytime you search for a better or new way to do something, you have an edge," Canaves said. "Most honors programs at other universities simply offer traditional topics on a higher level. Ours is completely different. We have five professors, each from a different profession and way of teaching, coming together to teach a course."

Manny Carvajal, professor of economics and leader of the senior honors seminar, "Insight into the Future," agreed that FIU's Honors Program offers an interesting and innovative departure from those found at other universities.

"In other universities' honors programs, the better students learn pretty much the same material as other students, just going deeper into the subject," he said. "Our Honors Program is different in that our courses have been specially designed for our honors students."

Knowledgeable, caring, enthusiastic, and approachable — these are some of the qualities students use to describe the diverse honors faculty, who typically sign up for a three-year teaching commitment.

"To teach in the Honors Program, faculty members have to be outstanding, enthusiastic, accessible teachers," Wisdom explained.

"Talking about accessibility," added Caryl Grof, associate director of

independent research

hope

for

the
future



the Honors Program, “freshman honors teacher Bill Keppler was once in an intensive care unit in the hospital, waiting to be wheeled into surgery, when one of his devoted students managed to sneak into the unit to wish him well. When he came back to work, he exclaimed, ‘The last person I saw before they wheeled me in was one of my students!’ You have to realize that this was a freshman seeking out, at the time, the dean of the College of Health. This is not your typical faculty-student relationship.”

Faculty, administrators and students widely agree that the unique character of the Honors Program and its curriculum require special facilities — which FIU currently lacks. To truly create the sense of a small college within the larger university, the program needs a dedicated facility where classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, student meeting rooms, and computer and study lounges can be located. It could become the central point of focus for virtually all campus activities that focus on outstanding undergraduate academics.

“To make an Honors College function the way the students deserve it to function, we ultimately need a dedicated building,” Wisdom commented. “It’s a great naming opportunity for a donor interested in enhancing a model undergraduate program.”

Honors faculty members, like proud parents, beam with pride when describing their prodigies’ successes upon graduation.

“One of my students recently served as a member of the Florida Board of Regents and is planning to start law school next year,” said Keppler. “I have students who have been Rhodes Scholar candidates, a student who is attending a doctoral program in physical therapy, and another who just graduated from Notre Dame Law School.”

As he reflected on his years of involvement with the program, Canaves poignantly described one student’s triumph over fear. He had been keenly afraid to participate in a videotaped class project.

“He was camera-shy to an extreme,” Canaves recalled. “As the students began to rehearse, he emerged as the main character, the ‘host’ of the ‘talk-show’ we were creating. But he absolutely refused to go in front of the camera.

“For Christmas, I decided to give him a toy microphone. I shared with him my own fears from my youth of speaking in public, of not wanting to make a fool of myself, and he was very taken by my personal experience. He eventually accepted the challenge and did an excellent job with the class project. I think what’s important is not only that he performed well, but that he overcame the fear of doing that particular thing.”

“And that’s what I love about the FIU Honors Program,” he concluded. “We push our students intellectually, socially, physically. We encourage them not just to take in information but to question it, to analyze it, to try new directions. And to me, that is the best preparation we can give them for life.”

“I’m interested in comparing the history we learn in school with that of the Miccosukees, since our history is written and theirs is oral,” said Ginger Gossman, who works part-time at the Miccosukee Indian Village as a tour guide. “My honors professors have taught me that it is okay to question information you receive to study how accurate it is.”



LONG-TERM CARE

FIU CENTER ADDRESSES VITAL NEEDS OF REGION'S ELDERS

by Max B. Rothman

Florida has the highest proportion of elders and one of the fastest growing "old-old" (85 and older) populations of any state.

While crime and immigration policy are two critical concerns in Florida that often receive the lion's share of media and public attention, there's an equally critical issue that is being actively addressed by a Florida International University center.

The Southeast Florida Center on Aging (SFCA), now in its eleventh year, conducts applied research on public policy and practice affecting elders, with an emphasis on emerging issues of long-term care. A few key statistics illustrate the enormous scope of the issue.

There are 361,660 people 60 years of age and older living in Dade County, more older people than in 17 states. Of these, 174,126 or 40.7 percent are Hispanic and 34,595 or 8.7 percent are black. Although nearly 85 percent of elders are healthy and functioning in the community, 34.4 percent are 75 years or older, an age at which the need for health and long-term care intensifies. More than 20 percent of Dade's elders have incomes below the poverty line, including 32.5 percent of black non-Hispanics and 24.5 percent of Hispanics. Florida has a senior population of more than three million people, including a million who are 75 and older. It has the highest proportion of elders and one of the fastest growing "old-old" (85 and older) populations of any state. From 1980 through the year 2000, it is projected to increase 216 percent.

This is a very brief profile of the aging population of Dade County and Florida — a population that is extremely large and ethnically diverse, very old and very poor. It shapes the environment in which the SFCA carries out its mission to conduct policy research, educate and serve the community.

The center also provides technical assistance to public agencies and community organizations that deliver health and social services, and offers other educational programs on aging, including the largest professional certificate program in Florida.

Center faculty recently completed the most extensive examination ever undertaken of Dade County's elder population for the Alliance for Aging, Inc., the area agency on aging for Dade and Monroe Counties. The survey of elders conducted for the study revealed that:

- The average age of the total elder population (60 and over) in Dade County is approximately 71.5 years, and almost 60 percent of elders in the county are female. More than half are married, more than one-quarter are widowed and, overall, nearly one-third live alone.
- More than 40 percent of respondents reporting income live in households with less than \$10,000 in annual income and nearly two-thirds have household incomes of less than \$20,000 per year. Slightly more than two-thirds of the elder population is retired.

- Survey respondents ranked fear of crime as their most important concern, followed by money, health, and personal and family stress.
- While the vast majority of elders receive regular medical care, one-third reported that no one would be available to help them if they became ill, and one-fourth of those 60-64 years of age have no health insurance.

The survey results will help the agency address priorities based on the best available data. Furthermore, through participation in local planning initiatives and presentations to professional groups, center faculty are continuing to explore changes in an evolving health care system and their implications for the current system of long-term care.

Long-term care is a major issue affecting elders. This broad and complex area affects frail elders in need of health and social services to maintain independence and dignity at home and in the community or, when appropriate, in nursing homes. A center research project commissioned by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs is helping shape state policies in three critical long-term care areas with profound fiscal ramifications: a medically-needy nursing home program; a state-supported long-term care insurance initiative, and a program to recover assets from the estates of those using state resources (Medicaid) for long-term care. The state of Florida is confronted with total nursing home expenditures that are projected to reach at least \$3 billion and perhaps as much as \$4 billion by the year 2000. Long-term care costs, primarily nursing home costs, will continue to be the largest single contributor to soaring Medicaid expenses in the state.

The project produced the following recommendations: the Department of Elder Affairs and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services should launch a study to determine the amount of assets sheltering taking place so individuals can qualify for Medicaid coverage; the state should begin planning for a long-term insurance program targeted at individuals with annual incomes above \$15,000 and liquid assets of at least \$40,000; the state should establish an assets recovery initiative if it launches a medically-needy nursing home program or long-term care insurance program.

Miami's unique multicultural composition has prompted the center to focus on minority issues. Center faculty are expanding knowledge and understanding of Hispanic and African-American aging through research, specialized training and program development. The current needs assessment project in Dade County will produce extensive data on minority elders that can be utilized by public officials and professionals. Faculty also are working with colleagues from other universities to design a five-year epidemiological study of older Cubans in Dade County. Funding for the study is being sought from federal sources.

The Elders Institute, part of the SFCA, conducts special classes for nearly 3,000 older persons each year in subjects ranging from European history and contemporary world issues to personal enrichment and self-help. The Elders Institute publishes *The Phoenix*, a quarterly award-winning newsletter in English and Spanish which provides thousands of frail and home-bound elders with important information about aging and about remaining as independent as possible.

The diversity and complexity of Dade County's older population, combined with the challenges of maintaining care systems to meet expanding needs as well as providing new opportunities for healthy, active elders, ensure a challenging agenda for the center. The Southeast Florida Center on Aging will continue to address the critical issues of an aging society affecting both frail and active elders and the communities in which they live.

One-third of elders reported that no one would be available to help them if they became ill, and one-fourth of those 60-64 years of age have no health insurance.

Max B. Rothman, J.D. is executive director of the Southeast Florida Center on Aging.



UNIVERSITY SPONSORS SUPER BOWL EVENTS

Reflecting its growing visibility and prominence in the South Florida community, FIU sponsored and hosted two official Super Bowl events this past January.



The Deion Sanders PrimeTime Shootout, an annual celebrity basketball event, was held two days before the Super

continued on page 30

'96 Olympic hopefuls lead FIU soccer team

by Pedro F. Fonteboa

Jeff Cassar and **Steve Ralston** are student-athletes and roommates who truly are keeping the word "international" in Florida International University.

The two soon-to-be seniors are leaders on the Golden Panthers men's soccer team in the fall. But during the spring and summer months, the duo take their soccer talents on the road — internationally.

Cassar has been the most successful. The 6-foot-1 goalkeeper from Livonia, Michigan, recently was named to the United States Under-23 National Team and played for his country in the Pan American Games, March 10-24, in Argentina.

This spring and summer Cassar will travel with the U.S. National Team for tournaments in France and Central America. The highlight is expected to be the World University Games in Japan. While Ralston barely missed making the U.S. squad for the Pan Am Games, he will have another shot in the spring to make the national squad for the summer tour. If not, Ralston will travel with other select teams.

"The experience these two are getting is incredible," said FIU Soccer Coach **Karl Kremser**, who guided the Golden Panthers to a 16-4-1 record last fall and a berth in the NCAA Men's Soccer National Championship Tournament. "Not only are they improving tremendously, but they are spreading the word about Florida International University. It's exciting for them, for the team and for me as their college coach."

Unfortunately for the pair and the Golden Panthers, their 1994 season came to an abrupt end with a 2-1 overtime loss to visiting Duke University in the NCAA tournament's first round. FIU had been ranked nationally as high as number 7, the best ever by any FIU intercollegiate team in Division I.

"The way that our season ended was hard to accept for a while," said Cassar, who had 92 saves and eight shutouts in 21 games. "I am now concentrating on the Pan Am Games and other international competition to prepare for next fall. I believe we are going to have a great season."



Ralston, a 5-foot-9 midfielder, had a terrific junior season, becoming the nation's leading scorer in Division I with 19 goals, 18 assists and 56 points. Ralston started the season at forward but moved to the midfield where his speed gave the Golden Panthers a much better attack.

"Moving to midfield suddenly improved opportunities for me," said Ralston, who was named a Junior College All-American in 1992 at Forest Park Community College in his hometown of St. Louis.

Jeff Cassar, FIU Golden Panther goalie



Steve Ralston,
FIU Golden Panther
midfielder

A year later, he was chosen FIU's Newcomer of the Year. "I was able to do some things to get open and score a lot, and it seemed my teammates scored just about every time I made a pass. It was a year in which a lot went right, until the final game. I hope the summer tours and playing with others who have international experience will raise my game to even another level."

Cassar has been at that "other" level for some time. He starred on the international circuit at the 1993 World Youth Championships in Australia when he started all four games for the U.S. Under-20 team and recorded a 6-0 shutout against Turkey, which was then Europe's number one ranked team.

Next January, Cassar will join the country's best players at the 1996 Olympic Development Camp. Ralston and FIU forward Roger Thomas also are expected to be invited to the camp.

Thomas, a fleet-footed wing from Jamaica who scored 14 goals and nine assists for 37 points last season, has applied for U.S. citizenship in order to qualify for the U.S. national team. If granted, it would give FIU an excellent chance to have three athletes on the U.S. Olympic men's soccer team.

Interestingly, while the Olympics are hosted by the United States in Atlanta, eight preliminary men's games will be played in South Florida at the Orange Bowl and Joe Robbie Stadium.

"If things work out well, and I think they will, South Florida fans will be able to see Olympic soccer played by the best in the world — including three Golden Panthers," said a proud Coach Kremser. "Now that's international exposure."

Pedro F. Fonteboa is the assistant director of intercollegiate athletics at FIU and a former sports writer and soccer columnist for The Miami Herald.

Bowl at the Golden Panther Arena at University Park. Dozens of celebrities and sports stars attended the event, which benefited several non-profit organizations — including FIU's scholarship fund, which received approximately \$12,000 of the proceeds.

"It was very exciting to have the Shootout at FIU; it enabled us to show off our campus to a lot of community leaders and celebrities," said **Pedro Fonteboa**, assistant athletic director for development and a member of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee. "Our goal was to have two Super Bowl events associated with FIU."

Among the celebrities participating in the Shootout were Sanders and other sports stars, **Magic Johnson**, and **Ken Griffy Jr.**, and rap entertainers **Snoop Doggy Dogg**, **Hammer**, and **Luther Campbell**.



The Sixth Annual FIU Avino/Buchholz Family Tennis Weekend, held at the Tennis Center at Crandon Park on Key Biscayne, was also sanctioned as an official South Florida Super Bowl event. The weekend included a Family/Friends Tournament, a Corporate Challenge and the main event, the Professional/Amateur doubles competition.

1995-96 FIU Men's Soccer Schedule

DAY/DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
AUGUST			
Mon 28	Lynn (Exhibition)	HOME-FIU	4:00
SEPTEMBER			
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOURNAMENT			
Sat 2	New Mexico	Colo. Springs	1:00
Mon 4	Air Force	Colo. Springs	1:00
Thu 7	Florida Atlantic*	Boca Raton	7:30
Fri 15	Stetson*	HOME-FIU	7:30
Sun 17	Central Florida*	HOME-FIU	4:00
GOLDEN PANTHER INVITATIONAL			
Fri 22	Butler	HOME-FIU	8:00
Sun 24	UNC-Greensboro	HOME-FIU	3:00
BUTLER UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT			
Fri 29	San Diego	Indianapolis	5:00
OCTOBER			
BUTLER UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT			
Sun 1	Southern Methodist	Indianapolis	12:00
Fri 6	Florida Atlantic*	HOME-FIU-DH	8:00
Tue 10	Lynn	HOME-FIU-DH	8:00
Sat 14	Central Florida*	Orlando	2:00
Mon 16	Stetson*	Deland, Florida	4:00
Fri 20	UNC-Charlotte	Tampa	6:00
Sun 22	Cincinnati	Tampa	1:00
SOUTHERN BELL CLASSIC			
Fri 27	Rutgers	HOME-FIU	8:00
Sun 29	Indiana	HOME-FIU	3:00
NOVEMBER			
TBA	Barry	TBA	TBA
TBA	TAAC Tournament*	TBA	TBA

1995-96 FIU Women's Soccer Schedule

DAY/DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
SEPTEMBER			
Fri 1	Fairfield (CT)	HOME-FIU	7:00
Sun 3	College of Charleston	HOME-FIU	12:00
Fri 8	Stetson*	Deland, Florida	4:00
Sun 10	Central Florida*	Orlando	12:00
COLLEGIATE AMERICA CUP			
Fri 15	Southern Methodist	St. Louis	6:00
Sun 17	UNC-Chapel Hill	St. Louis	11:00
Fri 22	Florida Atlantic*	Boca Raton	7:30
Tue 26	Barry	HOME-FIU	7:00
Fri 29	College of Charleston*	Charleston	4:00
Sat 30	Charleston Southern	Charleston	4:00
OCTOBER			
Fri 6	Florida Atlantic*	HOME-FIU-DH	6:00
Tue 10	St. Thomas	HOME-FIU-DH	6:00
Sat 14	UNC-Greensboro	HOME-FIU	7:00
Sun 15	Central Florida*	HOME-FIU	4:00
Fri 20	Indiana	HOME-FIU	7:00
Sun 22	Stetson*	HOME-FIU	2:00
WOMEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT AT FIU			
Fri 27	Villanova	HOME-FIU	8:00
Sat 28	George Mason	HOME-FIU	6:00
NOVEMBER			
Fr/Sa 3-4	TAAC Tournament*	TBA	TBA

*Conference game

DH double header-FIU men's/women's soccer

NC North Campus

A Message from the Alumni Affairs Director

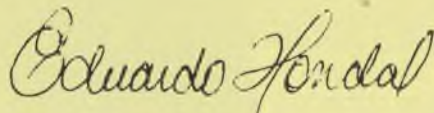
Greetings from the FIU Office of Alumni Affairs. Our office was "March Madness" headquarters for the University thanks to both our men's and women's basketball teams advancing to the NCAA tournament. Did you know this was the first time any university from South Florida placed both their men's and women's basketball teams in the NCAA tournament? As alumni and fans, we congratulate our Golden Panther basketball teams for a magical run that has given FIU name recognition throughout the country. Way to go!

Very few events can give a university overnight fame. With academics, it takes time for a reputation to develop. UC-Berkeley or Harvard were not built in a day. However, through athletics a university can receive instant national attention.

Is this right? Should athletics be important in the overall scheme of education? Whether this is appropriate — or if athletics should be given much attention at all — is not the issue. FIU's primary mission is to provide an education to all students, including student-athletes. The University's academic reputation is exceptional and is a source of much pride for all alumni. But the fact remains that because of our recent successes in athletics, more students may inquire about FIU, alumni may donate a little more for our scholarship programs, and corporations will likely donate or increase their donation (jump on the bandwagon) to FIU. Statistics show that success in either football or basketball results in increased fund raising for the institution.

That's why athletics is so important. It is something to rally around. It builds comradery among alumni and fans. It increases FIU's visibility and support in the South Florida community. It increases revenues which are essential to our scholarships and programs.

One may ask, what things can I do to support athletics? Attending our athletic events is one way to show your support. If you have scheduling conflicts and cannot attend, then show support by wearing FIU merchandise. Whenever someone purchases any type of collegiate apparel, they have made a donation to that particular school as a result of merchandising royalties. As alumni of FIU, if you are going to support a university, it should be the institution that provided you with your education. Royalties from collegiate merchandising sales means big money for many schools (eg, Notre Dame made over \$4 million in 1994). Just imagine what \$4 million would mean to Florida International!



Eduardo "Eddie" Hondal
Director, Office of Alumni Affairs



Eduardo "Eddie" Hondal

Life income gifts benefit FIU and you

A life income gift can help individuals achieve important personal and family financial goals while benefiting FIU at the same time. By taking full advantage of existing federal tax laws, making a life income gift to FIU can help individuals accomplish some or all of the following financial objectives: increase current income; reduce current income taxes; completely bypass or defer capital gains taxes; and reduce federal estate taxes and expenses.

Best of all, individuals of even moderate means can take advantage of one of the life income plans available.

How does a life income gift work? The concept is simple. An individual or couple irrevocably transfer assets — cash, appreciated securities, perhaps even real estate — to the FIU Foundation or a trust in return for annual income payments for life.

What are the benefits? Depending on the exact circumstances, making a life income gift can often enable an individual to double or triple current income from the assets used to fund the gift; in some cases, part of that income can be tax-free. The donor also receives a significant tax deduction in the year the gift is made, and the assets are removed from the donor's estate, possibly saving on estate taxes and settlement costs.

What kinds of plans are there? There are two basic types of life income gifts: The **Charitable Gift Annuity** can be used effectively by individuals with moderate or considerable assets, and the **Charitable Remainder Trust**, designed for individuals of more substantial means, provides benefits similar to the gift annuity but can also provide the donor with greater flexibility and control.

Who might consider a life income gift? Life income gifts might be appropriate for anyone over age 50 to provide supplementary retirement income. The benefits provided by a life income gift are particularly attractive for those 65 and older.

For information on how you might benefit from a life income gift to FIU, including a free estate planning booklet and a computerized analysis of your specific situation, call or write Roger E. Wyman, director of Planned Giving, University Park - PC 230, Miami, Florida 33199. Telephone, 305-348-3332; fax, 305-348-2288.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
PLEASE
inform us of your latest accomplishments, career changes, geographical moves, family news, etc. for upcoming Class Notes. 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!

ASK FOR IT!

Two of the most common questions asked by FIU alumni, students, boosters and employees are: When is FIU getting a football team? And when will FIU merchandise be available in stores?

The first question will be answered when the University's Football Feasibility Committee has completed its work. The second question can only be answered by all those who ask.

It's common knowledge that supply is a result of demand — and the fact is that the FIU family has not been asking for FIU merchandise. They don't ask because they assume that no one carries FIU merchandise. This complacency has prevented FIU from being represented in local stores.

Buyers from major retail chains in South Florida say they do not carry FIU merchandise because no one asks for it.

It takes FIU alumni, students, boosters and employees to create a demand. They need to ask that FIU merchandise be sold in these stores.

The FIU family includes some 60,000 alumni, 26,000 students and 3,000 employees. Once retailers realize the potential of this market, FIU merchandise will share shelf space with Florida, FSU and UM, among others. But only you can make it happen!

LDDS offers savings on long distance telephone service



LDDSSM
COMMUNICATIONS

FIU alumni, as well as FIU employees and their families, can now obtain savings on their long distance telephone service through the FIU-LDDS Alumni Savers Program. The FIU Alumni Association recently finalized a three-year agreement with LDDS Communications, the nation's fourth-largest long distance carrier.

The Alumni Savers Program offers discount rates on commercial telecommunications services and competitive rates on residential services. In addition to long distance savings, LDDS will contribute a percentage of each participant's long distance charges to FIU. Through the program, one can switch to LDDS long distance service at no cost and begin enjoying immediate savings. Individuals already using LDDS can also participate simply by notifying LDDS that they want to be a part of the FIU Alumni Savers Program.

"We all make long distance calls, so this is a convenient and economical way for alumni to show their support for FIU," said Eduardo Hondal, director of Alumni Affairs. "We are pleased to make this offer available to everyone associated with the University. I enrolled the moment the contract was signed."

Those who enroll in the program will receive a colorful calling card, designed by the FIU Publications Office, featuring the face of a live Golden Panther.

LDDS also offers optional services such as voice mailbox, automatic message delivery and conference calling.

To participate in the FIU program, call LDDS at 1-800-694-3341 and mention your desire to be part of the FIU Alumni Savers Program.

Health care insurance available from PCA



The FIU Alumni Association has finalized plans for Physician Corporation of America (PCA) to offer comprehensive health care insurance to its members.

Beginning this month, Association members can take advantage of a group discount rate on an array of health insurance products. The PCA package was chosen by the Alumni Association after a competitive bid process that involved several major insurance companies.

PCA provides comprehensive health care services to approximately 500,000 members through its health maintenance organizations located in Florida, Georgia and Texas. The company has more than 320,000 participants throughout Florida.

Alumni Association members can purchase medical coverage, including vision and prescription drug benefits, for individuals and families. Accidental death and dismemberment insurance and short-term medical insurance are also available. In the future, members also will be able to purchase dental care coverage and term life insurance through PCA and its affiliates.

Within the next month, PCA will send alumni information about the specific coverage they will offer. For more information, call PCA at 1-800-338-2555.

Alumni PRIVILEGES & BENEFITS

FIU alumni can call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 305-348-3595 or 1-800-FIU-ALUM (348-3334) to have all their questions answered about alumni events and privileges. Inquiries in writing can also be directed to Eduardo Hondal, Director, Office of Alumni Affairs, University Park-PC 225, Miami, FL 33199-0001.

CAREER COUNSELING



The FIU Office of Career Planning and Placement offers a wide range of services on occupational trends, career options and job search techniques. The fee for services is \$30 for members of the FIU Alumni Association and \$35 for all other alumni. All Alumni Association members can receive free passes for the annual FIU Alumni Career Expo. For additional information, call 305-348-2423 (University Park) or 305-940-5813 (North Campus).

ATHLETICS



Alumni can take advantage of the use of all athletic facilities at the University, including fitness center, aquatic center, racquet sports center and basketball courts. There is a \$50 per semester fee. For more information, call Campus Recreation at 305-348-2951 (University Park) or 305-948-4571 (North Campus).

LIBRARIES



Alumni with proof of graduation may check out books and other materials from the University libraries.

CREDIT UNION



Alumni have access to the same benefits FIU employees enjoy at the University Credit Union. Personal and auto loans are offered at competitive rates. In addition, free checking, credit cards and no-fee ATM cards are available. Call 348-2499.

Additional benefits available to FIU Alumni Association members:

VACATION DISCOUNTS



Discount admission to some of the most popular theme parks in the country are available to members of the Alumni Association. Universal Studios, Sea World, Busch Gardens and Wet 'n Wild offer lower rates for members.

Members receive discounts on rental car rates from Hertz, National, Avis, Alamo and Budget. Discounts are also available from Choice Hotel International.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

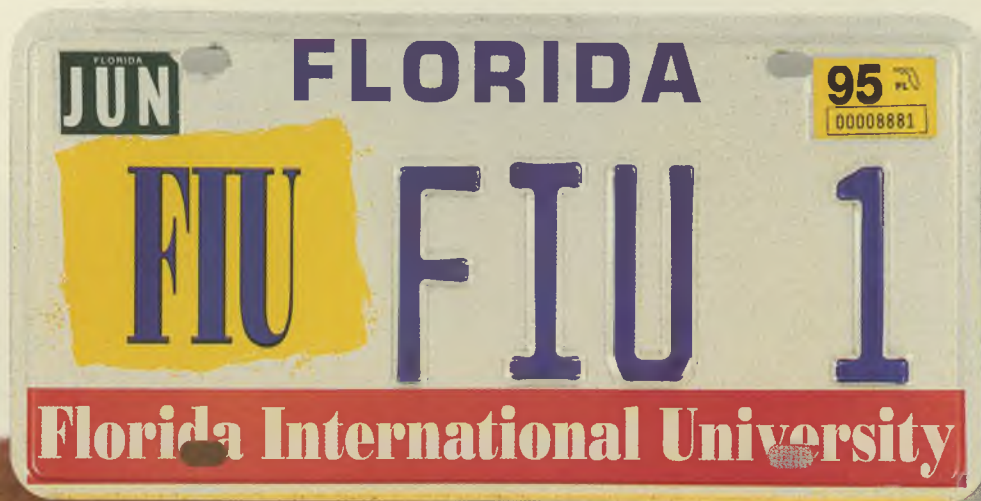


FIU offers a variety of continuing education courses, at both North Campus and University Park, that now are available to association members at a 10 percent discount. Call 940-5669 for brochures and catalogs.

CORPORATE RATES



JoS. A. Banks, one of the nation's leading clothiers, offers discounts on orders. In addition, the *Wall Street Journal*, DryClean USA and National Tire Wholesalers offer discount rates to members only.



**Let 'em know
where you're
coming from.**

DID YOU KNOW that when you **BACK UP** your alma mater by purchasing an **FIU license plate** that proceeds go directly to **FIU scholarships and programs**? You can trade in your state of Florida license plate for an **FIU plate** now or wait until it's time to renew. Just call or visit your local tag agency for full instructions in order to receive your Florida International University license plate.

FIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 1-800-FIU-ALUM



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University Park
Miami, FL 33199-0001

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