

Winter 2006

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Florida International University Division of University Relations

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RESCUING THE Rivers

FIU leads the way in an international water management project that is equal parts environmental and humanitarian relief.

Also in this issue:

FIU brings business expertise to rural farmers in Latin America

Donors honored at FIU's first Torch Society Induction Ceremony

Baseball Coach Danny Price '74 secures his legend with 1,000th game win

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on the cover



On the cover: Rescuing the Rivers
 The cover photo was taken on Brazil's Amazon River by professor Michael McClain, who has won a \$4.45 million USAID grant to develop water management initiatives in South America, Africa and Asia. The father and son in the cover photo are Caboclos, Brazilian river people descended from indigenous and colonist blood. The father is showing off a leopard catfish and his son is holding a piranha. McClain will work with rural people to help them manage natural fisheries more effectively.

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Eminent Scholar Robert Moses
 Legendary civil rights activist Robert Moses, founder of the Algebra Project and MacArthur Genius Award recipient, recently joined FIU as an Eminent Scholar at the Center for Urban Education and Innovation. We followed Moses last spring as he began sharing his unique approach to educational activism with South Florida students and teachers. Moses brought his high-school Math Literacy Workers from Jackson, Mississippi, to start changing the way math is taught in our area schools.

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Together As One
 Husband-and-wife professors Eduardo del Valle '76 and Mirta Gomez '76 are partners in the creation of their photographic artwork, now represented at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

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Alumni Profile: Harvesting A Dream
 Women's studies inspires organic activism for Rachael Middleton '01

from the Editor



Dear Readers,

This issue of FIU Magazine is about growth and fulfillment — personal, professional, local and global. In our cover story, writer Sara Lajeunesse brings us the story of FIU scientist Michael McClain and his environmental work in South America, Africa and Asia. “I was moved and inspired by McClain’s vision of a healthy world population in which clean water is available to all,” Lajeunesse said. “He is just one of those people who will manage to make real the dream of a better and more peaceful planet.”

Our feature on Eduardo del Valle '76 and Mirta Gomez '76 illuminates the rare harmony between this married couple that has produced a life’s work of photographs. We are delighted they have shared their artwork with FIU Magazine. We also shine a spotlight on FIU baseball coach Danny Price '76, who quietly captured his 1,000th win in 2005. Writer and baseball fan Manuel Roig-Franzia noted: “Some head coaches suck energy and attention — think Tommy Lasorda of the Dodgers with his outsize personality and celebrity pals or Earl Weaver of the Orioles with his famous rants. But Danny Price blends in with his coaching staff, an example that leadership isn’t always about being the loudest.”

The thread running through our features is entrepreneurship, a pioneering spirit and originality that moves people like alumnus Billy Lane '97 to act on their dreams.

Alumna Rachael Middleton '01 is also living her dream by marrying activism, feminism and entrepreneurship at her Three Sisters Farm. We highlight a USAID-funded program that bolsters the agricultural economies of Central America. We also share news of how FIU captured a \$5 million grant to build high-speed networks to Latin America.

Success is measured differently for each alumnus, faculty and staff member, yet they all serve as inspirations for their vision, dedication and creativity. As always, I welcome your feedback at oneild@fiu.edu.

Cheers,

Deborah O'Neil
Editor

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WERTHEIM BESTOWS HISTORIC DONATION



FIU President Modesto A. Maidique accepts the presentation of the Wertheim gift from Nicole and Dr. Herbert Wertheim.

The Wertheim Foundation gift will have an impact of \$40 million for the FIU School of Medicine initiative

Trustee and benefactor Dr. Herbert Wertheim, chairman of the Dr. Herbert A. and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation, has announced a commitment of \$20 million to the FIU School of Medicine. Wertheim's cash donation, the largest in FIU history, is eligible to be matched by the state of Florida, making the impact of the gift \$40 million, one of the largest to a public university in Florida.

"Dr. Wertheim has a history of supporting FIU that goes back almost 20 years," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "He cares deeply for this institution and clearly understands that his support for the FIU School of Medicine will have a very high return on investment in terms of the legacy he will leave the South Florida community."

Half of the \$40 million gift will be earmarked for construction and the



remaining \$20 million will establish the Dr. Herbert Wertheim Medical Education Endowment Fund for scholarships, professorships, lectures and residencies.

"The idea of contributing to the education of doctors and other health care professionals who will improve people's lives is important to me and my family. I hope that by making this donation we encourage others to support South Florida's first public medical school," said Wertheim. "In time, everyone in South Florida will be touched by the goodness and the wonder of our new medical school and its faculty and graduates in one way or another."

Dr. Wertheim is an optometrist, inventor, educator, scientist, clinician, entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader. He holds numerous

patents, trademarks and copyrights in various scientific fields. He is the chairman and CEO of Miami and London-based Brain Power Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of optical instruments and chemicals.

In 1988, Dr. Wertheim joined the FIU Foundation Board of Directors, and within a few years became chairman of the Board. He chaired FIU's first capital campaign and in the early 1990s, he spearheaded planning for the medical school. He now serves as chairman of FIU's Health and Medical Education Initiative.

Over the years, the Wertheims have made important contributions to the university, leveraging approximately \$18 million in academic support and facilities funding. In 1991, the Wertheims donated to the construction of the Wertheim Conservatory, used to study tropical plants and photosynthesis. In 1993, Wertheim established a visiting professorship in the College of Business Administration to bring to campus distinguished lecturers and experts in the field of entrepreneurship. Two years later, the family's generosity extended to the fledgling performing arts program and provided the means to expand facilities and recruit top students. The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center is currently a signature building used by students and the community alike.

Wertheim made his first public pledge of support for the medical school project in the summer of 2004, and issued a challenge for other donations.

The FIU School of Medicine proposal is under consideration by the Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System. ■

in brief.

Business program ranks seventh in nation

The FIU College of Business Administration moved up two spots in U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of best business schools at colleges and universities across the nation. The College of Business Administration now ranks at No. 7, compared to last year's standing at number nine, in undergraduate international business programs.

"A committed student body, talented faculty and dedicated staff have made the College of Business Administration what it is today, and we are thrilled to have raised the bar this year," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique.

FIU's ranking among the nation's Top 10 undergraduate programs in international business places the school in the company of: the University of South Carolina-Columbia, New York University, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Southern California and the University of Texas-Austin. ■

Nursing graduates lead state on licensing exam

The graduates of FIU's School of Nursing led the state this fall with a 97 percent pass rate on the national licensing exam, among the top nationwide. The national pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses is 85 percent. Statewide,

Florida's public universities graduated more than 1,000 nurses during the past academic year; 88 percent of them passed.

The U.S. Dept. of Labor estimates that nearly one million additional nurses will be needed across the country by the year 2010. ■

FIU wins grant to train U.S. intelligence analysts

A consortium of intelligence-gathering agencies in Washington, D.C., has selected FIU to lead in the development of academic programs that will produce well-trained and more diverse intelligence analysts.

The program will be housed in FIU's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies and utilize existing classes in political science, geography, statistical analysis and foreign languages and add others to produce competitive graduates. The grant gives FIU \$750,000 for the 18-month pilot program, renewable over four years for up to \$3 million. Initially the program will offer a certificate, but the goal is to develop a graduate degree.

FIU was one of only four universities selected for the pilot phase of the U.S. Intelligence Community Centers of Academic Excellence program. The others were: Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and Clark-Atlanta University, which are participating as a consortium; Tennessee State University; and Trinity College in Washington, D.C. ■

Berkman appointed new acting provost



Ronald Berkman

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique named Ronald Berkman as acting provost and executive vice president in November after Provost Mark Rosenberg was selected to be the new chancellor of the State University System.

Berkman brings to the job 15 years of academic administrative experience, including positions at the City University of New York and FIU, most recently as the executive dean of the College of Health and Urban Affairs.

"Dr. Berkman's track record as an administrator, his penetrating intellect and his respect for the academy convinced me and others that he is right person to lead us through this transition," said Maidique.

Berkman, who has a doctorate from Princeton, came to FIU in 1996 to head what was then the College of Urban and Public Affairs. Under Berkman, the college grew to include four schools and developed an interdisciplinary approach that combines the strengths of the four schools. He is actively involved in FIU's initiative to establish a medical school.

Maidique praised Rosenberg's many contributions to the university. "Mark has played an historic role in building FIU into a top public research university," Maidique said. "Just as he has been an outstanding provost, he will be an outstanding chancellor." ■



ACCLAIMED STRING ENSEMBLE BRINGS EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC AND EXPERTISE TO FIU & COMMUNITY

The Amernet String Quartet, FIU's new Ensemble-In-Residence, expands appreciation for chamber music through public performances and student education.

By Armando Gonzalez '05

The award-winning Amernet String Quartet has joined FIU as the newly appointed Ensemble-in-Residence. The musicians say they are excited to be part of a university with such a diverse talent pool. As faculty

members in the School of Music, they hope to invigorate FIU's program and contribute to its growth and prominence.

"It strikes me that a really hot music program is necessary at a major university like FIU," said violinist Marcia Littlely, who, as a



President Maidique leads the ribbon cutting for the new nanofabrication facility.

Engineering opens new nanotechnology facility

Florida International University dedicated the new Motorola Nanofabrication Research Facility in a ceremony last March 28 with Gov. Jeb Bush. The \$15 million, 10,000-square-foot facility is one of only a handful of facilities in the world where nano-scale technology can be designed, engineered, fabricated and tested.

The facility is located at the Engineering Center and is outfitted with equipment donated by Motorola, a leader in communications technology. It will facilitate the research of more than a dozen scientists who are developing sophisticated and powerful devices that are too small to be seen by the naked eye.

"This facility and the scientific team we have assembled can make an important contribution toward propelling our state into this critical field," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. ■

"Madria Tiri," a mural by Cundo Bermúdez, will be placed in Puerto Rico.



FIU President Modesto A. Maidique and Cundo Bermúdez

FIU honors Cuban artist Cundo Bermúdez

FIU has honored world renowned and legendary Cuban painter Cundo Bermúdez with an honorary degree to recognize his contributions in modern art. The 90-year-old painter was pleasantly surprised when President Maidique made the announcement in Spanish during the conferral ceremony at the President's University House.

"We honor and salute you as a pioneer of modern art in Cuba and Latin America," said Maidique.

In a career that spans more than half a century, Bermúdez's work has been prominently displayed in museums and art galleries around the world. Two of his quintessential paintings, *El Balcon* (The Balcony, 1941) and *La Barberia* (The Barber Shop, 1942) are permanently in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Although in exile since the late 1960s, his work remains innately Cuban. A carnival of form and color, it portrays aspects of everyday life in colorful strokes, flat figures and distorted planes that manage not to overwhelm the eye. The tireless artist is currently working on a commissioned six-panel mural for a building in Puerto Rico. ■

Julliard student, founded the quartet in 1991 with her husband, cellist Javier Arias.

The Amernet String Quartet quickly gained praise and recognition after winning the gold medal at the 7th Tokyo International Music Competition in 1992. Since, they have been resident artists at Cincinnati University and Kentucky Northern University where fellow Julliard graduates, violinist Misha Vitenson and violist Michael Klotz, joined the quartet.

The quartet has received several music fellowships for artistic excellence and performed all over the world, but coming to South Florida offered a new set

of challenges and opportunities. "There is so much potential here," said Littley. "There is so much going on that I am finding hidden surprises of very high level work that I had no idea was going on."

Since coming to FIU, the musicians have taught master classes and been to several high school performances. In June, they hosted an intensive string quartet festival for young, talented musicians. Students worked through a rigorous week of personal coaching, lectures and concerts.

"The Amernet String Quartet is the focal point of our string and orchestra program," said

Joseph Rohm, interim director, School of Music. "They are exceptional musicians who not only bring their expertise but a real interest in educating and recruiting students."

The Amernet String Quartet's arrival to South Florida benefits not only students but also classical music aficionados. Recently, they played Ravel's "String Quartet in F Major" to a small and intimate audience at the Wolfsonian Museum. A precise and vibrant interpretation, they played harmoniously, barely looking at each other, as if only one hand played all four bows.

"Music enriches your life by

touching emotions that otherwise would not be reached," said Arias, for whom being a cellist is not a profession, but a way of life.

Arias likens the decision of what to play to planning a dinner. The quartet combines music that everybody will like with lesser known works to expand the audience's palate. The richness and complexity of a classical score can be thought provoking, but Vitenson, the quartet's first violinist, is quick to point out: It can only happen if you allow yourself to be affected by the music. ■

Cultivating Farming Success

FIU BOOSTS AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH USAID GRANT

By Deborah O'Neil

Generations of wisdom inform the seasonal rituals of planting and harvesting in Guatemala's distinctive coffee, sugar and banana fields. But, faced with falling prices and increased competition,

The Farmer-to-Farmer Program fulfills the "global" mission of the Pino Center.

the campesinos who make up 52 percent of Guatemala's workforce are being urged to diversify the crops if they want to survive.

The message by economic development experts is taking hold. One experiment supported by Guatemala's agriculture agency brought bok choy, hairy cucumbers, Chinese eggplant, bagaña, cundeamor and Thai okra to their fields. The vegetables — normally grown in Asia — didn't just grow,

they thrived, sprouting abundantly.

The farmers then faced a new challenge: What to do with all these strange vegetables?

Turning this experiment into a sustainable farming success — one that would reinforce the economic stability of this developing country — would take expertise beyond the father-to-son knowledge of the farmers. It would take someone like Shalni Chandwani '05, then an FIU MBA student with a background in international marketing.

Chandwani brought her expertise to Guatemala in May 2004 through the John Ogonowski Farmer-to-Farmer Program, a 5-year project at FIU's College of Business Administration working with support from the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center. FIU is a partner with the non-profit organization Winrock International in a \$4.5 million Farmer to Farmer grant funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Farmer-to-Farmer links agriculture, business and marketing professionals on a volunteer basis with agricultural organizations in developing nations around the globe.

Winrock sought FIU's collaboration in the program because of the



University's expertise in Latin America, its distinguished international business programs and ties with South Florida's business community.

Real-World Results

So far, FIU has recruited 101 volunteers — local farmers and scientists, business professionals, FIU students and alumni — for assignments in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. FIU's 60 completed projects in Central America have been a quantifiable success. For instance, the farmers in Guatemala utilized the marketing plan Chandwani created to successfully close a deal on Asian vegetables.

"This allowed me to apply my knowledge and education to a real-life situation and the experience taught me a great deal," Chandwani said. "It was really neat to merge these two worlds of knowledge to make it successful."

Farming, after all, is an entrepreneurial enterprise. Alan Carsrud, executive director of the Pino Center, likes to say whether you paint, grow, sell or build for a living, you need entrepreneurial skills to succeed.

"It is looking for opportunities, figuring out how to do something with nothing," he said. "It is going where people don't expect you to go and doing things differently."

FIU alumnus and Denver real estate developer Omar Salinero '90 provided financial consulting to 10 farming cooperatives in Nicaragua and worked with them to determine their credit worthiness. At the same time, Salinero was able to help the cooperatives find additional sources of money.

"I believe that the cooperatives felt a new sense of purpose and were

motivated to improve their business practices," Salinero said. "For me, it was a tremendous experience."

Through FIU, South Florida businessman Juan Rosado assisted a Guatemalan agricultural association in securing a \$200,000 bank loan for a much-needed irrigation system. Rosado showed the farmers how their lettuce sells for 40 cents a pound in El Salvador; while they receive only 16 cents a pound from their buyer in Guatemala.

Rosado's assistance was eye opening for the growers.

"Although the plan Juan Rosado left with us was designed to be



Humaya Frutas Cooperative Member Gregorio Benitez, on his mango farm in Honduras.

implemented in two years, we have already implemented around 60 percent of it," said Mariano Canú, president of the Guatemalan association. "We are now considering selling directly to the markets in El Salvador and, therefore, generating a larger profit on our product."

A Perfect Fit

In 2003, FIU's Global Entrepreneurship Center was a great idea — a new hub for research and initiatives that foster entrepreneurship — but it needed an endowment. At the time, the Center had not received



"It is looking for opportunities, figuring out how to do something with nothing."

Alan L. Carsrud, executive director, Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center

the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation \$3 million grant that today sustains its major initiatives.

Winrock International, which works with USAID in developing nations, wanted to partner with a major, minority-serving university to implement the Farmer-to-Farmer Program in Central America.

"It was the perfect fit," Carsrud said. "They could have gone to dozens and dozens of universities. For the center, it was a vote of confidence in what we were trying to build here."

The USAID grant became the first of three major endowments the Pino Center has captured in just two years.



Farmer-to-Farmer staff members meet with local dairy farmers in Rio Lindo, Honduras.

The Kauffman grant followed and in December 2004, South Florida businessman Sergio Pino gave the center \$2 million to be matched by the state for a total \$4 million. (See story, page 40).

The USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Program is named for John Ogonowski, the American Airlines pilot on Flight 11 that crashed into the World Trade Center in 2001. Ogonowski helped immigrant farmers from Cambodia by donating land in Massachusetts for a commercial "mentor farm," where he worked alongside the growers.

continued

In that spirit, USAID awards grants every five years to select non-profit organizations and universities working to promote rural prosperity in developing nations.

"It is a pretty competitive process," said Carmen Algeciras '01, MIB '03, director of the FIU Farmer-to-Farmer program and international business graduate. "USAID is looking for minority institutions to play a greater role in international development."

The economies of Latin America and the U.S. rely heavily on one another. In 2004, the U.S. imported \$98.7 billion of goods from Latin America (excluding Mexico) and exported \$61.4 billion to the region. South Florida is the gateway for a great deal of United States and Latin American trade — in fact, more than half of the state's trade is with Latin America.

When Chandwani signed up for Farmer to Farmer, she was aware of the important relationship between Latin America and Florida.

"FIU is really smart to recognize that relationship and work to enhance it," she said. "That shows insight into the way of the world. As a business person, my view of the world is global — we're all about connecting worlds — and FIU gets that."



"As a business person, my view of the world is global — we're all about connecting worlds — and FIU gets that."

—
Shalni Chandwani '05
Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer

Opening new markets

Chandwani had never been on a farm, nor was she familiar with the agriculture industry when she volunteered to go to Guatemala. The then 24-year-old wasn't sure how she would market the Asian vegetables, which had yet to be harvested when she arrived.

The best of the crops was earmarked for export. Still the growers were left with about 12 acres of vegetables — maybe not the prettiest, roundest or smoothest — but certainly marketable locally. Chandwani's challenge was to identify a local buyer for the vegetables.

"They didn't know what they were going to do. They just had these vegetables," she said. "When I got there I had three weeks. I thought, 'Three weeks? I need three years.'"

Chandwani put her MBA education to work. "The way you study at FIU — a lot of case studies looking at the problems of a company and the available solutions — had prepared me," she said. "FIU gave me the skills to figure out a way to delve into the problem and find a way out."

Chandwani traveled around Guatemala City talking to merchants and learning about local markets. She soon made a surprising discovery:

Guatemala City has one of the highest concentrations of Chinese restaurants in the world.

Even better for Chandwani's Farmers, the restaurants didn't have viable access to real Asian vegetables.

The Chinese restaurateurs told her importing vegetables from Asia was too expensive, so they used substitutes. They were thrilled by the possibility of a more cost effective — and authentic — alternative. "I got a resounding response that if there was a local supply of Chinese vegetables, they would buy it."

And that's exactly what happened.

Soon after Chandwani left, the farmers in this country where 75 percent of the people live below the poverty line — sold the bok choy, hairy cucumbers, Chinese eggplant, bagaña, cundeamor and Thai okra that had nowhere to go when she arrived.

Their first sale netted \$135,000. ■

**To learn more about the Farmer-to-Farmer Program please contact (305) 348-0399.*



The Paraxa Association and farming cooperatives in Guatemala, K'icheo, successfully growing fields of lettuce using a new irrigation system.

Maija Renko

student
profile

FIU's first doctoral student in entrepreneurship wins prestigious national fellowship

She has traveled through Finland, the Silicon Valley and South Florida doing research for the two — yes, two — Ph.D.s she is completing.

By Albert del Toral '05

Here is the surprising conclusion of Maija Renko's research on biotech firms from Finland to Florida: There are no big differences in the marketing strategies country-to-country. The industry truly is global.

As both a researcher and student, Renko is a star at FIU — the University's first doctoral candidate at the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center and the recipient of a prestigious Kauffman Foundation fellowship. She was one of only 10 students in the nation chosen for the \$15,000 award from the Kauffman Foundation, which awarded the Entrepreneurship Center \$3 million in 2003 to support education and outreach initiatives that promote entrepreneurship.

"Not only is she a wonderful research colleague, but she's also one of the top doctoral students in the field worldwide, as recognized by the Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City," said Pino Center Executive Director Alan Carsrud, who recruited Renko to FIU in 2003. "We're exceptionally lucky to have her."

Renko's academic career and research have crisscrossed continents. At the moment, she is also pursuing another Ph.D. in her home country of Finland at

"Not only is she a wonderful research colleague, but she's also one of the top doctoral students in the field worldwide."

—
Alan L. Carsrud,
executive director,
Eugenio Pino and Family
Global Entrepreneurship
Center

the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration.

Her foray into global entrepreneurship began after she finished her master's degree and went to work at a research unit in Finland. There, Renko focused on international marketing and management of biotechnology firms. Initially, the firms seemed to be operating around scientific and technological issues while ignoring fundamental marketing lessons. Trying to figure out how the companies survive in a global marketplace intrigued Renko. As a visiting scholar at FIU in 2003, then, as an exchange student at Stanford in 2004, Renko began broadening her research to strategize ways to help the small biotech firms successfully compete.

Along the way, Renko has captured numerous awards. Along with the Kauffman fellowship, the most distinguished have been two Academy of Finland grants totaling \$31,000.

Renko credits the innovation of the Pino Center's programs under Carsrud for luring her back to FIU in 2005.

"When they speak of the great faculty here at FIU, Alan is one of those people," Renko said. "He's taught me a lot and is one of the main reasons for my

being here in South Florida today."

With the Kauffman fellowship, Renko hopes to expand her research into dealing with larger high technology firms. So far, her research on biotech firms in Finland, Sweden, Pennsylvania, Northern California and South Florida has yielded some interesting findings. While trying to understand the entrepreneurial attitudes and market orientation in high technology firms, Renko has found that changes in operations occur by industry, not by country.

No matter where she goes, all firms seem to be facing the same problems and, regardless of their size, their long-range goals are to secure a place in the worldwide market. These small firms, she discovered, pay much attention to marketing, as well as other facets of the industry, such as understanding future customers. However, they do it in ways that differ greatly from the mainstream.

Renko expects to complete her FIU degree in 2006 or 2007. When all the research is done, Renko hopes her findings will have implications, not only for theory, but for business managers making decisions in the global marketplace of today and tomorrow. ■



Rivers

RESCUING THE

Environmental Studies Professor Michael McClain leads a USAID-funded project to find solutions to troubling water resource dilemmas in South America, Africa and Asia.

By Sara LaJeunesse

The Amazon River pulses through the tangled jungles of South America bringing vital water resources to the indigenous people of nine countries. FIU associate professor of environmental studies Michael McClain sees precious beauty here, in the tropical canopies, in the colorful creatures that inhabit this place, in the faces of the children who depend on the river's bounty.

A biogeochemist - someone who studies how biology, geology and chemistry work together in the environment — with expertise in water resources management of developing countries, McClain also sees danger. The life support this waterway provides is threatened by over-fishing, by pollution from sewage, by medical wastes and petroleum spills.

For McClain, saving the Amazon and other rivers like it across the globe is as much a humanitarian quest as it is environmental. He recently won a \$4.45 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to expand his research to Africa and Asia where he will study a multitude of water-related topics ranging from improved water supply and sanitation to protecting

"This can be the mechanism for FIU to distinguish itself and become globally recognized as the go-to people for this kind of work."

—
Michael McClain,
professor,
environmental
studies



A Candoshi girl cleaning agouti, a forest dwelling rodent, along the Pastaza River, Peru. The Candoshi tribe of northeastern Peru's rainforest numbers about 2,000 and relies on the forest and river for sustenance. Earlier in the day, the girl and her father had come upon a group of 30 agouti crossing the river, and from their canoe they bludgeoned them all. FIU faculty and students are helping the Candoshi to sustainably manage their resources. (Photo by Michael McClain)

important aquatic ecosystem services that sustain human communities.

His goal is to design ways to implement water resources management plans that address the needs of a variety of interests—agricultural, environmental, economic, human health — in countries that differ drastically.

As director of the project — it's called GLOWS, short for Global Water for Sustainability — McClain hopes to establish FIU as an authority in the area of integrated water resources management. "This can be the mechanism for FIU to distinguish

itself and become globally recognized as the go-to people for this kind of work," said McClain.

The project will be launched with three pilot studies — one in western India on the Wakel River, one on the Pastaza River, a tributary of the Amazon, and another in Kenya and Tanzania on the Mara River, which is part of the larger Nile River Basin.

FIU will provide special expertise in the studies required to guide management plans and higher level government actions. These include analyses of water resource quantity and quality, assessments of institutional strengths and weaknesses, and trying to find economically viable ways of ensuring the preservation of the rivers. The program will work with individual communities to manage fisheries and natural resources more effectively. It will also look at the special role women play in these societies and work with local communities and decision-makers to influence water-related development efforts.

"In many societies, women have the primary responsibility for water supply, sanitation and health at the household level," said Elizabeth Anderson, the technical coordinator of GLOWS for FIU.



Two young girls play in a tributary of the Amazon near their home in Puerto Bermudez, Peru, that is contaminated with raw sewage and medical wastes from the local hospital - a situation McClain hopes to prevent through his research on integrated water resources management. (Photo by Michael McClain)



FIU Professor Michael McClain beside a hippo pool on the Mara River, Kenya/Tanzania. The Mara is a headwater river to the Nile and a pilot basin within the GLOWS program. McClain and other FIU faculty are working with partners in the Mara to ensure adequate flows of clean water to Serengeti National Park. (Photo by Heather Singler, courtesy of Michael McClain)

“Improving women’s access to a reliable water supply will give them more time to attend schools, care for children, generate income or grow food for the family.”

The United Nations has declared 2005-2015 the “Water for Life Decade,” which makes the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation a global priority.

Because water resources touch so many elements of human life and ecosystems, USAID’s vision is to create harmony between the environment and other human economic and social needs. This requires a governance and management system capable of integrating scientific understanding of natural water issues with appropriate and effective technology and human actions. USAID is supporting GLOWS to bridge the gap between policymakers who oversee development issues and resource managers on the ground who generally lack the knowledge and experience to apply workable management systems.

“We will consider GLOWS a success if, after five years, we have made significant progress in the acceptance of integrated water

Saving the Amazon and other rivers like it across the globe is as much a humanitarian quest as it is environmental.

resource management as a first principle of development,” said USAID’s manager for the GLOWS program Sharon Murray.

The project, which is a five-year agreement with opportunity for renewal, is a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, which works to protect endangered species and habitats worldwide; World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization; Lake Net, a consortium of more than 1600 individuals and organizations who work to protect lakes; and Amizade, a non-profit that focuses on placing volunteers in international work.

“Through these collaborations, we suddenly have a network of offices, people and vehicles all over the developing world,” said McClain. “This is an opportunity like none that I know of.” ■



HARVESTING A DREAM

FIU ALUMNA RACHAEL MIDDLETON '01 BLENDS FAMILY, FEMINISM AND FARMING, NATURALLY. WHETHER IT'S GROWING SPECIALTY TOMATOES OR MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR WOMEN, HER VISION IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE SOIL.

By Manuel Roig-Franzia

THREE SISTERS FARM GLOWS IN THE GOLD OF LATE AFTERNOON. The sun's rays, so warm and gentle, almost seem to play tricks on the eye. But what they illuminate is real.

The beans, green and dusty on any old farm down the road, are the deepest purple here. The hanging clump in the tree, surely a honey-combed beehive from a distance, is a lumpy jackfruit, dangling like the weird and wonderful centerpiece of an outer-space holiday display.

Under the tree, a Doula named Lula — this is not a nursery rhyme, but a childcare model — cuddles an infant with a grownup sounding nickname: Gus. A smiling man with a fabulous wind-blown shag of a beard — a one-time Internet millionaire, turned youthful grandfather and disciple of all things natural — bumps through the rows in a green golf cart, calling it “the coolest vehicle ever made.” Mom makes bruschetta in the motor home.

It is a typical afternoon here in Homestead, on the most atypical of farms.

Rachael Middleton '01 has a way of gliding through the place, enviably tranquil on her carpet of green, zig-zagging gracefully below the ripening exotics, the carambolas, the sapodilla and the longans. The birds dive-bombing her fruit trees — an average farmer's horror show — barely draw her attention.



Rachael Middleton, her father Cliff Middleton and dogs Pink and Lucy bump along their 5-acre Homestead farm aboard the "little green workhorse" (their nickname for their ST 350 golf cart).

MIDDLETON HAD AN EPIPHANY:

“EVERYTHING I DO CAN BE A FEMINIST ACT AND A FORM OF ACTIVISMAVE THAT MINDSET WHEN I’M DOING IT.”

“There’s enough fruit to go around,” she says in that quietly persuasive way of hers. And, who could argue?

She patiently bobs her head while her father Cliff Middleton unwinds another of his pithy theorems about what is right in the world and what is wrong. The daughter, all of 24, but casting an older and wiser air, knows she will get her turn. It will come among the draped vines and the stumpy trees, scattered on about 5 acres that is more than a farm — it is an idea. A Big Idea about being small.

The Middletons — two generations, with Rachael’s baby Gus embodying the hopes for a third — are revolutionaries of a sort. They believe in the promise of “A New Estate,” a social structure built around small plots of land, free from pesticides and fertilizer, that they hope can transform the way America eats, the way a nation of relentless mass consumption thinks about food. Their little batches of heirloom tomatoes and crinkly herbs already find their way north to swank restaurants and gourmet markets in Miami. But this, they hope, is just a beginning. Their big idea, the one they came here to realize, is equal parts Kumbaya and bottom-line economics: they want to do for healthy eating and organic vegetables what Domino’s did for pizza. They want to bring dinner — but the greenest and freshest of dinners — to the doors of Miami.

They plan to launch an organic vegetable subscription delivery service, coupling their own crops with the output of other small organic farmers and, perhaps, even the stray homeowner who doesn’t know what to do with all those mangoes or avocados weighting down the backyard tree. Pay \$40 a week, Middleton says, and one of her drivers will show up at the door with a basket of tomatoes and lettuce and whatever else happens to be snapping fresh at the moment. The ethic of her business model co-exists neatly with her philanthropy: the Plant a Thousand Gardens project that she and others have expanded to bring gardens to schools, churches and parks throughout South Florida; her immersion in a growing Slow Food movement that places value on knowing where food comes from and slowly savoring it, and her penchant for spreading around starter garden kits free-of-charge, ala Johnny Appleseed.

But Middleton’s foray into the business world and her brand of sustainable agriculture will only work, she says, if it is economically sustainable, too. Translation: the sisters need to make a profit.

Middleton — the youngest of the three — is here, in the quiet of a country road afternoon talking economics and environmentalism and food, because of something that happened on her first day of classes at Florida International University. But she had no way of knowing what it meant at the time.



Middleton and her family lived the epitome of an upper-middle-class ideal. Money. Nice house. All the trappings.

And they hated it.

Her father, now 58, who tapped into the dot.com frenzy by forming a successful Internet company, had offices in Coconut Grove and Amsterdam. He lived in Miami traffic when he wasn’t living in airports. Her mother, Jackie, now 58, battled the commute from Cutler Ridge to downtown Miami.

It wasn’t working. But it took a jolt for them to figure that out.

The night before Middleton’s first day at FIU, her mother felt sick after dinner. She was worse by morning and her father prepared to take her to the hospital, thinking it was a bad case of food poisoning. He told Middleton to go off to FIU, to start her university career. Don’t worry.

Yeah, right.

When she got home that evening, her father tried to act like it was any other day. He tried to ask her about her classes, her new professors, the students. “Who cares?” Middleton remembers telling him. “What happened with mom?”

Cliff Middleton, shredded by the emotions of the day, blurted out the news.

“Your mother is dying,” he said. “You’re going to lose your mother. I’m going to lose my wife.”



In Rachael's Garden:

Purple Basil
Detroit Red Beets
Lemon Mint
White Wonder Cucumbers
Kentucky Wonder Beans
Tall Telephone Peas
Love Lies Bleeding Flowers

Heirloom Tomatoes:
Amish Paste
Black Prince
Austin's Red Pear
Green Zebra



Jackie Middleton, a health-conscious teetotaler, had been diagnosed implausibly with a terminally cirrhotic liver. Doctors said she would live eight months.

That was more than six years ago.

An intensive drug and healthy foods regimen and a liver transplant kept her from dying. But the family decided they all needed something more. They needed out of Cutler Ridge. Out of the highways. Out of the toxic sprawl.

“That’s why we’re out of here,” Cliff Middleton recalled, “to live a more holistic life. It came from a sense that we had to do this to survive.”

Three Sisters Farm — the idea, at least — was born, taking its name from Middleton and the sisters who would later share in the enterprise: Faith Dawson, now 33, and Kali Middleton, now 35.

But Rachael had things to do first. She wanted to drop out of school to nurse her mother, but her mother said, “No.” The nursing would have to be a side thing. Her education, in English literature and women’s studies, could not be interrupted.

In a feminist theory class one afternoon taught by visiting instructor Sarah Crawley, Middleton had an epiphany: “Everything I do can be a feminist act and a form of activism if I have that mindset when I’m doing it.”

By the time she graduated and took a job as interim coordinator of the FIU Women’s Center, the idea of Three Sisters Farm had become a reality. And it was calling her.

It made sense somehow to Middleton that her interests in feminism and environmental justice would take her to the farm. But she wasn’t sure what kind of reaction she would get as

Rachael sorts and packs hand-picked heirloom tomatoes. Pictured here are Matt's Wild Cherry, Sun Gold and Large Red Cherry tomatoes.

Container gardens, like the Cut and Come Again lettuce bowls (pictured below), filled with assorted greens and herbs, also grow in the Middleton greenhouse.



“WHAT MY EDUCATION DID WAS GIVE ME THE TOOLS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN,” MIDDLETON SAID, REFLECTING ON NEARLY THREE YEARS OF ORGANIC FARMING. “THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX—THIS IS INGRAINED IN THE BUSINESS MODEL.”

she left a promising academic career track. When her one-year contract to run the Women's Center ended in 2003, she sought out professor Suzanna Rose, a mentor of Middleton's and the director of the FIU Women's Studies department, and laid out her theory that the local realms of food production and environmentalism “needed a feminist voice.” Rose, to Middleton's surprise, was unhesitatingly enthusiastic.

Others were just plain confused by her farming aspirations.

“What?” her college friend Marcela asked. “It's dirty!”



Middleton was onto something with this notion about knitting feminism and farming. She soon found out that two of the other leading organic farmers in the area are women.

Her theories and her reality were coming together.

“You don't have to be in the good 'ol boy system of agribusiness,” she says.

This was not something she could keep to herself. At a National Women's Studies Association meeting in New Orleans, she reunited with Crawley, the instructor who so inspired her. This time, Middleton was doing the talking. The title of her speech to the association: “What to do with a degree in women's studies.”

“What my education did was give me the tools to make this happen,” she said, reflecting on nearly three years of organic farming. “Thinking outside of the box — this is ingrained in the business model.”

And her life is ingrained in the business. The farm, where her parents have taken up residence in a motor home and plan to build a house, gave her a place where she could work and care for little Gus at the same time. For now, she commutes there from Broward County, a split-the-difference living arrangement between her husband Eric Knudsen's job to the north and her passion to the south. Before then, the farm where Rachael eventually plans to make a permanent home gave her a place to get married, with the guests using straw bales for seats and a reception under the longan tree. It also gave her a place to mourn. A pile of rocks, at the exact spot where she and Eric Knudsen said their vows, will be transformed into a memorial to a 22-year-old cousin who died too young in a car crash.



Middleton, for all her successes turning earth and seed into dinner, has made mistakes. She planted sunflowers next to tomatoes, hoping they would make good companions, but the pairing was a bust. Blight has taken piles of her luscious little tomatoes with cool names like “Matt's Wild Cherry.”

The organic life isn't always easy either. An “aspiring vegetarian,” she still has her cravings and she isn't so militant about healthy eating that she won't indulge herself occasionally, nibbling stuff that might make hard-line organic eating aficionados cringe. Little tempts her so much as McDonald's french fries, with barbeque sauce, no less.

“I love it but I hate it,” she says, blushing ever so slightly. “I hate it because I love it... Wasn't that a revelation?”

But her eyes give her away. Even as she waxes longingly about her infrequent, greasy snacking, anyone can tell that it is the tomatoes and the beans that truly make her tingle. Smiling, she grabs a handful of Sun Golds, the little orange gems that can make other tomatoes seem tepid and flavorless.

“They are *real* sweet,” Middleton says. She nods her head there in the lengthening shadows of late afternoon, with her flats of goodness before her, and smiles that easy, contented smile.

It's impossible not to believe her. ■

Biker, engineer & artist

Billy Lane '97 has become a celebrity doing what he loves: **Building choppers**

By Deborah O'Neil

In the Melbourne office of his chopper empire, Billy Lane '97 kicks back in a chair, his famed waist-long dreadlocks out of sight. He is surrounded by a peculiar amalgam of rebel subculture, artistic whimsy and good-boy achievement.

Poster-sized covers of *Easyriders*, *The Horse*, *Ironworks* — magazines that have featured Lane's custom built choppers — cover one wall. Plastered everywhere are bikers' credos: "What you see here, What you do here, What you hear here, Let it stay here when you leave here." Bold contemporary art punctuates the place. An FIU engineering degree hangs behind his desk, somewhere in the vicinity of a menacing gargoyle, a bottle of Jack Daniels and a row of calculus and physics books.

Lane is at home in this milieu of apparent contradictions. Occasionally, though, he expresses

"A lot of my style comes from the fact that I take used things and make something out of it."

—
Billy Lane '97

wonder at his larger-than-life success. His company, Choppers Inc., is among the top in the motorcycle industry.

"I'm just an overpriced mechanic," he says. "I started doing this because I love motorcycles."

Old-school and curvy, with names like "Miss Behavin" and "Devil In a Red Dress," each chopper is built from scrap metal and used parts sculpted from Lane's imagination. He put that engineering education to work when he perfected the elusive hubless chopper, earning the respect of a tough crowd. He patented nearly a dozen novel chopper inventions: rolled dice taillight, six-gun foot pegs, aluminum shift knobs with .44 magnum bullets. Before long, the Discovery Channel's Biker Build-Off came a callin' and Lane became a star.

Women swoon over his rock-star good looks. Wannabes copy his ingenuity. The rich and famous seek out his impossibly cool bikes. Bel-Ray Oil offered him an endorsement deal. He's got his own line of signature boots and Choppers Inc. apparel. And he's written two books.

One day, a publisher called — they wanted a book on him. "I was like, 'Whoa,'" Lane recalls. His autobiography, "Chop Fiction," came out in 2004. "How to Build Old School Choppers and Bobbers," was published in December.

"It's about being cool..."

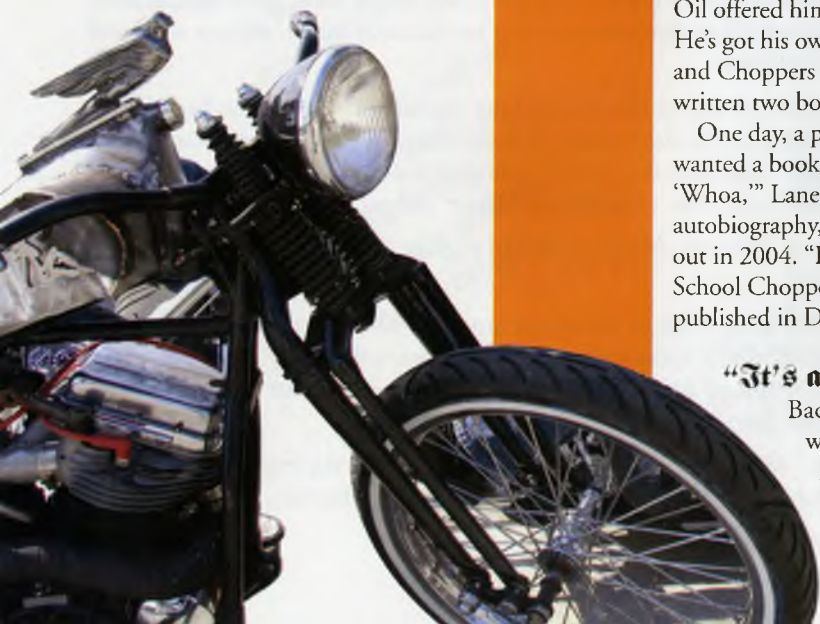
Back when South Beach was evolving into a Euro-destination, Lane's father restored Corvettes and



Harleys. Billy quickly learned wrenching could make money. As motorcycle repairs increasingly became a mainstay of his father's business, Lane mastered the mechanics of building choppers. He appreciates their engineering simplicity and values the respect and freedom they symbolize.

"With choppers, it's about being cool," he said. "I rode one and I was hooked."

Lane's first bike is still one of his favorites — a 1950 Panhead he picked up in Marianna for \$2,700. Lane couldn't afford new parts so he rebuilt it from throwaway items that he shaped and welded by hand. He still does that. The warehouse in the back of his showroom is filled with junk discarded by others. A Ford truck grill, a sheet of metal that was once a hood, porcelain faucets, plumbing pieces — they all have





second lives as Lane chopper parts.

"Someone told me it's called 'found art,'" Lane said. "A lot of people cannot conceive of using a thing made for this for that."

One Christmas when Lane was broke, he made oil caps that looked like gun barrels for his friends. They were a hit.

Custom parts remain a significant portion of Lane's business. He builds a handful of new bikes each year.

Photographer Michael Lichter, who shot Lane's first *Easyriders* spread, says few builders have Lane's combination of technical ability and artistic originality.

"Billy has really blended those two areas together into his own style," Lichter said. "A lot of guys don't have that sense of style. Now he is being copied and imitated. You see his work in other people's work all over the world."

"My mind is always working..."

But for a promise he made to his parents, Lane says he probably wouldn't have finished college. He's glad he did. Engineering know-how conjured new possibilities.

The idea of a bike without a back hub had been around a while, but no one had perfected the technology so the bike was functional. "I just wanted to see if I could do it," he says.

Before Lane ever twisted a screwdriver for the hubless bike, he spent a year working through the mechanics in his head. If it wasn't just right, he knew the rolling inertia would crush him at 30 mph.

He remembers the anticipation of his first test run on "PsychoBilly Cadillac," his first hubless chopper. He took it real slow. He kept going, marveling with each block. "Just to go

down the street was amazing." Today PhyschoBilly has 20,000 miles on it.

His second and last hubless bike, MoneyShot, sold for \$140,000 to an art collector who deemed it "a work of art." Lane says he won't make another. "I don't want to cheapen it," he explains.

Engineer. Artist. Those are other people's labels. "My strength is being a creator and an innovator," he says. "My mind is always working and I'm able to implement it, fulfill it."

He continues: "It's about being able to do what you want, look how you want and not being controlled by people's expectations."

Choppers Inc. went on the road in 2005 for Lane's "Blood, Sweat and Gears Tour." He is a mega-star but his fingernails are still dirty. At each stop, Lane captivated fans doing what he loves: banging out gas tanks and sissy bars, customizing exhaust systems, twisting metal. ■

"My strength is being a creator and an innovator."

—
Billy Lane '97

Together as One

The photographs of husband-and-wife art professors Eduardo del Valle '76 and Mirta Gómez '76 earn a permanent home in New York's prestigious Museum of Modern Art.

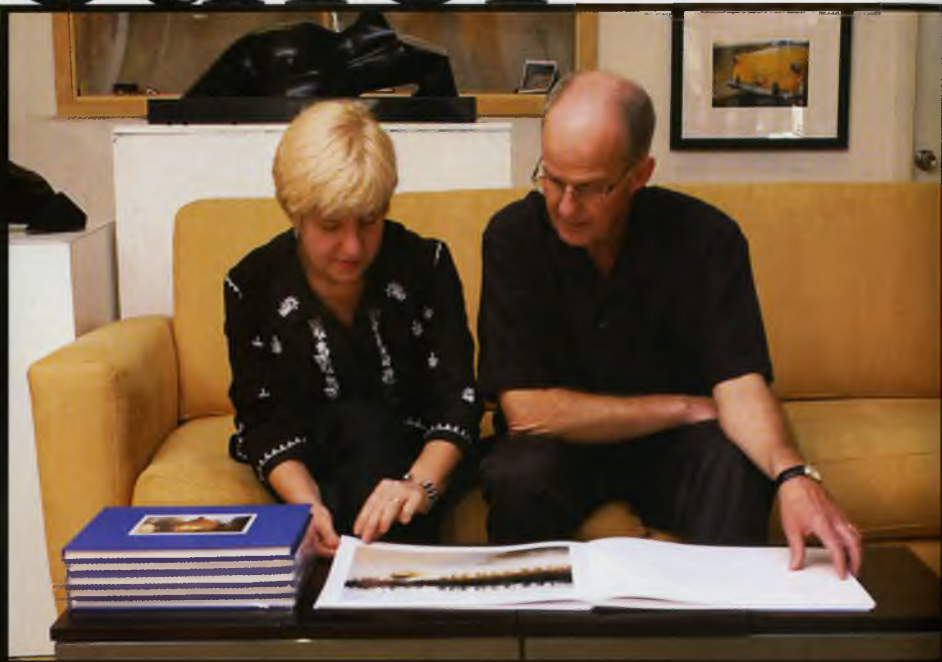
By Armando Gonzalez '05

A Mayan priest, raising his hands to the sun, stands on the flat top of a pyramid performing a sacrifice to the gods. Five hundred years later, a tourist poses for a picture in the same spot. Unknown to both is the role they play in the story of how the native people of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula have had to transform and adapt in order to survive.

FIU photography professors Eduardo del Valle '76 and Mirta Gómez '76 always have sought to take photographs that authentically describe problems that cannot be discerned with the naked eye. For years, the alumni team of husband and wife traveled to the Yucatán Peninsula trying to capture images that would document the ongoing struggle of the people.

"The grandest honor for an artist in the U.S. today is to be represented in the collection of MOMA."

— Carol Damian
chairperson,
Department
of Art and Art
History



Now, their images will forever be part of the canon of photography at the nation's preeminent art institution. One of their works from the Yucatán Peninsula, "Three Sections of Time," has been selected for inclusion in the permanent photography collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City and was shown as part of MOMA's inaugural photography exhibit last year. The exhibition in the new Edward Steichen Photography Galleries at MOMA feature a selection of works from 218 artists of photography. Last February, del Valle and Gómez were guest speakers at MOMA for the "Conversations with Contemporary Artists" lecture series.

As part of MOMA's permanent collection, the couple's images join

some 25,000 of the best and most original work of leading photographers spanning the history of the medium.

"The grandest honor for an artist in the U.S. today is to be represented in the collection of MOMA," said Department of Art and Art History Chairperson Carol Damian. "Their presence in the collection is not only a validation of their success as artists, it is an honor for FIU, especially the Art Department, where they are not only teachers, but alumni."

In the early 1970s, when the Cuban-born high school sweethearts discovered the camera, they were not seeking fame or recognition, merely taking pictures that could freeze a moment in time as if to show that although things change, they still remain. At first,

Adjoining page: Photographers Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gomez review their second book "Fried Waters" at the Chelsea Galleria in Miami, which represents their work. This page, from left: "Labná, Yucatan, Mexico," 1998, and "Labná, Yucatan, Mexico," 1994, by Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez.



they had to share the only camera they could afford. Thus, they started the collaboration that has defined their artwork.

"It wasn't a choice," said Gómez. "The thing chose us."

"Together as one" is how they describe their partnership. They share every aspect of the artistic process: photographing, developing, printing, editing and even teaching. In 22 years of team teaching at FIU, they have curated more than 100 exhibitions by established and emerging photographers in "The Photography Gallery," which they opened in 1983 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Del Valle and Gómez have merged their artistic egos to find a clearer voice for their photographs. "What we do individually is not important," said del Valle. "It is about the complexity of the

problem you are trying to suggest. It is the photograph that counts."

Such clarity is evident in their first book, "From the Ground Up," a compilation of the photographs taken in the Yucatán Peninsula that has won critical praise.

"It's beautifully made color photography and an achievement of enormous richness," said John Szarkowski, former chief curator of photography at MOMA, in a review of the book. "They have followed one thread with great tenacity. I don't know of any other body of work quite like it."

The book, divided in three parts, hides the faces of the people and instead tells their story through their houses. In each section, the cycles of time are evident in the different seasons, the permanent sense of construction and the lack

"Together
as one" is
how they
describe
their
partnership.

of a clear beginning and end. Suddenly, you realize that you are looking at a story that spans generations. In the photographs time is flattened and like fossils in sedimentary rock, you find anachronistic shacks similar to the ones the priest would have seen from the heights of the pyramid.

The shacks echo the ancient one-room, two-door design, but some have a trace of modernity: tin roofs, bottle caps as nails and rusty metal signs as doors. The more luxurious ones are made of cinder block, have glass windows and electric wiring. The pervasive impact of tourism on the Yucatán reveals itself subtly in the photos.

The photographers, who both fled Cuba in 1961 as children, understood the tensions at play in the Yucatán. "As first-generation

continues





The second book, "Fried Waters," by photographers Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez, published in fall 2005, focuses on the transformation of water to salt at two ancient collection sites. "We were working in the Yucatán and stumbled on these ancient salt collection sites and it was just stunning," said del Valle. Salt has been collected at these sites, one of which is shown in this photograph, since the Late Formative period of Mayan civilization, 300 to 50 B.C. This body of work constitutes the second of four photographic projects the couple is completing in Yucatán. The first, "From the Ground Up," focuses on domestic architecture in Yucatán, as shown in the photographs of Mexican houses on pages 19 and 22. "Both bodies of work deal with transformation but of a different kind," Gómez added.

"Fried Water," Yucatán, Mexico 1998-2004
by Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gomez

From left: "Hunucma, Yucatán, Mexico," 1994, and "Kambul, Yucatán, Mexico," 1994, by Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez



continued

immigrants, we know you have to adapt, evolve and appropriate in order to survive. If not, you could become a dinosaur," said del Valle.

Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to each of them in 1997 allowed del Valle and Gómez to leave FIU for one year and move to the Yucatán. Without a guide and carrying only their equipment, they roamed the villages where Spanish is a second language.

The hardest part was telling the people they wanted to photograph only the houses. "The people came out and greeted us. They all wanted to be photographed," said Gómez.

Together, they photographed the houses, looking for the perfect angle, waiting for the exact light that would reveal the stories of

"As first-generation immigrants, we know you have to adapt, evolve and appropriate in order to survive."

—
Eduardo del Valle,
professor of
Photography

tradition and history that had never been given voice.

"There are no new ideas in the world," said Gómez, "only new technologies and interpretations."

In "Three Sections of Time" at MOMA, a series of three photographs of a house taken during different stages of construction, the past and present become one. The images are witnesses to the forces of time, the inescapable cycles of growth and decay that the world experiences. They also offer a paradox: As the house grows, the landscape around it seems to perish.

In the first photograph the greens are lush. A tree behind the wooden skeleton that will later be a house is blossoming in orange flowers. The second photograph is dominated by an almost completed tin roof. A tiny chihuahua walking

toward the camera — a passerby — seems unaware of the changes around it. Where the bushes stood there is now only a thin twig with a few leaves. In the last photograph, the house is completed. Wooden poles — one next to the other — look more like a fence than walls. This house is built from nature, but nature is gone. Only the pebbles, casting a five o'clock shadow, remain on the dirt road.

Through a unique collaboration and a persistent eye, del Valle and Gómez make us part of a story in which we all participate. As the past and the present try to coexist, we stand like the tourist and the priest, transitory players in a story revealed not in the faces of the people, but in the houses they've built through time. ■

FIU PIONEERS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK

By Sara LaJeunesse

The Florida East Coast Railway rolled into rural south Florida in 1896, as the quintessence of progress, generating growth, development and the evolution of a community.

Today, progress still hinges on connecting people. We now construct transoceanic “railways” that link Florida and California to Latin America and New York to Europe. These pathways — fiber-optic cables that run under the oceans — are paving the way for international communities of researchers to interact in a high-performance cyber world.

FIU is a leader in this global information exchange. With a new \$5 million National Science Foundation grant — won by the Center for Internet Augmented Research and Assessment (CIARA) — FIU will improve network connectivity between the United States and Latin America. Networks play a crucial role in building scientific communities, said Julio Ibarra, CIARA’s executive director and principal investigator for the grant.

The project provides FIU with “unprecedented opportunities over the next five years to leverage high-speed networks to advance its research and educational initiatives,” said John McGowan,

vice president and chief information officer for FIU’s Division of Information Technology.

The NSF grant will be used to link Miami to Sao Paulo, Brazil, via a 2.5 Gbps high speed network and to install a new fiber optic cable from San Diego to Tijuana, Mexico, beginning with a 1 Gbps link. A collaborator with FIU on this project, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California will oversee this network in coordination with the CIARA team at FIU.

FIU was chosen because it has a proven track record in information technology, said the NSF’s Kevin Thompson, program manager for the grant. The University’s proposal, he said, demonstrated that FIU is the best institution for the project.

“Julio and his team have established and fostered very productive relationships with colleagues and scientists in Latin America, and these relationships are important to successful activities and collaborations moving forward,” said Thompson.

FIU researchers will benefit tremendously from the new infrastructure. Professor of earth sciences Gautam Sen, director of the Florida Center for Analytical Electron Microscopy, intends to use the network to make FCAEM

instruments available remotely to users in Latin America and the Caribbean. “This improved network opens up the doors for us to the rest of the world,” he said.

Physics professor **Reto Mankowitz** wants to use the connections to collaborate with researchers in Latin America. He plans to collide protons in a particle accelerator in Geneva to search for the theoretical Higgs particle, which is believed to control gravity. The undertaking will involve 2,000 physicists from 183 countries — all of whom can work from their own universities, sharing data and information via fiber optic thoroughfares.

“The new networks are important,” he said, “because we will be generating more data in these collisions than has ever been generated in pretty much the whole of human history.”

Scientists in Latin America also are excited about the grant.

“Researchers in São Paulo have an old, strong and fruitful collaboration with investigators in the U.S. in domains from the physical and biological sciences to the humanities,” said Luis Lopez, a senior researcher at the University of São Paulo Medical School in Brazil. “The grant will be a key component in advancing this research collaboration to its full potential.” ■

“This improved network opens up the doors for us to the rest of the world.”

—
FIU professor
Gautam Sen,
director,
Florida
Center for
Analytical
Electron
Microscopy



FIU

CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY



FIU Inaugurates New Tradition

By Deborah O'Neil

A group of FIU's most generous benefactors — 24 of them, many whose names grace University buildings and programs — gathered in a room at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center early last year. They knew little, only that they were to be feted for their contributions. Excitement and a bit of uncertainty lingered as each donor donned academic regalia and lined up for a procession. In the concert hall, family and friends awaited, listening to the Amernet String Quartet.

The donors entered the concert hall heralded by live organ music and led by Torch Society banner marshals. They took their places on stage. FIU's former Provost and Executive Vice President Mark Rosenberg began:

ceremony, FIU students, the true beneficiaries of the philanthropy, would tell the story. And the donors would be formally "inducted" into the Torch Society.

The idea emerged: A philanthropic commencement.

Two years of planning for this novel donor recognition came together in 2005 with FIU's first Torch Society Gold Flame Induction Ceremony, an uplifting affair for FIU's elite society for top donors. Established in 1989, the Torch Society is FIU's prestigious organization of the University's most generous benefactors. Within the Torch Society are three society levels: Gold Flame for those who have given \$1 million or more, the Silver Flame for those who have donated \$500,000 and the Bronze Flame

HOW CAN WE SAY "THANK YOU" TO THE PHILANTHROPISTS WHO HAVE HELPED BUILD THIS UNIVERSITY?

"It is my distinct pleasure to initiate this ceremony, the beginning of a tradition where knowledge, service and understanding are honored and celebrated."

How can we say "Thank You" to the philanthropists who have helped build this University?

FIU Vice President of University Advancement Howard Lipman had pondered that question for a long time. The usual answers — a fancy dinner, a black-tie reception, a swank gala — would not suffice. This event for members of FIU's donor organization, the Torch Society, had to convey much more. Lipman wanted the donors — many of whom have quietly supported the University for decades — to understand, to feel, to really know how important their generosity has been to so many in the community. So many students with dreams. So many educators with a passion. So many pioneers with a vision.

Lipman gathered a team of creative and energetic go-getters to make it happen. Soon, it became clear that the University should do what it does best: celebrate in ceremony. In that

for those who have donated \$100,000.

The induction ceremony — which now will be FIU's signature donor event — was staged for the Gold Flame members. In the future, FIU will hold induction ceremonies for the Silver Flame Society and new members of the Gold Flame Society, as well as the Bronze Flame members.

For the University, the Torch Society event marked an important turning point by establishing a new tradition. "Recognition ceremonies like FIU's engage donors in the life of the institution and let them see their gifts at work," said John Lippincott, president of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the world's largest education association, of which FIU is a member.

Personalized recognition, Lippincott added, sends an even more important message: "That the university has taken the time to get to know them as individuals and values their personal commitment as well as their philanthropy."

Back in the concert hall, a symbolic ceremony unfolded with the passing of the Torch of Knowledge, Service and



1. FIU President Modesto A. Maidique; former Provost Mark Rosenberg, Board of Trustees former chairman Adolfo Henriques '76; Paul L. Cejas of the Cejas Family Foundation; Foundation Chairman Carlos Migoya '74, Wachovia Bank president for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and Vice President of University Advancement Howard Lipman. 2. Nicole and Herbert Wertheim of the Wertheim Family Foundation. 3. Michael Mendez '03 of the Costa Foundation, and Carlos Migoya '74, Wachovia Bank president for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. 4. Pat Frost, Don Carlin, Phillip Frost and B. Carlin. 5. Louis Wolfson III, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, Mitchell (Micky) Wolfson. 6. Brothers Carlos and Sergio Pino with their father Eugenio Pino (center). 7. Adolfo Henriquez '76; Billy Cypress, Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Carlos Migoya '74 and Howard Lipman. 8. Yvonne and Jorge de Cespedes, Carlos and Martha de Cespedes. 9. Dean Vishwanath Prasad, College of Engineering and Computing; Charu Prasad; Morgan Soumah; Martha Ware; Mark Edwards of the Ware Foundation; Martha Edwards and Harounah Soumah. 10. Roz Kovens, Ednagene Schofman and Marguerite Collesano of the Statler Foundation. 11. Nick Stam of Blue Cross & Blue Shield and former Provost Mark Rosenberg. 12. Dean Linda Blanton of the College of Education, Dr. Sanford and Mrs. Dolores Ziff. 13. Rocco Angelo, associate dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; Steve O'Connor, Marriott Foundation and Denise Goldson Rau, director of development for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

FIU HONORS CONTRIBUTIONS OF TORCH SOCIETY GOLD FLAME DONORS

Understanding, a landmark dedicated on the first day of classes in 1972. The symbol of the Torch has been associated with FIU since that day.

The lights went down. The main doors opened.

Honors College senior Lindsay Rigby entered carrying the FIU Torch, ablaze in the dim hall. The Torch was passed to former Board of Trustees Chairman Adolfo Henriques '76, then to FIU Foundation Board Chairperson Carlos Migoya '74, who set the flaming torch on a pedestal, lighting up the glass sculpture created for the Torch Society.

"The Torch's flame, forever embodied in this beautiful sculpture, is entrusted to you today in celebration of your generosity," Rosenberg told the Torch Society Gold Flame members.

The ceremony also told a story through words and images. As each member was inducted, a video clip was played that featured FIU students sharing how the donor's gift has made a difference. The gifts of Gold Flame members have funded major facilities, established

endowments for prestigious academic posts, launched research programs, provided student scholarships, and supported athletics, the fine arts and the performing arts.

"The profound impact you have had on this University and its students, faculty and alumni has created a ripple effect felt in every neighborhood in our community," Lipman said.

There were more than a few teary eyes, smiles all around and a palpable sense of unity.

"Spiritual," is how longtime FIU supporter Herbert Wertheim described the event. "It was the nicest thing the University has ever put on."

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique lauded the Gold Flame Society members as "leaders who saw then what FIU could become today and see now what FIU will be tomorrow."

"All of you," Maidique said, "serve as one of the essential pillars upon which a great university stands." ■



GOLD FLAME INDUCTEES 2005

Bank of America

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc.

B. and Donald Carlin

Cejas Family Foundation, Paul L. Cejas,
President

Cordis, a Johnson and Johnson Company

The Costa Foundation

The Wallace H. Coulter Foundation

The de Céspedes/Pharmed Family
Foundation, Inc.

Patricia and Phillip Frost

William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust

Roz and Cal* Kovens

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott
Foundation

Mentor Graphics Corporation

Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Sergio and Carlos Pino

Ednagene Schofman and The Estate of
Jordan Davidson

The Statler Foundation

Ernest E. Stempel Foundation

Wachovia Bank

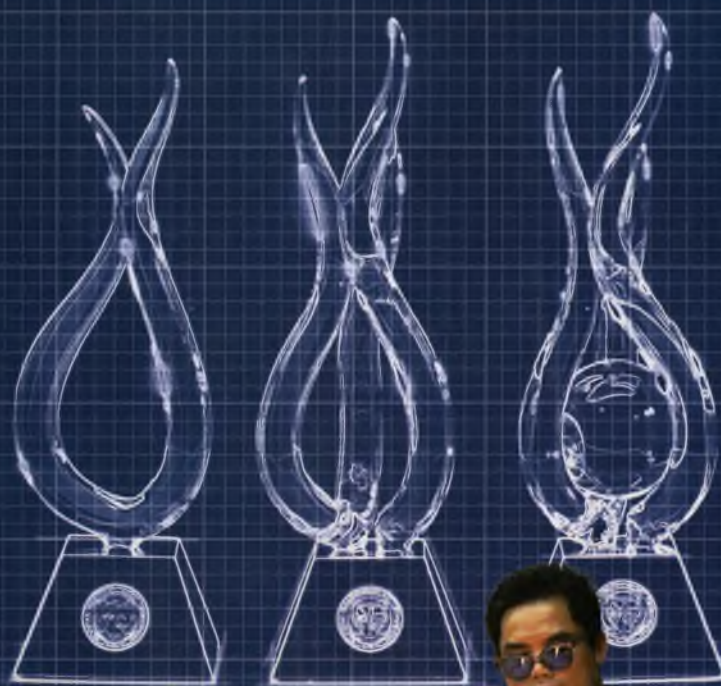
The Ware Foundation

Herbert and Nicole Wertheim

Mitchell Wolfson, Jr.

Dr. Sanford and Dolores Ziff

*deceased



Symbolic Torch Society sculpture perfected through collaboration



By Armando Gonzalez '05

Looking at the clear glass sculpture created for FIU's Torch Society, your first impression is the light and energy of the crystal sphere that floats amid the flames. As your eyes move upward, naturally following the undulating lines, the intertwining flames appear in motion as they overlap and envelop the crystal globe.

This sense of movement and progression is evident not only in its shape, but also its composition. The sculpture, commissioned by FIU for the Torch Society, is designed in three pieces, each standing alone but building upon the other to represent the three giving

levels of the Society: Gold Flame, Silver Flame and Bronze Flame.

The concept for the artwork sprung from the logo created for the Society by FIU senior graphic designer Oscar Negret and the inspiration of University Advancement Vice President Howard Lipman. The unique sculpture was created by Hung Nguyen, master craftsman of Frabel Studio in Atlanta, who has worked with glass for more than 20 years.

It took more than a year to find the final design for the sculpture. After three conceptual schematics and many hours of brainstorming, the first prototype emerged.

"The final sculpture came about through a

wonderful creative collaboration," said Donor Relations Director Laura Padron, who headed the project. "Hung beautifully captured the essence of design we were seeking. After that, the hardest part was keeping the secret until the ceremony."

The first sculpture has two spiraling flames that stand alone as a single artwork. It will be given to Bronze Flame members. At the Silver Flame level, a third flame is added giving new depth to the sculpture. In the final sculpture given to Gold Flame members, a crystal sphere symbolizing the world of knowledge and opportunity is added to the center of the flames.

views on the news: The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test



FCAT sacrifices true skill development and understanding for test taking

By Linda Blanton
Dean, FIU College of Education

Those of us in education are well acquainted with the value of tests, including tests that are formal — standardized to make comparisons to the performance of others — and tests that are informal — teacher-made to monitor classroom learning. We know that tests provide essential information for helping a teacher instruct a child appropriately, for helping school systems allocate resources, for helping states understand the extent to which schools and school districts are meeting the standards set for student performance in that state, or for showing how our nation compares with other nations in subjects such as mathematics or science. What gets us into trouble with tests, and what is so important to understand, is that a test is usually developed for one purpose and a given test is limited to the purpose for which it was developed.

In recent years, with greater and greater emphasis on accountability in our schools, tests administered to students have become high-stakes because so much depends on them. For example, in our own state of Florida, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is used to determine

“The information obtained with the test cannot be used to make diagnostic and instructional decisions about individual children.”

whether a student will move from one grade to the next, whether a student will graduate, and even how the school itself will be evaluated under the state’s program to publicly post grades for schools based on how children perform on the FCAT.

While most people with knowledge of assessment would agree that the FCAT is a good test, it is limited by what it measures and the purposes for which it should be used. That is, the FCAT was developed to assess achievement of broad standards (i.e., the state’s Sunshine State Standards). Thus, the FCAT provides the user with information about how students are performing on general standards such as reading, writing, mathematics and science. The user could make policy decisions such as placing more attention on reading, allocating more funds for instructional materials, or recruiting special teachers. The information obtained with the test cannot be used to make diagnostic and instructional decisions about individual children.

So, what is the problem? The real problem lies in the fact, supported by research on the impact of testing, that many

teachers often change, or are required to change, their instruction in response to high-stakes tests like the FCAT. Most of us have seen firsthand how schools “lock down” for a month or so to prepare for the upcoming FCAT. What kind of instruction are students receiving during this concentrated time of test preparation? Is the focus on what students should be learning or is the focus on simple test preparation that may reduce the curriculum to what is believed to help students pass the test? Unfortunately, it is most likely the latter.

What should be happening? First, it is critical to educate the public and policymakers about testing, its uses, and the potential negative consequences of high stakes testing. What we need to do is support teachers to maintain a program of ongoing solid instruction that, if done well, will lead to strong performance on a test like FCAT. Most important, we must put the focus on students’ mastery of skills and deep understanding of subject matter rather than on test taking and the potential for weak skill development and incomplete knowledge. ■

FCAT provides a valuable snapshot of student performance, informs policy-makers



By Mark Shermis
Associate Dean and Professor,
FIU College of Education

As another spring approaches, so does another FCAT.

The cons regarding the administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test are well-known and are documented by my colleague (and boss) Linda Blanton: valuable instructional time is lost preparing for the tests, the tests have little diagnostic value, feedback from the test comes too late to be of any instructional use, the tests emphasize the 3 Rs to the detriment of other skill areas that society might value (for instance, fine art), a suspicion that the tests may be unfair to those who are economically disadvantaged, and there seems to be a lack of symmetry between test results and what Florida is willing to invest to change the course of student learning. I am not sure I disagree with any of this.

But it is important to keep in mind that the FCAT was implemented for a different purpose: It is a statewide accountability measure designed to give politicians, administrators, and citizens of the state a snapshot of how well students are performing in our schools. And in that regard, it performs reasonably well. The test is matched to the

Florida Sunshine State Standards which articulate a set of objectives that professional educators, business leaders, and other constituents have agreed are important for students to master. The tests have demonstrated indices of validity and reliability, and have been used as models for other states in meeting the assessment requirements for the federal mandates of the Bush Administration's No Child Left Behind Act.

Are the test results valued? If you ask those with school-age children who have recently moved to Florida, they will tell you the first thing they did in deciding where to buy or rent was to consult the school district web site and the grades that were listed for their schools.

Are the test results used? School funding is contingent on how well students perform and there are consequences for schools which have chronic performance problems.

Have the test results had an impact on Florida's education? Ten years ago, if students performed poorly, it was because they did not study, came from broken homes, were economically disadvantaged, etc. With FCAT, student outcomes have become a shared responsibility with teachers. If a class of students does not perform well, the working

"With FCAT, student outcomes have become a shared responsibility with teachers."

assumption now is that the teacher bears a role in this outcome. This is a positive development.

Can the FCAT be transformed to overcome some of the objections raised above? I believe the answer is "yes". My own research area is on a technology called automated essay scoring — it is the ability of a computer to evaluate written English essays. The technology has been quietly working in the background for more than 30 years and there is a burgeoning research literature to show how very effective it is. A number of vendors have created writing programs that allow students to write essays and receive immediate feedback on their work — within 3 seconds or so. As a consequence, students can write many essays each year with results that have national norms associated with them. The feedback is diagnostic, timely, and is linked to instruction plans for each child. The once per year high-stakes test (in writing at least) would no longer be required.

The old saying goes, "You don't fatten a pig by weighing it." In the same vein, we will not improve student academic performance by simply measuring it. However, we still need to create a road map of how to make improvements through assessments like the FCAT. ■



Danny's Boys

During the first 30 years of FIU baseball, 118 Golden Panthers have signed professional contracts with 25 different MLB organizations. The New York Yankees have signed the most FIU players (17), followed by the St. Louis Cardinals (16). This is a list of the players who have signed professionally since Danny Price became head coach in 1980. Those marked with an asterisk* are presently active in professional baseball.

1980

Joe Hughes	Baltimore Orioles
Tim Knight	New York Yankees
Rusty McNealy	Seattle Mariners
Marc Serdar	Houston Astros
Pat Bone	New York Yankees
Tom Corcoran	Detroit Tigers
Mike Reddish	New York Yankees
Rory Brown	New York Yankees
Ron Chapman	Toronto Blue Jays
Frank Contreras	Miami Marlins (Independent)
Ben Donisi	Milwaukee Brewers
Jorge Llano	Miami Marlins (Independent)
Pete Post	New York Yankees
Ric Strasser	Houston Astros
Doug Carpenter	New York Yankees
Jorge Miyar	Los Angeles Dodgers
Denny Murray	Toronto Blue Jays
Oriol Perez	Seattle Mariners
Ossie Alfonso	Minnesota Twins
Tony Arias	Oakland Athletics

A DIAMOND LIFE

Danny Price '74 secures his FIU baseball coaching legacy with 1,000th win

By Manuel Roig-Franzia

The big moment arrived without pretension. Just as anyone who understands Danny Price might have expected.

There, in the corner of the concrete dugout he knows so well, Price sat on a simple plastic-backed chair, rubbing his hands across his knees, rocking ever so slightly and staring intently at a field of green. Price chose the least conspicuous spot possible to enter the rarified air of college baseball's coaching elite: the 1,000-game winners.

Almost no one in the stands could have seen him, tucked away there in the corner. Only the players — the ones in the field and the ones on the bench — witnessed his moment.

And, maybe, just maybe, that was the point.

Baseball, perhaps more than any other game, seems to appreciate history, to comprehend the flow of generations, to respect its elders. The boys out there on the field, shimmering under the night-time lights, are the descendants of a family tree that indisputably leads back to a guy named Danny Price.

A leaner, younger version of the man on the plastic chair in the corner of the dugout was out there on the green when Florida International University baseball was born. He was a sharecropper's son, a North Carolina kid come to South Florida, who not

only was going to college, but was the first person in his family to graduate from high school. Price banded FIU's first hit on March 10, 1973. He notched his milestone coaching victory 32 years to the day after his seminal hit, sealing the sweet, impossible perfection of his moment.

In the years since Price punctuated the university's entry into the world of college baseball with a single swing of his bat, no one has been more synonymous with FIU's stake in the nation's game than Price. "They should name the park after him," an old friend idly mused in the stands.

After graduating in 1974, he returned to the University as a hitting instructor in 1976, and rose to head coach in 1980. Countless players passed through his locker rooms: skinny kids who couldn't get around on a fastball high and tight, long-limbed fire-batters, graceful defensive maestros. Maybe that's why Price, asked who he wished could have been there March 10 when his team beat Quinnipiac University 10-5 for win Number 1,000, could only shake his head.

"There are just so many people," he said, his big, brown eyes moistening.

Everyone knows that Price tutored one of baseball's best, the sublimely talented Mike Lowell of the Boston Red Sox. But there are so many other sparks of lights in Price's family tree: 100 of his boys

Danny Price Game-Winning Milestones

No. 1
Feb. 8, 1980
20-3 vs. Florida Memorial

No. 100
March 21, 1982
23-2 vs. Wesleyan

No. 250
March 13, 1986
11-4 vs. Georgetown

No. 500
April 12, 1992
12-6 vs. Mercer

No. 750
Jan. 29, 1999
10-4 vs. Bethune Cookman

No. 800
Feb. 17, 2000
12-7 vs. South Florida

No. 900
March 26, 2002
7-6 vs. Ohio State

No. 1,000
March 10, 2005
10-5 vs. Quinnipiac

went on to realize every little leaguer's dream, to become professional baseball players, to get paid to play the game.

Surely, they went off to bigger diamonds with that voice of Price's etched into their brains. Price, a father of three and grandfather with the most infectious, gap-toothed smile this side of David Letterman, retains a honeyed hint of his North Carolina boyhood twang. It calls out, a note of folksy encouragement, night after night from his customary perch at the back edge of the third base coaches' box: "Get on tawp of it," he urges the bruiser in blue and gold at home plate.

Baseball, its connoisseurs know, is a testament to patient persistence, and the Danny Prices of the world — the survivors, the winners — often find a sweet spot of emotional containment. Not too high, not too low. Their game unwinds with inscrutable, deliciously slow tension. There is always another game tomorrow.

When it was mercifully all over — when the scoreboard had registered the final out of a jagged, back-and-forth game, and the butt-slapping and the hugging had dissipated along the third base line — Price gathered his boys in left field. He did not say a word about 1,000. But he did tell them this: "We've got a big game... tomorrow." ■

Rick Ames
James Filippi
Alfred Perez
Steve Pettit
Paul Steinert
Gary Truzzolino
Nestor Vallente
Mark Lee
Alex Ojea
Tim Reker
Hernan Adamas
Ken Adderley
Doug Ellis
Eddie Gonzalez
Mark Grater
Doug Messer
Mike Grayson
Nelson Caraballo
Peter Gietzen
Anthony Hicks
Al Panhecco

Milwaukee Brewers
Chicago White Sox
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis Cardinals
Seattle Mariners
New York Yankees
Seattle Mariners
Kansas City Royals
St. Louis Cardinals
New York Yankees
Chicago White Sox
Baltimore Orioles
Pittsburgh Pirates
Los Angeles Dodgers
St. Louis Cardinals
San Francisco Giants
Milwaukee Brewers
Pittsburgh Pirates
New York Yankees
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis Cardinals

*Larry Stanford
Jose Vazquez
Denny Wiseman
1990
*Fausto Tejero
Gilberto Torres
*Paul Andersgn
Kevin Lucero
Gregg Muceroni
Jerry Santos
Chris Sinacori
*Garvin Alston
John Fantauzzi
Efrain Ventura
*Michael Warner
*Eric Alexander
Bryan Garrett
*Greg Keagle
*Tim Kester
Casey Mittauer
Kevin Wehn

New York Yankees
New York Yankees
St. Louis Cardinals

California Angels
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis Cardinals
San Diego Padres
St. Louis Cardinals
Los Angeles Dodgers
Colorado Rockies
San Diego Padres
Chicago White Sox
Atlanta Braves
St. Louis Cardinals
Cleveland Indians
San Diego Padres
Houston Astros
New York Yankees
Colorado Rockies

*Jeff Keith
*Jason Moore
*Jamie Emiliano
*Michael Lowell
Jason McNally
*Juan Munoz
*Dorian Speed
*Paxton Stewart
Manny Vasquez
Marc Rodriguez
*Shawn Stutz
*Evan Thomas
*Danny Alvarez
*Jose Rodriguez
*Francisco Lebron
*Sean Mahoney
*Jimmy Molina
*Steve Kent
Edwin Franco
*Harold Eckert
Raul Garcia
Jeff Rodriguez

San Francisco Giants
Independent
Colorado Rockies
New York Yankees
Colorado Rockies
St. Louis Cardinals
Chicago Cubs
Toronto Blue Jays
Tampa Bay Devil Rays
New York Mets
Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Philadelphia Phillies
Cleveland Indians
St. Louis Cardinals
New York Mets
Tampa Bay Devil Rays
St. Louis Cardinals
Seattle Mariners
Kansas City Royals
Los Angeles Dodgers
Kansas City Royals
Atlanta Braves

2000
*Gilbert Landestoy
*Eric Miller
*Mike Quintana
*Willy Collazo
*Matt Huntingford
Barry Paulk
Raul Pujol
Tino Burgos
*Tommy Duenas
*Brad Eldred
*Bernard Gonzalez
*Ozzie Lugo
*Josh Banks
*Ricardo Nanita
*Arthur Santos
*Fernando Alvarez
*Derek DeCarlo
*Andrew Edwards
*Mark Worrell
Anaheim Angels
Montreal Expos
Cleveland Indians
Anaheim Angels
San Francisco Giants
New York Mets
Independent
Independent
Anaheim Angels
Pittsburgh Pirates
Philadelphia Phillies
Anaheim Angels
Toronto Blue Jays
Chicago White Sox
Boston Red Sox
Chicago White Sox
Milwaukee Brewers
New York Yankees
St. Louis Cardinals

FIU to Face University of Miami



in 2006 & 2007 at the Orange Bowl

Florida International University's Golden Panthers will face the nationally recognized University of Miami Hurricanes for football games at the Orange Bowl in each of the next two years.

The games will be played on October 14, 2006 and October 6, 2007. They will be the first gridiron meetings between the two Miami-based schools, which are located only 11 miles apart.

"From every measurable standard, these games will have a tremendous impact on our program," said FIU athletic director Rick Mello. "Recruiting, ticket sales, media exposure, alumni outreach, marketing and above all, exposure in our own community will be

significantly enhanced by playing the five-time national champion in our hometown."

Mello expressed appreciation to UM Athletic Director Paul Dee and Head Coach Larry Coker. "From this day forward, our University will make every effort to ensure these two games are a win-win situation for both programs," Mello said.

"We're very pleased to play Florida International University," Dee said. "As we looked around the country for Division I-A teams, it became clear that Florida International University was a very viable candidate as an opponent."

Now that UM will play 12 games every year, Dee said, the university wants to play seven home games, if possible, to increase revenue and fan support.

UM has played Florida A&M many times over the years and this year played the University of South Florida. Games against Central Florida are scheduled between 2008-2010. "All of these schools play really good football. It's important that we all play locally," Dee said.

FIU football coach Don Strock called the UM match-ups "a great opportunity for a young program" and thanked Dee and Coker for giving FIU this opportunity.

"Being that we are neighboring schools," Strock said, "I'm sure this will be a draw for a lot of fans from both universities and hopefully, become the start of a rivalry that will continue for many more years to come."

The Orange Bowl games will be good for both schools, added Coker.

"It'll be a special game and a fun game," he said. "I think our fans like to see local teams, since they know the players, and the players will know each other, too. FIU will give our fans a reason to come, and it will draw FIU fans, too." ■

2006 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 at South Florida

Sept. 16 BOWLING GREEN

Sept. 23 at Maryland

Sept. 30 ARKANSAS STATE

Oct. 7 at Middle Tennessee

Oct. 14 at Miami (Orange Bowl)

Oct. 21 at North Texas

Oct. 28 at Alabama

Nov. 4 LOUISIANA-MONROE

Nov. 11 Bye

Nov. 18 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

Nov. 25 at Florida Atlantic

Dec. 2 TROY

ALUMNI

Bill Draughon
Associate Vice President Alumni Relations



Message from FIU Alumni Relations Associate VP

Dear Alumni,

This is an exciting time to be a Golden Panther. Every day brings news of another Florida International University triumph, all of which bring honor to the community we serve.

As the good news of our accomplishments reaches the alumni, we are increasingly engaging the Golden Panther community.

For the first time in the university's history, we now have more than 5,000 paid memberships. Lifetime memberships in the Alumni Association have increased 75 percent in the past two years. I am particularly pleased to see the growth of our Student Alumni Association where membership grew a remarkable 172 percent, making it the largest student group on campus. Through the SAA we are building traditions and a base of loyal supporters who will carry the FIU banner when they graduate.

In 2005, more than 160 golfers tried their luck at the Alumni Association Golf Tournament, and 35 boats entered the Fishing Tournament. While networking and visiting with old friends (as well as making some new ones), sponsors and attendees raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships through their participation. Additionally in late July, nearly 200 members of the Alumni Association came together for a successful annual meeting. And in September, the Alumni Association joined forces with FIU Career Services to stage the Alumni Career Fair with 50 employers from around the nation. More than 400 alumni were able to meet with top employers such as Burger King Corp., Carnival Cruise Lines, IBM Corp. and American Express.

Right around the corner is the Alumni Association Torch Awards Gala on Feb. 11 when we will pay tribute to our outstanding graduates. The event, originally scheduled for October 2005, was postponed because of Hurricane Wilma. We are pleased that the new date is allowing for expansion of the Torch Award Gala, so tickets are now available for the previously sold-out event. Anyone interested in reserving individual tickets or a table should contact Randi West, the assistant director of outreach and special events for Alumni Relations, at 305-348-1009.

We are having a great time building the Golden Panther community. I hope you will join us and discover all the benefits of membership. I look forward to meeting you at a future event.

In the spirit of Blue and Gold,

Bill Draughon
Associate Vice President
Alumni Relations

From left: Jose Perez de Corcho, Michael Mendez, Estelle Vera, Samuel Jackson, Gayle Bainbridge, Raymond del Rey, Ty Javellana, FIU President Modesto Maidique, Alumni Relations Associate Vice President Bill Draughon, George Brackett, Lisa Peniche, Will Trueba, Jose Diaz and Susan Webster.



Alumni pledge to build FIU family in 2005-'06

By Adriana Pereira

Ty Javellana '88, MST '98 set the tone for his second term as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors at the recent annual meeting by vowing to "Build the FIU family."

More than 200 alumni came together at the event in May with administration, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university to celebrate yet another successful year. In the spirit of blue and gold, University House was adorned with yellow roses and blue tablecloths for the cocktail reception. The art housed in the corridors and parlor served as backdrop to the vibrant crowd reuniting with old friends and memories.

To emphasize his theme, Javellana pointed out that alumni sit at the center of the FIU family, surrounded by students, faculty, donors and others. "It is our role to ensure that the whole family feels connected to us and manifests pride in FIU," said Javellana.

He also praised the efforts of his fellow alumni and urged them to continue their involvement. "I look forward to the excitement of this next year, to working with you, and to celebrating our success as the inevitable reward of our shared commitment," he said. "A strong alumni association can make for a stronger university." Among Javellana's other goals for the coming year is maintaining clear communication between the alumni and university administration. He also wants to gear the association's efforts toward students and teaching by creating more scholarship opportunities.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, opened the evening with news of a record-breaking year as the Alumni Association reached the 5,000-member mark and the Student Alumni Association became the largest student group on campus with a 172 percent increase in membership.

ALUMNI

Alumni Relations AVP Bill Draughon and Association President Ty Javellana '88, MST '98 recognize outgoing member and FIU professor Irma Becerra-Fernandez Ph.D. '94.



FIU President Modesto A. Maidique referred to the success of FIU's alumni as "clearest proof of our academic excellence."

"With the terrific leadership of our Alumni Relations team, I know FIU's alumni base is growing stronger every day," Maidique said. "As an institution, we are committed to reaching out and fostering lifelong relationships with our graduates."

Maidique and Javellana paid tribute to two outgoing members of the board. Sergio Abreu '94 and FIU professor Irma Becerra-Fernandez '94, have given almost 20 years of combined service to the Alumni Association.

Abreu is the manager of Government and Community Relations for TECO People's Gas and Becerra-Fernandez is a graduate professor in the College of Business Administration. She is also the founder and director of the Knowledge Management Lab. Last year, the Alumni Association honored her with a prestigious Torch Award for Outstanding Faculty.

"The board is positioned at a breakthrough because what we can accomplish now is a lot greater than what we were able to do a few years ago," said Becerra-Fernandez. "It's been interesting for me to be able to witness that change and maturity."

During her time on the board, she also took the initiative to begin the FIU Book Awards, presented each year to outstanding high school students. "What a wonderful opportunity to highlight FIU and its progress. People don't realize the transformation that FIU has gone through and this program is a great opportunity to show that to the community," said Becerra-Fernandez.

Draughon said the meeting served as testimony to the ongoing dedication and support of the alumni. "Because of their loyalty," he said, "we continue to succeed in everything we do, not only as an association, but as a university." ■

Presenting Sponsor Ramon Ferran '79 of TotalBank, left, and Alumni Relations Associate Vice President Bill Draughon present a scholarship check to SGA President Alex Prado, center.



Fishing tournament benefits student scholarship fund

Dozens of alumni, their family members and friends enjoyed a great day of fishing, food and prizes, all for the benefit of FIU students at the Annual Alumni Association Fishing Tournament in June. The South Beach event raises money for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and this year, two scholarships were awarded during the awards presentation.

The first recipient was Christine Denton, a senior majoring in psychology who intends to complete her master's degree in health service administration at FIU after her Spring 2006 graduation. She is a member of the Student Government Association and is a second-generation alumna. When Denton was a child, her mother would take her along to her classes at FIU. This early exposure to the University helped Denton feel at home at FIU.

The second scholarship recipient was Alex Prado, a junior majoring in international business and president of the Student Government Association. After Prado was born in South Miami Hospital, his family moved north and he was raised in Fairfax, Virginia. He often came to Miami as a young child to visit family. When his older sister began attending FIU, it was her enthusiasm and love for the University, which helped to influence Alex in his formative years. His visits to the campus and informal tours given by his sister helped Alex make an easy decision on what college to attend. He says FIU's ranking as a top College of Business helped to seal the deal.

When lines were in around 3 p.m., Weighmasters Richard Brinn and Clayton Williams from the Department of Marine Biology helped to create a truly professional competition at the weigh station. The fishing

Alumni Association Board member Jose M. Diaz, his brother-in-law Luis Perez, Alumni Association President-elect Will Trueba and Paul Baumann of Swiss Chalet Fine Foods.



tournament also featured a raffle and plenty of prizes, which were handed out with the assistance of Miss FIU, Megan Alonge.

FIU alumnus Ramon Ferran '79 represented TotalBank, presenting sponsor of the tournament. The Pride Presenting Sponsor was Preferred Care Partners/PSO Health Plans; The Gold Sponsor, WIND- Neo-Vertika; and Blue Sponsors included Bofill & Vilar Attorney's at Law, CyberAngler, Financial Insurance Brokers Incorporated, Marine Max, Solo Printing Incorporated, Star Imaging, Thomas Ruff Interiors, Southern Wines and Spirits, Tigress Outrigging and Gear, and Angostura Rum.

Artist J. Mesa created the colorful dolphin artwork used to grace the back of the tournament tee shirts and tournament

2005 Alumni Association Fishing Tournament Winners

- **Most Aggregate Dolphin Weight:** Jim Borelli, \$2,500 Boat: Tai Pan II
- **Largest Dolphin:** Eddie Pino, \$1,000 Boat: Manic C's
- **2nd Place Most Aggregate Dolphin Weight:** James Rivera, \$500 Boat: FreeJumper
- **2nd Place Largest Dolphin:** Jim Borrelli, \$250 Boat: Tai Pan II
- **First Place Largest Junior:** Travis West \$100 gift certificate to Dave and Busters
- **Second Place Junior:** Mandy Camejo, Jr. \$50 gift certificate to Dave and Busters
- **First Fish on Board:** Howard Blitz \$100 gift certificate to Neomi's Restaurant, Trump Sonesta Resort
- **Largest Ladies:** Christina Ledo, \$500 Team Marine Max
- **Largest Kingfish:** Pamela Mullins, \$250 Boat: Pick Up Line

Feel the Pride!

Former Alumni Association President Gayle Bainbridge '75 socializes at the fishing tournament with Alumni Relations Associate VP Bill Draughon and tournament co-chair Jose Perez de Corcho '93.



Team Marine Max heads out for a day of fishing.



plaques. And artist Gary Traczyk generously donated the stunning kinetic sculpture given to the top-place winner.

Co-chairs for this year's tournament were Jose Pérez de Corcho '93 and José Bofill '90, and the committee included Gabriel Albelo '93, Joe Caruncho '81, Jose M. Díaz '86, Ramon Ferran '79, Ray del Rey '97, Estelle Vera '88, Dean Joseph West of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Randi N. West. Tournament Director was Patrick Calvo. ■

Golf Tournament expands in sponsors and participants

This year's Alumni Association Annual Golf Tournament at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa was the biggest ever, drawing more than 160 golfers, 40 percent more than last year. The tournament's rising success over the years, with more participation and more sponsors, directly benefits the FIU community. It is a key event for raising money for student scholarships awarded by the Alumni Association.

The awards luncheon at this year's tournament began with the presentation of two scholarships to students Aurelio (P.J.) Rivera and Carolina Benitez. The golfers enthusiastically applauded the two students. The association held a live auction and more than 30 raffle prizes were given away as part of the festivities.

A host of individuals worked hard to bring about the success of the May 2005 tournament. Co-chairs for the event were William R. Trueba '88, president-elect of the Alumni Association, and Jose M. Díaz '86, of the Alumni Association Board of Directors; Alumni Association President Ty Javellana '88 MST '98, Vice President for University

Advancement Howard Lipman, Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations Bill Draughon, Alumni Relations Assistant Director of Outreach and Special Events Randi N. West and committee members Stewart Appelrouth MS '80, Joe Caruncho '81, Joe Gill, Jack Gonzalez '98, Michael Mendez '03, Dave Pezzino and Justo Pozo '80 of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Gold Sponsors for this year's tournament included Baptist Health South Florida, Centex Construction, Preferred Care Partners/PSO Health Plan, Stanford Financial Group, and Turner. Panther Sponsors included BCM Higher Education Management Group, Carlton Fields, P.A., Fox Pan Am Sports, Gables Financial Group, Nextream, and the FIU Bookstore.

Support for the Tournament by Corporate Foursomes included Appelrouth, Farah and Company, Beach Bank, Berman, Kean and Riguera, P.A., Colonial Bank, Commercebank, Gibraltar Bank, Mallah Furman, Ryder Systems, Thomas Ruff Interiors, TraveLeaders, and Urosouth.

If you are interested in sponsoring or participating in the 2006 FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament as we start planning for next year, please contact Randi N. West, CMP, in the Alumni Relations office at westr@fiu.edu or at 305-348-1009. ■

Foundation gift ends student scholarships

The C.A.M.P. 4 Justice Foundation, an organization created to honor the memory of the four Brothers to the Rescue volunteers who died when their planes were shot down by Cuban fighter jets in 1996, has made a \$100,000 donation to establish and endow an Alumni Association scholarship program for FIU students.

From left are Association President Ty Javellana, Carlos Costa's mother Mirta Costa, his nephew Michael R. Mendez '03, his father Osvaldo Costa and Alumni Relations Associate Vice President Bill Draughon.



The C.A.M.P. 4 Justice Foundation Human Rights Scholarship program will support full-time, degree-seeking students who are committed to furthering the cause of human rights. The scholarship memorializes Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Pena and Pablo Morales, who sacrificed their lives in defense of that cause. C.A.M.P. is an acronym standing for the first names of the victims.

"This is a milestone in the history of the FIU Alumni Association," said Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations Bill Draughon. "These scholarships will have a lasting impact on the lives of our students and serve as a fitting legacy to Carlos, Armando, Mario and Pablo."

Under current guidelines, the gift will qualify for \$50,000 in state matching funds. ■

Alumnus earns full doctoral fellowship



Alumnus Gustavo de las Casas '00, MA '03 has won a full doctoral fellowship to Columbia University's political science program, ranked No. 1 in the world. The program earned its ranking in a study by the London School of Economics published in Political Studies Review.

At FIU, de las Casas earned a bachelor's degree in international business and a master's in international relations, where he worked with professors Félix Martín and Paul Kowert. Among the achievements that captured Columbia's attention, the alumnus graduated from the master's program with a perfect 4.00 grade point average, and presented a paper on interstate bargaining at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago.

ALUMNI

Dr. Jeffrey Horstmyer and his wife FIU instructor Tillie Fox, third and fourth from left, hosted Dinner With 12 Strangers at Joe's Stone Crab.



He also contributed a chapter about Spanish investment in the Latin American energy sector in the upcoming book "Latin America's Quest for Globalization: the Role of Spanish Firms," edited by Professor Martín and FIU alumnus Pablo Toral Cueto MA '97, Ph.D. '03. De las Casas' research focuses on bargaining dynamics among different actors, or as he explains, "what it takes — and doesn't take — for states, firms, or people to accept deals." In addition, de las Casas studies Mandarin and has an interest in Chinese foreign policy.

The Columbia program is among the most exclusive in the country, accepting only 18 of the more than 600 students who apply each year.

"The acceptance of Gustavo de las Casas into the Columbia University Ph.D. program is a wonderful achievement for him and for our department," said International Relations chairman John Clark. "This achievement is a recognition for Gustavo's 'intellectual' potential and the hard work that he put into his master's work with us. It also reflects the diligence and careful mentoring of his faculty advisors, Professors Felix Martin and Paul Kowert." ■

Dinner With 12 Strangers offers night of networking

By Armando Gonzalez '05

Wearing their most elegant outfits and sitting in front of the table with paper napkins hanging on their chests, a group of FIU premed students enjoyed a juicy selection of crab, shrimp and lobster at Joe's Stone Crabs. However, the highlight of the evening was not just the delicious seafood, but also the opportunity to meet and share time with a group of professionals in the medical field.

The FIU cheerleaders performed impressive feats at the Trail of Torch before an audience of more than 500 students who turned out for the Student Alumni Association event.



Organized by the FIU Student Alumni Association, "Dinner with 12 Strangers" brings professionals and alumni together and gives students a chance to get to know experienced leaders in their field of study. The concept behind the Dinner with 12 Strangers program is to build and strengthen the FIU community by creating an informal environment for FIU alumni to make connections.

Jeffrey Horstmyer, M.D., chief of neurology at Mercy Hospital and a key supporter of FIU's medical school initiative, and his wife, longtime FIU professor Tilly Fox, hosted the March dinner and were joined by representatives from various pharmaceutical companies, along with neurologist Rachel Lopez and Dr. Javier Anton.

"This is an opportunity for students to pick the brains of people who have been through it all and get a true perspective," said Horstmyer, a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, who has hosted the event twice before.

Amid the rumbling buzz inside the crowded restaurant, the group of 12 strangers acquainted themselves with each other. Jaciel Piloto, a biology and international relations student, learned how the medical and the business aspects of the field affect each other. He was grateful that the professionals took time to mentor the younger generations.

"It's important that alumni give back to FIU," he said.

But it was not only business at the restaurant. The engaging and charismatic Fox, a childhood friend of President Maidique, delighted all with her stories. She laughed as she remembered when, at his 16th birthday party, Maidique danced the whole night long and proclaimed he wanted to be a professional dancer.

A founding faculty member of the university, Fox has witnessed FIU's dynamic growth and is excited at the prospect of having a public medical school to alleviate the shortage of doctors and medical professionals in South Florida.

For the students, it was a face-to-face encounter with the real world and a tremendous networking opportunity. For the professionals, it was a way to give back to the university and help others achieve their goals — all the while perpetuating FIU's tradition of success. ■

Trail of Torch event wins highest honor

The Trail of the Torch, the jubilant Student Alumni Association event that kicks off the school year, has captured a Gold Medal for Excellence in student programs from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The Council, or CASE as it is known, announced the award last April as part of its 2005 Circle of Excellence awards given each year in a variety of categories related to university events, publications and programs for alumni and donor relations. CASE, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the largest nonprofit education association with memberships representing more than 3,000 colleges, universities and independent schools around the world. The annual awards are both highly competitive and prestigious.

The Trail of the Torch was organized by the Student Alumni Association (SAA) with funding assistance from the Student Government Association, to welcome incoming freshmen. It came about when the SAA learned that FIU's icon, the Torch of

Feel the Pride!

Jennifer Castillo, SAA president; Jessica Franchi-Alfaro, 2004 Homecoming Queen; Bryon Tompkins; Ray Morgan, 2004 Homecoming King and Alex Prado, SGA president, rally around the Torch.



FIU students had a great time at the 2005 Trail of the Torch party.



FIU student Bryon Tompkins, Gonzalo Acevedo '91, Ana Maria Polo '84, Carlos Becerra '98, MPA '01 and student Elizabeth Procut display their Panther Pride.



Knowledge, Service and Understanding, which is traditionally lit for school's opening day, would remain extinguished because of budget cuts. With the guidance of Alumni Relations Assistant Director Sean Kramer '95, the students worked to ensure that the torch would be lit for at least one week every year, during FIU's Welcome Week in the fall semester. The Trail of the Torch is now an annual tradition.

More than 500 students gathered at the University Park campus for the 2005 Trail of the Torch. It began with a lighting of the processional torch at "The Cage," FIU's football stadium. Students then wound their way across campus on a two-mile trek through residence halls, to buildings and finally to the center of campus where the Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding stands. The entire time, students chanted and sang FIU cheers. There was a palpable unity in the air and a collective roar came from the crowd as the Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding was lit by students. The event ended with a festive party.

"I am really proud of the students and excited Trail of the Torch got the recognition it deserved," Kramer said. "It was a great program and it was a lot of hard work put in by the Student Alumni Association."

A total of 70 student volunteers worked together on Trail of the Torch — 20 in the pre-event planning and 50 more on the day of the event. A student-run marketing sub-committee coordinated all campus publicity, promotion and presentations. The budget sub-committee was responsible for the development, fund-raising and management of the overall budget for the program. The logistics sub-committee handled all of the on-campus issues, including event

management, volunteer recruitment, traffic management and health and safety.

"The results were more than we could have hoped for," Kramer said. "Turnout was unbelievable and everyone had an amazing time." ■

Arts & Sciences alumni share career experiences

Three prominent alumni from the College of Arts and Sciences took part in a special panel discussion for students in April to discuss their career experiences. The panel, "Find Out What a Degree in Arts & Sciences Can Do For You," included attorney Ana Maria Polo '84, banker Gonzalo Acevedo '91 and Carlos Becerra '98, MPA '01, executive assistant to Frank Bolaños '78, a member of the Miami-Dade County Public School Board.

Polo, a 2004 Torch Award winner, discussed how her Arts & Sciences degree afforded her the opportunity to attend law school and launch a successful career. She is the well-known star of a Telemundo television show which centers around the practice of law, and brings real-life issues and solutions into the homes of viewers.

Acevedo, vice president of The Private Bank of America, focused on the relationship between private industry and education — one cannot exist without the other — and the importance of this enduring relationship. Acevedo serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Board of Advisors.

Becerra, former president of FIU's Student Government Association and a member of the Dean's Board of Advisors, addressed how Arts & Sciences degrees can be the keystone in successful civil service careers. ■

Panther Perks



Leader Frames

PANTHER PARTNER: As a recent graduate or a current alumnus you have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the many services offered through your Alumni Association. One of these services is a custom diploma or photo frame for your FIU diploma and photos. Leader Frames is a leader in the framing industry and provides all its clients with the highest quality products and services at affordable prices, including reliable life-long service that guarantees customer satisfaction.

PANTHER PERK: The frames are exquisite and will showcase and preserve your diploma or photos for years to come. These frames are exclusive to the Alumni Association and not available through the bookstore. A portion of each purchase is donated back to the FIU Alumni Association to support your association funding, services and programs.

HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE: If you are a current member of the FIU Alumni Association:

- Visit the Leader Frame table during the convocation periods;
- Order on-line at www.degreeframes.com or www.fiu.edu/alumni;
- Telephone 1-800-884-3199 or fax 1-416-497-7518 and place your order;
- Or complete the flyer that comes with your diploma and mail it in.

ALUMNI

CLASS NOTES

1970s

Tony Argiz '74 of Morrison, Brown, Argiz and Farra, a Miami-based accounting and management consulting firm, was a speaker at the annual National Automobile Dealers Association Convention & Exposition held in New Orleans last January. Argiz is the co-author of the American Institute of Public Accountants Auto Dealership Engagement Manual and a guest columnist with the monthly trade publication "Professional Auto News."

Kathleen A. Cegles '76 relocated from San Angelo, Texas, where she was department head and physical therapy program director at Angelo State University since 1999. She has accepted a position at the Medical University of South Carolina as Physical Therapy Educational Program director in the College of Health Professions.

Adolfo Henriques '76, a member of the FIU Board of Trustees, is the new president of Florida East Coast Industries.

Carlos L. Fernandez, Esq. '78 was recently appointed as a general magistrate in the Family Division of the Circuit Courts for the 11th Judicial Court in Miami-Dade County.

1980s

Eileen R. Kott '80 was hired as a math teacher at Miami Southridge Senior High School after graduation. During her 23 years there she was voted Teacher of the Year in 1988 and achieved National Board Certification in 2001. She participated in NASA's Educational Work Shop for Math, Science, and Technology in the Space Telescope Institute at Johns Hopkins University. She moved to Robert Morgan Education Center as the math department chairperson last year.

Ronald Schechter '80 graduated from the Executive MBA Program at New Jersey Institute of Technology in May of 2004.

Stephen Waters III '82 recently accepted the position of Career Development Supervisor at LINQ Financial Group, a General Agency for Guardian Life Insurance Company.



Dorothy S. Stahr '82 a ceramist and mixed media artist, shows room-sized installations in functional fine art dinnerware and sculpture. Her first production was Transformations Dinner Theater, featuring Raven creation

stories, with two summer seasons of performances in Sitka, Alaska, and a tour of Japan in 1998. She holds a B.S. in design.

Cynthia J. Dienstag, Esq. '83 is the principal of Cynthia J. Dienstag, P.A., focusing on marital and family law litigation. She is a certified family court mediator and was appointed as a mentor by the Chief Judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit. Her memberships include: Honorary Society of First Family Law Inns of Court, Dade County Bar Family Law Section, Florida Bar, Support Issues and General Masters Committees. She recently opened an office in Weston.



Alan J. Schuh '85 is a well-known financial educator in South Florida. For more than 19 years, Mr. Schuh has been teaching investors over age 60 how to preserve their assets, increase their income as much as 30 percent and

reduce income taxes up to 50 percent. He is one of 8,000 Certified Senior Advisors in the U.S. To become a CSA, he successfully completed a 20-part program proving his expertise in many areas including senior housing, health issues, and senior finances.

Lynn W. Sexton '88 was recently promoted to Chief Financial Officer of the Dade County Federal Credit Union in Miami. She has been working at Dade County Federal since June 2003. She oversees a \$400 million budget for the credit union and supervises accounting and finance departments.

Peter Dubowsky, Esq. '89 has been practicing law in Las Vegas, Nevada, since 1993. Last year he established the Dubowsky Law Office focusing on judgment enforcement, collections and commercial litigation. Dubowsky is an adjunct faculty member at the Community College of Southern Nevada and a Small Claims Judge for the Las Vegas Township. He lives in Las Vegas with his wife, Donna, and their children, Moriah, Eliza and Asher.



William W. Gardner, Jr. '89 recently became the Democratic County Executive Committeeman representing precinct 590, an elected office in the city of Miami. He is also an image consultant and has been a Miami-Dade citizen for the past 26 years.

Dr. Jason S. Hamilton '89, MS '92 defended his dissertation "Clinical Psychologist Treatment of Homeless Adolescents in Jamaica" in 2003. He is the recipient of the Carlin Foundation Humanitarian Award from the Coconut Grove Playhouse. He became the faculty advisor to his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, at FIU and coordinated a community service project with the Caribbean Students Association and the undergraduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi to benefit a young Jamaican boy diagnosed with bone cancer.

1990s

Howard Mark Shore '91, partner of Elite Advisory Group, Inc., has joined The College of Business Alumni Circle, a group of senior-level alumni who work closely with CBA administrators and deans to develop programs and initiatives to achieve the College's goals.



Pedro De Armas '92, MAcc. '00 has recently become a named partner of the CPA firm now known as Verdeja, Gravier & De Armas, one of the largest Hispanic CPA firms in Florida. With more than 10 years of public and private accounting experience, de Armas now oversees the audit team and maintains the firm's quality standards in each engagement.

Rick Escudero '92, MAcc. '93, executive vice president and CFO of Kramer Laboratories, Inc., has joined The College of Business Alumni Circle, a group of senior-level alumni who work closely with CBA administrators and deans to develop programs and initiatives to achieve the College's goals.

Ted A. Berger, D.C. '94 attended chiropractic college in Marietta, GA, and currently has an office located in Broward County.

Julian Acosta '95, formerly known as Jose Antonio Lopez, was seen on ABC's Spring series, "The Job." He attended the highly regarded Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. He was

KEYLA HECHAVARRIA-GONZALEZ '98

Alumna gives thanks to FIU for giving the opportunity to succeed

Editor's Note: This alumni profile comes to you in the form of a letter, a bit different than others typically featured. We think you will understand why. Keyla Hechavarria-Gonzalez '98 recently sent this powerful and poignant letter about her life and her FIU education to the College of Education. It made its way to Alumni Relations and eventually into the hands of the individuals who are charged with advancing our university. She might be surprised to know

her letter hangs in more than one office at FIU. We thought about writing a more traditional story about Keyla's journey; but the truth is, no one can tell Keyla's story better than she can. So we are bringing you her letter, just as she wrote it, because it has touched so many of us. We know Keyla speaks for many of our alumni whose lives were transformed by Florida International University. She is an inspiration to us all.



Feel the Pride!

chosen to work with the Guthrie Theatre where he performed in several productions, including "Kiss of the Spider Woman," "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Cloud Tectonics." He also appeared in "Piano" at IACD/ART in Cambridge, written and co-directed by Anna Deavere Smith.

Dawn Plummer '95 performed at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle from 1998 to 2001 and Intiman Theatre in Seattle from 2001-2003.



Jeanie Kiamm Wilby '95 teaches special education kindergarten at Freedom Elementary in DeLand. She has written a book, "Decorative American Pottery & Whiteware," published through Collector Books that features 287 color pages of pottery common in American homes in the early part of the 20th century. The book is an identification and value guide for decorative American pottery and shows readers how to identify and care for their pieces.

Fabio Estrada '97 has joined Total Bank as assistant vice president/corporate lender at the bank's Coral Way branch.

Adriana Gaviria '97 has been playing Conchita in Regional Theatre Companies of Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz. She has numerous other New York theater credits. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at FIU, she earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts at the Yale School of Drama.



Lilly Bernal Pino '97 received her master's degree from New York University in 2000. She has performed at the Mark Taper Forum in LA, the Intar Theatre in New York, and the National Theatre in 2000. She is married to television and theatre actor **Danny Pino '96**.

Barbara Safille '97 currently is finishing a Ph.D. at FIU.

Sonja P. Permenter '98 serves as an assistant principal at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. She formerly taught students at Jan Mann Opportunity School and Miami Carol City Senior High School. She continued her education at Nova Southeastern where she received both a master's degree in varying exceptionalities and an EDS in educational leadership.



Justin R. Roult '98 is an independent filmmaker and recently celebrated the pre-production of a full-length feature he is filming in Miami with one name talent.



Sara L. Lewis '99, MS'01 was awarded "Manager of the Fourth Quarter 2004" and "Manager of the Year 2004" by Wyndham Miami Airport Hotel

France-Luce Benson '99 has written a play, "Ascencion," which was recently represented in "Going to the River," a celebration of African-American Women Playwrights, performed at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York.

Charles J. McRay '99 was named Miami-Dade County's "top corrections officer" and he oversees the nation's sixth largest jail system.

2000s



Joan D. Casanova '00 and Alexander González were married on New Year's Day 2005 in University Christian Church.



Luis A. Gazitua '00 has been appointed senior advisor in the Office of Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez. Gazitua was the founding partner of the law firm of Gazitua Letelier, P.A., specializing in offshore asset protection and business development. He previously worked for Robert Josefsberg of Podhurst Orseck, P.A. where he was involved in terrorist litigation and international law. A resident of South Miami, Gazitua received a law degree from St. Thomas University.



Allan S. Holder '00 has joined Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants & Consultants, LLP as a staff accountant in the Tax Services Department. Holder obtained his

master's degree in accounting from FIU and his undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of the West Indies. Formerly with ARCAccounting & Business Solutions, Inc. as a senior accountant, Mr. Holder has experience in tax compliance, accounting, and Sarbanes Oxley internal controls documentation and testing.

Melissa Viana '01 currently works as a media buyer for Planning Group International, an interactive advertising agency.

Nelson Castillo '02 president of Castle Financial Group, Inc. and current mentor for the College of Business Administration, appeared for three weeks on AM radio station The Word 1550 AM to discuss aspects of the mortgage business.

Miguel A. Horvath, Jr. '02 financial advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, has joined The College of Business Alumni Circle, a group of senior-level alumni who work closely with CBA administrators and deans to develop programs and initiatives to achieve the College's goals.

Raquel Schwarz '02 was promoted to sales manager in the Hispanic market for Molson Coors Brewing Company.

Luz U. Weinberg '02 was recently elected to the Aventura City Commission. She was sworn in at a ceremony in City Hall on March 17.

Lance Benson '03 office broker for Cushman & Wakefield, has joined The College of Business Alumni Circle, a group of senior-level alumni who work closely with CBA administrators and deans to develop programs and initiatives to achieve the College's goals.

Ivan Lopez '03 played Austin in "The Big Funk" for The Madman Experiment in June 2004. He is currently working on his master's in fine arts at the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver where he has performed in "Much Ado About Nothing."



Yamil Piedra '03 is an actor and appeared on ABC's "Boston Legal" on February 13, 2005. He also appears in the 2005 romantic comedy film "Fingers Walking."

To whom it may concern in the Florida International University College of Education,

My name is Keyla Hechavarria-Gonzalez and I graduated from FIU back in April of 1998. I am writing this overdue thank you letter once again to everyone that assisted me in realizing my dream of becoming the elementary educator I am today.

It has been an unbelievable journey for me, but one that I am so glad for. I want to thank all of my professors at the University and so many other countless individuals who, without even knowing it, helped me succeed in life. Also, I want to especially

thank the Ten Percent Undergraduate Admission Committee even more, because without them, I would not be where I am today, a successful teacher.

I want to tell you a bit of my journey in order for you to see how amazing it is. First of all, I was a young wife and mother when I started FIU. I lived in a Hialeah Housing Authority apartment. Everything around me pointed to no way out, but I was determined to succeed. I still recall the day I received my first letter from FIU stating that I was not admitted to the College of Education basically due to my low SAT scores. However, I did not

give up and I found out about the Ten Percent Waiver Admission Committee. I knew that this way was the only way in and I was determined to get accepted. I did get accepted a year later, and I want you to know that it was not a mistake. That decision changed the direction of my life completely.

I have to admit there were times that were so challenging and seemingly overwhelming that I thought about giving up. Nevertheless, I had to be the one to break the cycle in my family of not entering and completing college. I am the only member of my family to earn a college degree and I will guide and challenge my children and students to make the

best of their opportunities to become successful individuals, further their education and strive to become lifelong learners themselves.

Before closing this letter I want you to know that I was selected 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year for John G. Dupuis Elementary School. This is just one reward of countless others I receive on a daily basis as a teacher. Thank you so much for your acceptance and just remember that there are many others like me who just need an opportunity.

Eternally grateful,

Mrs. Keyla Hechavarria-Gonzalez '98

donor profile

Sergio Pino, Pino Center Director Alan Carsrud, FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, Eugenio Pino, Gov. Jeb Bush and Carlos Pino at the naming dedication of the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center.



Pino Family

Family gift supports future generations of entrepreneurs

Eager to encourage future businesspeople — and to pay tribute to the father who guided them to success — South Florida businessmen Sergio and Carlos Pino has made a lead gift to FIU's small business incubator.

The renamed Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center bears the moniker of the 75-year-old family patriarch who in 1969, with his wife Helia and two young sons, boarded a Freedom Flight to the United States from Cuba. In his homeland, Eugenio Pino, a former grocery store owner, had seen his property confiscated and was made to harvest sugarcane. Once in this country, his natural entrepreneurship gave him the determination and savvy to propel quickly from a plumber's assistant to the proprietor of a plumbing company.

Son Sergio, who throughout his teens worked in a variety of jobs, observed his father's drive and at age 20 knew enough to work alongside his father and start a lucrative, still-thriving plumbing wholesale business.

"My father gave me the tools to succeed in business and inspired me to fulfill my potential," said Sergio Pino.

The two sons today are the epitome of successful CEOs and community leaders. Sergio went on to found and head Century Homebuilders, one of the largest builders of residential property in Miami-Dade County. Son Carlos leads the company founded by his father, Century Plumbing Wholesale, the largest plumbing wholesaler in Florida, with sales of more than \$20 million a year.



Sergio Pino

"Eugenio, Sergio and Carlos are a living example of what we hope this center will help entrepreneurs accomplish."

—
President Modesto A. Maidique

"Eugenio, Sergio and Carlos are a living example of what we hope this center will help entrepreneurs accomplish," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, himself a professor of management, the co-founder of a Fortune 1000 company and a former partner at Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, a venture capital firm.

The naming of the center in Eugenio's name was kept secret from the family patriarch until the ceremony. The naming both surprised and delighted him. "Everyone who comes to this country can accomplish what they want to accomplish," said Eugenio. "This is a great country and I truly believe in the American dream."

The Pino \$2 million gift qualifies for an equal share of state matching funds, bringing the total value of the contribution to \$4 million. A seed grant from the Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City positioned the center, founded in 2003, to become a recognized international leader in entrepreneurship research, education and outreach.

The Pino gift to FIU will have an impact on students majoring in a variety of disciplines, as well as on local individuals seeking assistance to start or expand a business venture.

Alan Carsrud, executive director of the center, said the Pino gift is a positive sign of the health and vitality of the entrepreneurial community in South Florida.

"Here we have successful entrepreneurs leading the way for the next generation," Carsrud said. "It is our hope that others will feel motivated and come forward to contribute to this dynamic entrepreneurial environment."

The center's four institutes focus on research, community innovation, technology innovation and family business. Within the community, the Pino Center helps family firms by providing expert advice, making available networking and learning opportunities and fostering the growth of new ventures that will make South Florida companies more competitive in the marketplace. In addition, it provides educational opportunities for FIU students and researchers specializing in the fast growing field of entrepreneurship.

"Nothing I can build, no investment I can make, will last longer than the legacy of this budding entrepreneurship center," Pino said.

A member of FIU's Board of Trustees, Sergio Pino has earned the respect of many for both his achievements in the business world and his support of various charities. Gov. Jeb Bush, who has known the Pino family for years, spoke at the on-campus reception at which the gift was announced.

"Eugenio has led his family to achieve the American Dream within one generation," Bush said during the celebration. "It's a pleasure for me to share this day with people who have worked so hard and now are giving back to fellow Floridians." ■

A man in a grey suit and red tie stands in an office. The background shows a modern office interior with glass walls and a staircase. The text 'v.i.p.' is overlaid in large, white, lowercase letters.

v.i.p.

Very
Important
Panther

Jose Valdes-Fauli '75

FIU Alumni Association Lifetime Member

Profession

President and CEO of Beach Bank

FIU Affiliations

Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, 1975

FIU Foundation Board of Directors

FIU Foundation Nominating and Membership Committee

Wolfsonian-FIU Advisory Board

FIU 2003 Torch Award for Community Leadership

How has your FIU education helped you professionally?

My education taught me to think things through and gave me the base of knowledge to move forward in my profession.

What is your favorite memory of your time at FIU?

My best memories are all about the friends I met while I was a student.

Why have you chosen to be an Alumni Association Lifetime Member?

I believe it is important to give back to the University and stay involved.

What do you see for the future of FIU?

I am looking forward to all the excitement of the new medical school. I also see us continuing to bring affordable education to all.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

I am very proud of my involvement on the FIU Foundation Board of Directors.

We've rescheduled and you're re-invited*

2005
TORCH
AWARDS
Gala
Presented by
FIU Alumni Association

The 2005
TORCH
is still lit.



NEW DATE:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2006

Time: 6:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception

7:30 p.m. Gala & Ceremony

Place: Parrot Jungle, Watson Island, Miami Beach

FEATURING:

FIU's own Nadia Turner, American Idol finalist

Tickets: Randi N. West at 305-348-1009

*Due to hurricane Wilma



FIU

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Miami's public research university

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