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FIU

● SPRING 2002

magazine

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Miami's public research university

For alumni and friends of FIU
www.fiu.edu/orgs/fiunmag

**GET READY
TO ROAR!**
Strock and
Golden Panthers
prepare to launch
FIU Football

**ALSO IN
THIS ISSUE:**

**New Board of Trustees
advances FIU agenda**

**Chapman Graduate School
of Business dedicated**

**Eradicating lead poisoning
in the inner city**

got tickets?

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VOL.9 no.1
2002 spring
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Don Strock FIU Head Football Coach



FIU FOOTBALL
2002 SEASON TICKETS
305-FIU-GAME

It usually takes some time for new expressions to find their way into everyday conversation. We barely notice that terms like "surfing the web" have entered our vocabulary. The latest term is "9/11" – although instead of slowly filtering into our speaking, it suddenly and traumatically became part of our speaking and much, much more. 9/11 is a dividing line, a moment defining life before and after.

Sometimes it appears as if life will never be the same after we experience tragedy. But slowly, in most instances, time heals and life resumes. Like other communities throughout our nation, students, faculty and staff throughout our FIU community joined together to grieve and share their experiences of 9/11. And then, individually and collectively, we moved forward.

The major stories in this issue look forward. With the dissolution of the state Board of Regents, the FIU Board of Trustees is now the University's governing body, and they're aggressively seeking more equitable funding for the institution. The new Graduate School of Business, named after Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., one of the most esteemed leaders in Miami history, is forging ahead with plans to become one of the best of its kind in the nation. And on August 29, the Golden Panther football team, led by head coach Don Strock, begins its first season of intercollegiate competition.

In several respects, this year represents the start of a new era for FIU and marks the approach of its 30th anniversary in fall 2002. The events of recent months (and FIU's 30 years) remind us that we are shaped by a past we can't change. With vision and determination, however, we can change the future — something FIU has proven time and time again.

Todd Ellenberg
Editor



FIU *magazine*

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Miami's public research university

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On the cover: Golden Panther Edwin Pierre #85, Tight End • George Valcarce, Photographer

FIU MAGAZINE

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This memorial service at University Park concluded with the release of balloons in memory of those who perished.

FIU COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO AMERICA'S CRISIS

It was a day of successive nightmares beyond anyone's imagination, a series of unprecedented moments and images that have forever changed our nation and the FIU community.

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day that will remain forever etched in the memories of all those who lived through it. Throughout the morning, the Media Relations Office, where a bank of televisions and VCRs record media coverage of the University, was filled with employees and students watching the attacks of the World Trade Center and Pentagon in shocked disbelief. Comparable scenes took place throughout the University. In the coming days, many members of the FIU community learned of the loss of family or friends as a result of the events. FIU alumnus Army Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Johnson, who graduated in 1986 with a master's degree in Hospitality Management, was one of those who perished in the Pentagon attack.

The FIU community immediately responded to the tragedy with activities to mourn the victims, help those in need and mobilize for the future, including blood drives, memorial gatherings and psychological services.

Before noon on the 11th, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique released a statement on the national tragedy and announced the immediate closing of the University. Flags at the campuses were lowered to half-mast. By the next day, a flurry of activities were in motion.

The University's Health Care and Wellness Center hosted an emergency blood drive at FIU-University Park and hundreds of students and faculty rolled up their sleeves and answered the call. Subsequent blood drives were scheduled for both campuses. FIU Counseling and Psychological Services Centers were acces-

sible throughout the day and evening, and health professionals with the Employee Assistance Program were also available. The Academy for the Art of Teaching provided faculty, via univmail, with an outline that offered guidance in leading classes the day after the tragedy. All the University's athletic events were cancelled for the week. A host of student organizations have been raising funds for relief efforts.

President Maidique issued a universitywide email urging against unwarranted responses against Arab or Muslim fellow students, colleagues and other members of the University community, noting the "diversity that makes this University and this nation strong."

The Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, the Transnational and Comparative Studies Center, and the Center for Leadership Development and Civic Responsibility organized a teach-in and roundtable discussion on terrorism.

Several ceremonies also were held to honor those lost in the attacks. A candlelight vigil was held at Biscayne Bay Campus and memorial services were held on both campuses. At the University Park event, attended by a standing-room-only crowd of more than 600, words of comfort and patriotic hymns highlighted the service, which concluded outside with the release of hundreds of red, white and blue helium balloons in memory of those who perished. "I think these tragic deaths occurred so all of us, all of the nations of the world, can be free of terrorism," President Maidique said, foretelling the historic international campaign against terrorism that has unfolded since 9/11.

HCET ASSISTS IN WORLD TRADE CENTER CLEANUP

Deactivation and decommissioning engineers from FIU's Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology (HCET) responded to the call from Frank Hanley, general president of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), to support operating engineers involved with the cleanup of the World Trade Center site in Manhattan.

HCET's engineers collaborated with the IUOE in their efforts to support operating engineers working at "ground zero." The Southern West Virginia Emergency Response Unit of the IUOE National Hazmat Program, arrived at the site September 18th to support the rescue and cleanup workers. The unit provided industrial hygiene and safety expertise, personal protective equipment, and a 24-hour toll-free emergency response hotline with safety and health professionals.

"Like all Americans, at FIU we are anxious to help in the recovery effort," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "I can't think of a better way to support the efforts of Mr. Hanley and our partners in IUOE than by putting to work the expertise we have developed through years of research at FIU."

The National Hazmat Program and the HCET team helped to protect workers from asbestos, dust and other potential hazards that may be encountered as the mountains of debris and rubble are moved away from the site.

"I'm grateful that our team has the opportunity to help in the wake of this horrific tragedy," said Ali Ebadian, director of HCET. "With the long road that lies ahead for this project, the rescue and cleanup workers will face significant challenges. If we can help prevent any further injury or loss of life to those who have already displayed such selfless courage, our involvement will be well worth it."

www.hcet.fiu.edu

SUNY-STONY BROOK'S PRASAD NAMED NEW DEAN OF ENGINEERING

Vishwanath "Vish" Prasad, associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences of the State University of New York-Stony Brook, is the new dean of the College of Engineering at Florida International University. Prasad, who joined FIU last summer, was also named a distinguished professor of Engineering.

A 1983 doctoral graduate (Mechanical Engineering) of the University of Delaware, Prasad played a key role in the expansion of engineering education, research and partnerships with the private sector at Stony Brook. He assisted in the development of his college's new graduate programs in Bioengineering, Mechatronics Engineering and Information Systems, and the proposed undergraduate program in Chemical Engineering.

While he was associate dean, sponsored research increased by almost 50 percent to more than \$16 million, and Stony Brook now works with more than 100 private firms through New York's Program of Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence.

With research interests that include semiconductor wafer manufacturing, convective heat transfer, heat transfer in porous media, materials processing and crystal growth, Prasad holds two patents (both with other collaborators) and has published numerous symposia volumes, articles in edited books and professional journal papers. He has significant experience

in advanced research, having served as director of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research/DARPA Consortium for Crystal Growth Research, a multidisciplinary research initiative of the Department of Defense supporting a consortium of six U.S. institutions.

In addition to the Air Force, supporters of his research include both public and private funding sources, such as the National Science Foundation, GT Equipment Technologies and IBM, among others. He is an elected fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the USRA Microgravity Science Research Council that reviews NASA Programs in Fluid Physics, Combustion and Materials.

"The College of Engineering at FIU has a tradition of leading FIU's advanced research initiatives," said Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark B. Rosenberg. "Dr. Prasad will provide leadership to enhance its role as the University's lead research unit, and he will improve the quality and breadth of engineering undergraduate education programs."

www.eng.fiu.edu

SIX FIU ALUMNI AND STUDENT PART OF PULITZER PRIZE TEAM

Five FIU alumni and one graduating senior from the FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) were part of the team of journalists at *The Miami Herald* who received a Pulitzer Prize last year for their breaking news coverage of Elian Gonzalez's seizure by federal agents and the raid's aftermath. *The Herald* won its 17th Pulitzer – the most prestigious award in U.S. journalism – for its coverage of the event.

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Vishwanath "Vish" Prasad



FIU Pulitzer winners: Liz Balmaseda, Johnny Diaz, Eunice Ponce, Mireidy Fernandez, Jasmine Kripalani (student) and Manny Garcia.

The five graduates who covered the event are Eunice Ponce '00; Mireidy Fernandez '98; Manny Garcia '90; Liz Balmaseda '82; and Johnny Diaz '96. The student was Jasmine Kripalani, who graduated last May and was named SJMC's 2000-01 Outstanding Journalism Student. Two of these alumni previously won a Pulitzer (Balmaseda) or shared in one (Garcia).

To date, eight Pulitzers have been won, in whole or in part, by SJMC graduates – a phenomenal number, considering FIU's journalism program was founded just over 20 years ago. In contrast, larger journalism schools that have been around for decades have fewer graduates who have won Pulitzers.

"We have known for some time that we have an outstanding student body, and the success of our alumni have confirmed the exceptional education and career preparation they receive at our school," said SJMC Dean J. Arthur Heise. "Nevertheless, this latest achievement by six of our alumni, who were awarded the most coveted prize in journalism, is very rare and truly exceptional. It demonstrates the superb work of our faculty, which produces such outstanding performers, and the continuing progress of the SJMC."

www.fiu.edu/~journal

FIU AND UM PARTNER ON EUROPEAN UNION CENTER

The inauguration of the FIU/University of Miami (UM) European Union Center, a prestigious "think tank" focusing on economic, political and social issues related to the European Union (EU), was held in September at FIU-University Park at a ceremony that both university presidents attended.

"The European Union Center is significant to both of our institutions because it gives Miami's two research universities a new opportunity to work together on a project of significant importance to our universities and our country," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "The Center will strengthen our institutions' research capabilities and international outreach efforts at a time of increasing global interdependence. We're privileged to be able to collaborate directly with our counterparts in the United States and Europe."

Founded in 1998, the network of EU Centers at U.S. universities seeks to promote advanced study of the EU to build stronger ties between Europe and the United States. FIU and UM were among 15 universities in the United States to be awarded a \$425,000 grant for a European Union Center by the



FIU President Modesto A. Maidique and UM President Donna E. Shalala

European Commission. Leading the effort to secure the funding were the School of International Studies at UM and the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies (TCS) at FIU.

Ralph Clem, director of FIU's TCS and professor of International Relations, and Joaquin Roy, International Studies professor at UM, are heading the new center. Joseph Jupille, professor of Political Science at FIU, and Vendulka Kubalkova, professor of International and Comparative Studies at UM, will serve as associate directors.

The funding specifically provides for the development of new courses on the EU; financial assistance to graduate students and faculty pursuing research on related topics; academic conferences on EU-related issues; public lectures; and outreach workshops for educators, journalists, media professionals and the greater Miami business community. A multilanguage web site, apprising the community of events and issues concerning the EU, is now operational.

Other universities selected for the European Union Center awards were: the University of California at Berkeley; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Michigan, the University System of Georgia, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Pittsburgh, Syracuse University, Texas A&M University, the University of Washington (Seattle), the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a consortia of universities in New York City and the Washington, D.C. area.

www.miamieuc.org/en

FIU'S FIRST FRATERNITY HOUSE OPENS

In yet another landmark reflecting FIU's maturation, FIU's first fraternity house was dedicated last September. Phi Gamma Delta, also known as FIJI, is leading the way for what will eventually become "Fraternity Row" at FIU.

"The students, whether they are FIJIs or not, are excited and justifiably so," said Vice President for Student Affairs and Human Resources Patricia Telles-Irvin. "This house symbolizes a coming of age for student life at FIU."

Enhanced student life, in this case, means gathering responsibly in a sound environment: the FIJI house will be alcohol-free. A few years ago FIJIs who live in South Florida helped establish the FIU chapter, FIJI's first in the area. It was around that time that the fraternity's international governing board began considering a move to make its houses alcohol-free. The policy went into effect last year.

"We're in a new era now," said Ashley O'Kurley, a FIJI who graduated from the University of Alberta in Canada and will serve as director of the new house. Although many fraternities had strict rules regarding alcohol before the 1960s, O'Kurley explained, the openness and experimentation of that decade kicked off what would become an increasingly serious problem in later years.

Like residence halls, fraternity buildings provide housing alternatives for students who would otherwise live off campus. FIU houses 1,500 students in residence halls on University Park and 300 more on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The second phase of Panther Hall, now under construction at University Park, will add another 400 beds by 2002.

"The construction of housing is an important part of our continuing bid to bolster the University's increasingly rich campus life," FIU President Modesto A. Maidique said. "Fraternity houses go hand-in-hand with the construction of more residence halls, the addition of a football program and our expansion of the existing football stadium. This campus is no longer simply a place for classroom learning but a place to live, learn and play in a communal, social setting."

Located near the 107th Ave. and 16th Street entrance to University Park, the two-story, concrete block and stucco house features 13,500 square feet of space, including bedrooms to accommodate 34 students and a suite for the house director. The attractive cream-colored, red tile-roofed building represents the first of five fraternity houses currently planned for the campus. As many as three others-

are expected to break ground during the coming academic year.

The house's \$2 million price tag, which includes the costs of landscaping and furniture, was funded exclusively with private money and received its initial boost from R. Kirk Landon, retired chairman of the former American Bankers Insurance Group. Landon, who is a FIJI fraternity brother, Georgia Tech, class of 1950, donated \$1.3 million. FIJI has 50 current undergraduate members at FIU; another 20 have graduated from FIU in the past three years.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS THREE NEW VPS, INCLUDING CIO

Over the past year, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique has named three new vice presidents and changed the duties of two current vice presidents.

In January, Maidique announced the promotion of 30-year FIU employee Rosa Jones, formerly vice provost of Academic Affairs and dean of Undergraduate Studies, to the newly created position of vice president for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies. Jones, who received her doctorate in social work from Howard University, initially joined FIU in 1972 as an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work.

Dale Chapman Webb – who as vice president for Advancement and Marketing led the \$200 million Campaign for FIU to completion last year, one-and-a-half years ahead of schedule and \$5 million above its goal – was named vice president of External Relations and is focusing her efforts on the University's marketing and public relations activities. Webb now oversees Advertising and Brand Management, Community Relations, Marketing, Publications/Print Design, Media Relations, Communications and Interactive Design.

Patricia Telles-Irvin, vice president of Student Affairs and vice provost of Academic Affairs, had Human Resources added to her responsibilities. As vice president of Student Affairs and Human Resources, she continues managing departments and programs affecting student life and is charged with establishing a system of personnel management that is commensurate with other state-of-the-art human resources systems at leading universities.

Howard R. Lipman, former CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Miami & the Keys, was named vice president for Advancement and is developing a new capital campaign. He planned and implemented the Red Cross' current \$46-million capital campaign

continued on page 6



John P. McGowan



and, as a fund-raiser achieved a \$2.4-million development goal for the Zoological Society and secured more than \$10 million in gifts for the UM medical school.

Last summer, John P. McGowan, a senior technology professional with more than 25 years of computer-related experience, became FIU's new vice president for information resources and chief information officer (CIO). The former chief technology officer for the University of Southern Mississippi — like FIU, an institution that enjoys the highest research university rating from the Carnegie Foundation — McGowan has professional experience at more than a dozen institutions of higher learning. He also has experience with such private-sector technology leaders as AT&T, Unisys, Systems & Computer Technology Corp., IBM and others.

MODEL UN STUDENT TEAM CAPTURES FIRST PLACE AWARDS

FIU's Model United Nations (MUN) team returned from last spring's National College Model United Nations (UN) Conference in New York with two "Outstanding Delegation" first-place awards for performance and excellence in position papers.

The five-day conference is the oldest and most prestigious UN competition for college students, having been created by the UN in the late 1940s. More than 3,000 college students from 122 universities around the world participated, according to Jeanne Kates, Political Science instructor and director of FIU's MUN program. Sessions were held at the United Nations, with closing ceremonies held in the UN General Assembly Hall.

The FIU delegation, representing Turkey, was one of eight schools to receive a first-place "Outstanding Delegation" award for performance in the simulated sessions. They were also one of six schools to earn a first-place "Outstanding Delegation" award for excellence in written position papers. The two first-place awards are particularly impressive since there were only three award categories.

"Our students were so professional," said Kates. "I was particularly proud of the position papers award because, to me, that represents a high degree of academic achievement."

The FIU delegation included Adela Lopes, head delegate; Frank Fernandez, assistant head delegate; Ricky Astray-Caneda; Susana Camacho; Robert Castellanos; Melissa Fernandez; Wilfredo Gaitan; Duran Inci; Heidi Marcelo; Sebastian Marino; Paula

Olivares; Rolando Roig; Jennifer Rubenstein; Khaleel Seecharan; and Felipe Sixto.

Model United Nations (INR 4926) is a three-credit course offered each spring semester by the Department of Political Science in conjunction with FIU's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies, the FIU Student Government Association and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office. Students are drawn from across the University and are interviewed before being admitted to the class, according to John Stack, director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies.

"These students represent the best and brightest that we have to offer," said Stack.

www.fiu.edu/~polsci/mun/index.htm

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR TO SPEARHEAD STUDY ON MARINE TOXINS

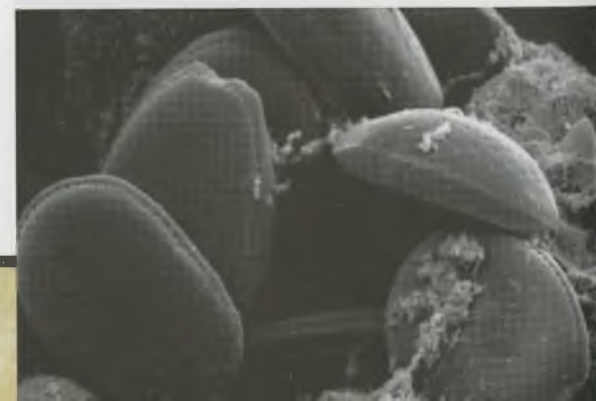
Florida International University, in conjunction with the University of Miami, has received a \$2.2 million grant to study toxins, both naturally occurring and man-made, in the waters in which we swim and that house the fish we eat.

The grant, from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, is the largest in the history of the FIU Chemistry Department.

"Toxins in marine and fresh water organisms are a public health threat," said Kathleen Rein, principal investigator of the program and assistant professor of Chemistry at FIU. "One of the things our research aims to do is to characterize unknown toxins in these organisms and determine ways to detect and prevent them in order to keep seafood consumers from getting sick."

Worldwide, there are approximately 85 species of marine or freshwater algae that produce toxins that represent a threat to public health through seafood consumption or recreational use of the waters. Most, if not all, of the organisms can be found in Florida's freshwater or coastal ecosystems. Thus, while the project has worldwide implications, it is particularly relevant to Florida.

Electron micrograph of proroentrum lima, producer of the toxin okadaic acid.



JAMES BORRONE

The grant, which lasts five years, will fund research and pilot projects as well as workshops, seminars and a facility at FIU to grow some of the microorganisms for research purposes.

The interdisciplinary project includes faculty from FIU's and UM's biology and chemistry departments, as well as from FIU's Southeast Environmental Research Center. Current research projects include developing new methods to detect toxin-producing organisms, identifying unknown toxins, and understanding the biosynthesis of these toxins. In addition to naturally occurring toxins, one group will be studying the impact of arsenic from chromated copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood within aquatic environments. Recently, there has been research conducted on what becomes of the arsenic in treated wood, but the research has not focused on arsenic in aquatic environments. This new research is particularly relevant to South Florida, since most wood docks are made from CCA-treated wood.

NEW CENTER SEEKS TO SOW SEEDS OF SUCCESS

The fruit of the saw palmetto, a plant that's abundant in Florida, is useful in treating benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a ubiquitous disease in males. So useful, in fact, that clinical studies have shown it works as well as or better than Finasteride, a drug prescribed commonly in this country for treatment of BPH. The conundrum: no one has been able to pinpoint exactly why saw palmetto works.

Yerba mate, a product that's popular in parts of Brazil and Paraguay, is marketed as a caffeine-free coffee and tea substitute. It's said to contain mateine, a compound similar to caffeine but milder and without some of the detrimental side effects. Now that it's becoming more popular in the U.S., inquiring minds want to know: What's in it?

Ethnobotanist Brad Bennett, phytochemist and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences Kelsey Downum and analytical organic chemist James "Martin" Quirke hope to solve these riddles and related issues concerning alternative/herbal medicines through their collaborations at the newly created FIU Center for Ethnobiology and Natural Products (CENaP).

The preliminary work of the center has confirmed the presence of caffeine in yerba mate, so they are exploring now why the product is better tolerated in some people than other products containing caffeine.



JACK SCHEPHER

Saw palmetto

"We've tried to create a niche that distinguishes us from other similar centers throughout the country," says Bennett, who is the center's director. "What does that is the ethnobiology, which is the study of the human uses and management of plant and animal resources.

"We hope to find out what chemicals are in certain products and determine whether they are safe and effective. From that, there may be the broader application of new drugs or chemical compounds, but that's not our primary goal. We'll have a real ethnic and anthropological focus on how people are utilizing plants."

An estimated one-third of the U.S. population spends at least \$3.5 billion on herbal medicines each year and the use of herbal medicines in the country increased 380 percent from 1990 to 1997. Plants provide most of the world's medicines, and 25 percent of the drugs on the market trace their origins to plants.

The center was the recent recipient of a five-year, \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support doctoral and postdoctoral students with the skills needed to investigate pathways and related issues concerning medicinal plants. The training program will include coursework, lab rotations, field study, original research and attendance at national meetings.

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The center benefits from the affiliation of approximately 20 faculty members from various disciplines.

"There are thousands of plants and animals out there about which we know very little," explains Bennett, "But we're going to limit our scope to things that have human importance. We're going to concentrate on things that are being utilized by people and yet we don't know what's in them."

CENaP also is discussing collaborative work with a California firm that manufactures herbal products, as well as local pharmaceutical firms interested in evaluating existing products and developing new products, Bennett said.

www.fiu.edu/~cenap

OUTREACH WEB SITE LAUNCHED IN SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

FIU has launched an interactive and accessible web site to present programs and courses to students in Latin America and the Caribbean. FIU offers many programs and credit and non-credit courses in these regions (Mexico, Jamaica and Bolivia), and now prospective students can visit www.la-u.org, in Spanish, Portuguese or English and obtain information on programs. The site is also linked to the FIU home page at www.fiu.edu.

FIU's student body includes individuals from some 150 foreign countries, and nearly 60 percent of the University's international students come from Latin America. David Grossman, dean of University Outreach for FIU, said, "With the continued growth of FIU, University Outreach seeks to ensure that a gateway exists between FIU and distance-learning students by coordinating efforts of the new Latin American and Caribbean web site and offering online courses."

As Internet access and utilization of personal computers grows in Latin America and the Caribbean, FIU plans to further enhance the site, making it more user-friendly, easy to navigate and informative.



U.S. Geological Survey Deputy Director Katherine Clements, FIU President Modesto Naphtali Rische, director of the FIU High-Performance Database Research Center, at the purchase of computer hardware.

FIU UNVEILS BOLD NEW WEB APPLICATION, 'TERRAFLY'; COULD HAVE ANNUAL MARKET VALUE OF \$1 BILLION

TerraFly, a new Internet-based software that makes it possible for users to "fly over" vast land areas using only an ordinary web browser, was unveiled last fall by University researchers.

With potential markets ranging from the travel and real estate industries to state and local governments, TerraFly has a potential annual market of \$1 billion, financial analysts working with the project say. IBM and the U.S. Geological Survey recently contributed nearly \$10 million worth of computer hardware and data in the development of TerraFly, raising total support for the groundbreaking project to nearly \$30 million.

"With the generous support of our industry partners, TerraFly is now one of the largest, if not the largest, publicly accessible databases on the web," said Naphtali Rische, principal investigator on TerraFly and the director of FIU's High-Performance Database Research Center. "TerraFly now includes imagery for the entire United States, and we're excited about incorporating additional areas around the world. The possible uses for this technology are endless."

The grant, which lasts five years, will fund research and pilot projects as well as workshops, seminars and a facility at FIU to grow some of the microorganisms for research purposes.

The interdisciplinary project includes faculty from FIU's and UM's biology and chemistry departments, as well as from FIU's Southeast Environmental Research Center. Current research projects include developing new methods to detect toxin-producing organisms, identifying unknown toxins, and understanding the biosynthesis of these toxins. In addition to naturally occurring toxins, one group will be studying the impact of arsenic from chromated copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood within aquatic environments. Recently, there has been research conducted on what becomes of the arsenic in treated wood, but the research has not focused on arsenic in aquatic environments. This new research is particularly relevant to South Florida, since most wood docks are made from CCA-treated wood.

NEW CENTER SEEKS TO SOW SEEDS OF SUCCESS

The fruit of the saw palmetto, a plant that's abundant in Florida, is useful in treating benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a ubiquitous disease in males. So useful, in fact, that clinical studies have shown it works as well as or better than Finasteride, a drug prescribed commonly in this country for treatment of BPH. The conundrum: no one has been able to pinpoint exactly why saw palmetto works.

Yerba mate, a product that's popular in parts of Brazil and Paraguay, is marketed as a caffeine-free coffee and tea substitute. It's said to contain mateine, a compound similar to caffeine but milder and without some of the detrimental side effects. Now that it's becoming more popular in the U.S., inquiring minds want to know: What's in it?

Ethnobotanist Brad Bennett, phytochemist and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences Kelsey Downum and analytical organic chemist James "Martin" Quirke hope to solve these riddles and related issues concerning alternative/herbal medicines through their collaborations at the newly created FIU Center for Ethnobiology and Natural Products (CENaP).

The preliminary work of the center has confirmed the presence of caffeine in yerba mate, so they are exploring now why the product is better tolerated in some people than other products containing caffeine.



Saw palmetto

"We've tried to create a niche that distinguishes us from other similar centers throughout the country," says Bennett, who is the center's director. "What does that is the ethnobiology, which is the study of the human uses and management of plant and animal resources.

"We hope to find out what chemicals are in certain products and determine whether they are safe and effective. From that, there may be the broader application of new drugs or chemical compounds, but that's not our primary goal. We'll have a real ethnic and anthropological focus on how people are utilizing plants."

An estimated one-third of the U.S. population spends at least \$3.5 billion on herbal medicines each year and the use of herbal medicines in the country increased 380 percent from 1990 to 1997. Plants provide most of the world's medicines, and 25 percent of the drugs on the market trace their origins to plants.

The center was the recent recipient of a five-year, \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support doctoral and postdoctoral students with the skills needed to investigate pathways and related issues concerning medicinal plants. The training program will include coursework, lab rotations, field study, original research and attendance at national meetings.

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The center benefits from the affiliation of approximately 20 faculty members from various disciplines.

"There are thousands of plants and animals out there about which we know very little," explains Bennett, "But we're going to limit our scope to things that have human importance. We're going to concentrate on things that are being utilized by people and yet we don't know what's in them."

CENaP also is discussing collaborative work with a California firm that manufactures herbal products, as well as local pharmaceutical firms interested in evaluating existing products and developing new products, Bennett said.

www.fiu.edu/~cenap

OUTREACH WEB SITE LAUNCHED IN SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

FIU has launched an interactive and accessible web site to present programs and courses to students in Latin America and the Caribbean. FIU offers many programs and credit and non-credit courses in these regions (Mexico, Jamaica and Bolivia), and now prospective students can visit www.la-u.org, in Spanish, Portuguese or English and obtain information on programs. The site is also linked to the FIU home page at www.fiu.edu.

FIU's student body includes individuals from some 150 foreign countries, and nearly 60 percent of the University's international students come from Latin America. David Grossman, dean of University Outreach for FIU, said, "With the continued growth of FIU, University Outreach seeks to ensure that a gateway exists between FIU and distance-learning students by coordinating efforts of the new Latin American and Caribbean web site and offering online courses."

As Internet access and utilization of personal computers grows in Latin America and the Caribbean, FIU plans to further enhance the site, making it more user-friendly, easy to navigate and informative.



U.S. Geological Survey Deputy Director Katherine Clements, FIU President Modesto Naphtali Rishe, director of the FIU High-Performance Database Research Center, at the purchase of computer hardware.

FIU UNVEILS BOLD NEW WEB APPLICATION, 'TERRAFLY'; COULD HAVE ANNUAL MARKET VALUE OF \$1 BILLION

TerraFly, a new Internet-based software that makes it possible for users to "fly over" vast land areas using only an ordinary web browser, was unveiled last fall by University researchers.

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"With the generous support of our industry partners, TerraFly is now one of the largest, if not the largest, publicly accessible databases on the web," said Naphtali Rishe, principal investigator on TerraFly and the director of FIU's High-Performance Database Research Center. "TerraFly now includes imagery for the entire United States, and we're excited about incorporating additional areas around the world. The possible uses for this technology are endless."



A. Maidique, IBM Storage General Manager Adalio Sanchez (an FIU alumnus) and the ribbon-cutting ceremony recognizing the \$6.7 million grant received from IBM

TerraFly uses high-resolution imagery collected by the U.S. Geological Survey. Unlike other computer systems over which such imagery may be viewed, however, TerraFly interfaces with such ubiquitous web browsers as Internet Explorer and Netscape, allowing virtually any user to “fly” over imagery in whatever direction and at whatever speed the user chooses.

What may be TerraFly’s most attractive feature for commercial use, however, is that it allows for graphic overlays, making it customizable for individual markets. Real estate firms, for instance, might develop overlays that show potential customers listed homes; the overlays could be further customized to include asking price, tax information, interior photographs of the home and other key details. Customers could have a much stronger idea of what properties interest them before driving to visit them, cutting down shopping time.

Those customizable elements make TerraFly an attractive technology to license for market development, say financial experts working with TerraFly, who have estimated its annual worth to be as much as \$1 billion.

In addition to the \$6.7 million in computer hardware and more than \$3 million in data recently donated by IBM and the USGS, respectively, Ter-

raFly has generated major support from both NASA and the National Science Foundation.

“TerraFly is a wonderful example of the possibilities inherent in our High Performance Database Research Center and of the cutting-edge research being done at our University,” said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique.

In April, Rische won *The Miami Herald* business Plan Challenge for developing TerraFly.

www.terrafly.com

FIU BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE PROGRAM WITH CLINICAL AND INDUSTRY LEADERS

An innovative new partnership between Florida International University’s Biomedical Engineering Institute (BMEI), leading South Florida hospitals and prominent biomedical firms aims to enhance the training, research and development, and health care offered by the partners.

The BMEI Academic-Clinical-Industry Partnership Program will foster excellence in biomedical engineering education and training; support innovation, invention and discovery in medical technology; cultivate biomedical engineering research and development; and promote biomedical engineering entrepreneurship in South Florida.

The founding members of the program, which are represented on its advisory board, include clinical research centers at three local hospitals: Baptist Health Systems Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute; the Miami Children’s Hospital Neuroscience Institute; and Mount Sinai Medical Center’s Department of Research. The biomedical industry partners currently include: Beckman-Coulter, Bioheart, Boston Scientific, Cordis, Medcanica, Medtronic, Scion, Syntheon, TechGeorgia and Visualization Technology.

The program is one of the initiatives being established with a \$5 million grant from the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation. The grant, awarded in 2000, was the largest from a private foundation in FIU’s history.

The program will pursue its goals through joint projects and technology transfers; joint fund-raising and grant applications; shared resources, lecture, presentations and joint appointments; gifts, scholarships and fellowships.

Three new programs are being discussed for possible implementation:

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- **Young Inventor Award:** an award to an inventor that will allow him/her to pursue further development of the invention.
- **Research Initiation Program:** seed money for research.
- **Master's Design Project Competition:** award to a master's degree student for an innovative/inventive project.

"While University research can provide new ideas and knowledge, industry partners are needed to commercially develop findings, and hospitals facilitate clinical applications of new technologies," said Richard Schoephoerster, director of BMEI. "We are grateful for the support of our partners and look forward to a productive relationship to develop excellence in the field."

For a WTVJ / NBC 6 story on the Biomedical Engineering Institute, go to www.eng.fiu.edu/bmei.

GIS CENTER A GROWING RESOURCE TO UNIVERSITY AND REGION

Thousands pass just a few feet from it on any given school day, yet few people realize that it's one of the strongest university library-based centers of its type in the country.

The FIU Library Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Center (GIS-RS), which was established in 1995 with the support of the Library, Academic Affairs and the Division of Sponsored Research and Training, has experienced substantial growth over the past few years in its key dimensions of teaching, research and training. The center also now supports activities from a number of academic units in the areas of computerized cartography, GIS, RS, 3-D visualization, and spatial statistical analysis and modeling.

The center was established thanks to the personal interest and initiative of Jennifer Fu, who now serves as coordinator of the center and chairperson of its GIS certificate program. Fu was formerly a documents librarian who handled many

faculty requests for census bureau files and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data sets. With seed funding from Sponsored Research, she set up the Library's first GIS computer workstation in 1994.

At the time, FIU lacked a GIS lab. Rather than invest in GIS technology in separate academic units, it was determined that it would be more efficient — organizationally and economically — to house it in the library. In 1995, with \$183,000 in start-up funding, the GIS Center was created.

During the past year, the center expanded its sphere of activity when it developed two unique web sites that enable users to retrieve GIS information via ordinary browsing software. The first of these is a specialized search engine that provides access to geo-spatial data (south of Lake Okeechobee) for South Florida. Data sets include vegetation coverage, land use/land cover, one-foot resolution aerial photos, networks and communications, water/sewers, property and tax appraisals and public facilities.

The second project is supported by \$375,000 in contracts and grants from the city of Miami to the FIU Metropolitan Center and the GIS Center. The center created and hosts a City of Miami Community GIS Web Site, which was developed as part of the Florida East Coast Corridor (FEC) Project, a multifaceted, community redevelopment effort in which the Metropolitan Center is a leading player. The web site features data on transportation, streetscape design and demographics of the FEC area. An interactive GIS mapping interface component of the site was created for access to information on land use, zoning, property appraisals, transportation demographics and one-foot resolution aerial photos.

The center is now seeking funding to develop a web site comparable to the one for the FEC Project but expanded to include all of Miami-Dade County.

"So far, we've been very successful with local and county grants and contracts," Fu said. "Now we want to take the center to the national level and target federal grants." ■

gislab.fiu.edu



Jennifer Fu

Developing a first-rate law school

College of Law preparing to open in Fall 2002

One day last fall, FIU College of Law Dean Leonard Strickman was being interviewed about preparations for the college's first day of classes in Fall 2002, when he was asked if there was anything else that people should know.

"Just that the people in charge at the moment are having a whole lot of fun," replied Strickman with a smile. "We are very optimistic about making this not just an okay law school, but a first-rate law school. With the support and interest we are finding in the community, and with the support we've had up to now in the Legislature and from the University, we believe that we will be not just another law school but one that is very special, slightly different and very high quality."

So it is that Strickman and the college's accomplished coterie of educators and administrators are guiding the growth of the first-ever public law school in South Florida.

The college, which is making its home on the third and fourth floors of the Green Library at University Park until its permanent home is ready by 2005, will enroll 60 full-time and 60 part-time students in each of its first three years. Filling the seats will not be a problem, according to Michelle Mason, the college's associate dean for Admissions and Student Services, who said more than 3,200 individuals requested applications prior to the college's three open houses last year.

The College of Law will apply for provisional accreditation with the American Bar Association (ABA) at the start of its second academic year and could earn it by the end of that year. Strickman, who has extensive ABA Accreditation Committee experience, said that he and his staff have a "good deal of confidence" that the accreditation process will move forward as scheduled.

In February, Strickman announced the appointments of the founding faculty.

"We've recruited an impressive group of proven law professors, each of whom brings different areas of expertise to the mix," he said. "They have outstanding records as classroom teachers and as scholars."

Among the founding faculty will be Thomas E. Baker and Andrew J. McClurg, both of whom hold endowed professorships at the law schools where they currently serve. Baker is the James Madison Professor at the Drake University Law School. McClurg is the Nadine H. Baum Distinguished Professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. To lead the International and Comparative Law program, Strickman tapped Jorge Esquirol, currently a professor at the Northeastern University School of Law. Previously, Esquirol served as director of academic affairs at the Harvard Law School Graduate Program.

Jean G. Zorn has been selected as director of the Legal Skills and Values Program. She comes to FIU from the City University of New York School of Law, where she directed the first year lawyering program for a number of years. The other professors are Elizabeth Price Foley, Ediberto Roman and John F. Stack, a longtime professor of Political Science




The College of Law's founding administrators (clockwise from top left): Alma Miro, director of Admissions and Financial Aid; Scott Norberg, associate dean for Academic Affairs and professor of Law; Michelle Mason, associate dean for Admissions and Student Services; Leonard Strickman, dean and professor of Law; and Sarah Hooke Lee, director of Law Library and Information Technology and associate professor.

at FIU who will have a joint faculty appointment. Matthew C. Mirow and Aya Gruber were named associate and assistant professors, respectively. The college will eventually have 26 professors, with four others running its legal skills and clinical program

The college's top administrators are also on board, including Scott Norberg, associate dean for Academic Affairs and a professor of Law; Mason; Sarah Hook Lee, director of the Law Library and Information Technology and an associate professor of Law; Alma Ocasio Miro, director of Admissions and Financial Aid; and Lourdes Aguila Meneses, director of Budget and Student Records.

The core collection of the Law Library is developing under the direction of Lee. The library received a generous gift late last year when the University of Florida law school donated several thousand books that were duplicates in its collection. Support from the legal community has begun to materialize from leading Miami law firms in the form of charitable gifts and scholarship assistance.

"We have two distinctive goals for this law school, in addition to the quality to which all great law schools aspire," said Strickman. "One is to build competency in international, transnational and comparative law for our students, and the other is to make the law school a significant service provider to the local community and South Florida. We've developed a good deal of enthusiasm among segments of the bar for these goals," noted Strickman, "and support will come from it." 

www.fiu.edu/law



New FIU Board of Trustees, educational governance system, advance University's agenda

By Michael R. Malone

The Board of Regents (BOR) has been abolished and the governance of Florida's educational system transformed. With the new system powering ahead, FIU's new Board of Trustees (BOT) looks to gain the same per-capita funding that its longer-established peers have enjoyed.

Florida International University never fared too well under the old educational governance system of the Board of Regents. Resources were hard to come by. Projects fell on deaf ears. The BOR saw the University as an upstart located in faraway urban, polyglot Miami. From Primera Casa, FIU's administrative headquarters, the view of the BOR was that of an overly centralized, highly politicized body that was biased in favor of the state's elder institutions of higher learning.

So in August 2000, when Gov. Jeb Bush launched the task force to study how best to enhance accountability, streamline bureaucracy and spur innovation in the state's educational governance system, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique seized the day. Speaking with the voice of the State University Presidents Association (SUPA), Maidique was the first administrator to express "enthusiastic support" for the education overhaul.

Phil Handy, the head of the task force, could not contain an emphatic, "Yes!"

"A number of people said 'Phil, you're supposed to be objective about this,' but the task force had heard a lot of testimony against it, and we were the first to enthusiastically support it," recalled President Maidique, in an interview in his office.

Seated in front of a dark-bronzed statue of the emblematic University panther — eyes riveted, paws outstretched, body arched forward — Maidique gestures with the same intensity to a chalkboard on the opposite wall with figures etched for university programs totaling some \$23 million. The figure for these pending, hoped-for initiatives is not coincidental. The amount roughly reflects the sum that the University calculates it has been underfunded — from \$20-25 million — in per-student funding under the abolished BOR system of governance.

The 13 appointees to FIU's Board of Trustees, with just four meetings under their belts, in the president's words "have a lot of bureaucratic work to do" regarding the Board's structure, scope and operating mechanisms. Yet, its immediate priority is clear: remedy the

1 Betsy S. Atkins

Betsy S. Atkins is an independent venture capitalist, focusing on investments in early stage, high-tech companies. She was a co-founder of Ascend Communications, a California-based maker of telecommunications equipment. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and scholarships to Oxford University and the University of Copenhagen.

2 Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier

Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, former president of Costa Rica, is currently the managing partner of the Calderón & Associates Law Firm. He also previously served as Costa Rica's minister of foreign affairs and as a delegate to the National Legislative

Assembly. President Calderón received his law degree in 1972 from the University of Costa Rica.

3 Paul L. Cejas

Former U.S. ambassador to Belgium, Paul Cejas is a leading South Florida business and civic leader. Cejas is the chairman and CEO of PLC Investments, Inc., a wholly owned company that manages investments. Cejas founded CareFlorida Health Systems, a major HMO firm. He served as chairman of the Miami-Dade County School Board, and as a member of the state Board of Regents he helped establish the FIU School of Architecture. In recognition of his philanthropic gifts to the School of Architecture, its new building will be named in his honor. He is a graduate of the

University of Miami and holds an honorary doctorate in Public Service from FIU.

4 Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.

Alvah Chapman, Jr., one of South Florida's most prominent business and civic leaders, retired as chairman of Knight Ridder in October 1989 after almost 30 years of service. Chapman has been chairman of Community Partnership for Homeless, Inc. since its inception in 1993, and served, at the request of President George H. Bush, as chairman of We Will Rebuild, the community redevelopment effort after Hurricane Andrew. He is chairman emeritus of the FIU Foundation and was chairman of the FIU Foundation from 1988-1993. In recognition of his service and philanthropic gifts to the

3
Paul L. Cejas



5
Armando Codina



7
Patricia Frost



2
Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier

4
Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.

6
Albert Dotson Sr.

funding disparity.

The president envisions an "Urban University Equity Adjustment Act," legislation to redress the imbalance in funding and move FIU closer toward its vision to be a top urban public research university.

At their inaugural meeting, July 8, the board elected officers and approved a degree program. Miami businessman Armando Codina was unanimously elected to chair the Board and former ambassador Paul L. Cejas (see accompanying biographical sketches below) to serve as vice chair, both for two years with the possibility of reappointment. Codina, a generous financial supporter of the University, addressed the board.

"I made it very clear that we're going to run on time; attendance is important in terms of governance," he said. "This board should have

a very clear strategy, the big picture in mind and not micromanage nor try to get in the middle of administration issues." An advocate of academic freedom, the chairman vowed to be "very zealous about making sure that it is no way impaired."

On Oct. 8, the Board convened for a full-day strategy planning session to define the board's vision and direction. The chairman invited the president, who serves as the CEO under the new relationship, to outline the University's vision. "I wanted to make sure that we had the vision of the administration and that we could look down the road five years from now and be sure we weren't making decisions in a vacuum," Codina said.

At its most recent meeting on Feb. 18, the Board focused its energies on the funding

equity issue. The group formed a new Governmental Relations Committee, which will focus on this subject from a Tallahassee perspective. Unlike other BOT committees, Governmental Relations is a "committee of the whole," meaning all Trustees are part of it.

At press time, a proposed line item in the state budget proposed by the Senate included funding to "adjust universities below the system average." This is very similar to the equity issue championed by the BOT. The issue, as it currently is drafted, represents almost \$7 million for FIU. The state budget, however, still awaits approval by the Legislature, and there is no comparable funding in the House budget plan.

The sweeping changes that went into effect on July 1, 2001, can be traced back to a referendum posed to Florida voters in 1998. On

continued on page 14

University, the FIU Graduate School of Business was named in his honor. Chapman graduated from The Citadel with a B.S. in Business Administration.

5
Armando Codina

One of South Florida's leading developers, Armando Codina is the founder and chairman of Codina Group, Inc., a Coral Gables-based real estate investment, development, construction and management firm. Codina has been actively involved in Miami civic affairs. He co-chaired We Will Rebuild, and serves on the Orange Bowl Committee and the board of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the board of directors of General Motors, AMR, BellSouth, FPL Group and Winn-Dixie. Born in Havana, Cuba, Codina came to the U.S. in 1960 and was educated at Jacksonville University.

6
Albert Dotson Sr.

Albert Dotson Sr., chairman and CEO of Puryear, Inc., a consulting firm, is an active Miami civic leader. He was a member of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors for eight years, served as president of the Orange Bowl Committee, is a member of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, and serves on the boards of Barry University and the Dade County Fair and Exposition. He received a Doctor of Laws degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

7
Patricia Frost

Patricia Frost served as principal of Henry S. West Laboratory School in Coral Gables for 23 years and as an adjunct professor at University of Miami, Barry University and Florida Atlantic University. She is a member of the FIU Foundation Board, formerly served as its chair, and has worked closely with FIU's College of Education and Art Museum. She is an active South Florida civic leader, vice chairperson of the National Board of Commissioners of the Smithsonian Institution and chairman emeritus of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Colby College, her Master of Arts from Columbia University, and post-graduate degrees from the University of Miami.

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Nov. 4 of that year, Floridians went to the booths with change on their minds. They passed 12 of 13 amendments — the most changes to the state constitution in 30 years. And while they may not have had qualms with the Board of Regents, they were most certainly focused on improving education in Florida.

Amendment 6 made education the “paramount duty of the state,” and Amendment 8 gave the governor the power to appoint the Board of Education (BOE) a Commissioner of Education and to oversee the state’s education system.

At his inaugural parade in January 1999, Gov. Jeb Bush actually jogged the first few blocks. He took off running, too, to advance the mandate for education change, and his plan was ambitious: an overhaul of the system encompassing pre-kindergarten to graduate school. Some critics would later argue that voters were focused on change of the early years of education. Regardless, on April 4, 2000, the Education Governance Reorganization bill was filed with the Florida House, and in August 2000, the governor convened a transitional task force and named Handy to head it.

On June 6, 2001, Bush appointed state Sen. Jim Horne, the sponsor of the bill, as Florida’s first Secretary of Education and also signed Senate Bill 1162, the education reorganization legislation. He named, too, the seven-member Board of Education — dubbed the “Super Board” — and charged it with overseeing the local Boards of Trustees at the 11 state universities and, in effect, the education of some 3.5 million Florida students.

In late June and early July, 143 new trustees were named. For each of the 11 Florida public universities, a Board of Trustees was created with 12 trustees and the student president.

Miriam Lopez



Adolfo Henriques



David Parker

On July 1, the BOR and other associated bodies were officially abolished. Its 30-year reign was ended, and a new regime — “a seamless path from kindergarten to graduate school” — had commenced. On July 23 in Miami, the seven members of the BOE convened for the first time, with Handy as their chairman. The board had some five months to rewrite the state’s education “code” — a set of education-related laws — get its budget approved and reorganize the state Department of Education.

On Aug. 31, 2001, the Florida Board of Education approved the first budget, \$12.8 billion, under the new system. The traumatic events of the fall and the state’s serious economic downturn, however, forced more than a 4 percent cut throughout the state’s entire educational system and an 8 percent cut at FIU.

Education Secretary Horne serves for an 18-month transitional period. Legally, an elected state Board of Education and Education Commissioner, Charlie Crist, cannot be eliminated until January 2003. At that time, Crist must vacate his post and the appointed Florida Board of Education will name a permanent education commissioner.

Yet not everyone backs the new plan. U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, who has referred to the overhaul as a “hostile takeover,” has formulated a team that seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the new system and even to reverse and abolish it. Former FIU President Gregory Wolfe called the new system an “experimental, radical route.” He pointed out that most states have regent-type boards and cited the renowned university system in California,

8 Adolfo Henriques

Adolfo Henriques, the CEO of Union Planters Bank-Southern Banking Group, is an FIU alumnus who served on the FIU Foundation Board for the past 10 years. He is past chairman of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and chairman of the United Way of Miami-Dade County, and is past chairman of the Financial Oversight Board for the city of Miami and the Beacon Council. A CPA, Henriques received his bachelor’s degree from St. Leo College and his master’s degree in Accounting from FIU.

9 Miriam Lopez

Miriam Lopez, president and CEO of TransAtlantic Bank for 15 years, is a leading South Florida banker. She previously served as a vice president-branch manager with Republic National Bank of Florida and assistant vice president of Intercontinental Bank. She has been active in professional and community organizations, serving on the boards of the Downtown Development Authority and St. Thomas University. She served as chair for the American Bankers Association Community Council from 1999-2000, and as 2000-2001 president of the Florida Bankers Association. Mrs. Lopez received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Barry University and a Master of Business Administration degree from University of Miami.

10 David Parker

David Parker is managing partner of the venture capital firm Interprise Technology Partners, L.P., which makes private equity investments in companies engaged in the Internet and information technology sectors. He served as chair of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors from 1994 to 1997, and chairman of the Beacon Council in 1987-88. Parker received a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas and an MBA degree from Harvard University.

Victor Romano

Herbert Wertheim



Rosa Sugrañes

where "an eminent BOR looks over the great institutions of the state."

"Universities are not like businesses, yet they are. They require very special nurturing. If you're going to build a great university you don't mix them up with community colleges and kindergartens," Wolfe said.

Critics notwithstanding, the system has lurched forward, and unless Bush is unseated in elections next year, the Graham-led challenge is given almost no chance by most news analysts of succeeding.

At the local level, Howard Rock, the chair of the FIU Faculty Senate, stresses that the BOT is very much in a transitional phase and that many questions regarding its potential impact are simply unanswerable at this stage.

"The new BOT has some great possibilities.

These people are strong community figures with strong influence here and in Tallahassee; we have more advocates. The University doesn't have to go through so many hoops to get things approved, but then with the tight years ahead, there won't be as much money."

Rock was concerned that "the new system was set up very fast, and that causes problems, but that's how the Legislature operates."

Adolfo Henriques, an FIU alumnus who has served in a number of posts on the University's Foundation Board, is a new Board trustee. A former Florida regent, Henriques admits that the mechanisms for the local board and the new system are not well defined, but he is not bothered.

"If you have a board and you select the right people, the board will do the right thing.

The governor did a superb job. This new structure allows a group of individuals who understand very directly their communities and their communities' needs to provide input into the efforts or programs that the public institutions in their communities pursue."

Given Miami's political climate, some feared that trustees appointed to FIU's BOT might exploit the board for specific agendas other than generating a top-notch urban research facility or even that academic freedom might come under siege. Yet in the early going, this has not occurred, and both President Maidique and Chairman Codina insist that bylaws and other institutional guarantees prohibit this possibility. Both have earned credibility, in fact, for their defense of academic freedom.

The new system will be both less and more political than its predecessor, the BOR, according to the president. But what's clear is that it will follow a more business-oriented implementation.

"I have a simple principle in organizational design, a president should have one board and a board should have one president. Under the BOR there was one board and 10 presidents, so the BOR could never really feel that any university was its university. And that didn't give any university really strong support in the state. Now we have 143 avid supporters for the 11 different state universities," Maidique said.

And how effective will FIU's BOT be in an era of cash shortages and budget cuts? Will the University fare better or worse than under the old system?

In response, President Maidique echoes a colleague's critique of the abolished governance system: "When there was a BOR it was one (university) against 13 (regents), now it's 13 against the world." **FIU**

www.fiu.edu/trustees

11 Victor Romano

Victor Romano, president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at FIU's University Park campus, is a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Anthropology. As head of SGA, he represents the interests of the student body and is involved in overseeing and allocating a \$6.5 million budget. He has served as resident assistant in University housing and a peer advisor to incoming students. He will complete his term in May 2002, shortly after graduating from FIU.

12 Rosa Sugrañes

Rosa Sugrañes is chairman of the board and founder of Iberia Tiles, one of the largest distributors of ceramic tile, marble and stone in the Southeast. She has been a member of the FIU Foundation Board from 1995-2001. Her other civic activities include serving on the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and on the board of the United Way of Miami-Dade County, and serving as chair of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council. She received her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Barcelona.

13 Dr. Herbert Wertheim

Dr. Herbert Wertheim is the chairman and president of Brain Power Incorporated, the world's largest manufacturer of ophthalmic instruments and chemicals. Dr. Wertheim received degrees from the University of Florida and the Southern College of Optometry of the University of Tennessee. Dr. Wertheim is former chair and vice chair of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors, and served as chairman and co-chair of The Campaign for FIU, which raised more than \$200 million.

Creating a world-class international business school

University dedicates new Chapman Graduate School of Business



College of Business Administration Executive Dean Joyce Elam and Alvah H. Chapman, Jr.

Recognizing that the best colleges or schools of business in the country affiliated with major universities — Kellogg, Sloan, and Anderson, for example — are distinguished by their graduate schools of business, the FIU College of Business Administration (CBA) recently established the Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. Graduate School of Business. The Chapman School, which brings together all the graduate and executive education programs the CBA now offers, bears the name of one of the most important leaders in the history of Miami.

The Chapman School incorporates programs leading to a Master of Accounting, Master of Business Administration (International MBA, Executive MBA, Global Executive MBA, Evening MBA), Master of International Business, Master of Science in Finance, Master of Science in Management Information Systems, Master of Science in Taxation, Executive Master of Science in Taxation, and Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration. Graduate certificate programs include the Graduate Management Program and those in Banking, International Bank Management, and International Business.

“We developed our vision for the graduate school four years ago,” said Joyce Elam, executive dean of the CBA. “Before then, we had focused on providing evening graduate programs to working professionals living in South Florida. Our vision was to create a more comprehensive set of graduate programs for working professionals, to develop full-time programs for traditional students, and build specially tailored programs for executives both in South Florida and elsewhere in the Americas. We knew we had to create unique programs based on our strengths in international business and information technology if we were to be successful. So that’s exactly what we have done. Based on the innovative, market-driven programs we offer today, we see ourselves being recognized as one of the top five international business schools in the next five years. That’s our goal.”

Chapman, the former CEO of Knight Ridder, has been South Florida’s most influential business and civic leader over the past four decades — responsible in many ways for Miami’s emergence as an international business center. His leadership also has been evident in a wide range of civic causes, most notably the massive We Will Rebuild effort following Hurricane Andrew’s devastation of Miami-Dade County in 1992. Chapman was tapped to head that project by President George H. Bush. As founding chairman of Community Partnership for Homeless, Inc., Chapman also has led Miami’s nationally recognized program for the homeless.

Chapman has been a major champion of FIU since its founding in 1965, seven years before it opened for classes. He was chairman of the

A L V A H H . C H A P M A N , J R .

CHAPMAN

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Business


Codina — chairperson of the FIU Board of Trustees and longtime friend of Chapman — was announced at the event. When combined with state matching funds, a total of \$3 million was raised for the new facility. Codina is chairing the business school's fund-raising campaign.

"Mr. Chapman's leadership within our community is exemplary," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "His life's work embodies the integrity and civic and business leadership we take pride in instilling in our students. We're grateful for his longstanding commitment to FIU. As chairman of the FIU Foundation, Mr. Chapman did more than any single business leader could ever have done to bring an unprecedented level of credibility to our Foundation. His presence attracted many other distinguished Miamians to the board. And, in so doing, he strengthened the overall recognition and reputation of Florida International University."

A proven leader in international business education will be at the helm of the Chapman School. Jose de la Torre, professor at UCLA's Anderson School of Business, was named dean and will assume his new post in July. One of the nation's leading experts in international business, de la Torre will use his many years as a respected educator and his unparalleled knowledge of global commerce to further establish the

Chapman School as one of the country's primary institutions for international business education and research.

De la Torre brings more than 30 years of professional experience to his new post, with a solid background in management, organizational design, and strategic planning. At UCLA, he chaired the Strategy and Organization area and directed UCLA's CIBER from its inception in 1989 until this past year. He founded the School's International Business Roundtable and co-chairs the Faculty Executive Committee in the Latin America Center. Before joining the faculty at UCLA, de la Torre served for 13 years on the faculties at INSEAD, The European Institute of Business Administration in France, Georgia State University, and the Harvard Business School.

"Dr. de la Torre's depth of experience as an administrator, academic, and business consultant makes him the ideal candidate to head the Chapman Graduate School of Business," Elam said. "We are delighted he has decided to assume this position and know he will be a tremendous asset to the College. We expect to strengthen our graduate programs and continue moving toward the forefront of top-rated international business schools." 

www.fiu.edu/~cba

A college of rising national distinction

Since its beginning in 1972 as one of the founding colleges at Florida International University, the College of Business Administration (CBA) has steadily grown in size and stature. It is now the second largest of FIU's 16 colleges and schools, enrolling some 3,800 undergraduate and more than 900 graduate students, and has built a reputation for its high-quality, market-driven programs.

Several of the college's programs, in particular, have earned national distinction. In 2000, the *Academy of Management Journal* reported that the Management Information Systems faculty was ranked 11th best in terms of their research productivity. The college is one of only 28 business schools in the nation to have received U.S. Department of Education funding to establish and support a Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER). A 2001 Executive MBA Council/FGI study, based on student satisfaction surveys from 55 Executive MBA programs, revealed that the college's Executive MBA (EMBA) program had higher percentages of students ranking the program at the top for overall program performance and for overall program value than did all the programs combined. And, according to a recent student-satisfaction benchmarking study of 76 accredited full-time MBA programs undertaken by AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (the premier accrediting agency for business schools) — its International MBA (IMBA) program scored at or near the top in all categories. In March 2002, *Hispanic Business* magazine ranked the Chapman Graduate School of Business as the nation's fifth best business school for Hispanic students.

The college's dedicated international faculty of more than 100 scholars, business leaders and teachers have helped build its growing reputation for excellence. They include five Eminent Scholars, six Endowed Professors, and respected authorities in information systems, information technology management, operations research, knowledge management, e-business, financial derivatives, international banking and trade, consumer research, international management, global marketing and corporate responsibility.

\$ 2 1 4 m i l l i o n i n c o n s t r u c t i o n p r o

FIU campuses expanding, maturing



The Bernard Tschumi-designed building for the School of Architecture, seen above, is being constructed with prefabricated exterior walls.

Two hundred and fourteen million dollars. That's the amount set aside for current and future construction projects scheduled to begin at Florida International University (FIU) within the next 12 months. As a dollar figure in and of itself, \$214 million is impressive. But what it will enable FIU to do — to continue to advance its teaching and research missions — is even more noteworthy given FIU's continuing shortage of classroom and laboratory space.

"Those of us who have known FIU since it was just an old airstrip on the outskirts of Dade County truly appreciate the magnitude of what is being done on our University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses," said FIU Executive Vice President Paul D. Gallagher, who has been with the University for more than 30 years and oversees its construction program. "The new facilities coming on line now and in the near future will enable us to do an even better job of serving our students and the South Florida community."

The windfall in construction monies is a boon for the University, officials say.

"Because FIU's classroom, laboratory and office space has lagged so far behind our actual needs since the day the state opened the University, we've always had to be extraordinarily creative in how we manage the facilities we have. The result is that we use our space more efficiently than any other university in Florida, with classes six days a week beginning very early in the morning and stretching late into the evening," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "I believe our new funding is not only the result of state education leaders recognizing the many needs we have, but also their recognition that we manage what we have very well."

The focus on serving students and community has been the impetus guiding the growth of FIU from its earliest days, when FIU's "founding team" moved into an abandoned airport control tower in 1969 and began planning a state university in what was then the largest metropolitan area in the U.S. without a public baccalaureate degree-granting institution.

jects underway or on the boards
ing to advance its mission



Full speed ahead

More than 30 years later, FIU's construction program is proceeding at a pace unprecedented in the University's history.

A list of major construction projects completed since 1996 includes:

- Steven and Dorothea Green Library addition, \$37.1 million
- Housing Complex, \$23.7 million
- Wertheim Performing Arts Center, \$13.7 million
- Student Resident Hall & recreational pool, \$11.2 million
- Campus Support Complex, \$9.9 million
- Dolores & Sanford Ziff Education Building, \$9.4 million
- Graham Center addition, \$7.9 million
- Parking Garage I, \$7.7 million

While not one of the most expensive projects completed since 1996, the construction of the Eighth Street arched "formal" entrance to the University Park campus in 1999 serves as a symbol — literally and

figuratively — of the continuing maturation of the University.

Victor Citarella, who arrived at FIU in 1996, is intimately familiar with the University's building boom. As assistant vice president of Facilities Management, it is Citarella; Robert Griffith, associate director of Facilities Management; Richard Hofstetter, assistant director of Facilities Management/Facilities Development; Boyce Level, associate director of Maintenance & Operations; Daniel Townsend, assistant director of Utilities, and their staffs who are involved in day-to-day construction, maintenance and operations, making sure that projects are completed to specification and "never, ever over budget," according to Citarella.

"For the number of students that are enrolled, we have the smallest campus among Florida's public universities," noted Citarella. "We've had to shift from building horizontally to building vertically. Many of the older buildings are no more than three floors, while all of the new ones are more than that. It's more expensive to build vertically, but we've had no other option."

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The completion of the Phi Gamma Delta House, FIU's first fraternity house, marked the start of what eventually will become "Fraternity Row."



The Executive Center, the first state university academic building in Florida to be financed by a college foundation, could be the wave of the future as universities use private sources of construction funds.

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One of the reasons buildings are being designed "up" rather than "out" is because University officials and planners are intent on preserving the unique character of the landscaping at both campuses.

"It's important to acknowledge that the landscape of the University is an integral part of its identity and should not be placed at risk," said Marta Canaves, director of FIU's graduate Landscape Architecture program. "It serves the University on several levels — it is the fabric upon which the built form rests, it is an identity marker, an educational tool and a place for social interaction."

The Art Museum's ArtPark sculpture collection, for example, "has clearly contributed in establishing an important link between the landscape and the classroom," according to Canaves.

"In this instance, the art pieces as part of the landscape become an outdoor tool for teaching. The art collection attracts and engages visitors from the local, national and international level," she noted. "Without the site opportunities offered by the campus, this visibility would not be possible."

Where does the money come from?

The majority of the construction budget — 55.43 percent of the University's 2001-2002 Planning and Construction budget — is derived from Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds, which come from bonded revenue via a capital improvement per-credit-hour fee that each student pays, and through a gross receipts tax on utilities. The next largest funding source — 25.05 percent — comes from state bonds that are sold to pay for structures used for parking and housing. Revenue generated from these facilities in the form of rent, parking fees, parking tickets, etc. pay for the bonds. These bonds, as well as other construction funds, can be used for construction only and cannot be shifted to other areas of the University's budget.

At least one building currently under construction, however, is being built with private dollars — FIU's nearly completed \$12 million Executive Center. The first state university academic building in Florida to be financed by a college foundation — the FIU Foundation, in this case — the Executive Center will have rent-paying tenants from departments and divisions within the University. The rent monies will be used to pay off the mortgage, at which time the Foundation will



The University Bookstore expansion, financed by Barnes and Nobles will expand the current space of approximately 17,000 square feet to approximately 30,000 square feet, including the addition of a 120-seat Starbucks Café.

donate the building to FIU. The arrangement could signal a harbinger of things to come as universities across the state seek to come up with alternative sources of construction funds.


Current projects and a “wish list” for the future

Some of FIU’s high-profile projects already underway or near completion include a Health & Life Sciences complex worth nearly \$37 million, \$43 million in new residence halls and the Paul R. Cejas School of Architecture, a \$16 million facility. In addition to more classrooms and laboratory space, the University is focusing on basic infrastructure needs. FIU’s second parking garage, an \$8.3 million facility, was completed late last year, and plans are in development for two more. In addition, more than \$20 million in maintenance, renovations, utilities enhancements and repairs has been undertaken.

Other projects in the current construction program include:

- College of Law, \$25 million
- Graduate School of Business office/classroom building, \$16.1 million
- Marine Sciences Building, \$13.1 million
- Recreation Center – Phase I, \$9 million
- Art Museum, \$10.4 million
- Graham Center renovation, \$5.25 million
- FIU/Florida Memorial College – joint-use facility, \$5 million
- FIU Community Stadium expansion, \$4 million
- Health Care & Wellness Center, \$3 million
- Kovens Conference Center enhancements, \$781,000
- Hospitality Management expansion, \$550,000

Future structures that Citarella and his staff have put on a “wish list” include a Social Sciences building, a Molecular Biology building, a Public Safety building, a University Technology Services (formerly IRM) building, an interdisciplinary compound at Biscayne Bay Campus, and a building for the International Hurricane Center.

Although the FIU of today bears little resemblance to the University’s original master plan, a document that is updated every five years to map future growth, the spirit of that plan — to ably serve the residents of this community while building a superior institution of higher learning — is still thriving. 



University House, FIU’s new events center and President Modesto A. Maidique’s private residence, will effectively showcase FIU to guests attending presidential events.



Two more parking garages are planned for the University Park campus, in addition to the recently completed Blue Parking Garage (shown here) and existing Gold Parking Garage.



Everglades Hall, University Park’s newest residential living facility, will be comprised of approximately 400 residential units that will be available to all students.

The countdown to kickoff: Aug. 29, 2002

Strock and team prepare



to launch FIU football



One of the most critical aspects of a new athletic program is having a solid foundation that will enable the team to thrive. When FIU began its drive to establish a football program, more fundamental than a stadium or a field house was the need for a strong leader who would serve as the team's foundation. The Golden Panthers found that in Football Head Coach Don Strock.

"Strock has met all of my expectations. He has been doing a tremendous job for FIU," said Rick Mello, FIU athletic director. "In selecting a coach for FIU football, my number one criterion was simply this: If I had a son with the talent to play football, would I trust Don to help him excel? The answer is undeniably, 'Yes I would.'"

And Mello is not alone. The parents and families of 70 young men have entrusted their children's academic and athletic futures to Strock. Since February, athletes from throughout Florida and from as far north as Pennsylvania have joined Strock in making FIU history.

When Strock became FIU's director of football operations in 1999, efforts to launch a football program were already underway.

In 1997, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique — who had been constantly bombarded by the question, "When will FIU have a football team?" from University students, alumni and friends — started investigating the feasibility of introducing the sport at the University. He appointed a task force of FIU faculty and administrators, students, alumni, and community and FIU Foundation leaders to study the issue. The task force's report concluded that football would enhance campus life, build alumni loyalty,

bring alumni back to campus and increase FIU's visibility.

After much thought and further studies, President Maidique and University officials began the process of creating a proposal to present to the Florida Board of Regents (BOR) to receive approval for the start of the program in 2001.

Part of the proposal process included hiring someone to supervise the operational aspects of developing a football program and secure needed private support from the community. It didn't take long to identify the perfect fit: Don Strock, former quarterback of the Miami Dolphins. Strock quickly became the catalyst in lobbying the (now defunct) BOR for approval for

the team, and in May 2000, the Board

acknowledged the University's careful planning with formal approval of intercollegiate football at FIU.

"For years I attended chamber of commerce meetings, board of directors events and University functions, and more than any other question, I was asked 'When will we be able to cheer for an FIU football program?'" said Maidique. "I was very happy last year when I was able to answer that question with an actual date!"

The FIU football program, which was originally planned to kick off in 2001, was held back one year after its approval in order to expand the stadium at University Park, comply with the gender equity requirement of Title IX and search for a new athletic director. The new kickoff date became Aug. 29, 2002.

On the day FIU received the green light to go ahead with a football team, Strock got into his car and on the way to a high school to begin the recruiting process, he changed from his suit into shorts and golf shirt.



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FIU toots its own horn

Marching band director hired

When the FIU football team takes to the field in the fall of 2002, there will be a full marching band with some 150 musicians in the stands to cheer it on. Mark Gregory Martin has been charged with assembling and directing the new band, which has been named "La Banda del Sol."

Martin, director of the FIU Marching Band, is developing the program from scratch. He started building a repertoire and recruiting musicians when he joined FIU last August. Auditions are already underway, instruments have arrived and uniforms are being ordered.

Formerly an assistant director of the Longhorn Band at the University of Texas - Austin (UT), one of the most celebrated bands in the nation, Martin comes to FIU with 23 years of conducting experience.

"I have always wanted to start a program," said Martin. "FIU has given me the opportunity to do that in a vast cultural community that has a unique style and an energy level that you don't come across too often. FIU is ripe and ready for a top-notch marching band and I look forward to providing that for the school and the community. The enthusiasm has been amazing. It's very exciting; the planning is over with, and the realization is taking place."

Martin plans to create a band that incorporates Hispanic culture as well as the art deco history of South Florida.

"Greg is full of energy and enthusiasm, and that's just what we need at the School of Music to start such an important program," said School of Music Director Fred Kaufman.

Martin, who holds a Master of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from James Madison University, has nearly completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from UT. He has also served as a lecturer in its School of Music.

Prior to joining the UT staff, Martin spent 14 years in the Florida and Virginia public school systems and taught at James Madison University. He has also served as a color guard instructor and marching caption head.

"I was really excited that day," said Strock. "It is not that often that you can start something from scratch. That's one of the things that attracted me to FIU. I was going to be able to build this program my way. That meant that everyone who would work with me was going to have to do things my way — giving the program and our players 100 percent of our time, effort and dedication."

Strock quickly surrounded himself with individuals who would do just that. Shortly after Strock was named football head coach, he hired an experienced and dedicated coaching staff. Strock brought on former Dolphin teammate Bruce Hardy to help him steer the program, as well as Carmen Grosso, Greg Briner, Renato Diaz, Steve Hladio, Hurlie Brown, James Colzie III, James K. Taubert, Curt Wiles and Joe Barantovich.

Strock and his assistants began focusing on finding the best available student athletes from among the thousands of high school seniors in South Florida and around the state. Because of the abundance of talent in Florida that has consistently provided outstanding players for nationally recognized collegiate programs, few out-of-state players were recruited. When Strock announced his first signing class in February 2001, program watchers were surprised both that he obtained the maximum 30 commitments allowable under NCAA rules and that the prospective players included several Bright Futures scholars and a number of all-state, all-district and all-county honorees.

"Our first signees were a welcome sight," said Strock. "And as the year has progressed and these guys actually arrived on campus, it was the start of the dream coming to life."

Strock, who is considered by many to be the heart of the team, knew that several things needed to fall into place if the team was going to be successful.

In order to have a true home field advantage, FIU had a new field house built and state-of-the-art turf installed at the existing FIU Community Stadium.

The new 17,000-square-foot field house includes: two locker rooms with 120 lockers; a 2,200-square-foot meeting area with retractable doors for large and small team gatherings; a training facility expandable to 1,200 square feet; and a 5,300-square-foot weight room. The players love it.

FIU also dramatically enhanced its field. AstroPlay was installed to provide the Golden Panthers and the area high school teams that

use the field with a durable, high-tech playing surface. It is a grass-like, non-abrasive, polyethylene fiber matrix filled with special rubber granules that will not compact or become less shock absorbent with age. AstroPlay has been installed in the New York Giants' indoor practice facility and at college stadiums for the University of Kansas, the University of Minnesota, Oklahoma State, the University of North Carolina and Illinois University.

In addition to the field and facility improvements, the FIU Community Stadium will be renovated to expand from 7,000 seats to approximately 17,000. The expanded facility will include temporary, end-zone bleachers as well as two luxury skyboxes.

Hand in hand with the home for the team, Strock has now started the training process for his players. Strock and his coaches have put the new players through a rigorous schedule that focuses first on their academic performance and secondly on their athletic ability.

"My number one priority is that these young men learn," said Strock. "They are here to earn a college degree. On a secondary level, they are here to compete on the



FIU 2002 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site
AUG 29	ST. PETERS	Home
SEP 7	Elon	Away
SEP 14	BUTLER	Home
SEP 21	Bethune-Cookman	Ft. Laud.
SEP 28	GEORGETOWN	Home
OCT 5	Open	
OCT 12	Western Kentucky	Away
OCT 19	MAINE	Home
OCT 26	GARDNER-WEBB	Home
NOV 2	JACKSONVILLE	Home
NOV 9	ALBANY	Home
NOV 16	Open	
NOV 23	Florida Atlantic	Pro Player

Schedule subject to change. All times TBA.



FIU football players Harold Leath (left) and Nick Turnbull (right) show off the new FIU football uniforms with Head Coach Don Strock during the second signing press conference. The uniforms, designed and produced by Nike, feature white jerseys for away games and blue jerseys for home games.

Golden Panthers announce second recruiting class

At a February news conference, FIU football Head Coach Don Strock announced that 21 high school student athletes committed to accepting grant-in-aid to attend FIU in fall 2002 in the second high school recruiting class of the Golden Panther football program. The additions advance the program's development and preparations for the team's first season this fall.

"The players are sick of tackling each other," said Strock. "We are ready for the year to start and excited about the incoming players."

Those players include highly touted quarterback Jaime Burke, who turned down University of Florida (UF) in favor of FIU with the departure of former UF coach Steve Spurrier. Burke, 6'-4", 215 pounds, threw for 2,835 yards and led the state of Florida with 34 touchdown passes while playing for Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota. He is the first high school player in Florida history to pass for more than 500 yards in a single game.

"I'm getting choked up with this one," joked Strock. "I would like to thank Steve Spurrier for taking the job with the Washington Redskins. Burke was a little undecided, and when Steve left he went with his gut feeling and came down to FIU. He is a great addition to our program."

The first name Strock mentioned was

defensive back Gentry Jackson, out of Spruce Creek High in Port Orange, FL. Jackson participated in the Funcoast Football Classic and was named first-team all state as a utility back. "Gentry is a great athlete who played quarterback and many other positions in high school. We will use him defensively."

Strock's main emphasis was on the offensive line. Signee Patrick Mullen, 6'-8", 320 pounds, from Dwyer High School in Palm Beach, who is first-team all state and runs a 5.2 40-yard dash, is one of eight offensive linemen signed by the Golden Panthers.

"We went heavy on the offensive line and got a couple of surprises at the end. They will be raw but bigger," said Strock. "You can't go into the season with six or seven linemen and expect five to start. We need 10 who can step up and play."

The team will need the newcomers to compete when the season starts, and the coaching staff looked at that when the recruiting season started.

"Our coaches talked to the high school coaches to make sure the players were able to step up to the next level right away," said Strock. "We expect them to compete."

The Golden Panthers play their first game on Aug. 29, 2002, against St. Peter's College at FIU Community Stadium.

football field. My coaches and I have begun to create that balance with our new team. They will go to school, and they will do well — only then will they play."


Every day Strock works to instill pride and confidence in his players. He wants to prepare them physically and mentally for the pressures of belonging to an intercollegiate athletic team.

"It's been a lot of fun, there's been a lot to learn," said Joe Fleming from West Palm Beach, who will play in the quarterback position. "I didn't really have a style of offense in high school, and this is lot for me to learn because I never had to deal with coverages. They would just give me a receiver to throw to, so this is so new for me."

Strock held four public scrimmages during the fall 2001 semester to show his guys off and to get them used to playing in front of their new supporters. Drills and team meetings have solidified the team and prepared them for the challenges that lay ahead.

"In the first year of practice it got better and better with every practice," said Kevin Timothee, a transfer from the University of Mississippi who will play defensive back. "But we're still not satisfied. We have a lot of work to do in the off-season."

In February 2002, the second class was signed (see story on page 25) and the final stage of preparations began for a year filled with anticipation and excitement. It will all culminate on Aug. 29, 2002 when FIU plays its first game against St. Peter's College of Jersey City, NJ, which will be televised live statewide on the Sunshine Network.

Be there for all the action and a new era in FIU's history! For season ticket information, call 305-FIU-GAME (305-348-4263), 1-866-FIU-GAME or visit the web site at www.football.fiu.edu. 

2002 GOLDEN PANTHER FOOTBALL SIGNINGS

Player / Position / Height / Weight / School / City

Terrance Allen/DL/6'-4"/270 lbs./Merritt Island High School/Merritt Island, FL

Randy Arnold/DB/5'-10"/175 lbs./FAMU High School, Tallahassee, FL

Jamie Burke/QB/6'-4"/215 lbs./Cardinal Mooney High School/Sarasota, FL

Timothy Dierks/OL/6'-4"/250 lbs./Clewiston/Clewiston, FL

Glen Fox/OL/6'-6"/270 lbs./Ft. Myers/Ft. Myers, FL

Titorian Freeman/WR/6'-0"/185 lbs./Glades Central/Belle Glade, FL

Isaac Gamble/DL/6'-4"/275 lbs./Poinciana/Kissimmee, FL

Bill Grant/RB/5'-11"/185 lbs./Glades Central/Belle Glade, FL

Josh Gravitt/OL/6'-3"/273 lbs./Hillsborough/Tampa Bay, FL

Brandon Higdon/DL/6'-3"/295 lbs./Fernandina Beach/Fernandina Beach, FL

Gentry Jackson/DB/5'-11"/175 lbs./Spruce Creek/Port Orange, FL

Clint Janis-Smith/DB/6'-2"/190 lbs./Thomas Jefferson/Tampa Bay, FL

Dravien Jones/RB/6'-2"/222 lbs./Sebastian/Sebastian, FL

Harold Leath/WR/6'-3"/190 lbs./West Virginia/Tampa Bay, FL

Ed Leverenz/TE/6'-4"/242 lbs./Seminole/Sanford, FL

Patrick Mullen/OL/6'-8"/320/Dwyer/Palm Beach, FL

D.J. O'Neal/OL/6'-4"/255 lbs./Clewiston/Clewiston, FL

Josh Padrick/QB/6'-3"/190 lbs./Merritt Island/Merritt Island, FL

John Shanahan/OL/6'-6"/305 lbs./Brandon/Brandon, FL

Ronny Silva/OL/6'-3"/320 lbs./Avon Old Farms School/Avon, CT

Joe Thomson/OL/6'-4"/270 lbs./Dr. Phillips/Orlando, FL

Reaching more than 70 million households

Emmy Award-winning alumnus builds Fox Sports Net news operation



Steve Tello

FIU alumnus Steve Tello has one of the nation's dream jobs — he is the senior vice president for Fox Sports Net, one of the country's largest sports news television networks, reaching more than 70 million homes with a staff of more than 250 broadcast professionals.

"My career's been a professional dream," said Tello, 54. "I have the opportunity to come to work every day and truly enjoy what I do for a living."

A 1979 graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Tello grew up in South Florida and learned to love the hotbed of news that is the Miami news market.

"I was born in Boston, but grew up in South Florida," said Tello. "I went to Monsignor Edward Pace High School (Class of 1966), and I realized I had a real interest in journalism."

Tello saw an opportunity to spread that love of news to others, and he began teaching one of the most popular courses in the

FIU journalism program as an adjunct professor. The TV production and journalism course he taught for two years was held at WPLG-Channel 10 studios in Miami to give the students valuable hands-on experience.

"Living in Miami exposed me to the fast-paced world of breaking news," said Tello. "News got into my blood and then, experiencing the different cultures that thrive in Miami, piqued in me an interest in travel. I knew I had to have a job in journalism that would allow me to see the world."

And see the world he has. Tello spent 10 years as the news operation manager for WPLG Channel 10, where he helped develop a strategy with the station's attorneys that resulted in a precedent-setting ruling in the Florida Supreme Court. The high court's decision allowed television cameras into Florida courtrooms, an action that was replicated in other states around the country.

He then spent 13 years as a field producer

and a senior producer for ABC's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, where he coordinated news and special event coverage for all of Europe, the former Soviet Union and South Africa. In the process, he worked on more than 100 broadcasts with Jennings throughout the globe.

The recipient of five Emmy Awards, he has also worked outside of the news arena. Tello was the vice president of the International Media Center, one of Washington, D.C.'s, largest production facilities, which housed more than 15 international broadcasters including the BBC, Japan's NHK and the European Broadcasting Union. He was also the president of Speer Communications, Ltd. Broadcasting and Production Divisions, a media telecommunication group with 200 employees based in two digital centers in Nashville, TN and Washington, D.C.

Now with nearly 30 years of broadcast and news experience, Tello oversees the Fox Sports Net news operation, including the *National Sports Report*, the *One Desk* syndication and the *Last Word with Jim Rome*, where he has spent the last three years building the strong news network.

Tello, who looks forward to sitting in the stands for FIU's first football game in fall 2002, believes this is a great time for FIU. "The University has grown so much over the last few years," said Tello. "Football is the natural progression for the school and the athletic program. Traditionally, FIU has had aggressive basketball, baseball and soccer programs; this is the next step."

Tello also believes that FIU will have many talented student-athletes at its disposal. "South Florida has no shortage of talented athletes, many of whom have made it to the pros. A lot of these homegrown student-athletes will want to stay near families and friends and play for FIU while getting national exposure." **FIU**



Jay Snodgrass

Godzilla Sits Down to Watch Cable

He flips on the remote and begins to thumb through
 Five hundred channels of digital cable.
 He likes the civilization channel. He hopes to find clues
 To his identity there. He moves past the
 Channel that's airing his movies. By contract
 He is not allowed to watch them, in fact,
 By contract, he has no memory of them whatsoever.
 He likes that all the movie channels are arranged by theme.
 That way he can just go to the Romance Channel
 And hug his large pillows. His pillows are red and
 Have Chinese characters stenciled on them.
 He thinks they make a poem but he can't read what it says.
 The tag says they are silk but washable.
 Sometimes he cries himself to sleep on the pillows
 And has to wash them the next day or they'll melt.
 Watching a love story is a way he can have feelings
 Without breach of contract.
 Today he settles on a western, a mystical experience
 He allows himself in secret. He doesn't want to
 Be seen as childish, but he likes it when the Hero wins.
 He watches for the showdown scene, the high noon,
 The explosion of sunlight on a black and white
 World. What he imagines every time is that
 The gunmen, the good and the bad, will draw
 And pull their triggers at the exact same instant,
 That their bullets will be vectored into exact trajectories,
 Moving at each other with the same velocities,
 The good growing negative and the bad growing positive
 Until they reach the Zero Point, where everything is nothing,
 And they cancel each other out. Godzilla hopes
 The world is cut into mathematical light and dark, he imagines
 That is the place where he was born.


Poetry, the muse and Godzilla MFA student to have poetry book published

While virtually anything can provide material or inspiration for literary works, few people would associate science fiction movie monsters with poetry. Nevertheless, an FIU student has used Godzilla — that's right, the gigantic, fire-breathing Japanese dinosaur who frequently shows up on late-night TV — as a recurring character in his first book of poetry, which will be published in fall 2002.

Monster Zero by Jay Snodgrass, an MFA student in the Creative Writing Program, was recently named the second-place winner in the Elixir Press Second Annual Poetry Awards. As a winner of the competition, he will receive a \$1,000 prize and have the book — his thesis for the master's degree program — published by the Minneapolis publisher.

"The book is sort of about Godzilla...I use Godzilla in a lot of poems," said Snodgrass, a longtime Godzilla aficionado. "Part of the book is about me growing up in Japan." Snodgrass lived in Japan on and off from 1971 through 1989 when his father, an Air Force professional, was stationed there. Snodgrass said he uses Godzilla in his work as a metaphor for the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and, ultimately, his being in Japan.

Originally from Boynton Beach, Snodgrass pursued his undergraduate studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He was attracted to FIU by the quality of the Creative Writing Program (ranked in the top ten nationally), his interest in returning to South Florida and the opportunity to fill a teaching assistant position in the program. After he receives his master's this spring, he intends to continue with his writing and teach.

"Jay uses Godzilla to explore and illuminate identity," commented Denise Duhamel, assistant professor of Creative Writing and Snodgrass' thesis director. "As an American kid growing up in Japan in the '70s, Jay always felt bigger than his classmates. This was compounded with residual guilt of the Americans dropping the bomb on Hiroshima — thus Jay's identifying with the huge destructive force of Godzilla. He gives Godzilla a soul and innocence and makes the monster a tragicomic likable figure." 





September 11: the end of separation between global and local politics

Don't let terrorists set the agenda

by Mohiaddin Mesbahi, FIU Associate Professor of International Relations

The following article is drawn from excerpted remarks made by Mohiaddin Mesbahi, an expert in foreign policy and terrorism issues, at a forum on terrorism co-hosted in October 2001 by Florida International University and The Miami Herald.

I am one of those profiled: Muslim, Iranian and a citizen of this country. And I live among you. I say this because I recently lived under a death threat for two weeks — not because of any comments I've expressed, but because of my name and my religion. And on a recent Friday afternoon, I met with the person who threatened my life.

The police took the matter [a death threat made by telephone] seriously, followed through and found the person. They asked me, "What do you want to do about it? Are you going to press charges?" I said, "No. If he does not mind, I'd like to meet him."

He happens to be a young university student. We sat together in my office and talked. It was an emotional meeting. He said that as the towers were coming down, so did his world. And the enemy, he heard, was the Muslims — those living and breathing among us. I told him this: "I carry two burdens. One, I share with you: shock, outrage, anger and a desire for justice. The second, I don't share with you: and that is guilt by association. You can't put 1.2 billion people, 7 million of whom live in the United States, in the same category with terrorists and political extremists. What the terrorists did is not Islamic in any book. It is ideology. When religion or any idea becomes ideology, people begin to argue that the ends justify the means." His email to me a few days after was far different than his original anonymous threat, a message full of hope, compassion and an articulate determination for community and peace.

This country has been living in a bubble —



no connection to foreign policy and little care about the world outside our borders. Now we're comfortably taking refuge in a "clash of civilizations" argument because it makes us feel good. It affirms our identity — how good we are and how terrible and horrible the others are. But we ignore the political context at our own peril.

Do not forget who Osama bin Laden was. He once was the type of "good" Muslim we liked and nurtured. We trained and armed him and his followers and never had a "clash of civilizations" with him when he was killing godless Russian communists. We even called him and his followers "freedom fighters." Some of the

same austere bearded men were even compared to Thomas Jefferson. We supported Saudi and Pakistani efforts to bring the Taliban into power in Afghanistan, with twin objectives of accessing Caspian Sea oil and making trouble for "bad" Muslims in Iran. Likewise, we went to bed with Saddam Hussein in the 1980s, and when he used chemical weapons against his enemies and his people, the United States simply looked the other way. I was there; I saw the bodies of people who had been gassed to death.

When people are angry, it's not just because their identity or religion is different from ours or because they come from different civiliza-

tions. They usually have some political grievances that, rightly or wrongly, are laid at our doors. It is not accidental that President Bush now talks about the need for a Palestinian state. He well knows, as did his father, that the plight of Palestinians has become a cardinal symbol of resentment against the United States and its friends. While no political grievances can be allowed to justify the horrendous acts of September 11, it is essential to understand this: If we don't drain the global social pool that terrorism draws from, this is going to be a long fight, and I'm not sure we're going to win it.

No military hardware or institutional measure, and none of the responses that are so ably and repeatedly suggested by real and armchair strategists in the media, would resolve the issue. Why? Because we are dealing with people willing to transcend the pain and pleasure of this life. We're also facing an increasingly numb social pool that has been desensitized to suffering and promises of punishment. They're not only ready to die, but fully prepared to take others with them. Fear as deterrent is subject to the law of diminishing returns. Ask the Israelis and others who have perfected the art of toughness and "physical persuasion" in confronting would-be suicide bombers. Thus, we also need to have a "software" approach. And one of the elements of this software approach is to think about the impact of foreign policy and the ramifications of our support for dictatorships in the Muslim world.

In the war against terrorism, the United States should not provide license to kill Muslims around the world in the name of anti-terrorism. Nor should this country allow itself to be drawn into so-called "dirty wars." Are we going to be party to Chinese massacres of Muslims in Xinjiang? To Russian massacres of Chechens? Linked to the neo-Stalinist rulers of Central Asia or corrupt regimes of the Middle East that have suffocated every voice for freedom? The tactical needs for access to air space, ground logistics and political lip service in chasing al-Qaeda must not lead to a strategic marriage of American norms and values with states and leaders whose historical association with this country has contributed to intense resentment against the United States.

Supporting dictators and states that terrorize their own populations is detrimental to U.S. *homeland* security. We have to speak to

the streets of the Muslim world where the future lies and where the helpless, voiceless and humiliated, now empowered by the deadly certainty of their ideology of despair and the technological know-how of globalism, act as borderless "sovereign states." The security and well-being of the people in the streets of the Muslim world, and not its dictators, ironically, is tied to the security of ordinary Americans, Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Compounding the negative impact of our foreign policy is the failure to project a true and honest image of this country abroad. No country is perfect, but this nation is surely being shortchanged by its entertainment-driven media and outdated public diplomacy.

You can't put 1.2 billion people, 7 million of whom live in the United States, in the same category with terrorists and political extremists. What the terrorists did is not Islamic in any book. It is ideology.

The prevailing image of the United States projected by Hollywood and the media in general, can be reduced to Madonna, McDonald's, Microsoft and aircraft carriers — sex, consumption and power. It is not about a hard-working civilization and a good and generous people who, by the way, happen to be largely religious. No other western and not too many non-western countries' leaders, politicians, athletes and others invoke the name of God in their public utterances as much as the United States. Hedonistic, America is not. Ironically, the tragedy of September 11 helped humanize and normalize the image of the United States for the whole world with its accompanying pictures of perished innocents, torn families, tears and heroism. The outpouring of sympathy

for this country from everywhere, including the Muslim world, was very genuine.

Without being "soft on terrorism" or questioning the necessary hardware response to it, we have to think about foreign policy in the long term and about America's image in the world if we want to win this war. We must also face the fact that September 11, in many ways, marked the end of separation between global and local politics. It was an end to parochialism.

There was nothing Islamic in the September 11 acts of terror. The perpetrators killed innocent people, committed suicide and did so by conspiracy and stealth. All three are strictly forbidden by both Islam's holy book and tradition; the perpetrators will not meet their Creator in heaven. The God of Islam is pretty unforgiving when it comes to the taking of innocent life. And here, the critical role of the Muslim community in general, and of Muslim religious scholars in particular, is critical in both deterring further atrocities in the immediate future and in the long-term fight against the culture of terrorism. The terrorists, especially the "sleepers," if not caught will be deterred only if they can be reached in their hearts and minds. Therefore, the logic of their act must be delegitimized on communal and religious grounds thoroughly and unequivocally by Muslims at large and especially by men of religion, the Muslim clerics.

It is here that the profiling of Muslims and Muslim-bashing are not only ethically and constitutionally wrong, but pragmatically counterproductive. American Muslims must be in the vanguard of the delegitimization of acts of terror against innocent people as a tool of political expression, and allowed the opportunity, as well as the responsibility, of safeguarding the integrity of their faith and the security of their country. This vanguard role is possible not by the sheer will of the Muslims themselves, but also by allowing them equality in sharing of the national tragedy.

It is important that we not let the terrorists set the agenda. They want a clash of civilizations between Islam and the West. They want a borderless war. They want to bring every single country in the Muslim world into this confrontation, and then they want six, seven, eight million Muslims in this country to become their partners. We can't let them set the agenda. We mustn't give them the chance. **EM**

'By the time our undergraduate students graduate, they're conducting research at the
MBRS Program boosts entry of students into



Ana S. Goyos, undergraduate Biology major, and Larry J. Dishaw, Biology graduate student, work with Charles Bigger (background) through the MBRS Program.

Florida International University's drive to become a leading public research university and the nation's ongoing efforts to remain a global economic leader share a common, related goal: to advance the fields of science and engineering. Historically, most of the professionals in these fields have been drawn from the white male population, and with the rapidly changing demographics of the American population and work force, the nation is faced with a serious problem: the

underrepresentation of minorities in these essential fields.

FIU is uniquely poised to address this critical shortage. With its substantial minority student population — nearly 70 percent of total enrollment — it is an ideal institution to host a federally funded Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program. Established and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the MBRS seeks to strengthen institutional research capabilities, enable facul-

ty and student participation in research, and encourage more minority scientists to participate in biomedical research.

FIU's MBRS Program began in 1985 and along with the associated MARC/U-STAR Program currently supports and employs 47 students, ranging from freshmen through the doctorate level, studying biology, chemistry, physics and mechanical engineering. All of the students are involved in original research and, depending on their level, are expected to pre-

graduate level'

scientific research careers

sent their work at professional meetings and publish results. The program also brings prominent guest speakers to campus and provides a clearinghouse for students to learn about special training programs and career opportunities.

MBRS actually has three constituent parts: Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) and Minority Access to Research Careers/Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (MARC/U-STAR), which stimulate interest among underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students in biomedical research; and Support of Continuous Research Excellence (SCORE), which provides support for research projects. In 2001-02, FIU received more than \$2.1 million for its MBRS programs, which includes salaries and stipends for students to conduct laboratory research, tuition for graduate students and MARC/U-STAR undergraduates, and travel support to attend scientific conferences and meetings.

The MBRS program provides benefits on the personal, institutional and national levels. The program serves as a major learning experience for students entering research careers and supports faculty research. It enhances FIU's continuing efforts to expand its research agenda. And it helps alleviate the national scarcity of university-educated minorities in the biomedical field.

"By the time our undergraduate students graduate, they're conducting research at the graduate level," said Charles Bigger, associate professor of Biological Sciences and director of FIU's MBRS Program. "They're working alongside graduate students and post-docs. We expect the students to learn how to do science and then do it. It gives students an opportunity to reach their potential; a lot of students just need a chance. NIH has been very supportive of biomedical research here through these programs. It's where their goals and FIU's goal to become a major research

university come together nicely."

Susan Tibor, a Chemistry major who is conducting research on the effects of lutein on eye health (in the laboratory of Professor Richard Bone), is one example. "This is a great opportunity. There are many students who do this work for free, who volunteer their time to get this experience," she said, adding that she plans on going to medical school. "I've learned more here (in the laboratory) in two years than in any classroom."

Sean Mandat, who recently received his bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, is continuing his microbiology research at the University for an additional year before applying to graduate school. "The program enabled me to work immediately in the labs and get paid for my lab work," he explained. "Most students don't get to work in a lab until after they graduate. I always had to work outside of school, but this allowed me to work in my field in the lab. It's what I love, and it gives you plenty of time to study. I hope to enter a Ph.D. program and have a lab of my own one day."

FIU alumna Cecile Olano, a lab technician at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Subtropical Horticulture Research Station in South Miami-Dade County, acknowledges that the "research experience I received in the (MBRS)

Cecile Olano, an MBRS graduate who now works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.




program had a very big impact on me. I found it challenging and exciting, and decided to make a career out of research. ... Although I might have had this career path without the program, the research experience I obtained allowed me to enter the lab at a higher level."

Other FIU alumni of the MBRS Program have gone on to study and receive their doctorates from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, and are conducting post-doctoral work at Princeton University and the University of Florida.

While students are the primary beneficiaries of MBRS funds, faculty, who act as mentors to students in the program, have also received considerable support for their research projects through the program.

"Through the RISE program, I put in a request to NIH for a research program on comparative immunology," said Sylvia Smith, professor of Biological Sciences, whose research has focused on the immunological and antibacterial properties of shark proteins, peptides and cartilage. "I originally started out with a research bench measuring seven feet. Through the MBRS grant I was able to get my own lab in the PC building and then with my expansion of the grant, I was able to get a second smaller lab."

Rene Herrera, associate professor of Biological Sciences, who has had many MBRS students work in his genetics lab (including eight this year), is equally enthusiastic about the program.

"It's fantastic, it's a tremendous help, because students can work 30 hours a week in the lab," he said. "It's also prestigious; many universities hunt for people in these programs — they know they're good, they're well trained. They go to the leading programs in the world, to Stanford, Harvard, MIT, Carnegie-Mellon. I'm always in the lab with them — they're 10 times better than I was at their stage." 

www.fiu.edu/~biology/MORE/home.htm



Another step in the continuum of scientific progress

To clone or not to clone — that is

by Rene J. Herrera, FIU Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

In recent times, the controversial issue of stem cell research has permeated popular literature worldwide. At the center of this heated debate are fundamental moral, religious and scientific concerns. The fact that life is initiated at conception and destroyed in the process of generating stem cells provides the raw material for the argument. In addition, the potential of allowing for the complete cloning or mass production of human beings for medical or cosmetic reasons escalates the debate even further.

Is it morally justified to generate copies of human organs by stem cell technology or even create multiple copies of an individual by cellular cloning? Is the road of scientific progress inevitably destined toward the loss of human dignity? On the one hand, we are confronted with serious ethical and philosophical dilemmas. On the other hand, we anticipate the infinite benefits promised by embryonic stem cell research and cellular cloning. The possibility of harvesting a person's stem cells, which are capable of developing into specific tissues and could be transplanted without the risk of immune rejection, would revolutionize modern medicine. Pancreatic cells, for example, could provide a cure for diabetes, muscle cells might repair or replace a damaged heart, and nerve cells could be used to treat Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease. The repair of damaged or cancerous tissue as well as the prospect of curing genetic diseases after

genetically engineering stem cells in culture are only a few of the far-reaching applications of this powerful technology. In essence, the mechanisms to mitigate human maladies would change dramatically.

Stem cell technology differs from cloning a whole organism since the embryo is utilized when it is a hollow ball of cells before uterine implantation. Of course, in order to clone a viable individual, completion of pre-natal development is needed. In stem cell technology, cells are harvested *in vitro* after sperms and eggs unite in culture. At this stage, cells have the potential to be pluripotent, i.e. capable of generating cells that will differentiate into different tissues. The type of tissue formed depends on the original selection of stem cells and the environmental signals provided to the cells by the scientists. Humans possess hundreds of different tissues, each performing essential specific tasks for the continuation of life. Unfortunately, cells, like people and other living things, are difficult to anticipate. The technology to directionally control the developmental pathway of a stem cell line in order to produce a specific type of tissue is still at its infancy, and the creation of medically useful stem cell lines is more of an art than a science. To gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the chemical and physical *milieu* essential for normal and specific cellular differentiation into a given tissue, further research is required. Under these

circumstances, any restrictions limiting the number of stem cell lines available for research will inevitably compromise the rate of scientific progress. Some scientists argue that the 64 or so cell lines sanctified by President Bush for federally funded research are not genetically and/or functionally diverse enough, nor are some of them fully developed for sound and thorough research.

What is usually forgotten in these arguments is that cellular cloning and stem cell technology (a practical application of this science) are phenomena that have occurred *naturally* since the origins of life. For example, every time nature "makes a mistake" and a human embryo is split shortly after conception, clones are formed naturally — resulting in the birth of identical twins. Single-celled organisms, including bacteria, protozoa, and yeast, produce genetically identical offspring through *asexual reproduction*. These offspring develop from only one parent and are considered clones. Plants can also reproduce asexually through a process called *vegetative propagation*. Every time we cut a branch from a plant allowing roots and a new plant to develop, we are in fact cloning and using stem cell technology. For centuries, these techniques have been used in agriculture.

The only difference between naturally occurring clones and those generated in a laboratory is that *natural* clones are even more complete since not only the nuclear



By the age of 15, Gasana, seen here at left with a classmate, had already distinguished himself as a superior student.

It's the memories that linger. Long before Janvier Gasana was an assistant professor in FIU's Department of Public Health, he was a boy growing up in Runda, Rwanda. He has come a long way from that "little bitty area" near Rwanda's capital city of Kigali, but his memories of a homeland lost infuse his work today and drive him to greater challenges.

"I grew up in conditions similar to the ones we're talking about in the inner city. I can relate to them. When I see conditions in this country that mirror those of a poor country like Rwanda, that has limited resources, I can't sit by and do nothing," said Gasana, discussing his work to eradicate lead poisoning in some of Miami-Dade County's poorest communities.

Born at home in 1956, Gasana and his five siblings grew up in a nurturing environment that provided plenty of love but few material possessions (he wore his first pair of shoes at the age of 14). Hailing from a long line of traditional healers who maintained an interest in Western medicine, Gasana gained an appreciation early on for the art of healing. He speaks lovingly of his grandmother, Asterie, a traditional healer. "She's 100 years old and blind,

'We are here for the sake of other humans'

Public Health professor launches

but people still come to her to be healed," he said, shaking his head.

Gasana's father and mother encouraged their children's education, in part because Gasana's father had been denied an education by his own father, who mistrusted the white Catholic missionaries who operated the local school. His father's loss turned out to be Gasana's saving grace.

"My father really admired his best friend, who was a teacher," explained Gasana. "He had a nice house, he was able to buy bread — he was a rich man compared to my parents. My dad wanted his children to be educated like his friend."

After repeating the first grade at his mother's insistence ("I tell my sons, 'I didn't fail the first grade, I repeated it,'" he said, laughing), Gasana excelled academically and was accepted into the seminary, where he completed his high school education. It wasn't long before Gasana, whose parents had converted to Catholicism shortly after his birth, realized that the priesthood was not for him.

After receiving the bishop's blessing to pursue a path outside the priesthood, Gasana suggested three fields he was interested in studying, as is the custom in Rwanda: medicine, economics and electromechanics. He was told he would attend medical school at the National University of Rwanda, a move he welcomed.

"I had planned on opening a clinic in the capital city when I graduated in 1984," said Gasana, who had married his college sweetheart, Berancille Mugiraneza, and was the father of a son by the time he graduated. The dean of the medical school had other plans, however, and handpicked Gasana to join the medical school faculty, assigning him to the public health department.

"Medical doctors tend to think of public health as prevention rather than practice, so it's not a specialty many of us are rushing to enter," said Gasana. "The woman notifying me actual-

ly said, 'I'm sorry, you've been given public health.' I said, 'Okaaaaay.' It was very traumatic for me, but I had no choice since my education had been government sponsored. I just sat down and organized the department."

It turned out to be a perfect fit for the man who grew up idolizing his grandmother, a healer, and an older cousin, a teacher.

After four years on the faculty, Gasana was required to pursue an advanced degree, which is how he, along with his wife and four children (his wife had given birth to triplet sons in 1987), wound up at the University of Illinois at Chicago. While working on his doctorate in public health, Gasana returned to Rwanda with the triplets to conduct research. It was during this time that his homeland imploded from a vicious civil war, and he narrowly escaped getting shot while retrieving water samples from the Nyabarongo River, the source of the Nile River.

"In a dictatorial regime where most people in power have not finished grade school, a well-educated person is simply a threat," said Gasana, explaining his close call. The narrow escape was a reality check, and he left the country in tears in September 1993 with a terrible sense of foreboding. Six months later, the Rwandan president's plane was gunned down and his army went on a rampage, killing 500,000 people in six weeks. Gasana said the victims were mostly educated people (including roughly half of his medical school colleagues), their families and others labeled "enemies," most of who were from the minority ethnic group.

"I immediately sought asylum in this beautiful land of the United States, where people have rights and freedom — things that people in my homeland have given up on," he said.

Gasana's graduate research made him aware of Chicago's serious lead poisoning problem, and when he moved to Miami, Gasana asked officials at the Miami-Dade County Health

drive to eradicate lead poisoning

Department if he could look at their data. What he found disturbed him: Liberty City, Little Haiti and eastern Little Havana accounted for a disproportionately high amount of the county's reported lead poisoning cases.

After securing money from FIU, Gasana assembled a team of 11 graduate students who visited 121 sites in those targeted areas. Lead inspections were performed and blood samples analyzed with shocking results: Nearly two-thirds of the sites in the study returned one or more samples with lead levels that greatly exceeded Environmental Protection Agency guidance standards.

The national statistics on the problem are startling. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health problem, with nearly 1 million children younger than six years of age having blood lead levels high enough to adversely affect their intelligence, behavior and development. Poor children are disproportionately affected and are rarely screened with a blood lead test, despite longstanding requirements for blood lead screening in the Medicaid program. As a result, most children with elevated blood lead levels are not identified and do not receive appropriate treatment or environmental intervention. Gasana cannot accept that lead poisoning remains a persistent problem in the most industrialized nation in the world — and is committed to alleviating the condition.

"I don't allow myself to get discouraged," said Gasana, who is fond of the Latin saying, *mensa sana in corpore sano* — sound mind in sound body.

Help is on the way. After published reports about Gasana's study appeared in *The Miami Herald* last year, Gasana was flooded with offers of help and, with seed money provided by FIU, subsequently formed the Florida Alliance to Eradicate Childhood Lead Poisoning (FAECLP), a nonprofit organization that



Janvier Gasana

seeks to protect Florida children from lead poisoning. In addition, Gasana is working with FIU's Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology and The Metropolitan Center on a \$5 million grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Defense on lead abatement and asbestos removal.

FAECLP intends to print and distribute educational pamphlets in English, Spanish and Creole to residents of low-income areas. Additionally, the group plans to facilitate door-to-door outreach because, according to Gasana, the main problem with affected residents is "they don't even know they *have* a problem" — a matter that hasn't been adequately addressed by the medical community.

"Medical schools don't spend much time explaining to medical students how important an issue this is," lamented Gasana, who hopes to take his U.S. medical board exams in 2002.

"And even when there's a physician who knows to test for lead poisoning, it becomes an issue if the patient doesn't have health insurance or the means to pay for the test."

But Gasana is not a man inclined to give up, and his efforts to eradicate lead poisoning have helped him fulfill a promise he made to himself on the plane as he returned to the U.S. six months before his country was torn apart by civil war.

"I pledged to fight for human rights and to help improve the living conditions of the underserved and underprivileged members of our society," said Gasana. "As Einstein pointed out, we are here for the sake of other humans." **FIU**

Those wishing to contribute to FAECLP can call 305-919-5284. "Ten dollars, which is the cost of one child's blood lead test, can go a long way to save a child from learning disabilities," said Gasana.

'A labor of love and service to the music'

Authority on Cuban music gives world's largest collection to FIU



Cristobal Díaz Ayala

FIU will soon hold the title of research epicenter for the serious study of popular Cuban music. With the recent donation of what is believed to be the largest, most comprehensive collection of Cuban music artifacts in the world, the University will serve as a Mecca of sorts for both academicians as well as everyday aficionados who simply want to learn about the birth and bloom of this unique music.

A gift to the University Libraries, the Cristobal and Marisa Díaz Ayala Cuban Music Collection contains approximately 100,000 items that span the history of popular Cuban and other Latin music. Valued at nearly \$1 million, the collection features 25,000 LPs; 14,500 78 rpms; 4,500 cassettes containing radio interviews with composers and musicians; 4,000 pieces of sheet music; 3,000 books; and thousands of CDs, photographs, videocassettes and paper files.

"FIU will be a major resource for the study of international Cuban music — its origins, diverse manifestations and impact," says Lisandro Perez, director of FIU's Cuban Research Institute. "This [collection] will promote even more work in a period that is really needed."

The collection stands as the life's work of one Cristobal Díaz Ayala, 71, an unassuming retired businessman and former lawyer who turned a childhood passion for the music of his native land into a decades-long quest to capture, comprehend and catalog it all. Revered for his knowledge by such luminaries of the genre as the celebrated Cuban-born jazz saxophonist and clarinet player Paquito D'Rivera and others in the music industry, Díaz Ayala has built a reputation for his exhaustive research and solid expertise. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including the first definitive text on Cuban music — a detailed history published in 1981 and credited with stirring a revival of interest

in Cuban performers — and the producer of the CD boxed set *100 Cuban Songs of the Millennium*. Díaz Ayala has spoken all over the world on the subject, yet never played an instrument or otherwise formally studied music. Instead, his heart and his ears received their first lessons at the tender age of four.

"I was 'contaminated' early in life," admits Díaz Ayala, who at the time lived in a residential hotel near Havana's famed Malecon district on the Gulf of Mexico. From his family's second-floor balcony, he could hear the outdoor café singers and municipal and military bands performing in nearby Antonio Maceo Park. That sparked an interest that led during his late-teenage years to the co-hosting of a nightly radio program featuring jazz, swing, early bebop and the occasional Bing Crosby song. "A few years after that, I started to listen to classical music," he says. "Musically speaking, I am promiscuous."

The collection reflects Díaz Ayala's eclectic tastes. The oldest piece is a recording of an Italian tune sung by Cuban soprano Chalia Herrera that dates back more than a century. Other cherished treasures include two wax





cylinders, precursors to modern-day records, dating from the early 1900s that captured performances by Cuban violinist Marta de la Torre. Among the jewels of embryonic Latin jazz are a 1931 recording by Orquesta Hermanos Castro that Díaz Ayala believes is the first recorded piece of Afro-Cuban music and jazz fusion, and a 1937 recording by Orquesta Arcaño featuring the first recorded bass solo by the legendary Cachao. He fled Communist Cuba in 1960, after being a law school classmate of Fidel Castro, establishing his own practice and opening a small record shop run by his wife. Despite leaving his country, however, Díaz Ayala managed to collect a body of post-revolutionary materials that experts agree is far more thorough than anything found on the island today.

Díaz Ayala and his family have lived in Puerto Rico the past 40 years, where he built a successful construction company, practiced law and hosted a radio program. In the 1970s, he began to communicate with collectors, composers, performers, writers and other music experts throughout Latin America and the United States. Through friends he even

developed contacts within Cuba. The advent of the Internet facilitated his long-distance relationships, and today he continues to solicit information and, more commonly, answer questions from people all over the world.

Uva de Aragon, associate director of the Cuban Research Institute and a longtime friend of Díaz Ayala, understands the commitment that has gone into building the collection and into systemizing its related data — the names of songs, artists, record labels, etc. — through cross-referenced indices.

“In the case of Cristobal, his is an organized obsession. He’s very focused and very knowledgeable,” de Aragon says. Assembling the pieces “has taken sacrifice . . . a labor of love and service to the music and to his country. I think for Cubans who have lost their homeland, the music is probably the most important bridge for culture, a way of recuperating what you’ve lost.”

Several institutions had expressed interest in obtaining Díaz Ayala’s collection, approximately half of which concentrates on Cuban music and the other half on music from throughout the rest of Latin America. He made the gift to

the FIU Libraries in hopes of reaching the greatest number of scholars and others.

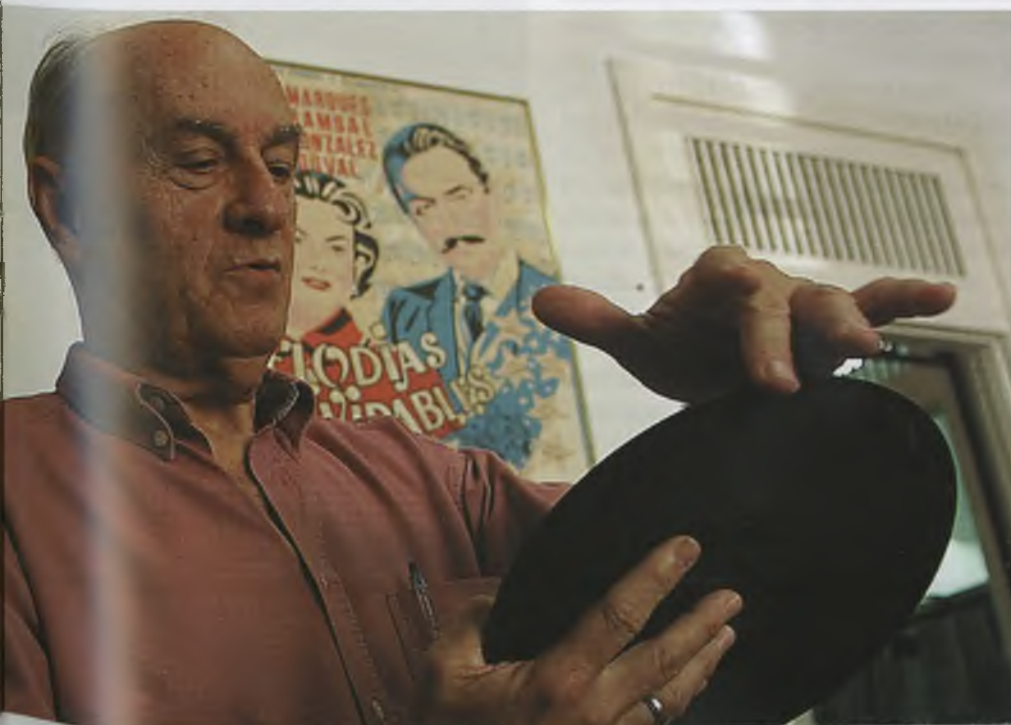
“I want the collection to be more useable to more people. That’s why I chose FIU,” Díaz Ayala says. “Miami is the door to the rest of Latin America. It is the city with the biggest mix of all the ethnicities of Latin America. All of these people need [access to] this collection. FIU is the right place.”

The library will post a web site dedicated to the collection and plans to make recordings available for listening on the premises. Papers and books will also be accessible to patrons. The Cuban Research Institute has scheduled a plenary session on Cuban music for its annual conference in March, at which Díaz Ayala will speak. The institute has already taken steps to secure funding for visiting scholars who will conduct research on the genre.

Moving the collection to Miami from Puerto Rico, where it is stored in its own two-story house, will take approximately three years. During that time, Díaz Ayala will make regular trips to FIU to meet with library staff and occasionally lecture. Díaz Ayala’s wife of 47 years, Marisa, with whom he raised three children, works closely with him.

Currently preparing a 10-volume encyclopedia of Cuban music, Díaz Ayala shows no signs of letting up. Laboring as many as 10 hours a day and still actively acquiring pieces for the collection, he has a drive that men half his age would envy.

“I could have bought a jet, traveled around the world or just gambled in Las Vegas,” says the financially secure Díaz Ayala, who confesses to have side-stepped a number of family vacations in favor of his “hobby.” Instead, the soft-spoken gentleman scholar, whose story recently appeared in *The New York Times*, adds simply, “I have had a very pleasurable life with my collection. It has given me much satisfaction. I think I have been useful to the culture.” **FIU**



'Bottom line' vs 'good corporate citizen'

Business professor demonstrates that socially

When Karen Paul, FIU professor of Management and International Business, began teaching in the 1980s, there was a continuing debate about whether a business should be solely committed to its "bottom line" and investors — or whether it should take a broader approach as a "good corporate citizen" responsive to a number of stakeholders, including its employees, customers and the community.

"The question was, do you sacrifice financial returns by paying attention to this broader corporate citizenship idea?" says Paul. "There were a lot of arguments, but there really wasn't any way to get to an answer because no empirical data existed for us to measure social performance. We had to rely on anecdotes to preach our various points of view."

The conundrum proved to be the impetus for a historic experiment conducted by Paul and her colleagues that changed the way the world looks at socially responsible investing.

Paul, who was a fellow at the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College at the time, and a few other individuals, mainly from the Boston investment community, decided to develop an index that would mirror the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P). Their index would have the same composition of S&P companies in terms of size and industry, but companies in their index would meet certain social criteria that qualified them as good corporate citizens. As the only academic in the group, Paul's role was to develop the methodology, paying special attention to the soundness of the social screens. Her other role, she says, was to "think about how this would contribute to our ability to do research about corporate social performance and corporate financial performance."

"By comparing the two indices over time, we could come to an answer about whether paying attention to social criteria meant that you sacrificed financial returns or not," explains Paul, who has been at FIU since 1991. "We really had no idea what the

answer was. But we thought that if that were the case, it would be nice if investors knew how much return they were sacrificing."

Nearly 12 years and \$2 billion later, the minds posing that question received their answer: Socially responsible investors do not sacrifice financial returns at all. In fact, during the period between the fund's inception on May 1, 1990, and its 10-year anniversary in 2000, the fund achieved an average annualized return of 20.83 percent — compared to an average annualized return for the S&P of 18.79 percent.

Persistence pays off

After deciding to form their mirror index — which ultimately became the Domini 400 Social Index (DSI), after Amy Domini, a Boston-area stockbroker who was one of the original members of the group — Paul and her business colleagues set about gathering information on the companies.

"We discovered that companies were not really going to cooperate with an entity that was just an academic venture," recalls Paul. "We decided the most efficient way to get this thing going was to become an investment company."

"I know that sounds kind of bold," she continues, laughing, "but we set up a mutual fund based on our desire for an answer to our question."

A mutual fund requires a \$100,000 pledge for three years, and the group "cobbled that together" and registered with the S&P as an index fund. It actually takes \$20 million for the portfolio managers to buy a unit of this particular fund that mirrors the S&P, however, so the group spent several years raising those funds. Along the way, Paul learned a few things that surprised her.

"I thought that labor unions and religious groups would be very interested in this (fund) ...but that wasn't the case," she says. "We really built this by the interest of individuals in the community and people who read our



Karen Paul

articles and heard us speak. Four years later, when we had raised the \$20 million, we were able to do a professional job of running this mutual fund." The DSI has been maintained by Kinder, Lydenberg, Domini & Co., a firm that provides social research on corporations for institutional investors.

Paul and her colleagues found that when their social screens were applied to the S&P 500 companies, about half of them did not

responsible investing pays off



meet the criteria, so they replaced them with 150 more from the Russell 1000, an index of 1,000 companies that has a similar industry composition as the S&P.

"From 1990 to 2000, there were some characteristics associated with being good corporate citizens that actually enhanced value," says Paul. "When we examined this closely, we found that one thing that enhanced value was good environmental

performance — for some reason, that ended up being a strong indicator of superior financial performance."

The group reevaluates annually the companies in the DSI. Companies that stray too far from the behavior that earned them a spot in the DSI are pulled and replaced with other companies that better meet the social screening criteria.

"When we started, we were the first and really only index fund to provide this," reflects Paul. "I like to say it was a field experiment disguised as a financial endeavor, but we kind of had the field to ourselves when we started out.

"By working as systematically as we did, we were able to develop a methodology for doing this that made a difference," asserts Paul. "We were a bunch of amateurs, really, but we devoted ourselves to being methodologically sound, and we took advantage of professional expertise to the extent that we could."

The success of the Domini 400 Social Index has not gone unnoticed in the investment community. There are now approximately 150 socially responsible funds, according to Paul, many of which have certain advantages because they are associated with large mainstream investment houses that have greater economies of scale. "We've done a lot of infrastructure work that these bigger companies can hitchhike on now," says Paul.

New challenges

Buoyed by the success of their initial venture, the group started a bond fund based on the same methodology. The fund partnered with South Shore Bank in Chicago, which Paul says is the nation's leader in lending to low-income areas and small businesses in inner cities — loans that the rest of the financial community shuns as high risk.

"It turns out that this bank has failed loans that amount to essentially half the industry average," says Paul. "They've developed the methodology for doing very, very good credit

ratings of these so-called high-risk loans. So, by using their expertise and our attraction to investors, we are developing a methodology that will enable us to take those so-called high-risk loans and package them for sale on the secondary market like credit card loans and mortgage loans are repackaged and sold.

"If we can do that, then we can develop a whole new stream of capital for inner city communities and rural areas where the big financial institutions don't have much confidence," she continues and then laughs. "That's our new way to change the world, you know."

Today, the organization — Domini Social Investments — offers several investment funds. Paul says she had no idea in 1990 that the DSI would be such a success.

"This was an interesting thing that was a high-risk endeavor. I assumed that it would be another one of those operations where you put a lot of equity into it and you learn a lot but in the end...I would have been astonished if you would have told me that we would have had this impact, not just in terms of the success of the fund," she reflects. "That would have been a surprise, but what is more surprising is that we've really changed the way the financial community, the academic community and the community at large regards socially responsible investing."

The educator in her couldn't be more gratified.

"I suppose in every professor there is some kind of motivation to make things better," reflects Paul. "We were developed from monastic orders in the Middle Ages, and we wear long black robes at graduation because we are intellectually and philosophically descended from a religious tradition. So, the university is a place where, historically, people have tried to have a positive impact on the world.

"I try to do that in my life," says Paul, "and I'm really lucky to be able to do that in the work that I do, too." ■

'I can think of no higher privilege than to be a judge'

Altonaga's journey from Faculty Scholar to Circuit Court Judge

by Susan G. Lichtman

Incredibly intelligent. Very determined. A person with presence. When asked to describe his former student, Cecilia Maria Altonaga — now a circuit judge with the 11th Judicial Circuit — the adjectives come fast and furiously for FIU Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Rosenberg.

"Cecilia was so talented," Rosenberg recalls. "She was one of the best listeners I ever had."

Even though she completed her undergraduate studies in just three years, she took at least five courses with Rosenberg. He remembers her as a disciplined, goal-oriented student who wasn't afraid to work hard.

"Though every alum is different, Cecilia has never lost her passion for FIU. Many alumni find a way to give back and that is certainly the case with Cecilia. FIU was very important to her and she wants to make it so for others," says Rosenberg, who formerly served as a professor of Political Science and director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center.

That's why, even 20 years after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors in Political Science, a minor in English, and a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Altonaga gives back by serving on the advisory boards of FIU's Colleges of Law and of Arts and Sciences, and as a charter member of the Honors College Advisory Board. She also was part of the law school Dean's Search and Screen Committee, responsible for reviewing the resumes of dean candidates for the new law school.

"It was fascinating to be involved in the interview process," Altonaga says. "I was so impressed with the diversity of applicants we received, not only geographically, but also in terms of their ethnic, gender and racial backgrounds. It was very telling that so many people responded from such a cross section of society."



Judge Cecilia Maria Altonaga

"We received applications from people from very well-established law schools," she adds, "who saw in our law school a chance to get in at the ground level and be part of the making of a wonderful school."

Delighted and enthusiastic at the selection of Leonard P. Strickman as the College of Law's founding dean, Altonaga calls him "dynamic, energetic, and with a limitless source of optimism. FIU was lucky to attract such a wonderful human being and such a well-prepared and qualified law school dean."

A Judge's Perspective

Altonaga brings her unique perspective as a justice to the Law School Advisory Board. For one thing, being a judge allows her "the ele-

vated, privileged position of being able to observe lawyers doing their jobs," she explains. Most lawyers perform well, but sometimes she observes weaknesses, especially in young lawyers, which she believes should be addressed in the law school setting.

"It's during the three years of law school that we can shape and mold young people to be professionals, to learn how to address the court and opposing counsel, and to have integrity in their work," she asserts. "I'm very interested in seeing that we produce the kind of professional that epitomizes what a lawyer should be."

A key component of the FIU College of Law's mission is to provide access to the legal profession through a contemporary, high-quality program of instruction. In Altonaga's

mind, this is precisely one of the factors that will make FIU's new law school stand out. The University's emphasis on quality is what attracts and retains a high quality student body — and that's what the public has come to expect from FIU's programs.

"Dean Strickman is an innovator who has been active in other law school environments and who is very well versed on the American Bar Association's requirements for accreditation. I expect the law school to continue to have a strong overall emphasis and focus on quality," she predicts.

In addition to emphasizing quality, Altonaga is quick to point out that the law school will focus on diversity — both in its student selection and its programs.

"Some of the finest lawyers I've seen are those who had to pursue law studies at night," she continues. "Typically, they're more mature students, many of whom have families and children. They may be experiencing career changes or may be place-bound. Because of their life experience, many of them are going to be that much better at lawyering than someone fresh out of college. We have to do our best to serve that market."

Finally, FIU's College of Law, like other schools and colleges of the University, will capitalize on South Florida's unique geographical location to emphasize international law and international law-related issues, including transnational business and international trade.

An FIU Faculty Scholar

A graduate of North Miami's Notre Dame Academy, Altonaga entered FIU at age 17 as a Faculty Scholars scholarship recipient. This three-year program covered tuition and expenses, provided the student maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average. For Altonaga, who was eager to breeze through her undergraduate years, the program offered just what she wanted.

"Leaving Miami was not an option for me, and the fact that FIU had the Faculty Scholars program really attracted me," explains Altonaga, whose two older sisters are also FIU graduates, as is her husband. "Most of my courses were at night, and I worked during the day, doing quality control for a cruise line. I did not have a clear idea of what I wanted to study. I started as an accounting major, but

after my first day, I just knew it was not the right thing for me."

At her mother's suggestion, she switched to a political science major. Subsequently, she took advantage of summer study programs in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, served as president of FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Association, and received an Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Political Science. In addition, she was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and was on the Dean's List every semester.

A Law Career

Upon graduation, she decided to follow in her father's footsteps and become an attorney. Despite a full tuition scholarship offer to Duke Law School, she enrolled at Yale Law School, where she served as director of the Yale Moot Court Board and articles editor of the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

The first FIU graduate to attend Yale Law School, Altonaga remembers a time when she had to defend FIU because "unless people were from Florida or South Florida, they had no idea what or where the institution was."

"As we finished law school, my Yale classmates would ask, 'Why are you going back to Miami when you can go to a larger, better city like New York or Chicago to practice law?' I would insist that Miami is where I wanted to be. I like it here."

As a measure of FIU's stunning growth over the last two decades, Altonaga says that today's students no longer need to defend FIU or Miami to the rest of the country. "Today, FIU is a well-established educational institution of higher learning with a national and international reputation for excellence and quality."

After returning to Miami, she was a law clerk in the office of Federal District Chief Judge Edward B. Davis before assuming the position of assistant county attorney in the Dade County Attorney's Office. During her eight years there, she practiced commercial and construction litigation and handled personal injury and constitutional lawsuits, bid disputes, drafting and defense of legislation for the County Commission, administrative hearings in personnel matters, and more.

Following her nomination by the Judicial Nominating Commission, Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Altonaga a county judge in

May 1996. A subsequent nomination by the Judicial Nominating Commission led Governor Jeb Bush to appoint her a circuit court judge in September 1999, the post she holds today. She was assigned to the Juvenile Division her first year; since January 2001, she has been assigned to the Criminal Division, handling an active caseload of about 580 cases, including all pre-trial, trial and post-trial proceedings.

The same skill — listening — that earned her Rosenberg's praise, is one she actively uses in her courtroom.

"I can think of no higher privilege than to be a judge," Altonaga states. "As a judge, my goal is to treat lawyers, litigants and the public with courtesy and respect. I want them to feel that when they come to my courtroom, justice is being done and that their cases are being heard. I want them to know that they have a judge who's going to listen, study the issues, be well prepared, and render very careful decisions. I want them to see that I'm doing the job that people should expect a judge to do."

As she juggles the demands of her busy career with her life as mother to three daughters — Natalie, 11; Caroline, 8; and Gabriella, 2 — and wife to George Mencio Jr., partner with the firm of Holland & Knight, Altonaga has no trouble keeping her priorities straight.

"As a working parent, I believe that service to the community begins first and foremost inside the home," she says. "I pick and choose my outside involvements very carefully. I am not as active in the community right now because if I were, it would be at the expense of my children. During these formative years, they need me at home."

Yet, in addition to her numerous contributions to FIU and its programs, she finds time to participate in a Florida Supreme Court Committee on civil jury instruction, serve as a judge for the Florida Bar's mock trial competitions, teach at judicial conferences, serve as an active member of Epiphany Church in Pinecrest, and more.

Disciplined, determined, grounded, balanced. Provost Rosenberg has been on the mark about Altonaga.

"I'm confident that she'll be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice one of these days," he says. "She has that potential." ■

FIU alumnus leads the 'City Beautiful'

Mayor Slesnick preserves principles

FIU alumnus Don Slesnick, who was elected last year by a decisive majority to his first term as mayor of Coral Gables, doesn't seem to know the first thing about being a politician. As a glaring sign of his inexperience, the thoughtful, soft-spoken labor lawyer built his campaign on an issue that few leaders embrace these days: that public servants should actually listen to the people.

Following a tumultuous year during which voters in one of Miami's oldest and most desirable suburbs expressed serious concerns about the future of their city, Slesnick, 57, who had never held political office, decided to enter the race after visiting Philadelphia, the birthplace of American democracy.

"We walked the whole grounds of the 'cradle of democracy' square, saw Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell," Slesnick recalls. "The docent was explaining that 200 years ago we fought the Revolution to give the people a voice. Here in South Florida, we had the same issue."

Slesnick is referring to the reaction of local activists and ordinary citizens to a surge of commercial development in the City Beautiful. As high rises shot up in downtown and contracts for the construction of a new mall were being negotiated, folks felt shut out of the conversation, ignored by those in office. A proposed multi-million-dollar annex to Coral Gables' historic City Hall building further exacerbated the situation.

Like his neighbors, Slesnick had a problem. It was not necessarily the idea of development that bothered him, but the lack of interest in what taxpayers had to say. "I was getting frustrated," he recalls. "I woke up on a series of mornings and started to think more and more about the direction of our government."

With little more than four months to the election, Slesnick figured he had no chance of winning but wanted, at least, to get people talking. "If nothing else, I would raise issues that would be publicly debated," he says.

In another sign of his political innocence, neophyte Slesnick shunned professional campaign organizers in favor of dedicated volunteers, including a few FIU students, brothers in the same fraternity to which Slesnick belonged during his undergraduate days at the University of Virginia. The guys even made a small contribution to his campaign fund, a gift the grateful Slesnick was able to return

after the election. The rest of the surplus campaign money was divided among local cultural organizations.

In a further break from the pack, Slesnick purposefully chose to take the high road in what was turning out to be a closely watched election. Having headed until last year the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's ethics initiative — a program aimed at attacking ethical, moral and corruption problems in business and government — Slesnick figured he should put his money where his mouth is. "I wanted to run an issue-based, upstanding, ethical campaign. I would not be embarrassed by my campaign," he says.

Slesnick's lack of political savvy paid off on election day when he earned nearly 53 percent of the votes — a full 14 percent more than the incumbent, his closest competitor in the three-person race. The new mayor, who essentially serves as one of five commissioners that run the city, was joined in victory that night by another two successful FIU alumni: new commissioners Maria Anderson '86 and Ralph Cabrera Jr. '82. A third commissioner who did not come up for re-election this year, FIU alumnus William Kerdyk Jr. '85, was tapped by Slesnick for the position of vice mayor.

While getting elected might have turned out to be a little easier than Slesnick first imagined, the job of mayor has certainly been harder than expected. The difficulty, as Slesnick sees it, centers on his strong commitment to doing all he can for the city. The part-time mayor's position, which pays less than what a first-year elementary school teacher makes, has taken over his life. While juggling his private law practice — Slesnick specializes in public-sector labor law and serves as a negotiator and arbiter for groups such as the local police and nurses unions — he cannot help but give anything less than full-time attention to the city.

"I have found it gets into your soul and heart," he says. "You become the mayor of Coral Gables so that, if you're doing it right, you're doing something for the citizens of Coral Gables all the time."

While the city manager runs day-to-day operations, Slesnick spends mornings at City Hall meeting with citizens and talking to representatives of organizations that do business with the city. He fields complaints and com-

ments and works with the other commissioners to do right by the electors, even as bulldozers continue to lurk at every turn.

"For anyone to suggest that we were going to turn this city inside out (concerning development), it's impossible," says Slesnick, who makes the point that contracts already signed and permits already issued must be honored. "What this commission can do is try to develop a vision of the city with its citizens and business community for 2006."

Fortunately, Slesnick, with a distinguished resume of community service and numerous awards behind him, is a man of considerable vision. A Vietnam veteran who served as a nuclear weapons advisor to NATO forces in Germany, Slesnick returned to Miami in 1972 and took a job as director of personnel and labor relations for the Miami-Dade County Police Department. Trained as a lawyer at the University of Florida, Slesnick welcomed the chance to tackle affirmative action issues and the integration of women into the rapidly expanding force. Among his accomplishments, he eliminated the separate job track for females and abolished the titles of "policeman" and "policewoman" in favor of the gender-neutral "police officer."

After eventually starting his own law practice and earning a master's degree in Public Administration from FIU in 1980, Slesnick developed a serious interest in historic preservation, to which he has likewise lent considerable vision. On his resume: founding chairman, State of Florida Historic Preservation Advisory Council; past chairman, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation; and past president, Dade Heritage Trust.

"Here I had gone to Miami High School, one of the great historic buildings," Slesnick says before quoting Thomas Jefferson on the influence of great buildings on great men. "At the University of Virginia, I was surrounded by one of the great historic sites in the country. It had an impact on me."

Slesnick and his wife of more than 30 years, Jeannette, who together raised two children, have personally experienced the pain and pleasure of historic preservation. Their 1937 Mediterranean-style home in one of Coral Gables' historic districts is a shining example of adherence to the principles of preservation.

Luckily for the citizens of Coral Gables, preserving principles is what Slesnick does best. **FIU**



Don Slesnick

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I can't remember a time when FIU wasn't, if only as a vision in the distance, part of the landscape. Today, FIU looms large in the setting of national higher education, setting trends, achieving milestones and garnering recognition at a pace to be envied by older, more established institutions. Physically, our campuses – from West

Dade to West Broward, North Miami to South Beach – underscore our ubiquitous presence in the very fabric of South Florida.

In theory, FIU was conceived as a local, two-year, upper-division only venture – a limited university for students whose college choices were also limited by financial constraints or familial duty. But our students, faculty and administrators had other plans — and buildings, classes and degree programs expanded to offer the public an enormous choice of educational opportunities. (We're even working on our parking!)

The most significant force behind FIU's success is its core mission of educating students. FIU does more than confer degrees — we launch careers, develop community leaders and foster global expertise. As alumni, you and I are tangible proof of FIU's success. Wherever we are — and we are just about everywhere — and whatever we do, we make a difference.

This fall FIU commemorates its 30th anniversary, and I invite all our alumni to celebrate with us — come to a football game, hear a lecture, enjoy an art exhibition, listen to a concert, take an online class, even park in one of our two new garages.

This is our FIU.

Annette M. Herrera '92
Director, Office of Alumni Relations



Howard R. Lipman

New VP and director leading fund raising and alumni activities

To strengthen the University's focus on fund raising and alumni relations, a seasoned professional with 15 years of development experience has been named the new vice president for Advancement at FIU.

Howard R. Lipman, former CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Miami & the Keys since 1998, will be developing a new capital campaign for FIU, which last year completed a \$205-million fund-raising drive, led by Vice President Dale C. Webb.

"Howard's record of achievement in higher education and other non-profit settings made him the excellent choice for this position," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "As a research-extensive institution, our fund-raising

needs are growing ever larger, and Howard has the skills and energy to help us expand our horizons."

A graduate of East Carolina University, Lipman began his fund-raising career at Philadelphia's St. Joseph's University before moving to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington as executive director of Resource Development. He joined the University of Miami School of Medicine nine years ago as director of Major Gifts, leaving two years later to serve as executive director of the Oakwood Healthcare System Foundation in Dearborn, Mich. He returned to Miami as director of Development for the Zoological Society of Florida in 1996, and then joined the American Red Cross.

Among his Miami accomplishments are the planning and implementation of the Red Cross' current \$46-million capital campaign, the achievement of a \$2.4-million development goal for the Zoological Society and securing more than \$10 million in gifts for the UM medical school.

"I have watched FIU grow over the past years — it's an amazing institution," said Lipman. "Among the factors that make major research universities great are strong, committed alumni bodies, visionary leadership and significant endowments, which support academic excellence among the faculty and students. ... We want our alumni to recognize that college is not over for them. They can still be part of this great university and enjoy all the things that FIU offers: the athletic events, the arts and cultural offerings, academic programs."

An FIU alumna is now spearheading Alumni Relations: Annette M. Herrera '92, former assistant vice president of Advancement and Marketing. "As a graduate of FIU, I know what our alumni are looking for from Alumni Relations. With talented staff behind me, I know we have the right team to make it all happen."

Stay connected with your alma mater

Keep in touch through cyberspace with the FIU Alumni Association. Starting this past fall, the Office of Alumni Relations began communicating with its alumni on a regular basis through its monthly electronic newsletter, *NOW@FIU*, which is sent to more than 10,000 subscribers. It is a way to keep alumni informed of the latest campus news, sports, association events and activities. To subscribe to *NOW@FIU*, send an email to alumni@fiu.edu with your name and preferred email address.

alumni@fiu.edu



Provost Mark Rosenberg and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, '77.

Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, an FIU alumnus, honored by his alma mater

The Department of Political Science and its alumni honored Manny Diaz, mayor of the city of Miami and an FIU alumnus, at a dinner at the University Park Faculty Club on Jan. 8. Diaz, who received his bachelor's degree from Florida International University in political science in 1977, was sworn in as mayor of the city of Miami on Nov. 17, 2001.

The dinner, hosted by President Maidique, was attended by 70 alumni, faculty and administrators. Among the attendees were a number of political science alumni who are now elected officials, including circuit judge Cecilia Altonaga and Barbara Hill Herrera, a commissioner in Weston.

At the event, Provost Mark Rosenberg reminded the alumni how vital they are to the continuing strength of FIU. Diaz, who was presented with an FIU football jersey, reaffirmed his affection and admiration for his alma mater and the Political Science faculty.

Alumni BlueGold Weekend a success

The first-ever Alumni BlueGold Weekend — a special version of Homecoming — was held Nov. 9-10 as a dress rehearsal of sorts in anticipation of FIU's Homecoming next fall, which will feature the first season of Golden Panther football.

Highlights of the weekend included the FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament held at Don Shula's Hotel & Golf Club in Miami Lakes. Alumni and friends came together for a beautiful day on the green and lunch with football Head Coach Don Strock.


The weekend came to a close with our own tailgate party, where members of the FIU Alumni Association and the Golden Panther Club enjoyed pregame festivities including barbecue, paella, a bounce house for the kids, music and a real live panther. The party continued at Community Stadium where fans enjoyed the BlueGold football scrimmage.

After the pomp and circumstance... Continue your participation at FIU through the Alumni Association

Are you a recent graduate of Florida International University? This past December, FIU had 2,400 graduates and more than 1,200 signed up for a free one-year membership with FIU's Alumni Association. As a new member of the Association, you will receive a continuous flow of communication from the Office of Alumni Relations, the University and your college. By maintaining your membership, keeping in touch with FIU and updating your records at www.fiu.edu/orgs/alumni/address-change.html, you receive the latest news and information on the many wonderful events and opportunities happening at your alma mater.

As a member of the Association, a very distinctive community of the University, you will participate in "members-only" events and receive invitations and special rates for many of the University's cultural programs, such as events at The Wolfsonian-FIU and FIU Music Festival. With FIU football roaring onto campus on August 29, 2002, you have the opportunity to purchase Golden Panther Alumni Fan season ticket packages for \$80 per person, and you can cheer on the Golden Panther football team with your fellow alumni at your side.

In addition to the benefits of being a member of the FIU Alumni Association, you will have the opportunity to network with alumni ranging from the first class in 1973 to the most recent class of December 2001. Networking is the name of the game for many of you and there's no better place to get started than with your alma mater. Your Association will facilitate these networking events by providing members-only Career Services events in conjunction with the Career Planning & Placement Department. FIU and your Alumni Association are here to support you throughout your career journeys, and we hope you take us along for the ride.

We encourage you to take advantage of all we have to offer. Visit us at www.fiu.edu/orgs/alumni and learn more about the many benefits you will enjoy as a member of the FIU Alumni Association. 





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The Arts at FIU

A leading South Florida center

Since opening its doors, Florida International University has promoted arts and culture as an integral part of the student curriculum and in offerings to general audiences. In recent years, FIU has emerged as one of South Florida's major cultural assets, and several of its programs are nationally renowned for their excellence.

The Art Museum at FIU:

The Art Museum at FIU has garnered a prestigious reputation for its innovative exhibitions and programs. The Museum's Critics' Lecture Series presents important critics, art historians and artists. ArtPark features the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, one of the world's finest collections of modern outdoor sculpture. www.fiu.edu/~museum

Theatre and Dance Productions:

The Department of Theatre and Dance produces a wide variety of live performances. The theatre program mounts several shows each year, ranging from classics to experimental new works to musicals. The dance faculty directs its students in dynamic presentations by choreographers representing a variety of styles and cultures. www.fiu.edu/~thedan

The FIU Music Festival:

The School of Music presents an annual fall series of concerts that showcase talent in a variety of genres. The festival features FIU musicians as well as distinguished visiting performers. www.fiu.edu/~music

Writers on the Bay:

Under the direction of the Creative Writing Program (ranked among the top ten creative writing programs in the country), Writers on the Bay presents noted authors and poets. Guests have included novelists Elmore Leonard, Marge Piercy and Gay Talese, and poets Maxine Kumin and Campbell McGrath (of the program's stellar faculty). www.fiu.edu/~crwritng

Miami Film Festival:

Acquired by FIU in 1999, the annual festival showcases films from around the world, often attracting the participation of prominent actors, writers and directors. Last year, FIU launched a film studies certificate program. www.miamifilmfestival.com

The Wolfsonian-FIU:

Located in Miami Beach, The Wolfsonian-FIU promotes the collection, preservation and understanding of decorative art and design from the period 1885-1945. Through exhibitions and programs, The Wolfsonian-FIU investigates the ways design shapes and reflects human experience. Assembled by Mitchell Wolfson Jr., its collection includes more than 100,000 objects. www.fiu.edu/~wolfson

