President Modesto A. Maidique crowns his 20-year anniversary at FIU with an historic accomplishment, winning approval for a new College of Medicine.

Also in this issue:

Alumna Dawn Ostroff '80 takes the helm of a new television network.

FIU honors alumni at largest-ever Torch Awards Gala.

College of Business Administration expansion garners support.
THE 2006 GOLDEN PANTHERS FOOTBALL SEASON WILL BE THE HOTTEST ON RECORD WITH THE HISTORIC FIRST MATCHUP AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AT THE ORANGE BOWL.

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FIU Golden Panthers 2006 Season

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<th>Date</th>
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THE PANTHER PIT TAILGATE
The coolest place to be on game day.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Feel the Pride!

Fun for the whole family with the Golden Panther DJ, dancing, FIU mascot Roary, games, giveaways, face painting, food catered by Tony Roma's, prizes and more. Be sure to join us at the Orange Bowl to cheer on the Golden Panthers as they face the Hurricanes for the first time. Sponsored by the FIU Alumni Association.
on the cover

On the cover: 20/20 Vision
President Modesto A. Maidique appeared in high spirits on an August afternoon to stand for the cover portrait overlooking the FIU Green Library, an iconic image of the university’s educational excellence. Dr. Maidique oversaw the expansion of the library, as well as the construction of more than 20 major facilities at FIU. His 20 years at Florida International University have been, in the words of one community leader, “transformational.”

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from the Editor

Dear Readers,

On March 23, 2006, the Florida Board of Governors took the historic step of approving a new College of Medicine for Florida International University. The vote was widely hailed for the promise of improved health care and educational access for the community. These social and educational issues are substantiated by hard numbers that ultimately made the case for the new medical school.

The facts and figures, however, don’t alone tell the story. To understand just how important this medical college will be in our community, you have to meet 16-year-old Lasmin Qyyum and her family, whom we feature as part of our medical college coverage starting on page 20. The Qyyums welcomed us into their home to share their personal reasons for celebrating news of the medical college. Lasmin, who aspires to one day be a physician, embodies the true promise of FIU’s new College of Medicine.

In the glow of this recent triumph, FIU is also reflecting on another success story, the 20-year anniversary of President Modesto A. Maidique. While institutional success is certainly built on the hard work and dedication of many, it also depends on strong leadership at the top. Few public university presidents have served as long as President Maidique, even fewer can be credited with the scope of his accomplishments at FIU.

We at FIU Magazine marveled as we compiled the 20-year timeline of FIU milestones starting on page 16. FIU’s progress is nothing short of remarkable. Even more exciting is what the future holds as FIU fulfills its vision of being a top public urban research university. Your thoughts are always welcome at oneid@fiu.edu.

Cheers,

Deborah O’Neil
Deborah O’Neil

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

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Give today and your donation will be matched by the state to put college education within reach for needy students

The desire to see your child achieve what was not within your reach is universal among parents. For many families, that means seeing their children finish college. At FIU, the promise of the next generation is realized every day.

But finishing college isn’t easy for some here in Miami-Dade where 15 percent of families with two parents and 27 percent of single-mother families live below the poverty line. Young people who are the first in their families to attend college come to FIU with an ample supply of talent, determination and potential. Often, they need just a bit of extra help financially.

Earlier this year the Florida Legislature created a first-of-its-kind scholarship fund for first generation college students. The First Generation Matching Grant Program provides $6.5 million statewide to be used to match private donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis for financial aid for needy first generation students.

FIU is eligible to receive up to $823,000 from the state if the university can raise an equal amount by Nov. 30. Through this new program, all gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations or organizations will be leveraged significantly by qualifying for state matching dollars. Such a gift can be an important investment in building economic self-sufficiency for many FIU students who will remain in South Florida to live and work after graduation.

The total grant pool of $1.6 million will help hundreds of deserving first generation students entering their freshman year at FIU. The financial aid will enable many of them to stay in school and help others pursue their studies full-time, which in turn will allow them to graduate sooner and become productive members of the community.

“This scholarship program represents a tremendous opportunity for the youth of our community to receive a quality education,” said Associate Vice President of University Advancement Sumner Hutcheson III. “As most of our graduates stay in Miami, this is a boon to the future vitality of the region. And for donors who contribute to this project, it is a rare opportunity to have their gifts matched dollar for dollar, no matter the amount.”

The grant dollars will be used to fill in the gaps for first-generation, full-time, first-time-in-college freshmen who do not have enough to pay their education costs after receiving financial aid. A high percentage of FIU students receive only partial financial aid despite significant need.

For the 2006-07 academic year the minimum award amount is $250 and the maximum is $1,000. Eligible students will be Florida residents and U.S. citizens with demonstrated financial need whose parent(s) or legal guardian did not earn a baccalaureate degree.

“These are students who, in fact, still have financial need that has not been covered,” said Vice President of Enrollment Management Corinne Webb. “This could make all the difference as to whether they venture forward. There have been many in the past who have shied away from higher education because they don’t have quite enough money.”

Many FIU students, the large majority of whom come from Miami-Dade County, are the first in their families to attend college. In Miami- Dade, 75 percent of people over age 25 do not have a four-year college degree. Of those, almost one quarter never finished high school.

What is clear is FIU has far more needy and deserving students than it has dollars to help.

“If we can raise the full amount to have $1.6 million that would make a big difference in how many students we can help,” said Webb. “We’re excited about leading this aggressive campaign to help need-based students fulfill their academic dreams.”
Philanthropic organization. Foundation CEO Dr. Steven Marcus praised Grossman's dedication to the nursing community. "She is a crusader and a true leader who is constantly providing new and innovative nursing education programs, finding ways to overcome the nursing shortage and working to close the diversity gap between health care professionals and patients."

In her five years as dean, Grossman has tackled the nursing shortage crisis by spearheading many educational initiatives which have increased enrollment by more than 125 percent. FIU is now the second-largest producer of nursing graduates in the state. K

American Red Cross honors nursing dean


Grossman was nominated by Health Foundation of South Florida, a Miami philanthropic organization. Foundation CEO Dr. Steven Marcus praised Grossman's dedication to the nursing community. "She is a crusader and a true leader who is constantly providing new and innovative nursing education programs, finding ways to overcome the nursing shortage and working to close the diversity gap between health care professionals and patients."

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Kiplinger: FIU among best education values

Kiplinger Magazine ranked Florida International University No. 49 among the Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges and universities in its 2006 survey. Not only was FIU named as one of the best values among the nation's public colleges and universities, but it ranked in the top 100 as the best value for out-of-state and international students as well.

"My vision from the very beginning has been to provide students with a high-quality education at an affordable cost," says FIU President Modesto A. Maidique. "These rankings just confirm that we are providing students with the best possible education for reasonable prices. It is extremely pleasing to me that our achievements are being recognized by this magazine."

Alumni welcomed into CBA Hall of Fame

FIU's College of Business Administration inducted two of its most accomplished alumni into its Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame during a May ceremony honoring the executives and marking the event's seventh year. The college also presented a third non-alumnus executive with its South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The three honorees recognized during a luncheon ceremony held at Parrot Jungle on Watson Island are alumni Albert Santalo '97, president and CEO of Miami-based Avisena; and Glenn J. Rufrano MS '76, CEO of New York-based New Plan Excel Realty Trust, Inc.; and Manuel D. Medina, chairman and CEO of Miami-based Terremark Worldwide, Inc., who was honored for significant success in and contributions to the South Florida business community. ■

Bhavani Jayachandran’s imaging probe could improve survival odds for women with breast cancer

By Sue Arrowsmith '05

President Modesto A. Maidique marked a milestone on May 2 when he awarded the 100,000th degree of his 20-year tenure to Bhavani Jayachandran '03, MS '06, a biomedical engineering graduate student with a remarkable personal story.

"The act of awarding the 100,000th degree holds symbolic significance for me personally," said Maidique, who handed out 3,200 degrees at the 2006 Spring Commencement. "Knowing that we've had such a profound impact on so many lives is very gratifying. Our graduates inspire me everyday."

President Maidique has presented 77 percent of all FIU degrees since the first
New center will train CAFTA entrepreneurs

The U.S. Agency for International Development has awarded a $286,209 grant to FIU’s College of Business Administration to train business executives in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Combined with funding from Florida FTAA, Inc., this grant will help establish the Small and Medium Enterprises Center of Excellence (SMECE) at FIU, which will provide business education and executive training to entrepreneurs of small- and medium-size businesses in CAFTA countries.

Entrepreneurs will learn strategies for accessing U.S. markets and procedures for dealing with port authorities, customs brokerages, and wholesale and retail outlets. FIU expects to train 40 entrepreneurs in the pilot program and significantly more in subsequent years.

Engineering research advances U.S. warfare technology

A $1.5 million grant awarded to the College of Engineering and Computing will allow FIU researchers to develop technologies for electronic warfare as part of the ongoing Bio/Nano Electronic Devices and Sensors Program. U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen ’75, MS ’87 presented FIU President Modesto A. Maidique with the grant check on May 15 on behalf of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

The research will be carried out by the College’s Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute and will bolster the nation’s warfare technology base. It involves the development of high-power microwave emitters that can irreversibly damage electronic equipment such as enemy communication systems and incoming missiles. Researchers are also developing carbon nanotube sensors that would enable a soldier to carry a portable sensor and transmit biological and chemical information to the command center.

“It’s just terrific to have a facility that’s so innovative and world-class right here in our own backyard,” said Ros-Lehtinen.

FIU named “cool” school for entrepreneurship

Fortune Small Business magazine named FIU one of 10 “cool” universities in the country for entrepreneurial programs and research. The ranking, published in March, placed FIU alongside institutions such as Harvard University and the University of Arizona.

The magazine, which is geared toward entrepreneurs and small business owners, said that FIU’s Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Excellence (SMECE) at FIU, which will provide business education and executive training to entrepreneurs of small- and medium-size businesses in CAFTA countries.

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The center, which is one of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation’s eight centers around the country, offers graduate and undergraduate courses, and conducts research of national reach, such as the 2004 U.S. Entrepreneurial Assessment. The center also assists small businesses through workshops and seminars.

Lifelong learning program awarded $100,000 grant

FIU’s Continuing and Professional Studies (CAPS) has been awarded a $100,000 grant by the The Bernard Osher Foundation for the Academy for Lifelong Learning at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The Academy will now become The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FIU.

CAPS joins the prestigious network of 93 Osher Foundation Lifelong Learning Institutes on university campuses across the country. The grant will enable the institute to enhance its program development in a variety of areas, including educational study tours, expanded language instruction and a guest lecture series.

“We are proud to be at the forefront of a national awakening on the significance of lifelong learning in our communities,” said Mercedes Ponce, executive director of CAPS. “In a knowledge-based society, it is imperative that our citizens have access to lifelong learning opportunities to remain vital and civically engaged.”

She learned English and completed a General Education Diploma (GED) while he finished his Ph.D. at Kansas State University.

The couple moved to Miami in 1996 and Jayachandran obtained a bachelor’s degree in computer engineering at FIU. She then directed her focus toward breast cancer research by developing a non-invasive, hand-held optical imaging device that utilizes infrared light to detect breast cancer in its early stages.

“While causes of breast cancer are not understood completely, early detection through screening is the best defense against morbidity and mortality,” said Jayachandran.

In addition to receiving the 100,000th degree, magna cum laude, Jayachandran was named Best Teaching Assistant and won the Outstanding Master Graduate Award from the College of Engineering and Computing. She plans to pursue a doctorate degree in biomedical engineering at FIU, but for now she wants to devote more time to daughters Maanasa and Thejasa.

In Jayachandran’s village, the single school house did not provide education beyond the seventh grade, so she began an eight-mile trek, six days a week, to a school in a neighboring town. She was the only girl among 15 boys making the same journey. Upon completing the eighth grade, her parents advised her to stay home.

In 1988, she arrived in the United States with her husband Kish Jayachandran, now an FIU professor of environmental studies. She learned English and completed a General Education Diploma (GED) while he finished his Ph.D. at Kansas State University.

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Hurricane Research Center and has already completed by the FIU International PhD committees for their strong performance. "They worked extremely hard all semester and it was an understatement," said Khaleel Seecharan '02, MS '03, political science major and interim director of the program. General Assembly Hall.

"Outstanding Delegation," or first place award for performance. This year's competition drew more than 3,500 students representing 200 universities. The five-day competition, which took place April 11-15, was created by the United Nations in the late 1940s. The mock sessions were held at the United Nations complex in New York City, with closing ceremonies held in the UN General Assembly Hall.

"To say that our students had an outstanding week is an understatement," said Khaleel Seecharan '02, MS '03, political science instructor and interim director of the program. "They worked extremely hard all semester and were constantly recognized in their committees for their strong performance.

Model UN team takes first place

Once again, Florida International University's Model United Nations team returned from New York with the top spot in the Model United Nations competition. This is the 14th time the FIU team returned from the oldest and most prestigious mock United Nations competition in the world with an award. The FIU team, which represented the Seychelles Islands, obtained the "Outstanding Delegation," or first place award for performance.

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State dollars to support FIU growth, construction

FIU was one of Miami-Dade County's biggest winners in the 2006 legislative session that closed May 5. FIU's advocates in the Miami-Dade Delegation worked hard to bring home state dollars for critical initiatives. This is how FIU fared in six priority areas:

1. Enrollment Growth — Funded by the Legislature at $6 million.
2. Salaries — FIU's faculty and staff are included in the 3 percent pay increase provided for state employees.
3. Construction — This year, FIU received a record amount of funding for university projects, $45 million, including money for the completion of the molecular biology and social science buildings. FIU received an additional $7.8 million for.

New York Times launches student journalism institute

The New York Times and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) will launch an intensive training program early in 2007 for Hispanic student journalists at FIU. The program will consist of an institute for Hispanics similar to one created for African-Americans in 2003 at Dillard University in New Orleans. Allan Richards, chairman of the department of journalism and broadcasting at FIU, said: "The New York Times, in conjunction with the NAHJ, will be addressing the under-representation of Hispanics in U.S. newsrooms. The institute will help educate the next generation of talented young Hispanic journalists."
Nursing students to study health issues abroad

A new research grant in the FIU School of Nursing is making possible a one-of-a-kind learning program for minority students to study abroad.

The $857,662 grant from the National Institutes of Health will support the "Minority Health International Research Training Program," a cross-cultural training program in which undergraduate and graduate nursing students complete a semester of coursework and hands-on experience in various European and Latin American countries. The program, one of a handful in the nation, aims to attract minority nursing students to pursue careers in nursing research.

The four-year grant is the brainchild of FIU nursing faculty members Kathryn Anderson and Marie-Luise Friedemann. The professors hope that by exposing the students to leading nursing research in other countries, they will learn about health care programs for the needy in their host countries and return to become future advocates for minorities and the underserved in their own communities. The students will be mentored by top nursing researchers working around the world on health disparities, family health behaviors, health responses and family quality of life.

Beginning this fall, the first group of nursing minority students will be selected to work with nursing faculty at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in Italy, the Private University of Witten/Herdecke in Germany, the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College in England, and branches of the National University of Colombia in Colombia, Honduras, Peru, Venezuela and Mexico.

Havana design captures top architecture prizes

Alumnus Gabriel Fuentes '02, M.Arch '05 has been recognized by two of the country's most important professional associations for his ability to see the Havana of tomorrow. In May, the Florida chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded him an Honor Award for Unbuilt Design, the organization's highest award category. Fuentes, a graduate of the School of Architecture and an adjunct professor, received the award for his design of a modern building for the Plaza Vieja town square in Old Havana, a section of the city dating back to the 17th century.

That same project, titled "Architecture as Contextual (Re) Interpretation: A Mixed-Use Cultural Center in Old Havana, Cuba," also landed him an Honor Award from the Boston Society of Architects, which grants the country's most prestigious award for unbuilt projects. Fuentes' design of a cultural center and exhibition space situated between two historically significant structures along Plaza Vieja explores contextual design of contemporary architecture in historic places. The concrete, wood and glass building would be five stories high and would house apartments, art studios, offices and art galleries. Fuentes, who currently works at the Miami-based architectural and urban planning firm Zyscovich, Inc., traveled to Havana in December of 2004 to experience the city first-hand. He said the trip, which was funded with a private grant he secured with the assistance of the Cuban Research Institute, was necessary to physically understand the site.

Music Fest features jazz, symphony, organ concerts

The 2006 FIU Music Festival will showcase a talented line-up of FIU artists-in-residence and student ensembles to raise money for scholarships. Unless otherwise indicated, all performances will start at 8 p.m. at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased from the FIU Box Office by calling 305-348-1998. Here is the festival schedule:

Nov. 2: Festival Grand Opening performance with FIU Symphony Orchestra, featuring cellist Mark Drobinsky and faculty conductor Maestro Carlos Riazuelo; the Miami Master Chorale, under the direction of John Augenblick.

Nov. 3: Choral ensemble Chanticleer performs at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 464 NE 16th, Miami.

Nov. 4: FIU Big Band featuring jazz singer Alan Harris, and jazz trumpeter Ingrid Jenson.

Nov. 5: The Amernet String Quartet in concert with cellist Mark Drobinsky, violinist Robert Davidovici, and pianist Kemal Gekic.

Nov. 9: "Schumanniana," an evening of Robert Schumann's music, featuring faculty and guest artists with Robert Dundas, faculty director.

Nov. 10: "A Tribute to America's Musical Heritage" by Dallas Brass, featuring a full complement of brass and percussion with the music of Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin, Sousa, Glen Miller and Benny Goodman.

Nov. 11: Argentina vs. Italian Night

Nov. 12: Faculty composer Orlando J. Garcia celebrates 20 years at FIU in a concert of his work with faculty performers and music ensemble NODUS.

Nov. 16: Artists-in-Residence violinist Robert Davidovici and pianist Kemal Gekic in concert.

Nov. 17: American organist Todd Wilson performs on the Schantz organ donated to the FIU School of Music by Herbert and Nicole Wertheim.

Nov. 18: Artist-in-Residence Arturo Sandoval performs Latin, standard and contemporary jazz with the FIU Big Band.
Most people agree that public schools in the United States aren’t working properly — that is, they don’t do enough to prepare young people for whatever future awaits them. But the roots of the problems in our schools and the possible solutions to fix them are hard to find. From the highest level of government, there is talk of the soft bigotry of low expectations and the hopeful remedy of standardized testing, of a uniform curriculum, vouchers, and charter schools. No child will be left behind.

But as Moses sees it, lots and lots of children are being left behind — especially in poor and urban schools. According to the Urban Institute, 50 percent of black ninth graders and 47 percent of Hispanics do not graduate in four years. Drop-out rates approach 80 percent in some poor and urban schools. In the area of math and sciences, U.S. students routinely trail behind...
students in Europe and Asia. In 2004, the U.S. Department of Education released the findings of an international student assessment with this summary: "America's 15-year-olds performed below the international average in mathematics literacy and problem-solving."

Moses talks about the "sharecropper education of low expectations" that has been in place since the national educational system was desegregated decades ago. It isn't necessarily a black and white issue, he suggests, but rather an issue of what public schools have become for most young people — a place to acquire merely enough basic education to work in a service or low-end industrial job.

The central issue, for Moses, is one of civil rights. If young people are to have future access to the best possible jobs, then they must also have the best possible K-12 education — an education that provides every child with the opportunity to go to college and, afterwards, work in a global economy that is driven less by industry and more by information. The key to preparing everyone — and he means everyone — for college and for the economy of the future, suggests Moses, is the ability to do the abstract and symbolic thinking best developed in an algebra class.

"In today's world," he argues, "economic access and full citizenship depend crucially on math and science literacy. Access for all to this level of education is the next civil right."

A radical solution

The roots of Moses' life's work can be found in his remarkable book, "Radical Equations." When Moses uses the word radical, he's not just making a mathematical pun. He quotes the civil rights activist Ella Baker: "I use the term radical in its original meaning — getting down to and understanding the root causes."

Moses developed the basic framework for a new, more accessible approach to teaching algebra during the 1980s when his daughter was a middle school student in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The idea is to use direct experience in the real world to provide a model for abstract mathematical concepts. Students then work with those concepts symbolically. For instance, Moses taught the concept of the number line with its positive and negative numbers, by using the Boston subway system.

Fifty percent of black ninth graders and 47 percent of Hispanics do not graduate in four years.

— The Urban Institute
The middle-school part of The Algebra Project is now a far bigger venture than Moses can handle alone. It is an organization of more than 300 teachers across the country that serves 10,000 students. Having figured out the basics with middle schoolers, Moses has, since 1996, been working with students at Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi. So, in addition to being a national leader of educational innovation, he typically teaches two sections of juniors and one section of sophomores.

"To understand fully the nature of the work," he said, "you have to roll up your sleeves and be involved. You have to really know what it means in the deepest sense to break through and actually get student production and results. The only way to get that is to be in the classroom."

The Miami-Dade school system is the fourth largest in the nation. Like many urban school systems around the country, it faces the continual challenge of meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. In 2004, the district employed more than 19,000 teachers and enrolled 360,000-plus students. More than 60 percent of those students qualified for free or reduced lunches, an indicator of poverty levels. Miami-Dade’s schools are a cultural melting pot, with students who speak dozens of languages, and come from even more ethnic groups.

"Miami doesn’t seem to look toward the rest of the country," Moses observes. "It looks toward the Southern Hemisphere, both in terms of its culture, in terms of its politics, as well as in terms of its language. On the other hand, it has the mix of people who are going to really be instrumental in defining issues for the country. And it also has the glaring issue which is facing the country: Can we continue to be a nation which has these enormous differences in wealth?"

All the more reason for FIU’s Center for Urban Education and Innovation to invite this education leader to bring his work to South Florida. When he is working in Miami, his schedule is packed with student-centered activities. It’s all part of his grassroots approach to changing a system that doesn’t serve the needs of the people who are in it.

**Seriously fun mathematics**

At the Homeless Assistance Center on North Miami Avenue one afternoon, in the facility’s gymnasium,
some 40 or so students are running around in what appears to be barely organized chaos. Slips of paper clutched in their hands, four teams of middle school students sprint back and forth. The floor is covered by a network of hoops and colored tape — red, blue and yellow. It’s hard to tell what’s going on exactly, but the kids are clearly engaged, in between all the running, in some very intense calculations in group conference.

Moses stands smiling in a corner of the gym and watches the rather elaborate game of hopscotch unfold. He explains that the game is designed to teach the Möbius Function, an important multiplicative operation in number theory and combinatorics.

The game continues. This is serious fun — spirited play full of yelling and jumping up and down. But it isn’t gym class or recess, it’s an algebra lesson. Moses again explains to the adults observing how the game works:

“What you get from a game like this is a conceptual language, which is nobody’s spoken language, and the actual symbolic representations that are in all their science and math textbooks. The transition from spoken language or natural language to conceptual language — which is the scientist’s made-up language — is a transition that the students need to learn. But it has to be put out on the floor for them.”

Later in the day, math educator Jose Jimenez who worked with Moses while an FIU graduate student, arrives for a community forum to discuss quality education as a civil right. Jimenez spent half a year at Lanier High in Mississippi working with Moses. He is quick to point out the need for public schools to move beyond high-stakes testing.

“Students are bored in math class,” he says. “They lose hope and lose interest. If we’re able to motivate them somehow, they’ll be able to continue learning. We focus too much on single individual achievement. We all must rise.”

Grassroots reform, especially when it develops with young people (not on them) in the classroom (not in state capitals) looks messy. Someone coming into the gymnasium and seeing the Möbius Function game in progress might never realize math was being learned. What Moses and his like-minded teachers and students are doing is simply drawing on, in his words, “the everyday culture of kids. What they’re into. How do we show them their experiences are related to important mathematics?”

**Change from the bottom up**

Some of the students who have been involved in the Algebra Project for many years have set up the Young People’s Project, now an independently operating student-run group supporting mentoring, training math literacy workers, and taking part in community activism. They take what they have learned from Moses and apply it to the larger project of education reform.

These ambassadors for math literacy have a simple slogan: “Each one, teach one.”

Over the months and years, slowly, the skills and ideas and aspirations have been passed on from teachers to students, from older students to younger, from one to another. In South Florida schools like Finlay Elementary, Lake Stevens Elementary, Filer Middle School, Miami Jackson High, Booker T. Washington Senior High and John A. Ferguson Senior High — as well as many others — students are taking charge of their own educations.

All these lessons about changing a system from the bottom up Bob Moses learned fighting for voting rights in Mississippi in the early 1960s as part of the larger civil rights movement. In his mind, there’s a short distance between “Each One, Teach One” and “One Person, One Vote.”

“When we were working on the right to vote, it was very important for the sharecroppers to be involved in the process of getting that right for themselves,” Moses says. “It was important for them to know that this was something that they demanded and struggled for. You can’t hand people democracy, you can’t present it to them as a gift. Democracy has to be struggled for, and you have to engage in the process of attaining it.

“Education is like that also,” he continues. “You can’t hand the students their educations. They have to decide that they want an education. They have to struggle for it. You can have reforms. But the problem is a missing conversation.”

In other words, if you want the kids to care about learning, they must have a legitimate say in how schools are run.

In the larger picture, what Bob Moses has begun now extends far beyond him — and he is content to have it that way. His influences are the forgotten names in the front lines of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 60s, “people,” he says, “who are not necessarily in the history books, but people who belong to a legacy for whom what is most important in this country is how you can still live a life of struggle. It’s still a country in which you can have a meaningful life. Each one was able to make a difference.”

As clearly as Bob Moses is a man on a mission — and he is happy to meet with public officials, education leaders and journalists — his passion for teaching always leads him around to young men begin talking to him. Bob Moses is always sure to listen carefully before he responds — speaking softly and with hopeful patience born of many years of struggle. ■

Mark E. Hayes is a freelance writer in Miami. His cultural commentary feature, Passing Notes, can be heard on 88.9 FM Serious Jazz. He teaches and serves as the director of the Center for Writing at Palmer Trinity School.
Surrounded by a fleet of assistants who arrange and rearrange her schedule, Dawn Ostroff ’80 anoints and punctures dreams in her Wilshire Boulevard office.

Hollywood producers who have discovered a bright, young writer with a wild idea for a TV show work their connections to get a pitch meeting with her. Heartbroken fans of canceled or imperiled shows under her control post her address and phone number on the Internet with exhortations to lobby her.

“Trek does not need a break,” a fan calling himself MJ wrote on the site enterpriseproject.org last year when Ostroff, as UPN TV president of entertainment, announced the cancellation of Star Trek: Enterprise. “And I am here to say that I will not give ... Dawn Ostroff, Viacom, Paramount, or any other human or corporate beings connected with this franchise a break. I have not yet begun to fight.”

The show’s still dead.
Ostroff has ushered such hit shows as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Everybody Hates Chris” and “America’s Next Top Model” into existence. Now, UPN is merging with The WB, another decade-old upstart network that never made it to the top tier. The merged network will launch in September as “The CW,” and the networks’ parent companies have tapped Ostroff as its president of entertainment. She is weeding through the mish-mash of both networks’ lineups and launching new shows to forge a brand she hopes will attract the 18- to 34-year-old viewers that make advertisers salivate. The new network will take plenty of chances, Ostroff says. The 46-year-old executive wants to imbue The CW with a Myspace.com-like sense of community.

“We really believe in the viewer to participate in the network, through the Internet, yes, but ultimately on our own air,” she says.

For instance, The CW will provide online software in “The CW Lab” that lets viewers edit a set of photographs of, say, friends at a party, into a 15-second slideshow. Each day, it will choose and broadcast a couple. She also Wants to let viewers make their own short films, which she’ll consider airing.

“This is a great opportunity,” Ostroff says. “I’ve always looked at my life — the jobs that I’ve taken — as needing that impossible task, where there’s a huge boulder that I’ve got to push up the mountain. This is a challenge.”

Ostroff was an intern at the Miami Herald during the early 1970s, when Miami was the setting for Miami Vice. The network’s popularity was a result of the city’s tourism. As a result, Ostroff decided to pursue a career in journalism.

She chose FIU for journalism school over Northwestern University because professors agreed to make her coursework flexible so she could also work full-time for Miami TV stations. She was a news reporter for the ABC affiliate and then a producer for “Montage,” a popular, local 60 Minutes-style program in the 1970s and ’80s. Even with that workload, she was able to get her FIU degree at 19 (she took a year of college-credit classes as a high school senior and studied through summers in college).

But covering hard news in Miami Vice-era Miami wasn’t for her: “I realized it was very hard to live your life looking at tragedy and people’s bad experiences, and sticking a microphone in people’s faces asking how they feel when a loved one has died tragically,” she recalls. “I just felt like there had to be a better way to earn a living.”

So she went to the bottom of a new hill, becoming a production assistant — essentially a gofer — for a Liza Minnelli special on HBO. She loved it. She moved to Los Angeles to join a startup production company, and she worked as a casting assistant for the TV dramedy “Trapper John, M.D.”

Then she worked for years as a secretary at 20th Century Fox, making friends and staying in touch with friends from her Miami TV news days who had also made the move to Hollywood, always looking for an opportunity to become a decision maker.

Finally, a small movie-of-the-week production company hired her as an executive, and then she got a job at Disney producing sitcoms.

When she went back to 20th Century Fox, it was as president of show development. In 1996, she stunned her Hollywood colleagues by leaving that job to take over the Lifetime cable channel for women.

“People said, ‘Why would you go to a women’s network? You can’t do anything there,’ ” she remembers. But she revamped the lineup of shows to attract more middle-age women while keeping the network’s loyal audience of 60-somethings. “And then, there we were, No. 1. It was sort of sweet revenge.”

Now, she hopes to repeat the feat and make The CW a leading broadcast network. Her philosophy on making it in Hollywood hasn’t failed her yet: “There’s no other way, in my opinion, to get ahead in this business than starting at the bottom and working your way up.”

Bryan Gilmer, a former St. Petersburg Times reporter, is a freelance writer based in Durham, N.C.
INTO THE BLUE

Shark expert Michael Heithaus dives in to study nature’s most feared creatures

By Sara LaJeunesse

The great beast thrashed and rolled, shattering the water’s calm surface into shimmering ripples. The slate gray fin glistened for a moment in the sunshine before slipping beneath the surface of the water. Exhausted, the 500-pound tiger shark drifted slowly to the ocean floor.

It was a tranquil day on Shark Bay, a remote region of Western Australia that contains one of the world’s most pristine underwater ecosystems. FIU marine biology professor Michael Heithaus and his research team had been submerging drum lines with baited hooks — a typical and harmless method for capturing the sharks they routinely study — when, in the distance, an unidentified boater was seen harassing one of the animals.

As the team’s boat approached, the massive, murky shape of a 12-foot tiger shark became visible. Overcome with anger at the reckless boater and compassion for the injured animal, Heithaus jumped into the water to rescue the beast. As a world expert on sharks, he knew that if the animal remained still, she would eventually suffocate. So, with arms wrapped around the shark’s body, Heithaus walked in large, sweeping circles for nearly an hour to encourage oxygen flow over her gills. With renewed strength and one thrust of her muscular tail, the shark eventually swam away.

Thinking back on that day, the three-time Division-III National Title collegiate swimming champion and former host of “Crittercam” on the National Geographic Channel says he can’t let fears get in the way of his underwater research. To really understand the behavior of sharks and how they affect other marine life, Heithaus has to dive in.

“I wasn’t about to let a shark die just because I was too terrified to get into the water,” he said. “But I wasn’t nervous about the shark I was handling,” he said, “I was worried about what else might be around.”

A frequent visitor to Shark Bay, Heithaus knew that it was home to one of the highest densities of tiger sharks anywhere in the world. He also knew that this impressive predator — so commonly mistaken for a blind and vicious killer — was far less aggressive than most people thought.

Still, tiger sharks are efficient killers and may even serve as keystone predators, or those that have a major...
I wasn’t about to let a shark die just because I was too terrified to get in the water.

Michael Heithaus, professor, marine biology

His passion for marine life was inspired by childhood Christmas vacations on the Florida coast. “Throughout my childhood I never wanted to be anything but a biologist,” he said. “I would see places like Shark Bay on television and think, ‘I’d love to go there, but people like me never get to go to places like that.’”

Well, Heithaus made it to Shark Bay. He even made it to “prime time.” And although he is the star of the show, he has a strong supporting cast. His wife Linda, a biologist, is just one of the many colleagues, including graduate students, with whom he collaborates. In fact, she recently accompanied him on a three-month research trip to Shark Bay.

“We’ve been going to Shark Bay for so long, that we’ve really become a part of the community there,” he said.

Heithaus and his wife work closely with local conservation groups to protect their marine resources. “It’s really rewarding,” said Heithaus, “and it’s the right thing to do.”

Sara Lafreniere is a science writer in Miami. Her previous article “Rescuing the Rivers” appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of FIU Magazine.
20/20 Vision: Two Decades of Milestones
FIU President Modesto A. Maidique Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary

By Deborah O’Neil and Martin Haro ‘03

Florida International University celebrates a milestone this year, the 20-year anniversary of the presidency of Modesto A. “Mitch” Maidique, the longest-serving university president in the state of Florida. The growth and academic achievements of Florida International University during his tenure have few parallels in the history of modern public universities in the United States.

“His 20 years at FIU have been transformational,” said Adolfo Henriques MACC ’76, CEO of Florida East Coast Industries and the past chairman of the FIU Board of Trustees. “He has created a research institution of higher learning that provides the excellence that this community needs.”

The two decades of growth championed by Maidique have been guided by a bold vision: to build one of the nation’s top urban public research universities. In the early days, some considered that overambitious for a local university that started out as a two-year institution.

“I am passionate about what I do.”
— Modesto A. Maidique
FIU President

“What most people saw was a few buildings that served as an upper division cap to Miami-Dade Community College,” Maidique said. “What I saw was the seed of a great public research university. Some who had not bought into the vision were skeptical.”

Earlier this year came the crowning achievement. For the past decade, he has set his sights on winning approval for an FIU medical college. Even when such a triumph seemed most unlikely, Maidique was unequivocal: It will happen. As if scripted for his biography, the approval came when FIU would celebrate 20 years of his accomplishments.

“Establishing a medical college at FIU is the most significant accomplishment of my professional career, one that will positively impact this community for generations to come,” Maidique said. “I am very grateful to the thousands of volunteers, staff and students who helped to make it happen.”

With a new medical college, and schools of architecture and law, more than $100 million in foundation funds, $79 million in sponsored research, membership in the nation’s oldest honor society Phi Beta Kappa and a Carnegie Foundation ranking of high research, FIU today stands at the threshold of joining a select group of national research universities.

The magnitude of FIU’s economic impact on the community can be measured in both lives transformed and in dollars. One outside study pegs FIU’s annual economic impact at nearly $2 billion. Through education and job training, research, employment opportunities and outreach programs, FIU bolsters every sector of South Florida’s community, from industry and health care to education and the arts. Today, FIU is educating more than 38,000 students — more than 80 percent of whom will establish their careers in South Florida. Already, FIU has produced more than 113,000 college graduates who are working in board rooms, classrooms and health organizations throughout South Florida.

1986
October 12 is Modesto A. Maidique’s first day as president of Florida International University, which has 16,000 students and a $93 million budget.

1987
Pope John Paul II visits FIU, leading an outdoor Mass at Tamiami Park. FIU athletic teams begin competing at NCAA Division I level.

1988
FIU unveils its official seal showing a “Torre of Knowledge, Service and Understanding,” and the motto “Spes, Scientia, Facultas,” Latin for “Hope, Knowledge and Opportunity.”

1989
The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management establishes a new headquarters on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

1990
FIU’s first patent is awarded for a device created by researchers in engineering. The Beacon student newspaper revived with support from Student Government and President Maidique.

1991
Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visits FIU. The new Ernest R. Graham University Center opens. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is established as a separate school on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

1992
In a star-studded commencement, U.S. President George Bush is the guest speaker and Cuban salsa queen, the late Celia Cruz, receives an honorary degree.
South Florida and the world. The university itself has a total budget of $747 million and generates employment for more than 8,000 people.

At the same time, says FIU Board of Trustees Chairman David Parker, Maidique has dramatically advanced educational opportunity in the county and state. “Access to high-quality, affordable higher education is critical to the future prosperity of South Florida,” Parker said. “President Maidique has always understood that and has helped to build an institution that provides thousands of individuals with a singular pathway to success.”

“He loves FIU,” said Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez ’74. “He has committed 20 years of his life to this university with utmost integrity and we are all, as a community, benefiting from it.”

Nationally, Maidique is a widely respected educational leader. Last year, Hispanic magazine named Maidique one of the nation’s “Elite Educators” who are transforming America’s colleges. “I think his legacy will carry on long after he is gone,” said C. Peter Magrath, former president of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Antonio Flores, president of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, said under Maidique’s leadership, FIU has become a model for other universities around the nation.

“President Maidique is one of the most well regarded, most respected leaders among Hispanic and national institutions of higher education in the country and I, personally, think the world of him,” said Flores. “He has demonstrated tremendous leadership that has allowed FIU to thrive, which is something to emulate.”

**FIU was “the right place”**

The call to public education is rooted in Maidique’s upbringing. He was born in Cuba, the only child of Hilda Rodriguez, a teacher, and Modesto Maidique, who earned a doctoral degree in education and served as a teacher, city councilman, congressman and senator in Cuba. Maidique was 11 months old when his father was killed.

“Not having my father has led to profound introspection throughout my life,” said Maidique, who has a son, Mark, and daughter, Ana, and five grandchildren.

Education remained central in the Maidique home. He attended Cuba’s prestigious Ruston Academy prep school, graduating first in his high-school class. At 18, Maidique headed to MIT in Boston. He earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at MIT by winning fellowships and working odd jobs including busboy, waiter, translator, short-order cook, electronics technician, assembly-line worker and hi-fi installer. His Latin dance talents, refined during his youth in Cuba and still known to turn heads, helped him earn money as a dance instructor.

Those were humble years. Says Maidique, “My net worth was negative.”

That soon changed. Maidique went on to co-found Analog Devices Inc., Semiconductor Division, the world’s third-largest producer of linear integrated circuits. He sat on the boards of more than a dozen firms and served as a consultant to dozens of the world’s largest corporations.

In 1984, Maidique moved to Miami from Stanford University to help take care of his elderly mother. At the time, he was a general partner at Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, the largest venture capital firm in the world. He and his partners raised more than $100 million annually for venture capital investment and he oversaw the investments in 12 companies with revenues near $100 million. He had a seven-figure income.

At age 43, Maidique had achieved the quintessential “American dream.” But Maidique wanted to carry on the public service legacy of his parents. Doing so would mean abandoning the affluent lifestyle he had worked hard to earn. It would cast him into the unforgiving public spotlight and a turbulent political arena.

He considered his options: running for Congress or seeking the presidency of a major university. His mother worried. “The last thing she wanted was for me to somehow get embroiled in politics.” She died on March 13, 1986, leaving Maidique, an only child, devastated and more determined to fulfill his calling.

“I felt I needed to give back and I wanted to devote myself to public service,” Maidique said. “I also felt tremendous gratitude for a country that had taken me in and given my family an opportunity.”

More than 200 individuals — among them politicians, college administrators and a former ambassador — applied for the presidency of FIU.

On August 27, 1986, the Florida Board of Regents made Maidique FIU’s 10th president. As heretofore, he faced fresh challenges.

“...the foremost. The university is relocated to University Park. For the sixth consecutive year, U.S. News and World Report names FIU one of the best colleges in the South. Maidique was 11 months old when his father was killed. "Not having my father has led to profound introspection throughout my life," said Maidique, who has a son, Mark, and daughter, Ana, and five grandchildren. Education remained central in the Maidique home. He attended Cuba's prestigious Ruston Academy prep school, graduating first in his high-school class. At 18, Maidique headed to MIT in Boston. He earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at MIT by winning fellowships and working odd jobs including busboy, waiter, translator, short-order cook, electronics technician, assembly-line worker and hi-fi installer. His Latin dance talents, refined during his youth in Cuba and still known to turn heads, helped him earn money as a dance instructor. Those were humble years. Says Maidique, "My net worth was negative." That soon changed. Maidique went on to co-found Analog Devices Inc., Semiconductor Division, the world's third-largest producer of linear integrated circuits. He sat on the boards of more than a dozen firms and served as a consultant to dozens of the world's largest corporations. In 1984, Maidique moved to Miami from Stanford University to help take care of his elderly mother. At the time, he was a general partner at Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, the largest venture capital firm in the world. He and his partners raised more than $100 million annually for venture capital investment and he oversaw the investments in 12 companies with revenues near $100 million. He had a seven-figure income. At age 43, Maidique had achieved the quintessential "American dream." But Maidique wanted to carry on the public service legacy of his parents. Doing so would mean abandoning the affluent lifestyle he had worked hard to earn. It would cast him into the unforgiving public spotlight and a turbulent political arena. He considered his options: running for Congress or seeking the presidency of a major university. His mother worried. "The last thing she wanted was for me to somehow get embroiled in politics." She died on March 13, 1986, leaving Maidique, an only child, devastated and more determined to fulfill his calling. "I felt I needed to give back and I wanted to devote myself to public service," Maidique said. "I also felt tremendous gratitude for a country that had taken me in and given my family an opportunity." More than 200 individuals — among them politicians, college administrators and a former ambassador — applied for the presidency of FIU. On August 27, 1986, the Florida Board of Regents made Maidique FIU's 10th president. As heretofore, he faced fresh challenges.

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Today, FIU offers all five; three were approved under Maidique while the other two have reached national recognition under him. Chancellor of the State University System Mark Rosenberg, who served as FIU provost for seven years, points to what is most remarkable of Maidique’s achievements - bringing both a law school and a medical school to FIU in only six years. Since 1986, six new colleges and schools and 18 new undergraduate degrees have been created. The university has also nearly quadrupled the number of doctoral programs, adding 22 new Ph.D. degrees in fields ranging from nursing and biomedical engineering to international relations and Spanish. Throughout the process of academic growth, Maidique has pushed to raise standards and expectations in faculty hiring and tenure review.

Creating a major research university also entailed changing the FIU experience for students. Maidique has led the conversion of FIU from a commuter school to a thriving, student-oriented campus with 3,000 students in residence, Division I-A football, an expanded library, new student housing and modern recreation and student centers.

Maidique credits much of his success to the strong commitment to institutional transformation from key members of the university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington university community: faculty, professional staff, elected leaders in the community, Tallahassee and Washington and South Florida's business leaders, many of whom serve on the Board of Trustees. "I have been blessed with a strong coalition of change-oriented leaders from both in and outside the university and community," Maidique said. "They would not rest until we had accomplished this two-decade change, and I am sure that they are still eager to move forward."

Alumni often marvel at FIU’s progress. "When I go back and see what the university has become with all of its programs and now a medical school, I find it remarkable, nothing short of fantastic," said Congressman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen ’75, MS ’87.

This progress has made FIU a popular choice for higher education. (Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine just named FIU one of the nation’s best public university values.) Students have filled FIU’s seats as fast as new programs have opened. Enrollment has more than doubled from 15,000 in 1986 to more than 38,000 today.

"I am passionate about what I do"

Twenty years in public leadership have inevitably brought some bruises and hard-won lessons for Maidique. Early on, some in the community skewed Maidique for suggesting the university change its name. And the university’s rapid growth has been criticized by some faculty as too much, too fast and caused others to question the trade-offs implicit in this growth.

Maidique has overseen $570 million of new construction totaling some 4.8-million square feet of new facilities, including, among others, research laboratories, student housing, a campus recreation and student centers.

President Maidique is one of the most well regarded, most respected leaders among Hispanic and national institutions of higher education.”

Antonio Flores, president, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
recreation center, business and law school buildings, the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum and the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. But that hasn’t always been enough. Enrollment growth has outpaced the dollars available to build more classrooms, expand programs, and hire more faculty and staff.

“Thankfully, the president has come to recognize and begin to address these issues and is working just as hard to find solutions to them,” said FIU Faculty Senate Chairman Bruce Haupli. “FIU stands poised to become what he envisioned 20 years ago, but right now it needs to be enhanced and nurtured.”

The pressure to find resources for a fast-growing institution is unrelenting. As a public university, much hinges on politics — an area Maidique admits is not his favorite part of the job. “Politics is the art of compromise. I don’t like compromise. I like perfection.”

The president must also be a fundraiser, a role in which he isn’t always comfortable. “I’m a terrible groveler,” he said. “I’m far better at giving money.”

He’s discovered, however, that his unwavering belief in FIU goes far in winning supporters. “I am passionate, maybe too passionate, about what I do. I believe the most important institution for the future of our area is FIU.”

His message has resonated with the community leaders, philanthropists and the Florida Legislature, all of whom have strongly supported FIU’s quest to achieve national research university status. Indeed, one of the trademarks of Maidique’s leadership is his ability to motivate others to buy into his vision.

“He is a quick and great thinker,” said Rosa Sugár, a BOT member and former chair of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. “Faculty and also the business community respect that a lot. He is politically savvy. He knows how to navigate the different waters of Tallahassee, Washington or Miami-Dade County. They all take him seriously and respect his opinion.”

The president’s political savvy, coupled with his indefatigable drive, has time and again turned obstacles into victories. After failing twice, Maidique approached the State Board of Regents again seeking approval for a new law school, but the initiative was smacked down in a painful 11-2 vote. But on the fourth initiative, the effort sailed through the Legislature with a 160-0 vote. The medical school also faced strong opposition early on. Under Maidique’s direction, the plans were carefully revised to address every concern and the Board of Governors voted 16-1 in favor of the proposal. By early 2006, Maidique had again secured overwhelming support for the initiative from the Legislature, which authorized the medical school in May.

Outspoken and opinionated, Maidique is a frequent subject of critique in local newspapers and on Spanish-language radio. He has riled certain groups in Miami’s contentious political circles. When needed, he has done so as a stalwart of academic freedom, even when the message at issue has conflicted sharply with his personal views.

“I’m a terrible groveler,” he said. “I’m far better at giving money.”

When needed, he has done so as a stalwart of academic freedom, even when the message at issue has conflicted sharply with his personal views.

In 1998, a state legislator demanded Maidique sanction Professor Dario Moreno after Moreno appeared on “60 Minutes” criticizing the influence of Cubans on Miami politics. Moreno’s description of the city as “almost the definition of a Third World banana republic,” ignited fury. Maidique refused to yield to the legislator’s threat, saying FIU faculty “can seek and follow the tracks to the truth, wherever they might lie.”

Maidique tries — not always with success — to take criticism and media attention in stride. He knows he can’t please everyone. He’s admitted to mistakes and from time to time made changes, both in policy and leadership style. “I think it is most natural for me to be devastatingly direct,” he said. “But I’ve learned to work around what is a virtue in scientific circles and to blunt my inclinations.”

Ultimately, Maidique hopes his legacy will be determined by the institution he has helped build. Wherever he goes, Maidique can be heard rattling off FIU’s latest points of pride. Says Ros-Lehtinen: “He is very proud of the students and is always highlighting their accomplishments.”

Retirement isn’t in the plan at the moment, says Maidique, who was married in June to FIU alumna Nancy Maidique, a dental health administrator. His focus, even after 20 years, remains ever forward-looking. The vision of FIU as a top urban public research university is within sight. Last year, the words of FIU’s presidents were inscribed on a wall in the Graham Center. President Maidique’s reads: “Boundless opportunities lie ahead.”
For more than a decade, FIU labored to create a viable proposal for a new College of Medicine. Countless meetings were held. Memo after memo went out. Proposals were written, revised and rewritten. Planners worked during weekends, over holidays and on vacations to get the plan exactly right.

On March 23, the Board of Governors gave their blessing to this
By Deborah O'Neil

At 16, Jasmin Qyyum is the quintessence of an aspiring doctor. Outstanding grades — a 4.3 GPA. A love of science. She volunteers at Miami Children’s Hospital and organizes blood drives at her school. With a mother from Colombia and father from Bangladesh, she has been raised bilingual and multicultural. Poised, articulate and vivacious, Jasmin is a natural people person.

Her desire to become a doctor always seemed within reach.

Then, in early 2006, Jasmin’s 47-year-old father Mohammed was diagnosed with cancer: stage four lymphoma. The diagnosis was unthinkable. “I’d never been to a doctor,” said Mr. Qyyum. “I’d never taken medication. I’d never been in the hospital in my life.”

All that seemed clear and sure in the life of this close-knit family of five — Jasmin has two younger sisters — suddenly became frighteningly unknown. Jasmin’s mother Maria, who works part time at an elementary school, trembles when she talks about the disease that has left her once robust husband a frail 125 pounds.

“We don’t know in the future what is going to happen,” Mrs. Qyyum said quietly, tears in her eyes.

Beside her, Mr. Qyyum, on leave from his job as a graphic artist, looked at the floor. “I think about them...” he said, his voice trailing off. “I don’t know how they will get by if anything happens to me.”

Being at her father’s side through doctor’s visits, hospitalizations and chemotherapy has convinced Jasmin even more that she wants to be a doctor.

But as the realities of her father’s illness and its financial and familial obligations began to unfold at the end of her junior year, Jasmin began to have doubts about her future. Maybe medical school was no longer an option.

Her mother needs her at home. Her younger sisters need her. And Jasmin needs them too. She instinctively draped a protective arm around her father’s shoulders as she spoke. “We were just a normal, happy family,” she said. “All of a sudden there were questions you never imagine yourself asking: Is he going to be there for my graduation? My 18th birthday?” For Jasmin, leaving her family for school is not an option, not now and not later.

And then there is the cost. With her father not working, the price tag for private medical education — her only option if she were to stay in Miami —

Family welcomes approval of FIU’s College of Medicine

FIU begins building a 21st century medical school

historic endeavor. Now, the real work of opening South Florida’s first public medical school begins.

“Opening a 21st century medical school is an enormous task,” said George Dambach, FIU’s newly appointed associate provost for Health Affairs and Medical School Planning. He brings more than 30 years of experience in senior medical school administration, most recently at Wayne State University in Detroit, to his new role in FIU’s medical planning team.

“We have many, many decisions to make as we move forward,” Dambach said, “All of them are important because the medical school is going to make a lasting impact on this community.”

Potential students and faculty have already begun making inquiries about admissions and employment.

However, a great deal has to happen before the new school can welcome its charter class. FIU has few models to guide the process — only one other medical school has been established in this country in the past 20 years, Florida State University College of Medicine. With a focus on rural health care, that school has a different mission and setup than FIU’s program.

Between now and opening day, FIU will create an original blueprint for the establishment of a contemporary medical school. The first step will be selecting a founding dean, a medical doctor who will serve as “the architect and the builder” of the new school, said FIU
The new dean will complete FIU’s affiliation agreements with local hospitals and appoint the new faculty members. The medical school’s objectives, curriculum, teaching methodologies and evaluation methods will all be developed under the leadership of the new dean.

“We're looking for someone who will have the innovative and creative vision to build something from the ground up,” Dambach said. “There will probably be a clamoring of people eager to do this. The question is finding someone who not only has a vision, but the personal leadership to make it happen.”

The medical school is expected to receive its first injection of critical startup dollars in 2007. Early next year, the university will seek $5.4 million from the state Legislature, most of which will pay for administrative and faculty salaries and medical school library resources.

An all-encompassing step in the development of the new medical school will be winning provisional accreditation, a lengthy review and approval process that assures the country’s M.D.-granting medical schools meet established standards. FIU is already working toward applying for provisional accreditation but to get there, the medical school must have in place all of the academic resources, institutional functions and administrative supports needed to open.

“Dozens of others in the community also hailed the new medical school as a much-needed addition to the community. Miami attorney Lourdes Martinez-Esquivel noted, “With the recent addition of a law school and now a medical school, FIU will be where it should be as a top university in the 21st century.”

Dr. J. Michael Cochran, a Boca Raton neurologist, wrote, “We definitely need more medical school programs as there are already too few doctors in many areas of the country, even very desirable areas like South Florida. We have extraordinarily talented young people as undergraduates at prestigious..."
universities around the country who have trouble finding a medical school program due to the relative paucity of available medical school freshman positions.”

The historic vote for the new College of Medicine prompted a jubilant celebration at FIU. Alumni in the community hurrahed with pride. FIU’s supporters in health care applauded the announcement. And in the small, cheerfully decorated Qyyum home, a teenager smiled and a mother wept.

“We wished and prayed FIU would get the medical school,” said Mrs. Qyyum. “I see God has opened a door for her. It’s the start of a dream come true.”

Editor’s Note: At press time in early August, the Qyyum family was rallying around Mr. Qyyum after he underwent another round of chemotherapy. Said Jasmin, “Things go a little on the down side and still are with my dad. He has not been doing too well since the last chemo.” The summer was a roller coaster for the family with Mr. Qyyum’s condition improving in mid-June, then weakening after chemotherapy. Jasmin spent her summer working part-time to save money and preparing to apply for college. “I have learned,” the 16-year-old wrote in an e-mail, “life is not easy, but if you work with all your heart, and you do it honestly, there is no stopping you.”

By Sue Arrowsmith’05
In the world of medical education, library spaces once reserved for stacks of books and journals are increasingly being transformed into cutting-edge information hubs that provide students with the most recent medical data available. With the approval of the new FIU College of Medicine, the university is undertaking an exciting endeavor — designing South Florida’s first public medical school library.

“Medical today is online and we plan to be forward-looking in the development of our medical school library,” said George Dambach, associate provost for Health Affairs and Medical School Planning. “Students at the FIU College of Medicine will have the library in their laptops.”

New medical libraries are mainly digital and take up much less physical space than traditional libraries, said Medical School Project Director Dr. Carlos Martini. They must include extensive databases with patient information at the hospital level where students can do their clinical work. As a critical component of medical education, the new library will open in tandem with the college.

Tony Schwartz, associate director of collection management at FIU, is collaborating with medical school planners to provide cost projections for online journals and to assemble a basic collection, which will include some 250 core books that meet the national requirements. Once the program’s curriculum is completed, the rest of the collection will consist of electronic resources tailored to program. Creating the new collection will be challenging.

“Given the sheer volume and exponential growth of online information related to healthcare, the need for it to be filtered, synthesized and structured to particular users’ purposes is a critical role for librarians,” said Schwartz.

Across the country, medical libraries are making the transition from print to digital. The Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library at Florida State University (FSU) was the first library in the nation created in the 21st century. More than 90 percent of its resources are web-based.

“Our electronic collection includes more than three million articles, with access to more than 24,000 e-journals,” said Barbara Shearer, director of the College of Medicine library at FSU. “In addition, of the 45,000 e-books in the university’s general collection, about 4,000 are medical.”

According to Shearer, who has been with the FSU medical library since its creation in 2001, much work goes into designing and maintaining an electronic collection. She added that while the cost is substantial, the benefits are significant.

“You can hardly compare. In a print collection there is only one book, one access point for many people,” said Shearer. Medical students, she said, need access to information at all times.

FIU’s medical students will work in hospitals and medical facilities within the community. With a digital library, they will be able to quickly access the latest in medical science as they are treating patients.

Providing “portable access to high-quality electronic information” is a fundamental mission of the FIU medical library, said Schwartz. To maximize access, students, faculty and staff will carry portable computing devices, such as laptops and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). In addition to meeting the medical school’s needs, Schwartz believes the library will also be a service to the people of South Florida.

“There should be a partnership between FIU and the Public Library System on how to serve the general public,” said Schwartz.

With most of the collection available electronically, Schwartz said, the physical space of FIU’s library will be designed as a work space for small groups, training and social interaction. FSU’s shearer emphasized the importance of having a “third place” — a quiet location other than home or work.

“There is still a valid need for a place,” said Shearer. “Place represents the unique and personalized niche that libraries and librarians still hold.”

Sue Arrowsmith’05, a recent graduate from the FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is a staff writer and copy editor with PulseMiamiNews.com.

FALL 2006
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE 23
Includes medical school operations, new FIU physicians who practice in Florida and new jobs created by commercialization of research.

$68,000:
The average salary of new jobs created by the FIU College of Medicine.

$35,170:
The average salary in the state of Florida.

$19 million:
How much biomedical research FIU attracted to South Florida in 2005.

$1.8 million:
Amount of money Florida will save for each FIU medical school graduate who practices in a medically underserved area.

64,705:
Number of hours of volunteer service medical faculty, students and staff are expected to give to S. Florida residents in 2010.

Florida's rank among the country's largest biotechnology centers:

$40 billion:
Dollar value of the U.S. biotechnology industry.

State Employment Impact**

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Florida International University Magazine Fall 2006
A VITAL ECONOMIC ENGINE

Economic impact of FIU College of Medicine projected at $1.2 billion by 2025

By José Dante Parra Herrera ’97

Every spring for the past several years, Tallahassee lawmakers have wrangled about two topics of state-wide concern: economic development and funding for education.

The debates, however, have almost always been independent of each other. But an outside study on the economic impact of a new public medical college in Miami commissioned by FIU shows that education and economic development are closely intertwined and part of a common solution.

One of the study's major findings is that by the year 2025, Florida's taxpayers would receive as much as $3 for every $1 they invest in the FIU College of Medicine.

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique, a former general partner of the world's largest venture capital firm, said this is evidence that educational funding should be seen not as a drain on state or local budgets, but as a vital investment in every resident's standard of living.

The College of Medicine will influence a variety of economic sectors in the state and South Florida communities. In its first 10 years alone, the economic impact of the college is conservatively estimated at $4.3 billion. By 2025, the total economic impact on the state is projected to be an estimated $1.2 billion.

"In our case, the FIU College of Medicine will be equivalent to bringing a Fortune 1000 company to our area." — Modesto A. Maidique, FIU President

"The FIU College of Medicine will be equivalent to bringing a Fortune 1000 company to our area." — Modesto A. Maidique, FIU President

By José Dante Parra Herrera ’97, a former reporter for the Florida Sun-Sentinel, is an FIU media relations coordinator.

"In our case, the FIU College of Medicine will be equivalent to bringing a Fortune 1000 company to our area." — Modesto A. Maidique, FIU President

"The medical college is an extraordinary economic catalyst for the community, not only because of the direct impact of the school but the opportunity it presents to expand South Florida's biomedical industry," said FIU Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez, a graduate of Harvard Business School.

The TrippUmbach study points out that the College of Medicine will bring in additional research investment from government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which magnifies itself in the economy through what is called the "multiplier effect," which represents the re-spending of dollars within the economy.

"It is important to note that only the (Florida) universities with the established medical schools (University of Florida, University of South Florida and the University of Miami) perform more NIH-sponsored research than FIU," the study says.

This is all in addition to other economic benefits the new medical college would bring, such as affordable tuition for medical students and improved health care in the region, which support a healthier and more productive work force.

"The FIU College of Medicine will do more than train physicians Florida needs for the future," says the report.

"It will attract industries that will add to the economic infrastructure, develop more medical research and improve the health of its citizens." —
2005 TORCH AWARDS Gala

ALUMNI TORCH GALA EXUDES FIU PRIDE

More than 500 alumni and members of the FIU community gathered in February for the Alumni Association's largest-ever and most spectacular Torch Awards Gala to honor outstanding graduates.

A live musical performance by FIU alumna Nadia Turner, a top American Idol finalist, was among the highlights of the event, held at Parrot Jungle's Treetop Ballroom. Elegant and festive, the Torch Gala was befitting the achievements of this year's 16 award recipients. Among the 11 to receive Distinguished Alumni Awards were a longtime and award-winning Miami-Dade Public Schools educator, a landscape architect whose public service career and volunteer work is devoted to preserving Florida's natural environment and a CEO who founded an international hospitality company.

"Our alumni are using their education to make a difference in the community and in their professions," said FIU President Modesto A. Maidique in praising the award recipients' leadership and entrepreneurship.

Noting that FIU now has nearly 130,000 alumni, most of whom live and work in South Florida, Maidique joked, "If we ever get together, we can take over the world."

The Torch Award Gala had been set to take place in October 2005, but was postponed because of Hurricane
Wilma. Rescheduling allowed FIU to expand the event to a record-setting 530 attendees. Barry Johnson, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, served as emcee for the evening.

Chair of the Torch Gala committee was Alumni Association Board member Susan Webster ’87 and sponsors for the event included Wachovia Bank; The Miami Herald; GEICO; Preferred Care Partners; Nehet; Bacardi; Banco Popular; Parrot Jungle Island; Broward Professional Alliance; Community Health Foundation, Inc./Community Health of South Dade, Inc.; Greenberg Traurig, P.A.; and Afrodisia’s Garden Florist at FIU.

The impressive crowd at this year’s Torch Gala was a reflection of the tremendous growth that has been occurring in Alumni Relations, said Associate Vice President Bill Draughon. In 2006, membership surpassed the 8,000 mark for the first time. And the Student Alumni Association is the largest student organization at FIU.

“Thanks to all of our alumni family who make us look good on a daily basis, I feel a tremendous sense of pride about who we are and where we’re headed,” Draughon said.

Special guest Betty Perry, wife of FIU’s late founding president Charles E. Perry, was on hand to present the Charles E. Perry Visionary Award. The honor is given annually to a successful graduate in the early stages of his or her career. This year’s recipient was Myhosi S. Ashton, or “Josie” as she is known, executive director of Safespace Foundation, which provides assistance and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. Ashton is also the inspiration behind the “Bride’s March” staged each year in New York City to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Ashton, said Mrs. Perry, is an alumna “who has made great use of the educational opportunities my husband and others worked so hard to create for this community... He always believed in FIU’s ability and that of its faculty, staff, students and alumni to transform lives in this community.”

The 2005 FIU Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Stephanie Burns, president and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation. College of Education Professor Stephen Fain was the winner of the 2005 Outstanding Faculty Award.

If you are interested in nominating an FIU graduate for a 2006 Torch Award or if you are interested in sponsorship information for the event, please contact Randi West in Alumni Relations at westr@fiu.edu or 305-348-1009. The 2006 Torch Awards Gala will be held on March 31, 2007.
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Stephanie A. Burns ’77, College of Arts and Sciences, is president and CEO of Dow Corning Corporation. Burns joined Dow Corning in 1983 as a researcher and later became product development manager for electronics. She became director of Women’s Health in 1994. In 1997 she was named science and technology director for Europe. Burns became president in 2003 and chief executive officer in 2004. She earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from FIU and her Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

CHARLES E. PERRY VISIONARY AWARD

Myhosi S. Ashton ’02, College of Health and Urban Affairs: Ashton is the executive director of the SafeSpace Foundation in Miami, which serves survivors of domestic violence. In 2001, she heard about the murder of a Dominican woman on her wedding day by an ex-boyfriend. Ashton undertook a 1,600-mile walk from New Jersey to Miami in her wedding dress to raise awareness about domestic violence in the Latin community. This walk has inspired ‘Brides’ Marches’ against domestic violence across the country.

FIU SERVICE AWARD

Augusto L. Vidaurreta ’80, College of Business Administration, is the founder of RAM Strategy, Inc. in Miami, a consulting, training and executive coaching firm. He is a member of the College of Business Administration’s Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame and helped create the college’s Alumni Circle, serving as its first chairman. Additionally, he helped form the college’s Mentoring Program and serves on the college’s Dean’s Council. Recently, he and his wife, Jeannie, became major donors of the college’s building campaign.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Stephen M. Fain a founding faculty member and one of the founders of the Faculty Senate, Fain held a leadership role in the development of the university’s curricular framework. A professor in the College of Education and Fellow of the Honors College, Fain is an eminent scholar in his field and has served on more than 100 successful doctoral dissertation committees. He developed an Honors College seminar on discovering the American character and in 2003 was awarded an Outstanding Honors Fellow Award.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, SCHOOL OF HOTEL AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Humberto “Burt” Cabanias ’76, is the founder, chairman and CEO of Benchmark Hospitality International in Texas, which provides management services for resorts, conference centers, conference hotels and golf clubs. In 2000, he formed a subsidiary company, Benchmark Golf, to manage the golf clubs of the company and golf operations of the conference centers and resorts. Cabanias is a founding board member of the International Association of Conference Centers and co-authored “The Uniform System of Accounts for Conference Centers.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, COLLEGE OF LAW

Mikki Canton, Esq., MS ’79, is shareholder of Gunster Yoakley & Stewart, PA, in Miami, where she chairs the Corporate Strategic Counseling and Public Affairs Division. She often speaks to women about leadership. Through the John F. Kennedy School of Government Women’s Leadership Board at Harvard University, she delivers a message of authenticity and self-realization. She is initiating a similar project at the FIU College of Law. Recently, Canton received the American Jewish Committee’s Learned Hand Award.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, HONORS COLLEGE

Christina M. Ceballos-Levy ’97 is an associate at Kenny Nachwalter, PA, in Miami. Her practice focuses on malpractice defense, securities litigation, class-action defense and commercial litigation. After graduating from FIU, Ceballos-Levy earned a juris doctorate at the University of Miami, where she was executive editor for the UM Law Review. She is a member of the FIU Honors College Advisory Board and serves on the Florida Bar Association International Arbitration Committee and the Cuban American Bar Association.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING

Charles D. Ermer ’81 is president of Right Way Plumbing Co. in Sunrise, a 74-year-old company with operations throughout Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Widely recognized for excellence and quality workmanship, the company is a pioneer of computer cost estimating and has grown by expanding a new construction division. Ermer’s parents Charles C. and Annette G. Ermer purchased Right Way Plumbing in 1968. Chuck became involved full-time after graduating from FIU with a degree in construction management.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Rosanna M. Fiske, APR ’94 is principal and partner at Communique Group/Rise Strategies, Inc. in Coral Gables. Widely regarded for her multicultural expertise, Fiske has developed local, national and international communications campaigns for a variety of companies, including Charles Schwab, MTV Networks, Wells Fargo Bank and MCI. An expert in corporate and executive communications, Fiske was the first Hispanic woman named president of the Public Relations Society of America’s (PRSA) Miami chapter and serves on PRSAs national board of directors.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, ATHLETICS

Gerald H. Hunsicker MS ’76 is the senior vice president of Baseball Operations for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. While earning his master’s degree in the College of Education, Hunsicker served as a pitching coach for FIU’s baseball team and assistant athletic director from 1974-78. He entered Major League Baseball in 1978, filling a number of roles with the Houston Astros. He later joined the New York Mets in 1988, before rejoining the Astros in 1995 as general manager.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Janet L. Hupp ’75, MS ’83 is the superintendent of Regional Center V in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. After serving as principal of Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Hupp was promoted to her current position. She has worked in the school system since 1975 as a teacher, department chair, assistant principal, principal and regional superintendent. She was selected as Miami-Dade County’s Principal of the Year in 2003. In 1984 and 1988, she won Teacher of the Year at Palmetto.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Paul L. Jones ’78 is the founder and president of Pyramid Realty Group, Inc. in Miami, a national consulting and investment banking firm. Under Jones’s leadership, Pyramid Realty has become a leading advisory firm in the industry. Jones has shared his experience with FIU students as an adjunct professor in the College of Business Administration. He has also served as a trustee of the FIU Foundation, chairman of the Alumni Association and founder of the FIU Real Estate Alumni Council.
Nadia Turner gives ‘a little tenderness’ to her alma mater

Nadia Turner is onstage warming up before show time in a white Bohemian skirt and t-shirt. She’ll tell you she’s tired, just arrived in Miami from Los Angeles. (She looks fabulous nonetheless.) Life has been a whirlwind for this FIU alumna since she wowed audiences as a top eight finalist on the FOX hit show American Idol, where the infamous Simon Cowell dubbed her “a young Tina Turner.”

In the past year, she went on a 43-city tour and posed for Glamour magazine. She chatted with Jay Leno on The Tonight Show and Donald Rumsfeld at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez proclaimed June 15, 2005, “Nadia Turner Day.” Her new album featuring her distinctive mix of rock and roll, soul and funk is due out any day.

Dreams of “singing for the world” are coming true for the Miami girl who’s been singing all her life. But this Saturday night, Turner has come home to perform for her alma mater, treating more than 500 FIU alumni, donors and supporters to two performances at the Alumni Association’s 2005 Torch Awards Gala.

“With FIU always comes a little tenderness,” she cooed into her microphone before heading backstage to change.

She brought along her family: daughter Zareh, her mother Rosita Lopes-Silverman ’97, an alumna of the College of Business Administration, and her two little sisters Vanessa and Danielle. Turner says she would not be able to manage her ascent to fame without her family and her faith.

“Spirituality is a big facet of our family, other than us just loving each other,” Turner said. “My family keeps me grounded.”

Turner said she was happy to accept the invitation to sing for her alma mater. She was an active student, living in Panther Hall, serving as vice president of the Black Student Union and Queen of the Pan-African Celebration and running for the FIU track team. “I have a lot of great memories at FIU,” she said.

Backstage, the Turners got a surprise visit from Nadia’s favorite FIU professor, Margo Berman, with whom she studied advertising in the School of Journalism.

“Who told you that you were going to be a star?!” Berman said, as the two joyfully embraced.

“Mom, this is the professor at FIU I wanted you to meet,” Nadia said introducing Berman. “She was my inspiration at FIU.”

Later, it was Turner serving up inspiration with her dazzling voice. Onstage before launching into her final number, “A Little Tenderness,” Turner perfectly captured the mood of the Torch Awards Gala: “It’s been a wonderful night...meeting old friends and good times.”

To catch up with Nadia’s latest projects, visit her website at http://www.nadiacturner.com
By Martin Haro '05

A new $45 million, state-of-the-art, multi-building complex set to open next year will expand FIU's nationally-ranked College of Business Administration while fostering greater interaction among students, faculty, administrators, alumni and the business community.

The project will be the result of the college’s ongoing “Building for Business” campaign, which has attracted support from throughout the community.

The complex is being paid for in a three-way arrangement: $15 million from the state of Florida, $15 million from donations and $15 million in state matching dollars. More than $9.9 million of the $15 million needed has been raised.

FIU Trustee R. Kirk Landon made the lead gift of $5 million, a donation that qualified for a state match, making its impact $10 million — the largest cash gift at the time from an individual. Other donors include Ocean Bank ($1 million), businessman and former trustee Alvah Chapman ($800,000), businessman and former trustee Armando Codina ($500,000), Bank of America ($500,000), Wachovia Bank ($250,000) and Regions Bank ($250,000).

The most recent gift came in January when Florida-based Office Depot donated $1 million to the project in a new partnership that includes collaborative student and faculty research. In presenting the Office Depot gift, company Chairman and CEO Steve Odland praised FIU’s strength in international business.

“We are very pleased to be able to form an important strategic relationship with FIU’s business school, one of the pacesetters in international business education,” Odland said. “As a global company with operations in 23 countries, we have a keen interest in enhancing academic programs that support this emphasis.”

“The college has been blessed by having terrific support both from within and outside the university in our quest to achieve our vision and mission. Today, we are well on our way,” College of Business Executive Dean Joyce Elam said.

With more than 6,000 undergraduate, 1,000 graduate students and 30,000 alumni, the College is the largest of FIU’s professional schools. U.S. News & World Report ranked its undergraduate international business programs No. 7 in the nation in its 2007 “America’s Best Colleges” report and No. 18 among MBAs with an international business specialty in its 2007 “America’s Best Graduate Schools” survey.

The College is among the elite 15 percent of business schools worldwide accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and since 1998 has been placed by Hispanic Business magazine among the Top 10 business schools for Hispanics. Hispanic Trends has ranked the College since 2003 in the Top 25 MBA programs for Hispanics.

“We have worked hard over the years to enhance our programs, our facilities and our faculty,” Elam said. “To be nationally recognized is really wonderful, but to now have the opportunity to expand the college and its reach — to leave our mark on the future — is really great.”

The new 110,000-square-foot, four-building complex will facilitate a sense of community within the college. Currently, business classes are taught in buildings across campus, making it difficult to reach and communicate with its students.

“Now we will have everyone together in one complex and information will be more available and more efficiently shared,” Elam said. “The new complex will support a team-oriented, active learning approach.”
FLORIDA’S WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS FIND BALANCE

New study finds female CEOs don’t sacrifice home life for work

By Susan Feinberg

When Monique Hamaty-Simmonds ’96 was in college, she began working during summer vacations for her father, who founded the Tortuga Rum Company in Grand Cayman. She quickly discovered that she had a natural aptitude for business.

“I liked and admired the control my father had in being his own boss and having his own business,” she recalls. “I decided that I wanted to be a CEO of my own company someday.”

After earning a degree in business administration at the FIU College of Business Administration, Hamaty-Simmonds launched Tortuga Imports, Inc., in 1997. Today, the 34-year-old is CEO and president of a thriving international business with $3.8 million in annual revenues. She sells nearly two million rum cakes a year throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

Hamaty-Simmonds’ determination at an early age to reach the top of her profession is typical of many local women business leaders, according to a first-of-its kind study of women business leaders by the FIU Center for Leadership in cooperation with the Commonwealth Institute, South Florida. The survey was conducted by the FIU Metropolitan Center. The study, “Florida’s Women-Led Businesses 2006,” found that nearly 60 percent of the women decided when they were young that they wanted to be CEOs and presidents, or to own their own companies.

Published in June, the study analyzes key characteristics of women leaders including career progression, personal motivation, work habits, and life choices. These women are not sacrificing their personal lives to achieve professional success. A majority of them are married, and about 40 percent of those who are in traditional family environments stayed home past maternity leave.

“They are not women who live only for their jobs,” says Mayra Beers, executive director for the Center for Leadership. “They’ve been able to be successful and find a good balance in their lives, even though they tell us that it’s hard work.”

In fact, the executives and CEOs credit their husbands with helping them manage home and professional life.

“The survey told us that women who are leading Florida businesses have spouses that seem to have more flexibility in their schedules,” says Joyce Elam, executive dean of the FIU College of Business Administration. “That’s a real benefit. It appears that there is more of a shared responsibility for the home life.”

Hamaty-Simmonds acknowledges that finding time to spend with her husband and two children is a challenge. During the work week, she has a caretaker for her children, as is the case with 61 percent of the women business leaders surveyed. But her weekends are dedicated to quality time with her family.

“I rarely go in to work on Saturdays or Sundays now because I’m a mom and a wife,” she said. “Technology helps me to stay connected to my business when I’m home. I’m always in touch with my Blackberry.”

The researchers are interested in exploring what will happen when these high-achieving women, whose average age is 51, start to retire.

“What’s the next generation going to be like?” asked Elam. “Will these businesses be passed down to their daughters? Will we have a whole new group of women-owned businesses? That’s something that we want to find out.”

Beers thinks it is likely that a younger generation of women business leaders will take their places, having learned from those who preceded them.

“These women view a connection to a women’s professional network as being important, and mentorship as a key part of their own growth,” she says. “They have a larger number of women directors on their boards. It seems to me that they’re trying to pass the mantle.”

Susan Feinberg is a freelance writer based in Boca Raton. She specializes in writing for higher education.
Community leaders will raise dollars and support for FIU Athletics

By Martin Haro ’05

A new board of community leaders has been founded to strengthen Golden Panthers Athletics by increasing awareness, revenue and community support.

The founding 26 members include prominent members of FIU’s business and philanthropic community, as well as FIU Board of Trustees member Al Dotson. They were invited to participate in the new Athletic Association Board based on their long-standing enthusiasm and support for FIU. The board will be tasked with raising money for student-athlete scholarships, facility improvement and for the overall budget of the Athletics Department.

Its initial projects will include the introduction of an Athletics Annual Fund, which raises unrestricted dollars for athletic scholarships and facility improvements. The board will also be fund raising for the expansion of the Football Stadium.

The board’s founding chair Jorge de Cespedes has been a leading supporter of FIU Athletics. In 2004, he and his brother Carlos de Cespedes, owners of the Miami-based Pharmed Group, donated $1 million to the FIU Athletics Department. In recognition of their donation, the University renamed the Golden Panther Arena—home to FIU basketball, volleyball and a variety of intramural competitions, as well as commencement and other events—the Pharmed Arena.

De Cespedes said he is excited about the initiatives and objectives the board has mapped for the future.

“We hope to create awareness of FIU’s terrific athletics programs, and to boost the fan experience and financial support for Athletics both within the FIU family and in the South Florida community,” he said. “This is a critical time in FIU Athletics history, and I am truly honored to have been asked to recruit and lead these community leaders who are committed to helping us become nationally recognized.”

Athletics Association Executive Director Joe Velasco said athletics has an important role to play as a marketing and promotion tool for the university.

“The university needs to selflessly use Athletics for its potential to rally support and bring positive exposure to the university beyond our borders,” Velasco said. “I hope everyone in the community will join us at FIU athletic events to continue building Panther Pride.”

Mr. Jorge de
Cespedes
Chairman Athletic
Association
Pharmed Group

Jim Mandich
Vice-Chairman
Athletic Association
Lotspiech

Stewart Appelrouth
MS ’00
Appelrouth, Farah & Co.

Jorge L. Arménteros
Confidential Concrete

Judith Blucker
Interim Dean
College of Education

Reinaldo I. Bru ’89
Ladex

Marcia Cabrera
MBI Healthcare
Partners

Armando Carnejo ’99
Integrated Technology
Services

Alberto Covio
Bernstein Investments

Albert E.
Dotson Sr.
FIU Board of Trustees
Puryear Inc.

Ricardo Estrada
Northwestern Mutual
Investments

Frank González
Morrison, Brown,
Argueta & Farna

Henn Hochman
Philanthropist

Alberto Hernández
Hunt & Williams LLP

William Herrera
Premier American Bank

Cesar Llano
Century Home Builders

Juan Mendivilo ’62
Ocean Bank

Pete Pizarro
Telefónica

Ignacio Quech
Garach Foods

Raúl Rivero ’83
ICO Claims

Javier Rodríguez
Rembrandt Worldwide

Jose Roque
Integral Design Group

Charles Sacher
Sacher, Marin, Sacher

Henry Sais
Sais, Peterson,
Edes & Lages

Ricardo Sánchez
U.S. Century Bank

Jorge Turruellas
Lennar Corporation
Letter from Alumni Association President Will Trueba '90:

Greetings to all FIU alumni, family and friends. In May, I was honored to accept the appointment as president of the Alumni Association at our Annual Meeting. I want to acknowledge the contributions of outgoing President Ty Javellana, who provided leadership to the organization for more than two years. His legacy at FIU began when he was a student and served as a student counselor and founded one of FIU’s first fraternities. He is a true model to us all.

This is an historic time to be involved with our alma mater and a perfect moment to reflect on how far we have come. My first experience at FIU was in 1985, taking two summer classes. The following year, I enrolled as a full-time student as Modesto A. Maidique became FIU’s new president. As shown in the story of his presidency (page 16), Maidique awakened an educational giant that’s still in the process of reaching its true potential.

In the past 20 years, FIU has been transformed, growing from 15,000 students to more than 37,000 today. I still remember the old “Tamiami Campus” with its airport runway and air traffic control tower. Today, University Park campus is a dynamic and thriving community. The recent approval of the new FIU College of Medicine represents an exciting promise of academic opportunity and improved quality of life for the community.

The FIU Alumni Association has evolved in tandem with the university. We went from having a loosely organized alumni association to having a robust and reinvigorated alumni association, thanks in large part to the support we have received from the university. The team at Alumni Relations works hard to cultivate lasting bonds by engaging alumni in the life of the university and staging signature events. The board of directors of the Alumni Association is mindful and grateful that this institution believes in the importance of maintaining a relationship with us.

I am extremely proud of FIU and its accomplishments. I look forward to sharing that pride with all of you.

In the Spirit of Blue and Gold,

Will Trueba
At the same time, Maidique said, the university continues to grow and its programs continue to rise in national rankings.

With the alumni base growing stronger every day — the Alumni Relations team crossed the membership threshold of 8,000 this year — Maidique reiterated the university’s commitment to reaching out and fostering lifelong relationships with its graduates.

New travel program off to a great start

The FIU Alumni Association launched a new travel program in May with a 10-day Mediterranean voyage on Oceania Cruises’ Insignia. The program, called Golden Panther Getaways, offers alumni and friends of the university the opportunity to enjoy world travel, fellowship and lifelong learning. Alumni Association revenues earned from the travel program will be used to award student scholarships.

Former FIU President Gregory B. Wolfe and his wife, Mary-Ann, hosted the inaugural getaway, which included visits to Italy (Rome, Sorrento/Capri, Amalfi/Positano, Florence/Pisa and Portoño), and France (Marseille, Nice/Sète), Spain (Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca) and Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The getaway combined activities both on ship and on land. Marian Demos, associate professor of classical languages and humanities in the Department of Modern Languages, joined the cruise as the enrichment lecturer, providing a series of presentations on board.

“The cruise was a great way for alumni to come together and meet, sightsee and learn,” said Jan Solomon, an international relations Ph.D. student who also works in that department as a development associate. “It was a whirlwind, but we had a blast.”

Prior to developing the travel program, the Alumni Association surveyed alumni to find out which destinations were of most interest.

“The Mediterranean countries were among the most often mentioned so we selected the perfect Oceania cruise to meet the desires of our alumni,” said Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations. “We’re off to a good start.”

Upcoming Golden Panther Getaways include two Oceania voyages on the Regatta: a 10-day Athens to Venice cruise (April 27, 2007) and a 14-day Stockholm to London cruise (June 30, 2007). For more information on these Golden Panther Getaways, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 305-348-3334.

Fishing Tournament catches the pride

By Martin Haro ‘05

The FIU Alumni Association reeled in the fun, hook, line and sinker in June as it hosted the 4th Annual FIU Alumni Association Fishing Tournament at the Miami Beach Marina and Monty’s South Beach. More than 200 alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university came together to bask in the sun and catch the spirit — and a lot of dolphin — in an effort to lend their support to the FIU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

After lines were out around 3 p.m., José Bofill ‘90, director of this year’s Fishing Tournament, kicked off the ceremony portion of the day’s program, by inviting everyone to enjoy great food and drinks and try their luck in a raffle featuring prizes such as a one-of-a-kind Gary Traczyk sculpture. After lunch, Pino sat down with FIU Magazine writer and film critic Martin Haro ‘05 to discuss his latest film commitments.

Whether he is playing a drug lord on the cable drama “The Shield,” Desi Arnaz on a telepic or solving crimes on CBS’ “Cold Case,” Danny Pino ‘96 has constantly proven his versatility as an actor.

This spring, Pino appeared in “The Lost City,” a film set against the Cuban revolution. In June, Pino and his wife Lilly Bernal Pino ’97 came back to FIU for a lunch date with President Modesto A. Maidique before returning to Hollywood for the fourth season of “Cold Case.” The new parents were in Miami introducing son Luca Daniel to their Miami relatives.

Before lunch, Pino sat down with FIU Magazine writer and film critic Martin Haro ‘05.

You played a Latin drug lord on “The Shield.” Are you concerned as a Latino actor about typecasting?

DP: It’s always a concern as an actor, not only as a Latino actor, but as any kind of actor, whether you do comedy, drama, soap operas, film or TV — it never helps to be pigeonholed. Certainly, as a Latino, my concern is not only to be the best Latino actor I can be, but also the best actor I can be and hopefully to play roles that represent the community well, and others that are challenging in different ways.

Are you doing that more? In your new movie, “Flicka,” you play a character named Jack.

DP: Jack is a mix of Irish, Native American and Mexican...
as a pair of American Airlines tickets to anywhere in the 48 states, Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean or Mexico.

This year, six scholarships were awarded to FIU students who are full-time students, have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and are members of the alumni association.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations, José Pérez de Corcho ’93, chair for this year’s tournament, and Ramón Ferrán ’79 of title sponsor TotalBank, presented Geoffrey Anderson Jr., Tiffany Okoye, Aviva Rose-Avila and Kelly-Ann Williams with Panther Pride Scholarships. They then presented this year’s tournament winners with their prizes.

Committee members for this year’s tournament included Chair José Pérez de Corcho ’93, José Bofill ’90, Joe Caruncho, Esq. ’81, Ramón Ferrán ’79, Gabriel Albelo ’93, Ray del Rey ’97, Ray Del Toro ’96, Manny Matalón ’01, MACC ’03, Jennifer Restrepo MS ’05 and Randi N. West. Serving as weighmasters were Clayton Williams and Cliff Ruehl of the Department of Marine Biology.

TotalBank was the tournament’s title sponsor for the third year in a row; the Pride Presenting Sponsor was Preferred Care Partners; American Airlines, CIMA-NeoVertika, GEICO and Marine Max were Gold Sponsors; and Bofill & Vilar Attorney’s at Law, CyberAngler, Financial Insurance Brokers Incorporated, Mercury Marine, Solo Printing Incorporated, Tigress Outrigging and Gear and Tortuga Imports were Blue Sponsors. The Tournament’s stunning kinetic sculpture was donated by artist Gary Traczyk.

For sponsorship information for the 2007 FIU Alumni Association Fishing Tournament, contact Randi N. West, CMP, at 305-348-1009 or westr@fiu.edu.
upcoming football season, along with other Alumni events.

Jesus Diaz, Jr., publisher of The Miami Herald and member of the FIU Foundation Board, along with Tom Fiedler, executive editor of The Miami Herald, both spoke of their respective ties to the university and the high quality of graduates that FIU produces. They underscored that local businesses have a distinct advantage when they employ FIU graduates who are comfortable in a multicultural environment.

Fiedler highlighted the success of FIU’s journalism alumni who have risen to the top of several local and national media outlets. In all, six FIU alumni have won eight Pulitzer prizes.

Alumnus pledges gift to Honors College

FIU alumnus Gerald C. Grant, Jr., ’78, MBA ’89, former president of the Alumni Association and an Honors College Community Advisory Board member, pledged a $100,000 gift to the university’s Honors College to endow study abroad and research scholarships for highly motivated students in the college.

The gift is eligible for a 50 percent match from the state of Florida, as part of the state’s Major Gifts Matching Program, making the impact of the gift $150,000.

“A number of professors at FIU made a significant impact in my professional development. To show my appreciation, I am making a financial contribution to FIU to assist deserving students,” Grant said, pointing out that this gift is the first step toward an even more significant contribution he wishes to make to the university.

On May 2, the university honored Grant for his commitment to FIU and the Honors College by awarding him an FIU Medallion. The high honor was bestowed by FIU President Modesto A. Maidique during the 2006 commencement ceremonies.

Star alumnus’ novel adapted for new film

Ben Affleck is making his directorial debut with the film adaptation of FIU alumnus Dennis Lehane’s novel, “Gone, Baby, Gone,” which began shooting in May. Lehane earned an MFA from FIU’s nationally ranked creative writing program in 2001.

“Gone, Baby, Gone” focuses on two private investigators hunting for a kidnapped four-year-old in Boston’s underworld. Academy Award-nominated actor Ed Harris will play a cop while Affleck’s younger brother Casey and Michelle Monaghan (“Mission: Impossible III”) have also signed on.

Meanwhile, production on another Lehane adaptation has been announced, this time from his short story “Until Gwen,” with Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Josh Olson (“A History of Violence”) at the helm. No cast has been announced.

Golfers tee off for scholarships

The 10th Annual FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in May was a fun-filled day of golf and fundraising for student scholarships. Participants enjoyed a one-hour Jim McLean short-game clinic, great food and drinks, golf bag filled with such goodies as a shirt, cap, golf balls and more, a post-tournament awards ceremony featuring a live auction for items like a VIP trip to Napa Valley, more than two dozen raffle gifts and a Cinco de Mayo reception.

This year, eight Legacy Scholarships, which are given to second-generation alumni, were presented to qualifying students.

Bill Draughon, associate vice president of Alumni Relations; Sean Kramer ’95, director of Student Alumni Association and Young Alumni Programs; and Golf Tournament Chair José Manuel Díaz ’86, of the FIU Alumni Association Board of Directors, presented scholarships to Dina Asis, Diana Bazzani, Kristina Clarke, Lourdes Cortizo, Vanessa Fortun, Giselle Gutiérrez, Stephanie Jacques and Qaid WAheed.

Gold Sponsors for this year’s tournament included Preferred Card Partners, Seitel Insurance, Stanford Private Wealth Management and Turner. Fox Pan American Sports sponsored the Jim McLean Short Game Clinic, while Gibraltar Bank sponsored the Million Dollar Hole, which afforded four lucky raffle winners the chance to test their skill on a 165-yard hole and win $1 million if they made a hole in one.

Panther Sponsors included Auto Trader Magazines/AutoExtra.com; the FIU Bookstore; BCM Higher Education Management Group; Earl Haygood, Inc.; GEICO; and Nelnet. Corporate Sponsors included Adidas, Banco Popular, Commercebank, Compass Office Solutions, Sonesta Hotels of Florida and TravelLeaders, among others. Spirits and beer were generously donated by Angostura and Carib Beer. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the 2007 FIU Alumni Association Golf Tournament, contact Randi N. West, CMP, in the Alumni Relations office at 305-348-1009 or westr@fiu.edu.
First Generation Scholarship Fund

(See related article on page 3.)

Give before Nov. 30, 2006 and your donation will be matched by the state to put reach for needy students.

Fund-raising goal: $823,000
State matching grant: $823,000
Total new scholarships: $1.6M

HOW TO GIVE

By Mail
Fill in the attached pledge card and mail it to the address indicated.

You can enclose a check or pay by credit card. All credit card information is kept strictly confidential.

By Phone
Call University Advancement at 305-348-2288 to make a credit card gift over a secure telephone line.

Online
Make a gift by going to the following site: firstgen.fiu.edu

enhance a woman's physical appearance and refinement. Prior to UdelineU, she worked for more than 13 years at Reuters, where she held various sales and global sales management positions in Miami and New York City.

William A. Ramos '85 and Ana J. Colls '02 have been selected as National Urban Fellows (NUF) to complete a master's degree in Public Administration from Bernard Baruch College - City University of New York, in New York City. The fellowship is an all-expenses paid program that provides each fellow the opportunity to complete a nine-month internship in a local, state or federal government agency, as well as internships in the non-profit and philanthropic arena. This is the first time in the 35-year history of NUF that two FIU alumni are members of the program.

Gretchen E. von Dwingleo '85 joined Powell Goldstein LLC's Real Estate Finance and Development Practice Group as Of Counsel after receiving her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida's College of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

José M. Díaz '86 is the principal of Compass Office Solutions (www.compass-office.com), a company that helps businesses profitably navigate the business environment needs of South Florida. He also teamed up with William White of the Allsteel Corporation to create a new experience in the commercial office furniture industry and provide quick, affordable and environmentally sound solutions to today's office environment needs.

Ed Thompson '86 was named vice president of U.S. operations for Neoris, a global IT consultancy based in Miami, in late 2005. He received his MBA from UNC - Greensboro (Cum Laude) in 1994.

Noel Rosquete '86 has been appointed vice president and marketing manager at TotalBank. Lynn Carrier '87, a third-grade teacher at Gulfstream Elementary, was named Miami-Dade's Teacher of the Year in January. She then competed for state wide honors.

Braulio L. Baez, Esq. '88, former chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission, joined the firm of Holland & Knight's Public Policy & Regulation practice as senior counsel.

Nicholas G. Bustle MIB '88, city president for SunTrust Bank's South Florida Region, has joined the Community Partnership for the Homeless Board.

Edward Gannon '88 has been named director of litigation and consulting practices at Kaufman, Rossin & Co. PA.

Joaquín Urquilla '88 is an FIU MBA candidate, has been promoted to partner at Goldstein Schecter Price Lucas Horwitz. He is a member of the College of Business Alumni Circle.

Israel Velasco '88 has been named regional executive for South Florida at Banco Popular North America. He was formerly president of CEO of Alabama-based Colonial Bank's South Florida region.

Nanette L. Avery '89 recently published a young adult historical fiction book titled "Sixty Jars in a Pioneer Town" that is now available on Amazon.com.

Eladio Gil, Jr. '89, a health care industry veteran, was appointed the new CFO of Preferred Care Partners Health Plan.

Dr. J. Scott Hamilton '89, MS '93, associate director of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at FIU, raised funds recently, in conjunction with Caribbean Students Association and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for a young Jamaican boy who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

Ernesto Larrea MIB '89 has been named vice president of correspondent banking by The International Bank of Miami.

1990s

Jennifer Levin '90 has opened her own law firm, Jennifer Levin, P.A., specializing in real estate.

Juan Martinez '90 was named vice president of accounting and treasurer for the James L. Knight Foundation.

Heidi Allespach Pomm '90 is the director of behavioral science in the Family Medicine Residency Program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Paul B. Winkeljohn '90, MPA '93, a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, welcomed the arrival of son Charles William on Feb. 10.

Luis Muñoz '91 has joined Bright Star Credit Union as an investment representative.

Kimberly (Zulick) Olden '91 welcomed son Brody on Dec. 9, 2005. She lives in Chestertown, N.Y., with her husband, Bob, and Brody's older brothers, Brandon, 5, and Brayden, 2.

William J. Schinas '91 was elected to KPMG LLP partnership. Schinas, who joined the audit, tax and advisory firm in 1994, provides audit services to consumer markets, and information and communications to clients in the Miami area.

Leonel Valdés '91 has been appointed accounting manager at The Allen Morris Co.

Alphonse LaFrance '92 is president of Midas Lending Corp., an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College and host of a weekly Creole-language program on small business development on WLOY-AM 1320.

Martee Rodriguez '92 has been appointed chief financial officer of Diversified Investment Advisors.
focused on selling products and services that
president and CEO of UdefineU LLC, a business
completion in the Channelside District of Tampa.
residential projects that are in various states of
launched www.channelside.us with twin brother
Randy B. Zalis '82, LINQ Financial Group, a general agency for
2005, where he is responsible for developing and
have revenue in excess of $100 million. He lives
maintaining relationships with companies that
have more than 13 years at Reuters, where she held
various sales and global sales management
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Dolores M. Figueroa '85 is the founder,
president and CEO of UdefineU LLC, a business
focused on selling products and services that
dake a woman's physical appearance and
refinement. Prior to UdelineU, she worked for
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development on WLOY-AM 1320.
Rick Escudero '92, MACC '93 has joined Reason management Group's Board of Directors.

Barbara Yvonne Debesa-Hernandez '82, MACC '94 has been promoted to chief operations officer at TotalBank.

Sergio Fernández '93, MPA '96 was honored with the Leonard D. White Award for best doctoral dissertation in the field of public administration at the annual American Political Science Association conference in Washington, D.C. He is currently an assistant professor at Indiana University.

Audrey A. Edmonson '94 became El Portal Village mayor in 1999 after five years on the village council, was re-elected by the council in 2002 and 2003 and became the municipality's first mayor to be elected by residents in 2004. She is a member, along with others, of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Juan C. García, Esq. '94 was named a junior partner at the law firm of Walton, Lantaff, Schroeder & Carson. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

Benjamin G. Gilbert Jr. MBA '94 has been appointed to the Children's Trust by Gov. Jeb Bush. He is vice president of Montenary Power Corp.

Beatriz González Hernández '94 welcomed the arrival of her second baby, Kate.

Hannesson I. Murphy, Esq. '94 joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as an associate in the firm's Indianapolis office where he practices in the department of Labor and Employment Law. In 2005, he received the Defense Research Institute's Exceptional Performance Citation for his work as president of the Dade County Defense Bar Association.

Albert Pérez '94 was recently hired as a director of public utilities for the City of Hollywood, Fla.

Raquel Elejabarrieta '95 has been named an associate at Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Guedes Cole and Boniske's labor and employment law group.

Rebecca H. Markham '95, MS '01 received the Sandra Weiner Travel Award to attend the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Last summer, she also received a fellowship and completed an intensive eight-week course on Neural Systems and Behavior at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

Kirill Reznick, Esq. '95, president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the FIU Alumni Association, filed paperwork to begin practicing law on his own, aiming to become wholly independent within a year and dedicate 100 percent of his time to the legal practice and short-term international consulting.

Miliagros S. Rosales '95 received her doctor of veterinary degree from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in June 2000. After working in South Florida for two years, she returned to UF's School of Veterinary Medicine to pursue a residency in dermatology, graduating in June 2005 and passing boards the same year. She is currently self-employed.

Guilnaz Sharafutdinova '95 was the runner-up for the Juan Linz Award for best dissertation in comparative democratization at the annual American Political Science Association conference in Washington, D.C. She is now a professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Brian D. Abramson, Esq., JD '05 was hired as an associate at the intellectual property law firm of Lott & Friedland, P.A., where he is primarily involved in trademark prosecution and litigation.

Martin Amado '96 launched a national home makeover segment called "Manos A La Obra" on TeleFutura Network's "En Vivo y Directo" in January. This is in addition to the similar "Room for Improvement," which airs on South Florida's WSVN 7's Monday night newscast.

Alison D. Austin-Bruyning '96 was appointed CEO of the Belafonte-Tacolcy Center, one of the largest private non-profit youth service centers in the Greater Miami area. In her new position, she coordinates a broad spectrum of programs dedicated to assisting children and youth from pre-school through college age.

Alexandra Ortiz-Sans '96 welcomed daughter Sofia into the world on Valentine's Day.

Howard Mark Shore '91, MBA '96, a founding principal of Elite Advisory Group, has been named to the regional advisory board of Teach for America and to the Board of Governors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

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

Maria E. Fernández '97 was promoted to executive mortgage banker at Quicken Loans after joining the company in January 2004.

Fernando Mesía MBA '97 has been named vice president of corporate lending at Commercebank.

Denise Peña '97 joined Bank United as a senior credit analyst.

Armando A. Pina '97, MS '00, Ph.D. '05 recently began a faculty position at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina.

Lilly Bernal Pino '97 and Danny Pino '96, an actor on TV's "Cold Case," welcomed the arrival of son Luca Daniel on Feb. 15.

Lizette Torres '97 recently received an award as 2005 Sales Representative of the Year for Schering Plough del Caribe, Key Division, in Puerto Rico.

Sara L. Torres '97 is a full-time evangelist who uses her music and personal testimony as tools to reach out for Christ. Her international ministry has been active in the last six years, visiting more than 80 cities all over Latin America, the Caribbean, North America and Europe. Her songs have been heard through radio and the Internet (thanks to her website www.saratortes.com) in places as faraway as Oslo, Tokyo and Queensland, Australia.

Andrew Yap '91, MBA '96 was promoted to president and chief operating officer of LEASA Industries Co., Inc., the largest grower of bean and alfalfa sprouts and one of the largest manufacturers of tofu in Florida.

Loaina M. Matos Kerwer '98 gave birth to her first child, Luciana Mari Kerwer Matos on Nov. 14, 2005.

Yvette M. Perdomo '98 and Carlos E. Torrents '98 were married in February in Miami.

Wayne Smith '98 was promoted to commercial real estate credit manager by Union Planters Bank.

Carlos A. Zarraluqui '98 has been named vice president of marketing and special projects for the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida.

Jennifer Cardenes '99 has joined Bacardi USA as an assistant marketing manager.

Josefina (Josie) Carreno '99 was promoted to vice president-director of Miami Manufacturing Operations for Beckman Coulter Corp.

Kwan Wang Lin '99 is now the general manager of Universal Industrial Trading Company in Taipei, Taiwan.

2000s

Jeremy Baker '00, '06 has joined Shake-a-Leg Miami as grants administrator.

Allan Holder MA '00 has joined Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants &

** Individuals denoted with a Panther are members of the FIU Alumni Association. To become a member, please visit the online membership site at: https://web.fiu.edu/alumni/jointoday_form.htm
Consultants as a staff accountant in the tax services department.

Michelle Jo ’00 has been accepted at Thunderbird University’s Garvin School of International Management where she will pursue an MBA in the fall at the genus, Switzerland campus.

Jessica Samo ’00 was promoted to general manager for Courvoisier Centre, where she will be responsible for building management.

Jonathan G. Tubman MSW ’00 was honored with the prestigious Excellence in Research Award at the 2005 FIU Faculty Convocation.

Arlene Tur ’00 recently signed a holding deal with ABC Network and Touchstone Television. She is best known for her turn in the 2003 hit Telelumo teen drama “Lost Teens” and was recently featured on an episode of “Grey’s Anatomy.” She splits her time between Los Angeles and New York City.

Randall J. Wisser ’00 pursued a Ph.D. at Cornell University (’01-’06), where he researched plant breeding and genetics, focusing on gene resistance properties of maize and traveling to multiple regions in Africa, where he collaborated with local institutions to improve their agricultural situations. He recently accepted a post-doc position with the USDA at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Camille Khan-Bird ’01 has joined Pamlico County in North Carolina as assistant finance officer.

Desa Burton ’01 has joined Fish and Richardson P.C. in Silicon Valley.

Steven Bustillo ’01 has been named assistant vice president and lender at Beach Bank, where he will be responsible for forming and maintaining small business accounts.


Melissa A. Shuman ’01, a former PRIME scholar, received the prestigious NIH-funded MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) scholarship, which will fund her research for up to two years with $20,000 awarded each year. She works in the Infant Perception Lab.

Sara Z. Abramson ’02, MBA ’04 was recently hired as a marketing analyst by Café Bom Dia, a Brazilian coffee company located in Coral Gables, Fla.

Jennifer A. Hodgefla-Heber MS ’02, Ph.D. ’04 recently took and passed the exam for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Alfredo Machado MBA ’02 has been named vice president of marketing of the South Florida Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs.

Tara L. Mitchell ’02, Ph.D. ’05 recently accepted a position at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

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

George Bermudez ’03 was appointed senior vice president-middle market manager for Commerce Bank in Miami-Dade County.

Lisa Bernardo MBA ’03 has joined Palms West Hospital as director of marketing and community relations.

Joe Izuquierdo ’03 has been promoted to director of circulation technology for Knight Ridder.

Fadia M. Marchet ’03 recently accepted a position at the University of New Haven.

Michelle Núñez-Mendoza ’03 welcomed daughter Zara Michelle into the world on Oct. 21, 2005.

Carlos Wright ’03 has been appointed branch manager for TotalBank’s Brickell branch.

Cary Cabanas ’04 has joined Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants as a manager in the international tax services department.

Stienda Chan ’04 is owner and chief executive officer of Strategic Consulting Group, LLC in Miami.

Stephen Grell ’04 has joined the Trust and Asset Management Division of Republic Bank Limited in Trinidad as a senior investment analyst.

Lora M. Levett ’04 began her assistant professor position at the University of Florida’s Department of Criminology, Law and Society recently.

Paulina Muñoz ’05 was recently certified as a Longevity wedding planner and has launched a new full-service wedding and event planning company, Moments Made With Love, in Miami with her sister and mother.

Adriana Pereira ’05 recently accepted a position as a staff assistant in the Washington, D.C. office of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart. Pereira just completed an internship with the FIU Office of Governmental Relations in Washington and formerly was an intern at FIU Magazine.

Haroldo Silva ’05, a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program scholar, was accepted into the Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley, where he will pursue a degree in bioengineering in the fall.
North Dade Medical Foundation

NDMF gifts to the School of Nursing and College of Medicine will improve opportunities for health-care education

More than a half century ago, a group of physicians founded a non-profit hospital in North Miami-Dade County dedicated for “the benefit of mankind.” Economic pressures forced that hospital, North Shore Hospital, to be sold in 1997, but the vision to improve lives in the community lived on with the establishment of the North Dade Medical Foundation.

The Foundation, which received the proceeds of the hospital sale, is governed by a nine-member board of physicians and community members that ensures its assets continue the hospital’s legacy of caring for the community. The Foundation will close its doors in January 2007 having provided more than $40 million in grants to local non-profit health, social service and educational organizations, including FIU.

“That was a dream of mine, to give all the money away,” said Chester H. Morris, M.D., former chairman of the Foundation Board. “You know where it is going to go. You know it is going to make a difference.”

Two grants from the North Dade Medical Foundation will support FIU’s health initiatives in the School of Nursing and the College of Medicine by providing student scholarships.

“We are committed to students who want to dedicate their lives to the health-care profession,” FIU President Modesto A. Maidique hailed the grants as a significant benefit to the community.

“In making these gifts, the North Dade Medical Foundation is carrying on its tradition of caring for and serving our most vulnerable residents,” said Maidique. “These gifts will make a substantial impact on the quality of life in our community.”

A $1.25 million grant to the College of Nursing — matched by the state for a total impact of $2.1 million — will address the critical statewide nursing shortage. The NDMF endowment will provide 20 full scholarships to undergraduates from North Miami-Dade County pursuing a degree in nursing. The endowment will also provide the nursing laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. In recognition of the Foundation’s gift, the Advanced Nursing Laboratory on the Biscayne Bay Campus has been named in its honor.

With a projected need for one million new nurses nationwide by 2010, communities across the country are being challenged to attract new talent into the profession. The FIU School of Nursing has responded with innovative programs that have increased admissions to the program by more than 100 percent in recent years. The School will do even more with the grant, said Nursing Dean Divina Grossman.

“We know of the desire and interest of thousands of bright individuals who want to become nursing professionals,” said Grossman. “But many are limited in pursuing their dreams by barriers such as lack of finances, program size or limited teaching resources. This generous gift from the NDMF is helping break down these barriers for future nursing students.”

The Foundation has also pledged $5 million for scholarships for the FIU College of Medicine. Matched by the state, the gift will provide $10 million in scholarships for north Miami-Dade students who demonstrate financial need. The scholarships will play a critical role in helping FIU to recruit highly qualified students.

As the region’s first public medical school, the College of Medicine will be strongly community oriented. The University will identify talented students from area high schools and help prepare them for undergraduate education and acceptance into the FIU College of Medicine. Those students will be trained to serve the health needs of South Florida with the expectation that upon graduation, they will practice in the community.

“I want to see those medical students clamoring at your door and getting in,” Morris said. “I want to see them stay in the area to practice medicine. We need more doctors. We need more nurses. That’s why we have created these endowments for education. It is going to solve a lot of problems for South Florida.”

From L to R: North Dade Medical Foundation Board member Dr. John Kathe; NDMF Executive Director Sandra Giblin; Board Member William Heffernan; FIU President Modesto Maidique; former NDMF Chairman of the Board Dr. Chester Morris; FIU Dean of Nursing Divina Grossman; FIU Provost Ronald Berkman; and NDMF Board Member Dr. Cesar Sastre.
VIP: Joy Wallace ’81
FIU Alumni Association Lifetime Member

Year of Graduation: 1981
Profession: Owner of A Joy Wallace Catering Production & Design Team since 1988. I’m a caterer, event planner and producer, designer of event décor and themes.
FIU degree: Bachelor’s degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management
FIU affiliations: Lifetime Member, FIU Alumni Association

What are your favorite memories of your time at FIU?
I loved the peace and freedom of walking across the campus with the sun shining on my face, green grass, palm trees and little white fluffy clouds. I loved learning from and being associated with FIU’s professors; my relationship with them was extremely important to my learning experience and to my future. FIU had some very colorful professors at the time. Professor Tony Marshall, who taught risk management, put on a great performance on stage in the theater for every class. It was a privilege to learn from him. His method of teaching got the point across and was terribly entertaining, at the same time. He would lock the doors, so if you weren’t there on time you couldn’t come in and you couldn’t get As. And Steve Moll, my advisor, is still a dear friend whose advice was irreplaceable and indispensable.

How has your FIU experience helped you in life and in business?
Another great professor I had was Charles Ilvento. On the first day of class, he came into the classroom and wrote the most important lesson I learned at FIU across a huge chalkboard that wrapped around two sides of the room: “Without no dough, there ain’t no go.” This seems like such a simple concept, but it’s a lesson that I have applied during my career and life for 25 years. You can’t believe how many times this great philosophy has been applied to business situations and decisions.

Do you have any advice that you would offer to FIU students?
Take business courses and take accounting courses; they will prepare you for your life in the business world as well as in your personal life. Money really does make the world go round, so if you understand how to manage it well, then you’ll do well. If there are time management or business management courses available, take them because they will give you direction for success. Psychology classes are a big plus, too. But definitely, I would say, get your degree. It is so personally rewarding to do; it affects your future forever in life, as well as in business.

Why do you think it is important to be a member of the FIU Alumni Association?
To show the university that you care, that you appreciate your education and the degree that you received there and the success that’s come of it. Also, to help support the future of the university and its students. We have a very powerful group of alumni living and working here in South Florida. Our successes can make a difference in the enrollment and positive financial position of FIU.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Personally, it would have to be my family: my husband, my children and my grandchildren. Secondly, to have created a business that’s really amazing. We have fun working here every day. We have the best staff in the United States. To have been able to put together such an unbelievable and dynamic team is one of my most awesome accomplishments; it is my second family, which I was able to choose. It’s most satisfying to see the work they accomplish as a team and as a beautiful family. Life’s an exciting ride.
Are you a card carrying Member?

The FIU Alumni Association is your gateway back to FIU. We’ll keep you connected and informed, wherever you may be.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS:
• The award-winning FIU Magazine and NOW@FIU e-newsletter
• Student programs and scholarships
• Alumni college chapter programs and events
• Programming such as the Alumni Job Fair and Alumni Networking events
• Food discounts for annual members (free for Life & SAA members) at the Panther Pit football tailgate parties catered by Tony Roma’s
• University Park & Biscayne Bay library privileges
• Discounts on major theme parks, travel and car rental programs
• COMING SOON! Access to the new Alumni Online Directory and your own FIU email address that includes email forwarding for life

MEMBERS GET PANTHER PERKS:
• Automatic membership in your school/college chapter
• Priority seating and ticket discounts for FIU home football games and other Golden Panther athletic events
• University Park & Biscayne Bay library privileges
• Discounts on major theme parks, travel and car rental programs
• COMING SOON! Access to the new Alumni Online Directory and your own FIU email address that includes email forwarding for life

It’s easy to take advantage of the many benefits of membership. Join today by dialing 1-800-FIU-ALUM, email alumni@fiu.edu or go online at www.fiualumni.com.

Get carded! Feel the pride and carry the card.