

Spring 2004

# Florida International University Magazine Spring 2004

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# FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2004 M A G A Z I N E

## HOME RUN

FIU alumnus Mike Lowell '97 and the Florida Marlins cap an incredible 2003 season with a World Series championship.

### Also in this issue:

FIU researchers helping teenagers make better choices

Honoring our own at Torch Awards 2003

\$3 million gift propels entrepreneurship initiative

School spirit takes center stage at Homecoming 2003

# Show your school pride every time you hit the road.

Whether you're a member of the FIU Class of '03 or '73...or you drive around in a luxury sedan or an SUV...the new Florida International University Golden Panther license plate is for you. With the Golden Panther on your vehicle, you'll show your school spirit every time you drive.

It's now easier than ever to receive a Golden Panther plate through the FIU Golden Panther License Plate Replacement Program. Go to [www.fiu.edu/fiuplate](http://www.fiu.edu/fiuplate) and follow the instructions to order your plate. This is not part of your annual vehicle registration process—no additional charge will be incurred until your next license plate renewal. At that time, if you choose to keep your FIU plate, a fee of \$27.50 will be assessed to benefit FIU scholarship funds.



## Show Your True Colors



FIU alumni, friends and supporters—show your pride for the Blue & Gold with your FIU Golden Panther license plate.

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 Spring

on the cover



**From Golden Panther to World Champion**

In an interview with *FIU Magazine*, Florida Marlin Mike Lowell discusses last season, the World Series win and how his life has changed.

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New funding will enable the University to introduce entrepreneurship as an integral element in academic programs.

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## from the AVP, Alumni Relations



Our alumni are amazing! Everywhere I go, day after day, I meet prominent FIU alumni who are contributing to the vitality of their communities. You'll meet some of those alumni in this issue. Their captivating stories illustrate the influential roles assumed by our graduates and evoke the energy that defines FIU as a leader in higher education.

As an FIU graduate, your drive and passion have propelled you to success in your chosen career. Each of you has a unique and compelling story to share with your fellow alumni. That's why we're asking that you notify us of your recent accomplishments by filling out the Class Notes section of the Alumni Association form included in this issue.

In the same way that FIU alumni refuse to settle for less than the best for themselves personally and professionally, your Alumni Association continues to expand its outreach and improve its services to you, our members. You can read more about those efforts in the Alumni Section of this magazine.

As we develop lifelong relationships with our alumni, I continue to be impressed by the pride and love you have for our University and its continuing progress. We invite you to share in your alma mater's triumphs as we celebrate yours.

In the spirit of Blue and Gold,

Bill Draughon  
Associate Vice President  
Alumni Relations

## from the Editor



What were the most important periods and milestones in your life? There are many answers. But I am sure that most would say that their college years remain one of the most influential periods in their life. It's a singular time, a coming of age on multiple levels: personally, intellectually and professionally.

While college studies usually only fill some four to eight years, the results last a lifetime. Many students, however—past, present and future—may not realize that they are the primary products of the university. Students are universities' reason for being. And even after leaving campus, they remain a vital part of the institution. The achievements of our alumni and FIU are connected. They are part of FIU's history and the foundation of its future.

FIU alumni play a vital role in the economic, social and cultural fabric of our region and beyond. In this issue of *FIU Magazine* we are proud to salute some of our most celebrated and distinguished alumni. Our cover story is devoted to one of our "Boys of Summer," third baseman Mike Lowell '97, who helped lead the Florida Marlins to their World Series championship last year. In a story about the Torch Awards, we take a look at individuals who have had a major impact on their profession and the community. We also have profiles on two very successful alumni who have reached the pinnacle of their professions: Stephanie Burns '77, CEO of Dow Corning; and Regynald Washington '74, vice president of Disney Regional Entertainment and chairman of the National Restaurant Association.

These individuals and countless others among our 100,000+ graduates personify the spirit and excellence of FIU as well as its unlimited potential.

Todd Ellenberg '91  
Editor

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

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# in brief.



## Medical School Initiative Moves Full Speed Ahead

The Florida International University Board of Trustees has unanimously approved a plan to create an Academic Health Center including a degree in medicine program that could admit its first class as early as 2006.

“This proposal is largely based on the fact that all the building blocks of a great new medical school are in place,” said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. “We have Ph.D. programs in the basic sciences, in nursing and in engineering. An M.D. is the next logical step.”

FIU’s would be the first public medical school in South Florida, where the University of Miami offers the only degree program in allopathic medicine. There is an impending serious shortage of physicians within the state, and existing Florida medical schools are unable to increase their enrollment sufficiently to correct the shortfall. The new medical school will be in line with national priorities – articulated in an Institute of Medicine report released last summer – as well as state and local health care priorities.

Years of research and conversations among FIU and key members of the South Florida medical community have been summarized in a program proposal available online at [http://academic.fiu.edu/docs/provost\\_memos2004.htm](http://academic.fiu.edu/docs/provost_memos2004.htm) and at the web site <http://health.fiu.edu>.

The plan is based on a number of studies initiated in 1996 and a feasibility study presented in

2003 and prepared with community and faculty input. The new document lays out four ways in which the FIU medical school will improve the quality of health care in the region:

- INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CULTURALLY SENSITIVE UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY PHYSICIANS SERVING SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
- CREATE AN AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE MEDICAL SCHOOL THAT DIRECTLY PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE CLINICS
- ADVANCE BIOMEDICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGH RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND DIRECT APPLICATION TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA
- PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES FOR HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR THE LARGE, DIVERSE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA POPULATION

Several representatives of local hospitals came before the board to voice their support. The medical school plan does not call for a university hospital, but rather relies on partnerships with existing medical facilities such as Mount Sinai Hospital, Miami Children’s Hospital, Mercy Hospital and Baptist Hospital, in addition to community clinics.

While 16 percent of Floridians and more than half of the population in Miami-Dade County are Hispanic and 20 percent of the population in Miami-Dade and Broward counties are African American/black, only 9 percent of all physicians in Florida are Hispanic and only 3 percent of all physicians in these counties are black. These demographics drastically affect the provisions of culturally competent health care. As a conse-

quence of demographic diversity and the multicultural nature of its population, the health care industry needs in our community are unique. In addition, the plan notes that Florida medical schools only produce about 500 of the nearly 2,500 new doctors the state needs each year. Tuition at the FIU medical school would be similar to that of the other three public medical schools in the state: currently at about \$12,000 a year.

The plan approved by the Board of Trustees will be refined and presented to the Florida Board of Governors and will ultimately have to be approved by the Legislature to be funded.

Several trustees spoke about a favorable political climate for a new medical school and mentioned Gov. Jeb Bush’s success in attracting the Scripps Research Institute to Palm Beach County as a potential enhancement to the plan for a medical school at FIU.

“If we blink we might not get another opportunity,” said Board of Trustees Chair Adolfo Henriques. “The compelling case is made in the data that we absolutely need a public medical school in this community and the resources for that education to take place.”

## Florida International University Names New VP for Research

George E. Dambach joined FIU in January as its new vice president for Research. He comes to the University from Michigan’s Wayne State University, where he held a comparable post.



FIU  
in brief.

## Florida International University Research Leads to Stronger Building Code

The Florida Building Code Commission approved a recommendation by FIU researchers to modify the Florida Building Code's roof sheathing nailing standards for housing construction in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone.

The approved modification is an 8d Ring-Shank nail that will replace the previous standard, a combination of 8d/10d Common Bright nails, said International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) Deputy Director Ricardo Alvarez.

The research revealed that the new nailing standard improves the resistance of roofs to hurri-

cane-induced wind-uplift by a factor of up to 130 percent without increasing the cost of construction. The new nails will go into roofs starting in January of 2005 and are expected to strengthen 350,000 new homes (close to 1 million residents) in South Florida over the next 10 years.

Under the current standard, roofs in South Florida are built to resist the winds of a mid-Category 3 hurricane. Tests conducted by the IHRC have demonstrated that roofs built to the new standard can effectively resist uplift forces from strong Category 4 hurricanes.

With funding from the Florida Department of Community Affairs-Residential Construction Mitigation Program (RCMP), Alvarez's Laboratory for Structural Mitigation has been researching the role of design criteria, construction methods and techniques in hurricane loss reduction for housing in Florida since July 2000.

"This modification of the Florida Building Code is a direct result of research the IHRC conducted under the RCMP—a true measure of the effectiveness of the RCMP in producing hurricane loss mitigation," said Alvarez.

Eduardo Camet, president of MH Homes and vice chairman of the IHRC Board of Trustees, was equally enthusiastic about the code change.

"This is an excellent example of how research at the IHRC can produce practical applications for the benefit of vulnerable communities everywhere," said Camet. "This is the type of research that must be supported by the state and federal governments, and by the private sector."

For more information on the 8d Ring-Shank nails, visit the mitigation web site at <http://www.mitigation.fiu.edu>.



"Dr. Dambach will provide leadership to maintain and accelerate our progress as a Carnegie-Research Extensive institution of higher education," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique.

In addition, he will also develop and implement a strategy to expand the capabilities in the Division of Sponsored Research and Training. Dambach's predecessor, Thomas Breslin, returned to the faculty after leading the Division through six years of continued growth.

"George comes to FIU with plenty of experience and insight that will help push the university's research goals to the next level," said Mark Rosenberg, provost and executive vice president, Academic Affairs.

At Wayne State, Dambach helped create the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor, a collaboration of Michigan universities to advance biotechnology development in the state. He led the reorganization and modernization of research administration and intellectual property management during a period of growth in sponsored research at the university. He also served as dean of the Graduate School. Prior to his responsibilities as vice

president and dean, Dambach held numerous administrative positions in the school of medicine, including associate dean for Research and Graduate Studies and assistant dean for Medical Curriculum. He was professor of Pharmacology in the school.

While at Wayne State, Dambach was actively involved in community concerns. He is a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Karmanos Cancer Institute and the National Advisory Board of the Merrill Palmer Institute for Child and Family Development and is on the board of visitors for the Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne.

Dambach holds a bachelor's degree in physiology and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from Ohio State University. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Internal Medicine at Philadelphia General Hospital and a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and the Institute of Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania. During that time, he was also a Pennsylvania Plan Scholar at the university. ■



"The Ph.D. approval will help move our research forward," said Richard Schoephoerster, chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

## Doctoral Programs in Biomedical Engineering and Nursing Introduced

FIU is now only the third academic institution in Florida to offer a Ph.D. program in Biomedical Engineering and the seventh in the state to offer a doctoral program in Nursing. This development came after the Florida Board of Education approved the establishment of the two programs last October. Classes in both programs will be available beginning Fall 2004.

The Ph.D. program in Biomedical Engineering comes on the heels of the creation of the Biomedical Engineering Department last semester in FIU's College of Engineering. Last year, FIU became the first in the State University System to offer a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering. Department of Biomedical Engineering Chair Richard Schoephoerster said that the approval of the Ph.D. program was important on a variety of levels.

"The Ph.D. approval rounds out and completes our program and will help move our research forward to make us a more attractive university for students looking to major in biomedical engineering," he said.

Creation of the Ph.D. program in Nursing comes at a time when the nation's health care facilities and nursing education institutions are suffering from critical shortages, both in staff and faculty needed to educate more nurses. With the state's current Ph.D. programs producing less than 40 graduates annually and an anticipated faculty retirement rate of 18 percent by the end of the year, FIU's doctoral program will contribute immediately toward meeting these deficiencies.

"This decision is a momentous one, not just for our school, but for the future of health care in our community as well," said School of Nursing Dean Divina Grossman. "The support from the community was simply overwhelming. They made their voices heard in Tallahassee as to the need for this program and its vital role in producing doctorally prepared nursing faculty and nursing leaders, as well as culturally relevant research essential to address the health care needs of our diverse populations."

Currently, minorities represent only 9 percent of the nursing faculty in the nation as compared to a total U.S. minority population of 28 percent. At FIU's School of Nursing, however, half of the school's doctoral-level faculty are from minority groups, and each has considerable experience in culturally based research. ■

"As a university that is intimately tied to its community and committed to improving the quality of life enjoyed by its residents, we are honored to receive this distinguished award."

—FIU President Modesto A. Maidique



## Beacon Council Presents Education Award to Florida International University

Honor recognizes programs that boost local economy

Florida International University was named a winner of the Second Annual Beacon Awards in January in recognition of its programs that have helped strengthen the local economy.

The Education Award is presented to the institution that has developed and implemented the most innovative new education programs that address one or more of the One Community One Goal (OCOG) target industries of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. The Beacon Council is Miami-Dade County's economic development agency.

"As a university that is intimately tied to its community and committed to improving the quality of life enjoyed by its residents, we are honored to receive this distinguished award," said Modesto A. Maidique, president of FIU. "FIU is well aware that its future is closely tied to the economic health of our state and community, and we will continue to do everything in our power to improve it."

FIU was recognized for its programs in the School of Nursing and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, which address the OCOG target industries of the biomedical and health care services.

The Department of Biomedical Engineering, which was established in fall 2003, offers bachelor's and master's degrees and will introduce a doctoral program this fall. The department, which works closely with clinical and industry partners, is playing an important role in expanding multidisciplinary research efforts at FIU, technology creation and commercialization, regional economic development and partnerships with biotechnology companies and hospitals.

The FIU School of Nursing has initiated innovative programs to educate more nurses in response to one of South Florida's—and the nation's—worst-ever nursing shortages. These programs include its Foreign Physicians Nursing Program (the first in the nation), Nurse Anesthetist Program and PRIDE Project. This fall it will introduce a doctoral program in nursing, which will directly bolster the ability to educate new nurses. ■

## New Supercomputer Will Support Advanced Research in Diverse Fields



COE Dean Vish Prasad; Ernesto Ramon, chair of COE's Advisory Council for Engineering; George Dulikravich, professor and chairperson of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; and George Dambach, vice president for Research participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The College of Engineering has built a 96-processor parallel computer that will afford FIU students and faculty the opportunity to engage in innovative research with real-world applications in a variety of arenas. FIU is one of only two universities in Florida that support a powerful distributed-memory parallel computer. (FIU's High Performance Database Research Center is in



## in brief.



COE's 96-processor parallel computer

the process of installing a distributed-memory 48-processor parallel computer.)

Some of the most imminent applications of the research to be carried out include optimizing protocols for cooling brains in stroke victims to save their basic brain functions; optimizing protocols for freezing organs to be used in transplant surgery; studying interactions of Earth's electromagnetic field and hurricanes and tornadoes; optimizing manufacturing processes for smart materials; designing a heart pump with no moving parts; and optimizing multidisciplinary design of cooled gas turbine blades in jet engines.

"Students will gain experience in computational science and engineering, faculty members will have a facility to work with when trying to acquire research grants and industry leaders will be able to conduct extensive advanced research. Conditions now exist for all of this happening here at FIU," said George Dulikravich, professor and chairperson of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering.

The parallel computer is fully operational and housed in the Multidisciplinary Analysis, Inverse Design, Robust Optimization and Control (MAIDROC) Laboratory at the Engineering Center and can easily accommodate future expansions, according to Dulikravich. The official opening of the facility was Feb. 25.

It is also expected that in addition to conducting research, faculty will be able to effectively teach students about distributed-memory parallel computers.

## Health & Wellness for the Florida International University Family: New Rec Center to Open This Fall



A state-of-the-art, 50,000+-square-foot Recreation Center will open at the FIU-University Park campus in Sept. 2004, replacing the Student Fitness Center as the hub of

intramural sports and fitness activities at the University. Constructed with state funds, the \$8.9 million facility will provide more than four times the space of the Student Fitness Center.

The building will feature a two-court gymnasium, strength and cardio fitness areas, locker rooms, group fitness rooms, a pro shop, a food service outlet and administrative offices. In addition, the Rec Center will permit expanded "open gym" opportunities that currently are limited in the Golden Panther Arena due to Athletics Department events, classes and special-event schedules.

The two-story structure, located just west of the new Health Services Center and north of the Panther Hall Residence Complex, will feature a food-service area, Membership Services counter, administrative offices, pro shop, gym, men's and women's locker rooms, and strength area (free weights, dumbbells, benches, plate-loaded machines and boxing apparatus) on the first floor. The second floor will house the cardio machines (treadmills, ellipticals, upright and recumbent cycles, steppers, rowers and specialty pieces), "fitness out-



Alumni, students and faculty/staff will have more than four times the space to work out in when the new Recreation Center opens this September.

post" (treadmills, selectorized machines, specialty and ADA circuit), spinning area, two fitness rooms and the upper level of the gymnasium.

Open to the entire FIU family—alumni, current students and FIU faculty/staff—the center will offer trial, monthly, semester and annual memberships at competitive rates. Tentative hours for the Rec Center will be Mon.-Fri., 6 a.m. to midnight and Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



in brief



## Florida International University to Operate School of Hospitality in Preparation for Unprecedented Tourism Boom in China

FIU has signed an agreement with the Tianjin University of Commerce to run a hospitality management school in China that would mirror its top-ranked Miami program.

Joseph West, dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, explained that officials of the Tianjin University of Commerce recognized the economic importance of developing a full-fledged hospitality program and approached FIU with the idea of a partnership. Now that the agreement is signed, FIU and TUC will begin recruiting and training the faculty, while the new campus facilities are built.

"A group of business professors from China will earn their master's in Hospitality Management at FIU over the next two years and will then be hired as FIU faculty to teach at TUC starting in the fall of 2006," said Dean West. The school will have approximately 1,000 students.

The agreement was signed at FIU in front of a delegation of Chinese officials, including Chen Jian, undersecretary general for the General Assembly to the United Nations; Liu



"This opens up the classroom to a whole new set of experiences for students here and there," said Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Thomas Breslin.

Yi, minister counselor for the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C.; Hu Yeshun, the consul general in Houston; and Wang Shu Zu, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of Tianjin People's Congress.

"I am fully confident that the cooperation between these two strong institutions will work very well in the widening of cooperation between China and the United States in the important areas of education and human exchange," said Undersecretary General Chen.

Wang expressed similar optimism with regard to the doors this agreement opens: "This cooperation is more than just the University of Tianjin and FIU, it is between the city of Tianjin and the state of Florida and a start-up point between China and the United States."

For FIU the agreement represents the largest foreign program the University has been involved in, including the Hospitality programs that have been operated in Jamaica and Switzerland. The Tianjin campus will also be able to host exchange students and faculty from FIU.

"This opens up the classroom to a whole new set of experiences for students here and there," said Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Thomas Breslin.

Breslin noted that the timing for the project is particularly good because China is on the verge of a tourism boom.

A report issued recently by the World Travel and Tourism Council, a private organization that represents hotel and travel companies, predicts the number of tourists and business travelers visiting China will grow 22 percent a year beginning next year through 2013.

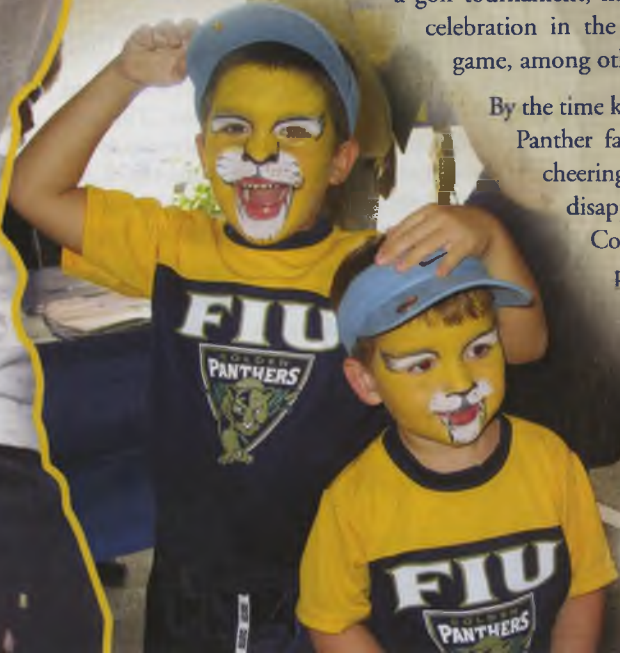
"We are going to be the leaders in training thousands of professionals to fill the jobs that will be created by this new phenomenon," said Dean West. ■

An overhead blueprint of the Tianjin Hospitality campus



A fan's sign in the stands said it all: "If it's the second time around, it's tradition." And so it was that the FIU family celebrated Homecoming 2003. From pep rallies to parades to Moonlight Madness, there was plenty of action in the week preceding the big football game. Both campuses held Homecoming Court elections, the Biscayne Bay Campus held a hotly contested step competition, the University Park campus staged a lip synch competition, and all the students came together for a pajama party on the football field the night before the big game. The party featured a dance contest, an outdoor screening of *Bad Boys II* and a Saturday-morning pancake breakfast. The FIU Alumni Association hosted a golf tournament, happy hour and blow-out pre-game celebration in the alumni tent the morning of the game, among other activities.

By the time kick-off arrived on game day, Golden Panther fans were ready to do some serious cheering. The FIU football team did not disappoint as it handled Holy Cross College 34-23 in a televised performance.



# Feel the Pride!



ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

03

"WE'RE BUILDING SOMETHING FOR THE FUTURE."



"I think tradition is very important. That's why I try to bring my son to the home football games as often as I can," said alumnus Thomas Disney '84, a City of Miami police officer who enjoyed the pre-game festivities in the alumni tent with son Brian, 10. "The university has made a lot of changes for the better. That's very important."

The younger Disney wasn't quite as philosophical as his dad, but his smile spoke volumes as he proclaimed, "One day I want to come here and play basketball."

"With every game the enthusiasm grows," observed Javier Rodriguez, a member of the Student Alumni Association and Political Science major who graduates in Spring 2004. "We're building something for the future."



research

# QUITTING



by Todd Ellenberg

## CBIRG HELPS TEENAGERS CONQUER THEIR PROBLEMS

Innovative treatments for adolescents offered at community sites prove more effective than conventional treatment.

**DAVID** IS LIKE MANY OTHER TEENAGERS, WITH HIS LOVE OF BASKETBALL, INTEREST IN COMPUTERS AND ANXIOUSNESS TO FINISH UP HIGH SCHOOL. AND LIKE MANY OTHER TEENAGERS, DAVID FOUND HIMSELF IN TROUBLE.

"I WAS ARRESTED FOR SMOKING WEED LAST SUMMER," HE SAID, PUSHING HIS SHOULDER-LENGTH, WAVY BLACK HAIR OUT OF HIS EYES. "THEY GAVE ME A CHOICE TO GO TO COURT AND TRY TO FIGHT IT OUT OR JUST GO TO THE [ALCOHOL TREATMENT TARGETING ADOLESCENTS IN NEED] PROGRAM. I [DECIDED TO] JUST TAKE THE PROGRAM. IT GAVE ME A PUSH TO QUIT.

"MY COUNSELOR, SHE TOLD ME THAT IF I FEEL BAD, IF I USE OR SOMETHING OR THINK ABOUT USING, TO NOT LET MYSELF DOWN, JUST TO KEEP ON TRYING, KEEP ON GOING FORWARD, THAT EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES Y'KNOW, THERE'S ALWAYS GOIN' TO BE A SLIP OR SOMETHING, YOU JUST GOTTA KEEP GOIN'."

"I've always been interested in working with kids and adolescents," said Eric Wagner, director of the FIU Community-Based Intervention Research Group (CBIRG). "I thought developing intervention programs for teenagers was a good fit with my professional background and interests."

Wagner's interest gave rise to CBIRG, an applied research center that has helped hundreds of teenagers conquer problems such as substance abuse, violent behavior and risk behaviors associated with HIV. The group's distinctive approach and client base have made it a national leader in community-based treatment.

Founded in 1998 with the support of Dean Ronald Berkman in the College of Health and Urban Affairs, CBIRG is a multidisciplinary effort that has attracted more than \$8.35 million in grants since its establishment. It includes five faculty

members from the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology, as well as support staff and a cadre of undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Health and Urban Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Our primary goal is to surmount the barriers that have prevented minority and underserved youth and their families from receiving needed services," Wagner said. "We've worked collaboratively to develop brief, accessible and developmentally and culturally appropriate interventions in community settings."

Wagner received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, completed a post-doctoral

fellowship at the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies and is a licensed psychologist in two states. But other life experiences led to his professional interests.

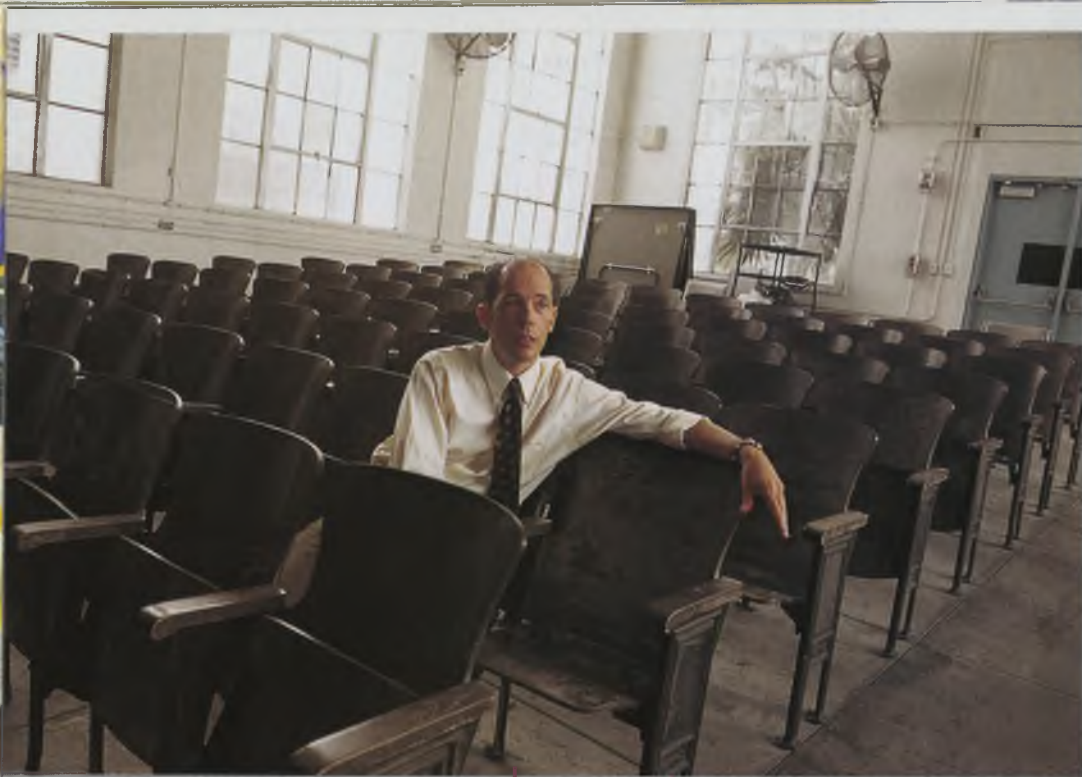
"I graduated with a high school cohort [in 1979] that was more likely to be involved [with drugs] than any other," Wagner said. "I also was a professional musician and saw lots of people use alcohol and other drugs, some of whom developed serious problems."

Early in his career as a staff clinical psychologist at Butler Hospital at Brown University, Wagner found that many of his outpatient teenage patients were missing their appointments. "I asked myself the question, 'Why didn't they

**"OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO SURMOUNT THE BARRIERS THAT HAVE PREVENTED MINORITY AND UNDERSERVED YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM RECEIVING NEEDED SERVICES."** — Eric Wagner



continued



show up?' I didn't think it was about me personally; it was more about how and where I was providing services. That led me to think more about how to make the services more accessible and attractive to adolescents. I was frustrated by no-show rates, so I went to where the kids were instead of expecting them to come to me."

**JULIA:** "WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I USED TO GET IN A LOT OF TROUBLE AND I WAS DOING A LOT OF DRUGS," SAID THE SENIOR AT THE SCHOOL FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY, AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL NEAR DOWNTOWN MIAMI. "I WAS GETTING INTO TROUBLE. FIGHTS AND SMOKING IN SCHOOL AND, LIKE, CURSING AT TEACHERS, EVERYTHING. I WAS ALWAYS GETTING SUSPENDED."

"GAPS [GUIDED ADOLESCENT PROBLEM SOLVING] IS THE FIRST COUNSELING I'VE HAD BY MYSELF WITH NO OTHER STUDENTS AROUND. IT'S NEVER BEEN LIKE THAT. I FEEL REALLY COMFORTABLE TALKING TO MY COUNSELOR. IT'S COOL. ...WE TALK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY AND GOAL SETTING AND STUFF LIKE THAT."

GAPS (Guided Adolescent Problem Solving) was launched by CBIRG in 2002 to develop and test the effectiveness of a school-based intervention program for violence-prone students with alcohol and drug abuse problems.

"THE REAL MOTIVATION FOR US IS TO REALLY HELP THESE KIDS."

-Staci Morris

Funded by a \$1.75 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the study includes 800 Hispanic, Haitian and African American high school students at five alternative high schools that serve at-risk students or those underperforming in conventional schools.

The subjects participate in five to seven treatment sessions that use an approach known as Guided Self-Change (GSC), which employs behavioral change principles, motivational engagement strategies and personal goal setting. Results indicate that GSC, which is used in other CBIRG programs, is more effective than conventional treatment. "We think this approach works better because the intervention we've developed is more developmentally appropriate and motivational, rather than lecturing or preaching to adolescents," said Andres Gil, principal investigator on the project and associate professor of Social Work.

**CBIRG's other major research projects have included:**

- Alcohol Treatment Targeting Adolescents in Need (ATTAIN), a five-year \$2.4 million project funded by NIAAA that provides individual and family interventions for adolescent offenders with alcohol and drug problems.

- The Teen Intervention Project (TIP), a five-year \$1.7 million project funded by NIAAA that ended in 2002, was a collaboration with the Broward County School Board that tested a school-based substance abuse intervention for middle and high school students.

- The Teen Intervention Project-Cherokee (TIP-C), a one-and-a-half-year project funded by NIAAA, tested CBIRG's school-based substance abuse programs with Native American middle and high school students. The project was a collaboration between FIU and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

- EMPOWER (Enhancing My Personal Options While Evaluating Risks) is a five-year \$2.4 million project funded by NIAAA to evaluate the effectiveness of a brief, motivational intervention for HIV risk-reduction among adolescents undergoing alcohol and other drug treatment. The program, a collaboration with the Starting Place in Broward County, will include 800 adolescents.

CBIRG's research has received extensive national recognition at conferences and in top academic and professional journals. Wagner said a week doesn't go by that he doesn't receive queries from organizations interested in using their treatment models. All program materials are also produced in Spanish, which has enabled the implementation of a treatment model in Mexico City in collaboration with The National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"Our programs use a brief approach and that's very appealing to adolescents," explained Staci Leon Morris, CBIRG's clinical director. "When you're at that developmental stage, you don't want to commit to therapy for a long time. It's motivational, so we assess where they're at when they come in and where they want to be and how they can get there. They really feel the support. Over the course of therapy they see that we want to help them, and they see that we want them to stop using and make better choices. It is a research project, but the real motivation for us is to really help these kids." ■

# HONORING OUR OWN *the* TORCH AWARDS 2003



Representing a wide range of fields and embracing classes throughout FIU history, the award recipients personify the excellence of FIU and the influential role assumed by its graduates.

On a glorious night last October, more than 200 members of the FIU family gathered at The Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables to honor recipients of the 2003 Torch Awards. There was a certain symmetry to the evening — an institution that has had a lasting, positive effect on its community honoring its alumni and faculty who, individually and collectively, have done the same. From the outdoor reception's strumming guitarist to the sultry stylings of the vocalist who serenaded the dinner guests, the evening was pure harmony, played out South Florida style.

Named after the Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding, which was dedicated in 1972 to the memory of the late Ernest R. Graham, the senator who was the first to champion the establishment of a public university in South Florida, the Torch Awards honor individuals who have had a beneficial impact on their profession and the community. The alumni and faculty honored each year represent FIU's "torch bearers"—leaders who impart knowledge and serve as a source of inspiration.

The 2003 honorees are no exception:

continued





## CHARLES E. PERRY VISIONARY AWARD

Presented to an alumnus/a who has made great strides in the early stages of his/her career.

**MICHAEL LOWELL '97**  
Finance



An Academic All-American athlete while at FIU, Lowell was drafted by the New York Yankees in the 20th round in 1997. Traded to the

Florida Marlins in 1999, he has become one of the best third basemen in the game and one of the best clutch hitters in Marlins history, as evidenced by his solid performance in the team's World Series' run last year. Despite his busy schedule, he continues to help advance the interests of FIU and FIU baseball. (An interview with Lowell can be found on page 16.)

**BENJAMIN SARDINAS '01**  
Electrical Engineering



An entrepreneur at heart, Sardinias has founded four companies in South Florida, collectively creating more than 100 jobs. Although Sardinias

graduated from FIU in 2001, he has been active in the business community since 1993.

"My father was always a business owner and instilled that spirit in me," he says.

Sardinias engaged in his first technology consulting work at the age of 15 as a contractor with his father. Currently serving as the co-founder and chief marketing officer of Avisena, Inc., a company that manages accounts receivables for health care businesses, Sardinias volunteers at FIU through service in the Alumni Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, mentoring to seniors in the College of Business Administration and speaking at events and classes.

**EMILY SPENCE-DIEHL '02**  
Social Work



Formerly the driving force behind FIU's Victim Advocacy Center, Spence-Diehl authored grants that enabled the center to expand its services to

students, faculty and staff. An expert in the areas of stalking and the psychobiology of trauma, she wrote the grant that allowed the center, Jackson Memorial Hospital Rape Treatment Center and the Child Assault Prevention Program to provide ongoing education and awareness about sexual assault and victimization. She was the creator of Project Impact, a National Demonstration Project to develop a coordinated community response to stalking.

"Very early on, I was overwhelmed by what victims of stalking endure," says Spence-Diehl, who is now an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington. "I wrote a few grants and things just took off from there."

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presented to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated exemplary service and civic involvement in his/her community.

**ADOLFO HENRIQUES '76**  
Accounting



Chairperson of FIU's Board of Trustees and chairman and CEO of Union Planters Bank of Florida, Henriques has served in various capacities on the

University's Foundation Board for the past 10 years and also served on the Florida Board of Regents. A tireless champion of this community, Henriques is former chairman of the United Way of Miami-Dade County, chairman of The Beacon Council, a board member of Miami Business Forum, a member of the Florida Chamber of Commerce and a supporter of the Miami Children's Museum.

**ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN '74 '87**  
Education



A legislative leader for more than 20 years, Ros-Lehtinen served four years in the Florida House of Representatives and three in the state

Senate prior to her election to the U.S. Congress in 1989. As a state legislator, she introduced and created the popular Florida Pre-Paid College Tuition Program. In the U.S.

Congress, she serves on the International Relations and Government Reform Committees and is chairwoman of the subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia. Ros-Lehtinen has been active on issues relating to education, children, senior citizens, women's health, victims' rights and the environment.

"The well being of the community depends on the unselfishness and generosity of every single person," says the former educator.

**JOSE VALDES-FAULI '75**  
Business Administration



A member of the FIU Foundation and chairman of its Alumni Committee, Valdes-Fauli also serves on the Advisory Board of The Wolfsonian-FIU

and is involved with The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum as well. He is affiliated with numerous community organizations, including the Florida Grand Opera, Bass Museum, Performing Art Center Foundation, Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, The Vanguard School and the Youth Symphony.

## FIU SERVICE AWARD

Presented to an alumnus/a who has demonstrated exemplary service and dedication to the Alumni Association and/or the University community.

**EDUARDO R. ARISTA '95**  
Accounting



As a certified public accountant and attorney with entrepreneurial experience, Arista's contributions to the College of Business

Administration's (CBA) International Business Plan Competition and Alumni Chapter have been significant. He has been involved with the Business Plan Competition, both as a coach and judge, and played a role in the creation of CBA's Alumni Chapter. He continues to offer his time and expertise on the development of the Global Entrepreneurship Center and creation of the proposed CBA Alumni Law (or Business Law) Chapter.

"My return to FIU started with the Business Plan Competition. The next best thing to starting and building a business is to coach someone through it," says Arista, founder of Arista Law ([www.AristaLaw.com](http://www.AristaLaw.com)) in Coral Gables. "I also enjoy breaking new ground, so when I heard there was a need for directors to establish a CBA Alumni Chapter, I became interested in participating."

## ARMANDO CAMEJO '89 Computer Science



Since graduating from FIU, Camejo has contributed his time and talents in several different areas across the University. An ex-officio member of the

FIU Foundation Athletics Committee, he is also a Football Founder. Additionally, Camejo is the current Golden Panther Club president and a past president of the Alumni Association.

Energized by the University's impressive growth, Camejo has given back to the University in more ways than one. As a Football Founder, he has committed to donating \$10,000 a year for five years to the fledgling program.

"This program is going in the right direction, but it needs the support of the alums to get where it wants to be," he says of football. "I would encourage all alums to get involved and support the program."

## CARLOS MIGOYA '74 '76 Business Administration



A long-time supporter of FIU, Migoya was co-chairman of the historic Campaign for FIU that surpassed its unprecedented

goal of \$200 million 18 months ahead of schedule in 2001. Currently vice chairperson of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors and chairperson of its Development Committee, he is also a member of the College of Business Administration's Dean's Council and a Football Founder. Regional president of Wachovia Banks for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, Migoya is also active in the community.

## OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to an alumnus/a who has attained outstanding success and distinction in his/her chosen career.

## ELIZABETH BALMASEDA '82 Communications



One of South Florida's most celebrated and decorated journalists, Balmaseda won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her insightful columns in *The*

*Miami Herald* about Cuban and Haitian exiles. Eight years later, she shared a Pulitzer Prize with her colleagues (including several FIU alums) for breaking news coverage of events relating to the Elian Gonzalez saga.

Balmaseda gives credit to her School of Journalism and Mass Communication professors when discussing her success.

"I think they are the unsung heroes. It's easy to lavish praise on a journalist who has done well, but there's a reason why that journalist has done well, and it usually has to do with the professors and mentors who helped her/him along the way," she says. "In my case, I know that my professors not only encouraged me to get out in the field, but they made sure I didn't fall behind in class."

## MANNY DIAZ '77 Political Science



Elected mayor of the city of Miami in 2001, Diaz has been a force in local and state political matters for nearly three decades. From the time he first volunteered in 1973 for Jim Angleton's bid for mayor of Miami, Diaz has supported, coordinated or managed dozens of political races, from local school board elections to presidential races. His success has not been confined to the political arena—he is a partner in the law firm of Diaz & O'Naghten, LLP, and vice president and general counsel of Monty's Restaurant Holdings, a company consisting of seven restaurants with sales in excess of \$20 million.

## JAY LITT '73 Hospitality Management



The first president of the FIU Hospitality Society, the alumni organization of FIU's School of Hospitality & Tourism Management (SHTM), Litt began his career three decades ago, rapidly rising through the ranks of ITT-Sheraton. After turns with his own consulting and hotel management company and Interstate Hotels, Litt joined Wyndham International Hotels in 1998. He was promoted to senior vice president of Operations for the Eastern Division in 2002.

Currently a member of SHTM's Industry Advisory Board, Litt's career advice to today's student is to "take a lesson from nature."

"If a tree grows too tall too quickly, it blows over at the first sign of wind. If it grows slowly, it has the firm base needed to withstand the wind," he says. "Today's students have great resumes but they haven't been at any job long enough to learn anything of any substance. I advise them to go very slowly and learn very carefully."

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Presented to a member of the faculty who has made a lasting impression on the lives of FIU alumni.

## JAMES HALL Creative Writing



A mainstay of FIU's Creative Writing faculty for more than 20 years, Hall has helped build the University's program into one that is

ranked among the top ten in the country. He began his writing career as a poet, but is more widely known for his popular crime novels set in South Florida. A number of his former students have gone on to publish novels of their own, including Dennis Lehane, Barbara Parker, Vicki Hendricks and Chris Kling.

"In my creative writing classes, I usually find students who are highly motivated—which is wonderful—but they are skeptical about education and its value in their lives," says Hall. "How is learning how to write a poem or short story going to improve my starting salary? Good question. And providing the answer to that while teaching them to write poems is a great challenge—but a lot of fun."

## JOHN NICHOLLS Marketing



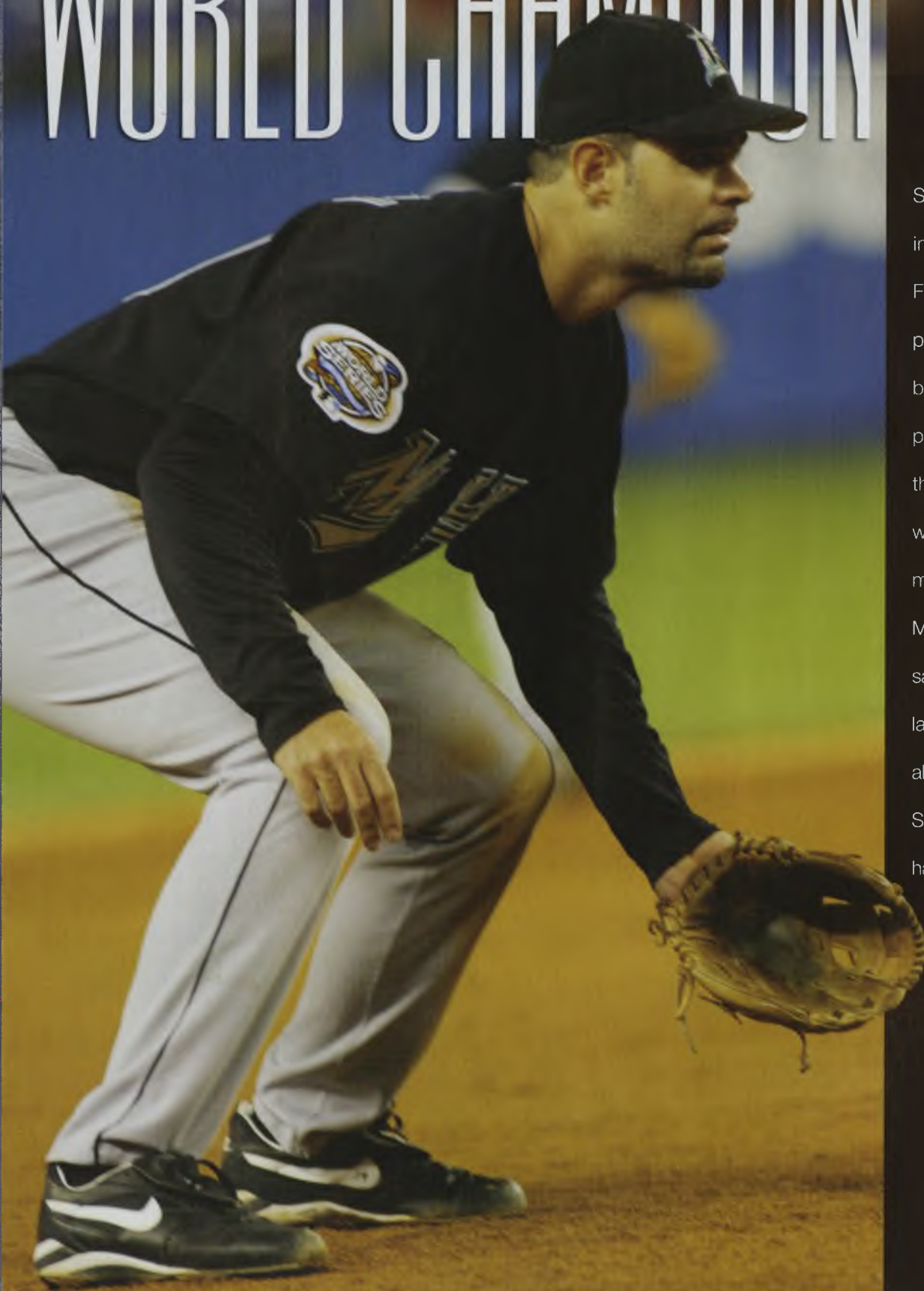
A founding member of FIU's Marketing faculty, Nicholls has received many awards for research, service and teaching. Most

recently, the Global Executive MBA Class of 2001 voted him Most Creative Professor and the Executive MBA Class of 2002 voted his efforts to that program Most Relevant Course. Chairperson and professor of the Marketing Department, he is an active proponent of experiential learning as an effective way of reaching students in the classroom.

"In the early years at the University, my teaching revolved around small classes. As my classes have grown in size, I have shifted my approach from lectures, Socratic methods, and cases, to experiential approaches which, I find, capture the hearts and minds of students, and tend to ignite a learning flame in the larger group." ■

From Golden Panther to

# WORLD CHAMPION



Since graduating from FIU in 1997 with a degree in Finance, Florida Marlins player Mike Lowell has blossomed into one of the premier third basemen in the major leagues. Lowell, who signed a four-year, \$32 million contract with the Marlins in the off-season, sat down with *FIU Magazine* late last year and spoke about last season, the World Series win and how his life has changed.



**Q** In the press conference announcing your re-signing, Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria referred to you as one of the team's leaders. How does it feel to be referred to as one of the leaders of a team that just won a world championship?

**A** Well, it's a flattering comment, especially coming from an owner, but I think if you ask most guys, I'm not a leader in the "rah-rah" sense. I don't believe in being a vocal guy and getting in a guy's face and telling him how to do things. I think you earn the respect of your players and your teammates by playing every day. When they see you play through injuries, play through slumps, just keep grinding it out, I think that earns the respect of guys a lot more than just talk. I think talking is kind of shallow sometimes. I think the fact that I've spent five years with the same organization, people kind of identify me with being a Marlin, along with some of the other guys, so...it's a label people gave me. It's not something I've consciously worked on.

**Q** You had a lot of things to deal with in the 2003 season—trade rumors, your broken hand, the cancer scare. How did you manage to remain focused?

**A** I tell you, going through the cancer situation I went through in '99 has made everything else so trivial. The biggest scare for me was when they thought the cancer had come back, at the All Star break. That was, I think, harder for me the second time around because I have a daughter now, a family. The first time around I was just recently married, and, back then, I think I was just too young and too dumb to realize the severity of the situation. This time it was really scary.

The trade rumors didn't bother me, the broken hand didn't bother me—I knew I'd come back from the injury, and

I don't care about being traded. I'm living a dream playing in the big leagues, so it really didn't bother me (he chuckles). The fact that people were trying to trade for me to better their team was a compliment to me.

I just try to take it day by day and stay focused.

**Q** What does it mean to you to win a world championship in the town you grew up in?

**A** It's actually more than a dream come true for me. When I was small, I always told my dad that I wanted to be a major league baseball player but the only bad thing was that I couldn't do it in Miami because they didn't have a team. I was a Phillies fan growing up, and they won a World Series and I was like, that must be the greatest feeling in the world. I think the first taste I got of that was in [Coral Gables Senior] high school, when we won our district title. It was the first time the school had done that in something like 30 years. As a competitor, you can't describe what that feels like. You can't relate it to anything else in everyday life. It's just a feeling of total gratification for all the hard work and all the sacrifice.

I think the most rewarding thing for me doing it here was that my family and my friends were here. They didn't see it on TV—they actually enjoyed the moment with me, and that was very special.

**Q** Are there any moments, either from the division series or the World Series, that particularly stand out in your mind?

**A** Sure, sure. I was very frustrated in the Giants series because my hand was still bothering me, and I wasn't playing. I'm thinking to myself, people kill to get into this position in the first place, and I'm here, and I'm not even playing. It

felt like everything that I had done was for nothing. But the second round of the National League Championship Series, when I hit the home run, my emotions went from frustration to.... (He grins and shakes his head, searching for the right word)

**Q** Elation?

**A** You're exactly right (smiles). So, I had a kind of roller coaster ride, but everything came into its own place in the World Series. I knew I was going to be playing every day, and it kind of felt like the regular season again. Definitely that game in Chicago was huge, just from a team standpoint. Going into Chicago, down 3-2, and winning game 6 and game 7—I think that was something no one expected us to do and we did it. I think when you prove people wrong it's much more satisfying. That's the most satisfying thing—when people don't give you a chance and you still do it. It's kind of a double exclamation point.

**Q** Every year you focus on one aspect of your game. What did you focus on last year?

**A** [By the end of each] season I already know what I want to focus on during the off-season. It's from a preparation standpoint, typically. Two years ago, I did a big weight program where I wanted to get stronger and stronger, but I noticed that I felt a little sluggish defensively. So last year, I wanted to do more baseball-specific exercises, as opposed to just weight-lifting exercises. I think that added up to a real strong beginning for me [in 2003]. I felt quick again. I think that related to the big jump in home runs. This year [in 2004], I actually want to do a lot of the same but even more conditioning because I think [most players' bodies] tend to break down in August and September, and if you can remain strong, you have an advantage over the other guy.

continued



## THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION

### MIKE LOWELL '97

6'-3", 215 LBS.

FLORIDA MARLINS THIRD BASEMAN  
RIGHT HANDER

■ DESPITE EARNING ALL-STATE HONORS WHILE PLAYING BALL FOR CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FIU WAS THE ONLY UNIVERSITY TO RECRUIT LOWELL.

■ WHILE A GOLDEN PANTHER, HE EARNED ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS THREE TIMES AND ALL-AMERICA HONORS ONCE. IN A PREVIOUS INTERVIEW WITH *FIU MAGAZINE*, LOWELL CREDITED FIU AND BASEBALL HEAD COACH DANNY PRICE WITH HELPING TO DEVELOP HIS TALENT.

"FIU PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN MY DEVELOPMENT, NOT ONLY AS AN ATHLETE BUT AS A STUDENT. AND I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT COACH PRICE DID. HE'S A GOOD PERSON."

■ LOWELL WAS DRAFTED IN THE 20TH ROUND BY THE NEW YORK YANKEES DURING HIS JUNIOR YEAR AT FIU. SINCE JOINING THE BIG LEAGUES, LOWELL HAS IMPROVED WITH EVERY SEASON AND HAS DEVELOPED INTO A .274 CAREER HITTER.

■ **GAMES PLAYED IN 2003:** 130

■ **2003 AVERAGE:** .276

■ **2003 HOME RUNS:** 32 (up from 24 in '02)

■ **2003 RBIS:** 105 (UP FROM 92 IN '02)

■ **ON-BASE PERCENTAGE:** .350

■ **SLUGGING PERCENTAGE:** .530

▶ FIU RETIRED LOWELL'S NUMBER, #15, LAST OCTOBER AT A DINNER ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE. HERE LOWELL POSES WITH HEAD COACH DANNY PRICE '74 '76.

**Q** What advice do you have for FIU student-athletes out there?

**A** You know, I think the one thing that I did that I thought worked was I had the dream of being a major league baseball player, but I didn't lose focus on what I needed to do in case that dream didn't happen. Everyone has dreams, but you have to be smart about it. For me, I took it in realistic steps. When I signed, I knew I'd be playing A ball. My goal was to get to Double-A, it wasn't to get to the major leagues. When I got to Double-A, my next goal was to get to Triple-A, and so on and so forth.

I think I took a realistic approach in terms of what I could do and what I couldn't. I remember telling my dad when I signed that I was going to give myself two full seasons in the minor leagues. I was going to stay with it, but only for two seasons. If it didn't work out, I was going to let it go. I wasn't going to be a career minor leaguer because I knew I had my education, and I knew I could do things that would be better for my family and for myself.

I don't really have words of wisdom. I think I was just very dedicated. I'm not afraid to work hard, and I think sometimes that extra work is what separates people, it's not so much the talent.

**Q** How has your life changed since winning the World Series?

It must be crazy.

**A** Yeah. I sign a lot more autographs. You know, it's a little weird but I understand more why some people kind of get annoyed about going out in public, not to the extreme but...

I went to an event where Dan Marino was the big spokesperson. Dan Marino was one of my idols growing up. He could not move three feet at this event without being mobbed. A gentleman made a comment, and it stuck with me, that people think they are entitled to a superstar's time. That's so true. I don't have a desire to be like that. I don't want to be recognized like that. I want to go into McDonald's and order chicken McNuggets with no one bothering me (laughs). But it's very flattering. I love when people say they enjoy watching us play. I think that's so much more of a compliment than asking me to sign things on the sweet spot with a certain pen because I know those people's intentions are somewhat different. But everything's been positive. I can't complain. But it's been different, it really has. ■

#### ■ ON WINNING THE WORLD

**SERIES:** "AS A COMPETITOR, YOU CAN'T DESCRIBE WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE. YOU CAN'T RELATE IT TO ANYTHING ELSE IN EVERYDAY LIFE. IT'S JUST A FEELING OF TOTAL GRATIFICATION FOR ALL THE HARD WORK AND ALL THE SACRIFICE."

#### ■ ON MAKING IT TO THE BIG

**LEAGUES:** "I THINK I WAS JUST VERY DEDICATED. I'M NOT AFRAID TO WORK HARD, AND I THINK SOMETIMES THAT EXTRA WORK IS WHAT SEPARATES PEOPLE, IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE TALENT."



# ON THE OFFENSIVE

## FOOTBALL PROGRAM MAKING THE MOVE TO DIVISION I-A

Despite one of the toughest schedules in I-AA last year, nine Golden Panthers were named Independent All-Stars, and the team is gearing up for an even tougher schedule in '04

Late last year, Golden Panther football received some good news in only the second year of its existence: The young program received a much-anticipated invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference, which would elevate the program from I-AA to I-A. Coupled with the postseason accolades received by nine members of the team, the future looks bright for FIU football.

"Accepting the invitation to go I-A is the right thing to do for the team, for the fans and the university as a whole," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, at a press conference announcing the move last December. The official date for the program's debut in the Sun Belt Conference is 2006, but the transition will begin in Fall 2004.

After playing the fourth-toughest schedule in I-AA football last season, the team struggled to a 2-10 record that belied its competitiveness. Students of the game were able to see past FIU's record, however, as nine players received NCAA I-AA Independent All-Star honors. Running back Adam Gorman, defensive lineman Mike Sherill and defensive back John Haritan earned first-team recognition. Wide receivers Harold Leath and Cory McKinney, linebacker Lance Preston, defensive back Nick Turnbull and place kicker Adam Moss received second-team honors. Kick-return specialist Greg Moss earned an honorable mention selection.

In assessing last season, head coach Don Strock singled out two Golden Panthers for their efforts on the field.

"The bright spots certainly were our kick returner Greg Moss and redshirt freshman quarterback Josh Padrick. Greg Moss set new return records with his two touchdowns and Josh Padrick, who started the season as our third quarterback, set school passing records." Padrick filled in to replace injured starting quarterback Jamie Burke, who tore his right anterior cruciate ligament in the season opener against Indiana State and missed the entire season.

Areas to work on, says Strock, include the run defense, controlling the clock more, achieving more third-down conversions and limiting the opponents' third-down conversion success. The coach doesn't see any of those areas as serious obstacles to future success, though.

"I feel we have a solid core of players who can compete at the next level and with the 2004 recruiting class, we have certainly added players to the mix," asserts Strock. "In 2002 against the University of Maine and Bethune-Cookman, we were never in the games. This year, we had a chance to win those games in the fourth quarter. We were ahead of Georgia Southern, a six-time I-AA national champion, on the road with three minutes to play in the fourth quarter. I would say that is progress.

"Everyone seems to forget...we have played 23 games, not 23 years," he continued. "In 2002 we played several non-scholarship teams and won handily. In 2003, we upgraded our schedule and now have a measuring stick to go by for the coming season."

The aggressive scheduling continues. Strock and Athletic Director Rick Mello have arranged a 2004 schedule that is even tougher than this past season's, according to Strock. "We are heading to Division I-A status, so we have to upgrade our schedule accordingly."

## FOOTBALL PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2004 RECRUITING CLASS

FIU football head coach Don Strock announced one of the largest signing classes and the "best talent pool" yet in the four-year history of the program at a press conference on Feb. 4. Twenty-six high school seniors have signed national letters of intent to attend the University next fall.

- "Overall, we're very pleased with this class. We've improved our overall team speed. We've gotten bigger, particularly at the cornerback positions. Now, all we have to see is if they can play at the intercollegiate level," said Strock.
- "Without a doubt, we improved our defensive line and backfield. I think we have a couple of running backs who are really going to help us out over the long run and we've added speed at the wide receiver position."
- All 26 players are from Florida, including 14 from Miami-Dade and two each from Broward and Palm Beach Counties.
- Three all-state performers are included in the group: Longwood Lyman running back J.J. Bass, Merritt Island defensive tackle Tad McConahie and Tallahassee running back/defensive back Lionel Singleton. Strock's biggest catch locally was Homestead quarterback Tavares Kendrick, who was ranked No. 17 on the list of Miami-Dade's Top 25 Recruits.



profile

A professional portrait of Stephanie Burns, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a grey tweed jacket over a black top, a necklace with a diamond pendant, and earrings. The background is a wood-paneled wall.

Stephanie  
Burns '77

# 'Go where life takes you'

## Dow Corning CEO leads quest for new innovations

Stephanie Burns '77 never would have guessed that her love of organic chemistry would take her to the top of a multinational chemical giant.

Mother Nature's wonders fascinated Stephanie Burns from childhood: creepy crawlies, colorful blooms and liquids stirred into a fizz.

The budding scientist indulged her curiosity during her undergraduate years at Florida International University. Organic chemistry became her passion. She launched a career at Dow Corning Corporation in 1983, moving from scientific development and women's health to overseas management and now, executive leadership.

In January, Burns, 49, became the new chief executive officer of Dow Corning, a global leader in silicon-based technology with 25,000 customers worldwide and sales last year of \$2.83 billion. The FIU alumna was also recently named the Michigan Woman Executive of the Year.

From her Midland, Mich. headquarters, Burns said it has been an exciting journey from the laboratory to the boardroom.

"When I think back to what I thought I wanted to be at 18 or 20 years old, it was a different course," Burns said. "I remember when I was given the opportunity to move into a more managerial, business role. I remember thinking, 'Do I want to make that leap?' I felt that fundamental science was a pure pursuit. The minute I made the decision, I absolutely loved it. The biggest drive for me was the customers."

Burns was a pioneer in her FIU days, a woman chemist in a profession dominated by men. Today, as CEO of a major chemical corporation, she is still an excep-

"I remember when I was given the opportunity to move into a more managerial, business role. I remember thinking, 'Do I want to make that leap?'"

— Stephanie Burns '77

tion. And while her days are no longer spent making molecules, she remains a prominent advocate for women in science and for the value of education.

In honor of her accomplishments, Burns has been elected an alumni member of the University's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious honor society. Burns was the keynote speaker at the Phi Beta Kappa spring initiation banquet in April.

"We're proud of all of our students but we're especially proud of the ones who achieve the highest level of success in the eyes of society and at a personal level," said Arthur Herriott, FIU chemistry professor and former dean of Arts and Sciences, who was Burns' mentor at FIU and nominated her for Phi Beta Kappa.

"She's been a very active woman in the sciences," Herriott said. "That's important. The more role models we can point to, the better it is for the sciences."

### CEO On the Go

Often, the alarm clock goes off at 4:15 a.m. in the Burns home. Heading a company of 8,200 employees in 33 locations worldwide demands far more than the typical 9-to-5 routine.

Only weeks into her new position, Burns' daily calendar is packed with meetings, community commitments and conference calls with colleagues in Asia that can last until 10 p.m. Two or three days a week, she travels to one of the company's sites around the U.S., in Europe, Asia, South America or Australia.

With such a demanding career, Burns counts herself fortunate that her husband Gary, also a chemist, is employed at Dow Corning. The couple has one grown daughter and two grandchildren.

"A positive thing has been that there are a lot of dual-career couples," Burns said. "We have a lot of wonderful time together in terms of work. We're finding great balance in our lives."

For three years, Burns was groomed for Dow Corning's top post. In December 2000, she was named executive vice president and elected to the Board of Directors. In February 2003, she was named president and chief operating officer. The Dow Corning Board of Directors elected her CEO in December.

"Our Board of Directors' support for this move is a strong recognition of the confidence they have in her," said Chairman of the Board Gary Anderson. "As a top executive, Stephanie has demonstrated her ability to deliver the results expected by the board."

She is taking the helm at a promising time in Dow Corning's 60-year history. The company, jointly owned by The Dow Chemical Company and Corning Incorporated, is emerging from Chapter 11 financial restructuring with growing sales and profit. For all of 2003, Dow Corning's net income was 25 percent higher than 2002, after excluding unusual expenses incurred in 2002. Burns' vision for the company includes expanding into new geographies like China, India and Russia, as well as advancing Dow Corning's specialized silicone technology in photonics, alternative energy and biotechnology.

"There are many, many challenges companies today face, especially chemical companies," Burns said. "I'm excited about it. I like the challenge. We view this as a huge opportunity for us to grow the company."

Dow Corning develops and manufactures products for companies in health care, beauty, cleaning, aviation,

continued



**IN HER WORDS....**

**STEPHANIE BURNS '77**, CEO AND PRESIDENT, DOW CORNING CORPORATION, COMMENTS ON:

- **DISSERTATION TOPIC:** "THERMAL REARRANGEMENT OF REACTIVE INTERMEDIATES IN ORGANOSILICON CHEMISTRY"
- **FAVORITE CHEMICAL:** "H<sub>2</sub>O - WATER. IT'S VITAL TO SUPPORT LIFE AND WILL BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S SCARCEST RESOURCES."
- **LEADERSHIP IS:** "HAVING THE PERSONAL WILL AND COURAGE TO ACHIEVE A VISION. HAVING AMBITION FOR OTHERS AND CHANNELING YOUR ENERGY TO MAKE THEM SUCCESSFUL."
- **ROLE MODELS:** "MY MOTHER AND FATHER. BOTH HAD EXTREMELY HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS, TREATED EVERYONE FAIRLY, INSTILLED THE VALUE OF EDUCATION INTO THE FAMILY AND WORKED HARD."
- **BEST FIU MEMORY:** "HAVING MY INFANT DAUGHTER WITH ME ON CAMPUS. I OFTEN BROUGHT HER TO CLASS AND LAB WITH ME. SHE ATTENDED DAY-CARE (IN A SMALL TRAILER) THAT WAS FUNDED BY FIU."
- **THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE IS:** "BRINGING TOGETHER MANY DISCIPLINES [CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, BIOLOGY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY] TO CREATE COMPLETELY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT TODAY WE CAN BARELY IMAGINE."
- **HOBBIES:** GOLF, TENNIS, READING, SCUBA DIVING
- **WORDS TO LIVE BY:** "TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS, BE OPEN AND HONEST, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, LIFE IS ABOUT PEOPLE. THE RELATIONSHIPS YOU HAVE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE PRECIOUS."

"Number one in my book is the importance of education. Second, I'd say be flexible as you go through college or a career. The world is changing pretty fast."

— Stephanie Burns

construction and automotives, among others. The company's expertise is in silicones, synthetic polymers made from silicon, the second most abundant element on earth found in sand, clay, granite and many minerals. Dow Corning silicones are used in a wide array of products: lipstick and shampoo, automotive lubricants, roof coatings and weather sealants, laundry detergents and floor polishes.

Early in her career, Burns was a Dow Corning researcher, working on water-based and high temperature elastomers. She led advances in UV-curable coatings and materials for device protection and electronics adhesives. Burns says her scientific skills are invaluable in her executive role.

"My technological background helps me understand not only the technology, it helps me in the assessment of the viability of these new opportunities," she said. "It helps with the analytical training that comes with being a scientist... We are a very technology-driven company. We have a lot of engineers and chemists. Our manufacturing operations are very complicated. There is probably a lot of validation in having a technology person at the top of the company who is driving for new innovations as hard as I am."

### Miami Roots

FIU was a natural choice for Burns, who spent her teenage years in Miami. Her late father and mother both worked for FIU. Douglas Spencer was a history and English professor who moved into academic administration in Continuing Education and Institutional Development. Patricia Spencer was the head administrative assistant in the Biology Department.

As an educator, Dr. Spencer strongly encouraged his daughter's academic interests. For Burns, excelling in science was a way to shine in his eyes.

"I liked all the sciences, studying plants and insects and animals," Burns said. "I did like mixing things together. I liked cooking; there is a lot of chemistry in that."

At Florida International University Burns is fondly remembered by chemistry faculty members including Leonard Keller, Zaida Morales-Martinez and Herriott. Her FIU mentors played an important role in Burns' life.

"A lot of my chemistry professors had a big impact on me," Burns said. "Art Herriott was the person who got me interested in organic chemistry."

Herriott remembers a dedicated and inquisitive student. He said he was particularly impressed by how Burns managed a full course load with a nearly perfect grade point average, even with an infant daughter.

"She was just a pleasure to be around as a student," Herriott said. "She really did want to understand. She wanted to know what happened and why it happened."

Burns entered the field at a time when few women occupied chemistry laboratories. "I chose to stay in chemistry," she said. "There were only two or three of us that were chemistry majors."

Herriott encouraged Burns to pursue graduate studies. At Iowa State University, she completed her doctoral degree in organosilicon chemistry. After her post-doctoral work at the University of Languedoc-Rousillon in France, Burns joined Dow Corning, never dreaming she'd one day be leading the company.

"Number one in my book is the importance of education," Burns said. "I think it is vital to have a good education and to get that foundation. Second, I'd say be flexible as you go through college or a career. The world is changing pretty fast. What you view today as your career direction may change. Go where life takes you." ■

# LOBBYING TALLAHASSEE

## FIU FIGHTS FOR 'FAIR FUNDING'

**As the state Legislature turns its attention to fiscal 2004-05, FIU and the State University System (SUS) make clear their budgetary needs in no uncertain terms.**

FIU doesn't want South Florida to get left behind. Months in advance of Gov. Jeb Bush's introducing next year's budget—which happened in January—the University had already identified its funding priorities and begun building a strong case for those goals.

At the top of the list: more than \$170 million to cover existing costs and anticipated growth in student enrollment, and an increase in equity funding that would put FIU closer to the statewide average per full-time student at a public university. Currently, FIU falls \$22 million short on that measure. Other concerns include obtaining \$3.5 million for academic enhancements in the School of Nursing, the College of Education and the University Graduate School, and acquiring additional provisions for the repair, renovation and remodeling, and new construction of campus buildings. The administration is also seeking monies for salary increases for faculty.

"We need fair funding," says Steve Sauls, FIU's vice provost for Governmental Affairs, who calls FIU "underfunded." "We're a young university. We're a growing university," Sauls says, explaining that adequate financial resources remain critical to FIU's ability to contribute to the goals of individual citizens as well as the collective community.

Attaining a university degree translates into higher lifetime earning potential for the degree holder and helps fuel the larger engine of economic development, Sauls says. Not only do the citizens of South Florida benefit on a personal level by having access to quality academic programs, he adds, but the entire urban population benefits by the University's conducting research on issues of local significance. The latter include studies related to county

government, the local economy, children's health, immigration and numerous other topics. Additionally, FIU educates a large percentage of those who enter professions vital to South Florida, among them teachers, nurses and engineers. Nearly two-thirds of FIU's 100,000-plus alumni live and work in South Florida.

### Florida's Public Universities Are Hit Hard

The SUS suffered cuts of more than \$40 million in 2001-02 and has sustained more than 10 times that amount since 1990. Per-student funding has been decreasing since the 1980s.

The dismal figures prompted FIU President Modesto A. Maidique to join Florida's 10 other public university presidents in a campaign to raise awareness

about the funding challenges facing their institutions. Over the past few months he has spoken on radio programs, talked with newspaper reporters and visited the editorial boards of *The Miami Herald* and the *Sun-Sentinel* in support of the campaign.

"Without FIU, many South Floridians would be left with no other option but to forego a college education or an advanced degree," Maidique explained at a meeting of state legislators.

A poll by the Florida Center for Public Policy at the University of North Florida found that more than 80 percent of Floridians oppose cutting the budgets of public universities, even when faced with lower-than-expected state revenues. The survey recorded widespread concern among residents that inadequate state funding could hurt the quality of available programs and jeopardize many residents' access to higher education.

### Alumni Are Urged to Speak Up

In ongoing efforts to focus attention on FIU, the University held its first FIU Day in Tallahassee on March 16. Alumni who live or had business in the area were invited to attend the event, which included the participation of students and faculty as well as administrators and staff and featured performances, speeches, refreshments and giveaways.

### Enrollment Funding



"Without FIU, many South Floridians would be left with no other option but to forego a college education or an advanced degree." —Steve Sauls

While FIU currently is not seeking special funding for a high-profile project—such as was the case a few years ago when the community came together in support of the then-proposed FIU College of Law—the University still looks to its graduates for critical backing.

Sauls, whose office works closely with legislators year-round to promote FIU's interests, recommends that alumni call or write their state senators and representatives today on behalf of FIU. "People need to let their legislators know how important FIU is to their lives, to their own future attainment of their personal goals," he says.

The 2004 legislative session runs from March 2 to April 30. More about FIU's lobbying efforts and contact information for members of the state and federal legislatures can be found at [government.fiu.edu](http://government.fiu.edu). ■

KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION \$3M GIFT

PROPELS FIU'S GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER



TM

## global entrepreneurship center FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THE FUNDING WILL ENABLE THE UNIVERSITY TO INTRODUCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTION.

A major grant from one of the nation's most prestigious foundations will enable Florida International University—an institution defined and shaped by its unique entrepreneurial spirit and character—to introduce innovative programs that will develop entrepreneurial leaders and organizations in all areas of society.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation announced in December that it will make a \$3 million gift to the Global Entrepreneurship Center at FIU to promote and nurture the entrepreneurial spirit across campus and throughout South Florida.

FIU is the youngest of eight recipients of Kauffman Campuses Initiative grants totaling \$25 million. FIU was one of 30 universities initially invited to compete for the grants and was named one of 15 finalists in June. Other recipients include Washington University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"FIU's proposal was thorough, aggressive and left no doubt in the mind of any of the judges that it was conceived by seasoned entrepreneurs," said Carl Schramm, president and CEO of the Kauffman Foundation. "We see the public university in South Florida as a natural place to support an innovative entrepreneurship center with a unique international flair that can set off a cultural transformation."

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique led a team of top FIU administrators in pursuing this grant.

"FIU'S PROPOSAL WAS THOROUGH,  
AGGRESSIVE AND LEFT NO DOUBT  
IN THE MIND OF ANY OF THE  
JUDGES THAT IT WAS CONCEIVED BY  
SEASONED ENTREPRENEURS."

—Carl Schramm, president and CEO  
of the Kauffman Foundation

**The Global Entrepreneurship Center offers courses and activities universitywide to students and alumni through its four institutes and an academy.**

global entrepreneurship center

institute for technology innovation

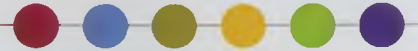
entrepreneurship research institute

entrepreneurial academy

institute for community innovation

institute for family business

[www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu](http://www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu)



"At FIU we have a long tradition of being aggressive, taking risks and beating the odds most of the time. That makes us an entrepreneurial university in an entrepreneurial city," said Maidique, himself a professor of entrepreneurship, the co-founder of a Fortune 1000 company and a former partner at Hambrecht & Quist Management, a venture capital firm. "We were able to persuade the Kauffman Foundation that we are an ideal place to build a first-rate interdisciplinary Global Entrepreneurship Center."

The gift will have an impact of more than \$15 million, since FIU will match the gift with at least another \$10 million in private support over the next several years. "The prestige of the Kauffman Foundation gift will provide significant momentum for the Center's development and make it an attractive investment for other substantial gifts and grants," said Howard R. Lipman, FIU's vice president of University Advancement. He noted that conversations are underway with two local entrepreneurs interested in making major commitments to name both the Center and one of its Institutes.

The Center, which encompasses four institutes and an Entrepreneurial Academy, focuses on family businesses—by providing expert advice, networking and learning opportunities—and the development and growth of new ventures that will make South Florida companies more competitive in the global marketplace. The four institutes are the Institute for Family Business, Institute for Technology Innovation, Entrepreneurship Research Institute and Institute for Community Innovation.

"The Center's Institute for Technology Innovation will play a major role in creat-

ing new ventures for technologies created in South Florida, particularly at FIU, thereby contributing significantly to the job creation and economic development of this region," said Dean of Engineering Vish Prasad.

With several faculty members and two institute directors already on board, the Center is positioned to realize its goal to be among the top ten entrepreneurship centers in the country within five years. More details on the Center are available at [www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu](http://www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu).

In just a year, the Center has already had an impact on campus and in the community. More than 100 business, not-for-profit and community leaders were involved in helping FIU shape its proposal during a one-day conference last fall. The Center has already received commitments from both local and prominent entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to serve on its advisory boards.

Established in the mid-1960s, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation works with partners to encourage entrepreneurship across America and improve the education of children and youth.

The Global Entrepreneurship Center at FIU is headed by Executive Director Alan Carsrud, who earned a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of New Hampshire. He came to FIU a year ago from UCLA, where he served as academic coordinator at the highly-ranked Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies in the Anderson School.

"One of the main reasons I came to South Florida was the entrepreneurial spirit that guides FIU, from President Mitch Maidique and our deans to many of my students," said Carsrud, who is a professor of both management and industrial engi-

neering. "I'm absolutely amazed at the 'can do' spirit and the lack of institutional barriers to getting things done, compared to more established universities."

Before joining UCLA, Carsrud headed entrepreneurship centers at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Southern California. Carsrud also has a distinguished history as a practitioner as well as a scholar of entrepreneurship. He has been involved in numerous start-up ventures in food products, biotechnology, professional services, venture capital, electronics, computer software and People Express Airlines.

"We want to get across to FIU's students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community at large that entrepreneurship is an attitude toward living," Carsrud said. "It is a way of life."

The communication with students will begin with freshmen. The Center's plan calls for an entrepreneurial component in the required First Year Experience course. "We want to put the entrepreneurial bug in their ear early," said Carsrud.

Chetan Shukla, an FIU student who has taken two of Carsrud's classes in the last year, feels that he is much better prepared to launch an ethnic design firm with his wife Rupal, an architect.

"Through the Center's activities it is easy to network, to gain perspective on your concepts and to learn from the successes and failures of others," said Shukla, 33, who has a master's degree in industrial engineering from FIU and is currently working on an MBA.

"Being part of the Kauffman Campus Initiative gives our students an unparalleled opportunity to experience the best of entrepreneurial education," said Joyce Elam, executive dean of the College of Business Administration. ■

## ALUMNI

Gayle A. Bainbridge '75



## Message from FIUAA President

### Dear Fellow Alumni,

Our second football season was a great time for alumni and students alike. If you stopped by the alumni tent before a game, you received a warm welcome, good food, a presentation from the marching band, great entertainment and a game preview from radio announcer Randy Kassewitz. The Alumni Relations staff did a fabulous job and plans bigger and better things for next year. Please join us at the tailgates and football games next year.

Homecoming was a time to get together with old and new friends. We played golf on a beautiful fall day and then went to the Biltmore Hotel for a dinner/dance and the Torch Awards ceremony. Most of us were up early the next morning for some breakfast in the tailgate tent before the 10 a.m. kick-off. We won our Homecoming game for the second year in a row—go Golden Panthers!

Many of you have “come back to see us shine,” and now we are coming into the community to reach out to you. The Alumni Relations

office held two successful FIU Corporate Days last fall and will be scheduling more in 2004. We are identifying businesses with a large number of FIU alumni and holding receptions at their location. It has been a great way for their employees to do an “FIU connect” and for us to engage our alumni. If you would like a reception at your place of business, please contact Heide Dans at 305-348-1009.

Our young alumni and networking committees have hosted evening receptions with as many as 150 in attendance. We have more planned this year, so please keep an eye on the web site for the dates. Whether you have just graduated or are from one of the earlier classes, we hope to see you at one of our events.

It is an exciting time to lead our 100,000+ alumni and a perfect time to relive your FIU memories. The Alumni Association needs your support and membership. Joining is as easy as going to the web site or calling the Alumni Relations office. Your membership supports scholarships, this magazine and the many events we host.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send us your Class Notes and a photograph for publication. Let your fellow alumni and friends know what you've been up to!

Gayle A. Bainbridge '75  
President  
FIU Alumni Association

Blue Monster: The natural beauty of Doral's golf courses will provide the backdrop for this year's FIU Golf Tournament.



## 2004 Golf Tournament

The Alumni Association will host the 2004 FIU Golf Tournament on Sat., May 22, at Doral Resort & Spa. Join others in a day of golf on two of the best courses in the world:

### BLUE MONSTER

Virtually every great name in golf has had a moment of glorious personal triumph on this world-class track.

### GOLD COURSE

The Gold Course follows a traditional Florida layout, with gently contoured greens, strategic bunkering, and water surrounding 16 holes.

The day will kick off with breakfast and registration at 6:30 a.m., and a Short Game Clinic will be presented by the Jim McLean Golf Academy at 7 a.m. The 8 a.m. shotgun start tournament will be followed by a One Million Dollar Hole In One opportunity as well as a gourmet luncheon and awards ceremony. Fees: \$250 each or \$1,000 per foursome.

For questions, please contact Heide Dans of Alumni Relations at 305-348-1009, [heide.dans@fiu.edu](mailto:heide.dans@fiu.edu), or Joe Gill at 305-592-8264, [jmg\\_tgc@yahoo.com](mailto:jmg_tgc@yahoo.com). ■



## Lizbet martinez '03

When Lizbet Martinez '03 performed The Star-Spangled Banner at FIU's fall 2003 graduation, it was more than a routine performance by a professional violinist. It was one family's dreams and aspirations come full circle.

“This is why we came here,” says Martinez of her Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree, which she received at commencement ceremonies last December. “My parents wanted me to be able to get an education and be free.” This is not the first degree for the musician, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from FIU in spring 2003.

Martinez's journey from her native Cuba to Miami is the stuff of legend. When she and her parents left the island with 10 others in

August 1994 aboard a makeshift raft made of nine inner tubes, a few pieces of plywood and a tarp, their goal, like so many others', was to seek asylum in the United States. After one week at sea, however, the rafters found themselves lost, scared and adrift. On the morning of Aug. 21 their luck changed when their tiny raft was spotted and they were rescued by the Coast Guard.

Martinez, 12 years old at the time, thanked the men and women responsible for the rescue in the most meaningful way she knew how: She took her violin out of its case and began to play The Star-Spangled Banner. Ironically, she had learned the tune while attending one of Cuba's three elite music schools. (Martinez thought it was a

*Feel the Pride!*

With upgraded communication capabilities, notice of events like this Habitat for Humanity project will be easier to publicize.



FIU Alumni members enjoy themselves at Bongo's Cuban Cafe during the Young Alumni Homecoming Happy Hour.



Colonial Bank FIU alumni were the guests of honor at the first FIU Corporate Day.



## We Want to Stay in Touch With You!

### FIUAA Upgrades Email Capabilities

To keep alumni better informed about activities and programs at the University, the FIU Alumni Association recently upgraded its email capabilities. The new service provides the Association with the ability to distinguish between html and plain-text preferences, an improvement that will allow us to upgrade the look of our communications.

"This new service has opened a whole new world of marketing for FIU Alumni Association events. We are excited about our ability to reach out and connect our alumni to the University," said Bill Draughon, associate vice president, Office of Alumni Relations.

FIU Alumni are encouraged to contact the Alumni Association at [alumni@fiu.edu](mailto:alumni@fiu.edu) to register their current email address or complete and return the form attached to the envelope included in this magazine. ■

## Feel the Pride: Blue and Gold for Life

### Join the FIU Alumni Association

You never forget the people and places that make your success possible. At FIU, we recognize that your accomplishments and those of the University remain integrally related. As our alumni continue to rise, FIU reaches ever greater heights—and you're a part of that.

The FIU Alumni Association keeps the University working for its graduates. We offer opportunities to maintain and build new relationships that are personally rewarding and professionally useful.

The FIU Alumni Association offers numerous benefits for alumni at all stages of their lives and careers. Members can bring along family and friends as they enjoy special activities and events. More importantly, those who join build their ties with FIU and, through their own standing, boost the University's growing reputation on the local, national and international scenes.

Whether honoring alumni at the Association's annual Torch Awards ceremony—a formal showcase of the many contributions our graduates have made to their particular fields and the community—or welcoming you at the Alumni Tent on football game day, the Alumni Association exists to increase mutual communication and deepen our lifelong commitment to one another. Embrace your true colors in a way that really counts! For more information and to join the Association, call 305-348-3334 or go to [www.fiu.edu/docs/alumni-join.htm](http://www.fiu.edu/docs/alumni-join.htm). ■

## Workin' It for FIU

FIU alumni celebrated the Alumni Association's first-ever Corporate Day, which was held at Colonial Bank last October. Another Corporate Day was held at Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, with more in the works. If you would like your company to participate in Corporate Day, contact Heide Dans at 305-348-1009. ■

## Jazzin' Up the Joint

Utah Jazz teammates and FIU alumni Raja Bell '99 and Carlos Arroyo '01 were back in town for a February Miami Heat vs. Utah Jazz game. The FIU Alumni Association came together on Feb. 17 to watch the hometown Heat defeat the Jazz, 97-85, at American Airlines Arena. Bell scored 10 points and had three assists in the contest while Arroyo scored eight points and had six assists. Both men joined the festivities at the Alumni Association reception following the game. ■



Sean Kramer '95, Raja Bell '99, Joan Casanova '00 and David Gonsalves '04 after the game.

church hymn until a baseball-loving uncle set her straight.)

The notes rang truer than anything the young girl could have said. The captain of the Coast Guard vessel and many members of the crew had tears in their eyes. He summoned a Spanish-speaking crew member who told her, "The captain says you have touched his heart." News of the rescue and Martinez's poignant performance made headlines nationwide.

After five months at Guantanamo Bay naval base, Martinez and her parents relocated to Miami, where they stayed with relatives until they were able to afford their own place.

Martinez, who is marrying a fellow musician in 2004, graduated from New World School of the Arts in Miami-Dade County and attended

FIU thanks to a music scholarship and financial aid. While she has performed for U.S. presidents and alongside pop superstars, Martinez remains humble and unaffected by her accidental fame. She began studying for her master's degree in Music Education at FIU in January 2004 to become an elementary music teacher, and still can't believe that her actions of nine years ago resonated with an entire nation.

"When you're in that situation, all you want is to be rescued," says Martinez of the harrowing sea journey. "It was just a way of thanking them from the bottom of our hearts. We had no words to thank them for what they had done. How could you?" ■

## &gt;&gt;&gt;UPCOMING EVENTS

**2004 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**When:** Sat., May 22, 2004  
**Where:** Doral Resort & Spa  
**Contact:** Heide Dans, 305-348-1009  
 or heide.dans@fiu.edu or  
 Joe Gill, 305-592-8264  
 or jmg\_tgc@yahoo.com

**Tame the Beasts:** Join fellow alumni in a spectacular day of golf on two of the greatest courses in the world.

**YOUNG ALUMNI CHAPTER KICK-OFF**

**When:** Wed., May 26, 2004 • 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Mundo's  
 Village of Merrick Park  
 325 San Lorenzo Ave.  
 Coral Gables  
**Contact:** Sean Kramer, 305-348-2238  
 or kramers@fiu.edu

**Be There at the Beginning:** Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a special wine tasting at this free event kicking off the Young Alumni Chapter.

**2ND ANNUAL GREEK ALUMNI REUNION**

**When:** Thurs., June 10 • 7-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Oxygen Lounge  
 2911 Grand Avenue  
 Streets of Mayfair  
 Coconut Grove  
**Contact:** Sean Kramer, 305-348-2238  
 or kramers@fiu.edu

**Breathe Deeply:** Entry includes two complimentary drinks per person, 2-for-1 drinks until 9 p.m. and free appetizers. Stay around after and enjoy Oxygen Lounge. Tickets are \$10 for FIU Alumni Association members and \$15 for nonmembers. A special rate of \$35 will buy you a one-year Alumni Association membership and free entry to the reunion.

**2004 ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT**

**When:** Sun., June 27, 2004  
**Where:** Miami Beach Marina  
**Contact:** Heide Dans, 305-348-1009  
 or heide.dans@fiu.edu

**Don't Miss the Boat:** At last year's inaugural event, more than 15 boats and 60 anglers competed for cash and prizes awarded for the largest dolphin, aggregate dolphin and largest kingfish. The event was preceded by a Saturday night Captain's Party and followed by a Dock Party at the weigh-in.

**2004 TORCH AWARDS**

**When:** Sat., Nov. 6, 2004  
**Where:** Doral Resort & Spa  
**Contact:** Heide Dans, 305-348-1009  
 or heide.dans@fiu.edu

**Glowing Reviews:** The event, which honors outstanding alumni and FIU faculty, presents a great opportunity to meet with old friends and make new acquaintances.

Joe Carvelli, Rachel Cruz and Mitzie Brown won season football tickets, a one-year car lease and a Caribbean cruise, respectively, in the Alumni Association drawing.

**Luck of the Draw(ing)**

Mitzie Brown, Joe Carvelli and Rachel Cruz had Lady Luck on their side when the FIU Alumni Association held a drawing at the last home football game on Nov. 22.

Brown won a Caribbean cruise for two courtesy of Salsa 98.3, Carvelli won season tickets for two to FIU football 2004, and Cruz won a one-year lease on a 2003 Toyota Corolla courtesy of Expressway Toyota, in the drawing. Registration in the drawing, which was free, was offered at Expressway Toyota, through Salsa 98 and at all alumni tailgate tent parties.

**CLASS NOTES****1970s**

**Stuart M. Gordon** '73 has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Probus Club of greater Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Probus Club is dedicated to assisting those with disabilities through community service. Gordon is currently vice president of Finance at the Kennedy Center, Inc., in Trumbull, Connecticut.

**Steven D. Braidman** '74 has been married for 31 years. He received his B.A. in '74 and M.S. in '76. He taught school in Miami-Dade County for five years and then worked as an executive for Burdines, Macys for 28 years. Two sons are in high school currently; two have graduated from the University of Mass.

**Douglas E. Duda** '74 is currently hosting a weekly show on A&E called *The Well-Seasoned Traveler*. It airs Sundays at 4 p.m. and explores food culture around the world.

**Roberto F. Soto** '74 is bureau chief of the Associated Press Television News' New York operation. He oversees relations with commercial and broadcast clients of the new agency. Prior to joining APTN, Soto was news director of News 12, a 24-hour news channel owned by Cablevision of New York City. Soto has also worked as an executive producer for Univision and a news director at Telemundo, both in Los Angeles and later in New York. Soto was at NBC News as a news editor and producer for the programs *Today*, *Sunrise*, *NBC Nightly News* and the award-winning *NBC News Overnight*.

**Bernardo C. Garcia**, Ph.D. '76 was promoted to president of Global Leadership Resources, an international leadership consulting firm specializing in executive coaching, training and business team consultation for pharmaceutical and consumer products companies in Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

**Steven V. Moll** '76 is currently the director of Graduate Programs of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. He was also recently appointed as the director of the College of Business Administration at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

**Richard Zskruber** '76 '80 is currently teaching in the undergraduate business curriculum at Aquinas Primetime, a non-traditional adult evening program. He is retired from Nortel Networks, where he was director of business process and practice. He performed as a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Examiner from 1998 to 2000.

**1980s**

**Jeanne A. Becker** '80 has been elected to the board of directors of the South Florida Interactive Marketing Association (SFIMA). She is president of Becker Consulting Services, Inc. a public relations and marketing consulting firm based in Coral Gables. An active community leader, Ms. Becker is currently president of Cherish Adoptive Families of Miami, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping provide support and information to adoptive families; a director of the South Florida chapter of the Gift of Adoption Fund; and a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

**William Chiodo** '81 was recently elected to the board of directors at the Manhattan-based Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc. an organization that provides quality arts education programming. Chiodo is district supervisor of art education for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which employs 460 full-time certified art teachers.

**Mildred A. Copeland** '81 worked recently on her second master's at FIU in Elementary Education on a new program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Miami. She has been a librarian/media specialist at St. Brendan High School for 39 years and is one of the school's two original employees. The Mildred Copeland Computer Room at the school was built and named in her honor.

**Barbara J. Zaretsky** '81 is a run coach for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training and is helping to train participants to run a half-marathon while they raise funds to help find a cure for the blood cancers.

**Mylene C. Llado** '88 has been teaching grades 1-4 in Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 15 years, including approximately nine years in the ESOL program. She is very active in her school and has been department chairperson for intermediate and upper level grades and chairperson of Grade 4 educators for three years.

*Feel the Pride!*

**Peter Dubowsky, Esq.** '89 has been practicing law in Las Vegas, Nevada, for 10 years. He is a small claims court judge and has opened up the Dubowsky Law Office, practicing in judgment enforcement and debtor-creditor litigation. He is president of the Young Israel of Las Vegas Synagogue.

**1990s**

**Helene B. Dudley** '90 '91 is chairman of "The Colombia Project," a web-based micro-enterprise development project to aid displaced families in Colombia. The project received the 2003 National Peace Corps Association's Loret Miller Ruppe Award for outstanding community service.

**Derek Jimenez, M.D.** '93 is completing a residency in internal medicine and continuing sub-specialty training in the area of nephrology at the Medical College of Georgia.

**Vivian Chavez Esq.** '94 and her husband Ruben became the proud parents of a baby boy, Ruben Victor Chavez III. Congratulations!

**Ginger Gossman** '95 is currently living in Austin, TX, working toward her Ph.D. in sociology with a specialization in demography. The honor graduate's research focuses on American Indians and public health.

**Laura A. Moreno** '95 is working on her master's degree in reading at Barry University because she was nominated to be her school's reading leader.

**Judith Rasoletti** '95 received her Ph.D. from FIU in 2003 and is now a program coordinator at FIU's Center for Transitional and Comparative Studies.

**Marisel Lieberman** '96 and Jeff Lieberman '97 became the proud parents of a baby boy, Justin Michael, in March. Congratulations!

**Billy P. Jones, Ph.D.** '97 is a professor at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, after serving seven years as a language arts teacher in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Currently, she is working on a book and several articles that focus on "black anti-intellectualism" in secondary & community college education.

**Natalia Magnorsky** '97 is working as category manager for Elizabeth Arden, where she has been for six years. She is responsible for retail analysis and unit projections for accounts such as Wal-Mart, Sam's, BJ's, Target, Eckerd's and more.

**Chanelle N. Rose** '97 '99 is currently at the University of Miami where she is a doctoral candidate in history (African-American and women's history).

**Adrienne Wasserman** '97 received her medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine in 2003 and is working in the Department of Emergency Medicine at New York Methodist Hospital.

**Ana Maria Lagasca** '99 starred in *Almost a Woman*, which was screened at the Los Angeles International Film Festival last July and aired on PBS last September. The film was awarded the CineSol SOL Award of Excellence in 2002.

**Brian J. Rynott** '99 left American Airlines to join American Express in their Corporate Services practice as a consultant of airline strategy. He is based in their Wall Street offices in New York City.

**Amanda Smida** '99 and her company, South Beach Marketing & Promotion, Inc., which specializes in radio promotions and music marketing, has just signed a contract to serve as the U.S. consultant for the new E.U. European Music Office based in France.

**2000s**

**Raynold "Larry" Fleurantin** '00 just received his juris doctor (J.D.) degree with honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Monique Hartley** '00 is a medical student participating in honors research at New York University School of Medicine. Her interest is in internal medicine.

**Ivette M. Lirio** '00 was appointed by President Bush to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. She is assistant athletic director at Barbara Goleman Senior High School in Miami and an adjunct professor of Physical Education at FIU.

**Phoebe Moll** '00 is working in the New York office of BBDO, one of the world's largest global advertising agencies, as an account executive.

**Mario Del Cid** '01 is a second-year medical student at Tulane University School of Medicine.

**Todd A. Edge** '01 is the Sept. 2003 winner of the Gold Coast Builder Association's PRISM Silver Award for Interior Architecture/Design for Commercial Office Space for work he did at Broad & Cassel Law Firm, and Gold Coast Builder Association's PRISM Gold Award winner for Interior Architecture/Design for Commercial Office Space for work he did at Lund Animal Clinic.

**Betsy Gomez** '01 is attending graduate school at Cornell University. She is working toward her master's in hospitality management.

**Gabriel A. Mantilla** '01 was admitted into the Toyota Motor Sales, USA, management training program in July 2002, almost a year after she heard about them initially at the Fall 2001 Career Fair. She is now a regional analyst in the New York region, which oversees operations of the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. She currently looks forward to obtaining a position as a district manager, when she'll oversee the operations of a dozen Toyota dealerships.

**Heidi Marcelo** '01 is attending law school at Duke University.

**Katherine Solomon** '01 is living in New York City where she is style manager at the W Court and the W Tuscany Hotel.

**Rachel Yff** '01 is in her third year of law school at the University of Florida.

**Aleny Arabia** '02 married FIU alum Troy Arabia in 2002. Last year she began working toward a master's in Mental Health Counseling at Nova Southeastern University.

**Armando Sanchez** '02 works at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., as a budget analyst.

**Oscar L. Grau** '03 is district manager for ADP-Automatic Data Processing, Inc. Grau works with the Small Business Services Division in the South Florida region consulting companies and providing human resource solutions.

## FIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following individuals are **NEW** Lifetime Members of the FIU Alumni Association. We salute these alumni and friends for their strong dedication and commitment to Florida International University. For more information on Alumni Association membership, call 305-348-3334 or go to [www.fiualumni.com](http://www.fiualumni.com).

Sara Z. Abramson '02  
Charbel Abud '99  
Alina S. Alfonso  
Nancy C. Andrade '81  
Charles K. Andrews '94  
Alberto J. Armada '84  
Javier Bacerio '88  
Elias W. Bardawil '94  
Heather A. Bartholf '01  
Francisco B. Becerra '97  
Arthur L. Berkowitz '77  
Carlos M. Bertot '90  
Elizabeth Bolyn  
Marc A. Booz '00  
Catherine M. Calta '86  
Scott T. Calta '97  
Joseph L. Caruncho '81

Dennis M. Castro '77  
Sienda C. Chan '94  
Augustin Conde '93  
Robert W. Conway '84  
Johanna M. Cook '98  
Carlos W. Cook '98  
Juan M. Cueto  
Heide K. Dans  
Eduardo del Riego '82  
Patrick J. Doyle '76  
Ella I. Elias '02  
John S. Engen  
Sergio L. Fernandez '74  
Judith M. Fernandez '95  
Oscar F. Gomez '81  
Jose E. Gonzalez '75  
Pamela B. Hathaway '75

Martha L. Hester '02  
Hubert T. Holder '81  
Chadwick D. Hornik '97  
Michelle Jo '00  
Barry E. Johnson  
Paul L. Jones '78  
Ruben J. King-Shaw '86 '87  
Guy A. Kwame '80  
Marvin Leibowitz '73  
Muriel S. Leibowitz '83  
Tarnara A. Loan  
Angel J. Lopez-Diaz '81  
Karis MacDonnell, Ed.D. '84 '89  
Daliana Mantegazza  
Christopher A. Maragno  
Gabriel M. Matalon '01 '03  
Maricel Mayor-Marsan '76

Angel Medina '92  
Michael P. Mordaunt '74  
Maria C. Mordaunt '76  
Lisa D. Napier '87  
Javier Olmedo '96 '00  
Juan M. Ordonez '93  
Lawrence R. Orihuela '87  
Laura K. Padron  
Besteiro Palomeque '76  
Jose D. Parra '98  
Rebeca Payo  
Monica M. Perez de Corcho '00 '03  
Mose M. Perez de Corcho '93  
Mercedes M. Ponce  
Denise G. Rau  
Michael L. Richardson '02  
Brent D. Robinson '93

Victor H. Rojas-Macedo '86  
Lynn W. Sexton '88  
Zachi Shaham '00  
Susan Switzer '95  
Alberto J. Torres '93  
Armin Torres '93  
Russell E. Tripp '01  
Lidia V. Tuttle '83 '87  
Israel Velasco '88  
Liliana I. Velasco '88  
Paul J. Vignau '97  
La-Shanda C. West '98  
Brian K. Weston '84  
Romeo O. Wiggins '79  
Duane M. Wiles  
Barbara B. Zeiher '90



donor profile

# Charlie Fritz



**‘Paying back’ his alma mater,**  
an Annual Fund contributor makes a bold statement

Charlie Fritz, 59, is a no-nonsense, as-fair-as-they-come kind of guy. The semi-retired real estate developer joined the ranks of the history-making first class when he enrolled at FIU in 1972 after earning an associate’s degree at Miami-Dade College and, with his nose to the grindstone, promptly completed within a single calendar year all the requirements for a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

Today, the successful businessman credits the close relationships he formed with his FIU professors and the excellent training he received with helping him land a good first job, with a local accounting firm. From there he moved into a post with Knight-Ridder, relocated to Chicago for a position in real estate and returned a year later to South Florida,

“Hopefully other students will benefit from what I give.”

— Charlie Fritz

where he began building a career in development.

In an appreciative nod to his alma mater, Fritz several years ago began making annual contributions of \$1,000 to the Alumni Annual Fund. Intended as a discretionary fund to help meet the critical needs of academic departments and as a source of support for a number of need-based scholarships, the Annual Fund makes an important difference to current students and faculty.

“I basically went to school without paying for it,” says Fritz, who qualified for a full scholarship when he entered FIU. “Hopefully other students will benefit from what I give.”

A regular FIU football season-ticket holder, Fritz applauds FIU’s attempts in recent years to build campus life. And as a volunteer in the youth program at his church, he has plenty of opportuni-

ties to encourage high school students to consider FIU as a college choice.

“I always say, “It’s a great school. You won’t be disappointed.”

Always an excellent student—when he came back to FIU to take a couple of courses in the early ’80s, he “still made the highest grade in the class,” Fritz recalls—he recently started contemplating applying to the FIU College of Law. Looking over the sample questions in books that help prepare would-be students for the LSAT, the exam required by law schools, however, he has his doubts.

“I’m not getting a bunch of them right,” laughs the good-natured Fritz, who adds that he would pursue the law degree for purely personal rather than professional reasons. Given his track record, though, the odds are good he will meet any goal he sets. ■

# v.i.p.

## Gerald Grant Jr. '78 '89

### Profession

Director of Corporate and Individual  
Financial Planning  
AXA-Advisors, South Florida Branch

### FIU Degree

Bachelor of Business Administration '78  
Master of Business Administration '89

### FIU Affiliations

Council of 100  
Past President, FIU Alumni Association  
Past Member, Dean's Council for  
College of Business Administration

### Favorite memories of your time at FIU?

My best memories are the encouragement I  
received from teachers and the friendships  
created among study group members.

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

My experience at FIU taught me to perform at  
a level of excellence in everything I do.  
Preparation is the key to success. When you  
plan your work and work your plan, the results  
frequently exceed your expectations. These  
planning skills, learned at FIU, have made life  
in the real world easier.

### Any advice you would offer to FIU students?

Create study groups with students who are aca-  
demically better than you. By doing this, the  
other members help you improve your study  
habits. By sharing your experiences, the entire  
group benefits.

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

It is my belief that more can be accomplished as  
a group than as an individual. Being a part of  
the FIU Alumni Association keeps you involved  
in the University and opens opportunities to  
make a difference in the lives of others, in the  
community and in the future students of FIU.  
Through alumni involvement we can make FIU  
the best university in the U.S. Spread the word  
"FIU is the place to be."

### Proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is having found  
my life partner, my wife Jennifer, and having our  
children, Jasmin and Gerald III. Their love and  
support continue to be my inspiration.

## Very Important Panther

VIPs are FIU Alumni Association  
members recognized for  
their commitment to FIU and  
the community.



# THE PANTHER PIT



THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE ON GAME DAY!

**GET READY TO ROAR** at the 2004 FIU Alumni Association Panther Pit pre-game tailgate parties and cheer the Golden Panthers on to victory! The air-conditioned Panther Pit tent is the "coolest place to be on game day" with fun activities for everyone.

- GOLDEN PANTHER DJ, KARAOKE, DANCING, GAMES AND GIVEAWAYS
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- TOUCHDOWN BUNGEE, VELCRO WALL AND BULL RIDE (VARIES AT EACH TAILGATE PARTY)
- HUDDLE WITH THE PANTHERS GAME PREVIEW
- VISITS FROM LA BANDA DEL SOL, THE CHEERLEADERS AND THE FIU MASCOT ROARY
- SPECIAL ATHLETIC GUESTS

**For information** on becoming a member of the FIU Alumni Association, **call 305-348-3334** or send an email to **alumni@fiu.edu**.

*Great Fun for the Whole Family*

>> **Panther Pit tailgate parties will begin two hours prior to kick-off at the following home games:**

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SEPT. 25 . . . . .	Western Kentucky
OCT. 2 . . . . .	Louisiana-Lafayette
OCT. 23 . . . . .	McNeese State
NOV. 13 . . . . .	Georgia Southern*
NOV. 27 . . . . .	Florida A&M**
*Homecoming	**Orange Bowl



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