

This Time



AROUND

VISION • 2000

A photograph of a lit torch on a pedestal against a background of trees. The torch is the central focus, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from its top. The pedestal is a simple, cylindrical structure with a wider top section. The background consists of dark green foliage, possibly trees, with some light filtering through, creating a dappled effect. The overall tone is somewhat somber due to the dark background, but the fire adds a sense of energy and focus.

Florida International University

Miami, Florida 33199
Phone: (305) 348-2000 UP
(305) 919-5800 NC
Population: 30,000 estimated

VISION 2000

Jose M. Otero *Editor-In-Chief*
Vanessa Valencia *Associate Editor*
Lou Conrad *Media Advisor*

Volume: 1

"This Time Around"

Photo By Jose Otero

TABLE OF *Contents*

Opening	2
Student Life	8
Events	38
Graduates	66
Student Government Association	142
Academics	154
Sports	176
Faculty	210
Greeks	242
Clubs & Organization	286
Gallery	334
Advertisement	350
Closing	380
Index & Current Events	386



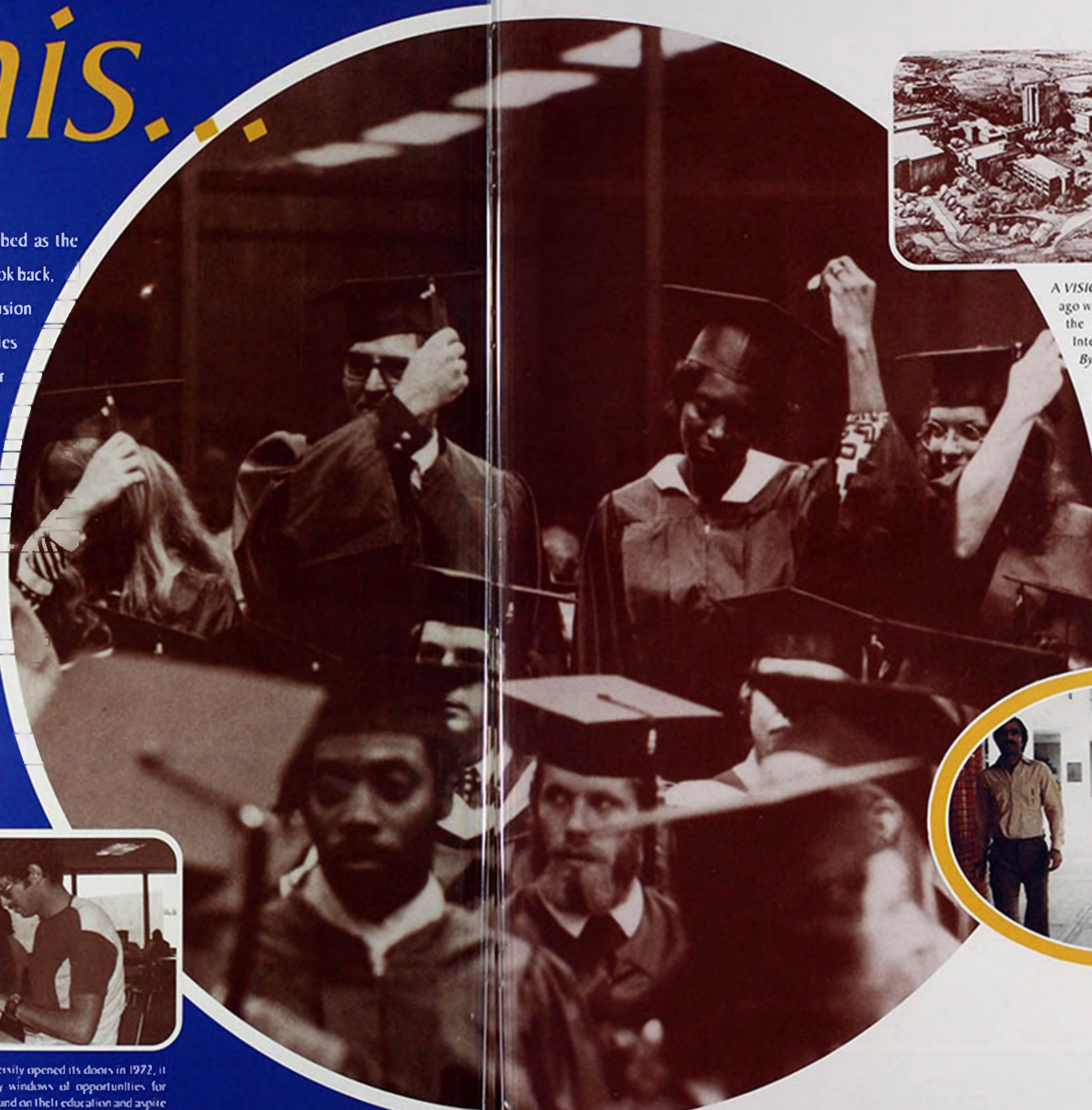
...and now shall the sands of time fall over a new generation of FLY

This.

For the past century or so, time has been described as the fourth dimension. It is not a surprise then, when we look back, that we realize how much this newly classified dimension really dictates our lives. The way that our society tallies time does not necessarily create barriers on our actions; rather it serves as a foundation for a prosperous and productive life. It was some time ago that Charles Perry, founder of Florida International University, laid the foundation for this institution; twenty-seven years to be exact. As an entrepreneur and pioneer, Perry had a vision of creating an economically and culturally sound community by educating its citizens. Then a greater vision took over. Create a university where students of many cultures and races can come together, to enrich not only themselves academically, but each other culturally. And although in the



When Florida International University opened its doors in 1972, it simultaneously unfastened many windows of opportunities for many students who wished to expand on their education and aspire to higher goals. *Photo By Library Archives*



A VISION was seen numerous years ago when Charles Perry revealed the artist rendition of Florida International University. *Photo By Library Archives*

In 1973, Florida International University first class graduated from the lobby of the Primera Casa building. *Photo By Library Archives*

Dedication and commitment, two timeless attributes which embodied all of FIU's faculty are successfully exemplified by Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver who is shown here encouraging a student to excel. *Photo By Elan 1978*



Time...

early 70's. Miami was just beginning to feel the brunt of an immigration wave, the idea of an expanding economy, as a result of a university, was welcomed. Almost three decades later, FIU has been recognized as the fastest growing commuter university nation wide. The addition of newly constructed buildings, including Greek housing, brings an aura of rebirth. The initiation of a football team has raised eyebrows statewide, as well as involved a greater number of students on campus. But looking back on the recent transformation of FIU, from a strictly commuter school, to an immensely active student body and faculty, the traditions and innovative ideas of bringing about changes is what has unified FIU. The time that was spent dreaming, the time that was spent working, has now turned into the time spent indulging in the



On August 26, 1981, Freshman and Sophomores were finally aloud to enter the doors of Florida International University as underclassmen. That day was spent celebrating this milestone for FIU. Photo By Library Archives



By 1982, many students at FIU could have been seen involved in new programs such as Drama. Some plays such as Romeo & Juliet were seen on stage in the VH building. Photo By Library Archives

By 1985, FIU population had doubled since its opening in 1972. Students are seen here talking to former FIU Athletic director on how FIU can improve by expanding the sports program. Photo By Library Archives

During the late 70's, FIU changed its mascot from the Sunblazer to the Golden Panthers. Photo By Flashback 1987



Around

academic, social, and economic benefits that this blessing, better known as FIU, has made possible. With the creation of this book, we commemorate a man whose vision has been kept alive. This book is dedicated to the remembrance of the late Charles Perry, without whom, FIU never would have happened. His vision is no longer an abstract thought, but a very concrete accomplishment that can be viewed through the pages of this book. It has been nearly a decade since FIU published a yearbook. And as most would like to exclaim, finally! Months of dedication and creativity have been put into creating a visually stunning presentation of this year's events. It is with our deepest pleasure that we invite you into our lives for the short time of an academic year.

-Vanessa Valencia



Finally after many years of hard work, FIU begins working on starting a new football program. President Modesto Maldoque & new head coach Don Strock are seen here celebrating when announcing their first football game in the fall of 2001. Photo By Campus Life Publication



During the Welcome Week celebrations, the FIU cheerleaders pep up the crowd with their amazing stunts and cheers. Photo By Campus Life Publications

Since FIU's opening, one could feel the effects of Construction in most areas on both the North and South Campus. Photo By Jose Otero

Always supporting our university, our spirited mascot the Golden Panther waves hi to all his fans at FIU during the first Men's Basketball game of the season. Photo by Jose Otero

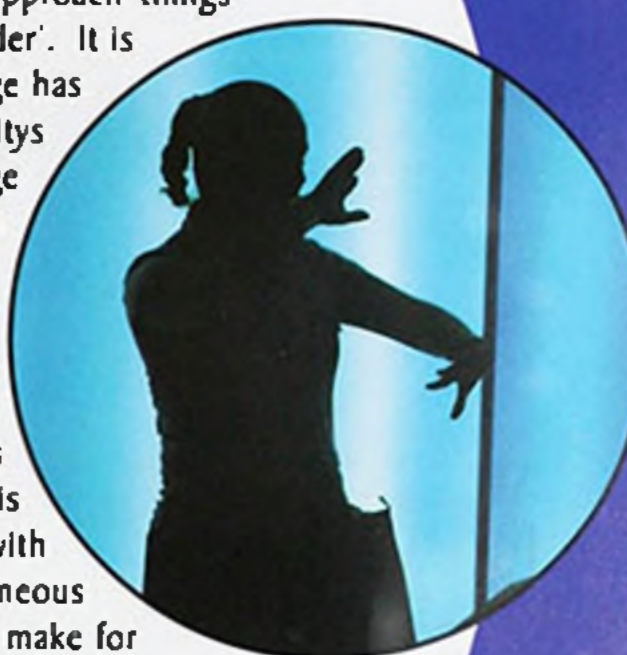


THIS TIME



The golden rule might have held true for students before the decade of the 90's barely at the turn of the century. Today, the students' motto may be described as "Learn about and as much as possible," where as in the 70's specialization was the key to success. Because of the great information revolution of the 90's, college students of today have transcended what was once known as 'college life'. The life of an average Florida International University student consists not only of rigorous academic courses, but also an extensive exposure to multicultural knowledge, vast amounts of experience in desired careers and fields as a result of attending a university in a city. As far as academic courses go, we will always face the three R's, writing, reading and arithmetic. However, because of giant leaps in scientific technology, science majors have not only greater ground to cover, but also an array of majors to get involved in. Political Science majors approach things differently with the movement of 'New World Order'. It is obvious that the influence of this information age has spilled into every possible field. The University's exclusive location in Miami, Florida sets the stage for opportunistic experiences that enrich each student's life immeasurably. As a young metropolitan city, Miami has qualities enviable by all other cities in the US. With the greatest amount of not only tourist immigration, but also the highest number of migrating residents, Miami is the hub of movement and new cultural ideas. This benefits the university student by supplying them with what the world has to offer. The heterogeneous composure of businesses and communities alike make for an intriguing and educational living environment. However the distractions of living in a city like Miami are immense. Students have to cope with traffic, and pressure for economic stability, even the presence of an active family can be distracting. In fact, the probability of a student at FIU of having a family of their own to raise is great, when compared to students of the past. Since the University is located in a city, many students are commuters. Fortunately, this fact has not taken away from having a quality secondary education. Rather, FIU has been recognized as one of the finest commuter universities in the country. This country offers exceptional opportunities to ambitious students. As an integral member of secondary institutions, FIU has brought distinction and praise to students here. It just goes to show that making your dreams come true in a place like Miami, Florida makes it that much sweeter.

-Vanessa Valencia



AROUND...
STUDENT LIFE

Greeting a New

The beginning of a new semester encompassed taking on new responsibilities which accompanied the start of new courses; it also provided a great opportunity to establish new friendships. Each curriculum represented a time where excitement and anxiety reached all time high levels. For those who were full-time students and had jobs, such a time was very stressful. "It was very difficult to balance my life between school and work. Getting things done was a little hard," stated sophomore Michael Canillo. Each beginning was often hectic due to the hectic atmosphere at Florida International University. The first two weeks were usually marked by long lines at the bookstore, students looking for overrides and Greeks eagerly recruiting members for Rush Week.

The one character that never failed to make appearances at FIU was Pete The Panther. The start of athletic events was just another incentive for Pete to show off his spirit. *Photo: Jose Otero*

"I usually dreaded starting classes because it was really hard to find parking and I had to park really far away," stated freshman Jackie Garcia. These were among the reasons why FIU was a bit hectic at the start of each semester.

Despite the building of stress, most students eagerly anticipated the arrival of each semester. Reuniting with old friends and making new ones were definite highlights of returning to school. Others were excited about their courses, looked forward to becoming involved in areas of interest or simply enjoyed relaxing on campus. Javier Larremendi believed that "everyone looked forward to school for different reasons. I liked meeting new people and learning new concepts which were interesting to me." Many students anticipated the challenging course load which awaited them, as the start of each new semester brought them one step closer to completing their careers.

By: Maribel del Rio

Generation



Welcome Back!
There was no better way to kick off the semester than with Welcome Back Week. Student Government, as expected, celebrated by directing the opening ceremonies. This event helped students become excited about the times that followed. *Photo: Campus Life Publications*



I Want Sake!
The pet was always the center of all the school action. Bands served as yet another form of entertainment for each student that happened to be at GC. The activities at the pet helped students take their minds off of school stress. *Photo: Campus Life Publications*

Kickoff!!!

One of the most popular events of the year was Welcome Back Week. The Coral Park Senior High School band proudly participates in the opening celebrations. Students gladly gathered to witness such an event. *Photo: Campus Life Publications*



What event did you look forward to the most?

- Homecoming Events 50%
- Sporting Events 35%
- Hispanic Heritage 15%



Decision Time!

Choosing classes each semester was a little stressful. Michelle Avardado attempts to register for fall. It was always very difficult to find open classes. *Photo: Jose Otero*



Free Food!

Welcome week included a number of activities, the best was the free food given at the Graham Center. Students always had something to look forward to at the beginning of each semester. *Photo: Campus Life Publications*

Showing No Fear!

Basketball started with a bang. Carlos Arroyo fearlessly shows off his skills against the College of Charleston. Nothing could stand in the way of the FIU Basketball team as they were determined to succeed. *Photo: Geoff Anderson*



All About Fashion!

The Greek Fashion Show is among the many activities that take place during the fall semester. Models and directors Carlos Arroyo and Carlos Lopez celebrate the completion of the show. It was a great success. *Photo: Campus Life Publications*

Just Talking!!!

Each new semester offered the opportunity to socialize with old and new friends. Ruzana Gomez catches up with Gabriel Marullu and Carlos Lopez during lunch. Students often looked forward to connecting with friends. *Photo: Luzero Torres*

Capturing Memories
The FIU yearbook was not in production since 1989. This publication was finally brought back to the school thanks to dedicated students. Clubs Editor Sharon Caldera takes phone calls from inquiring seniors. Photo: Liz Bello



Readiate 88!

Much effort was necessary to acquire an FM radio station at FIU. Orlando Machado serves not only as DJ, but also as the programming director of the new 88.1 Radiate. This gave students yet another means of expression. Photo: Liz Bello



New Brotherhood!

Pi Kappa Phi was a new organization incorporated into the Greek community. Its members created a bond as strong as the previously standing fraternities. Photo: Campus Life Publications



Broadening Our

FIU witnessed numerous additions. Improvements to the university could be seen progressing daily. Even the entrance to FIU took on a whole new look. The campus also began undergoing some very important architectural changes. Primera Casa's new elevators were definitely a hit with all of the students. Among the new additions, Greek Row took center stage. The fraternities anxiously awaited the building of the houses for the following academic year. The new fraternity houses were the topic of nearly all Greek conversations as construction began.

The Board of Regent's approval of funds for the new Law School, made no one happier than the up and coming Political Science majors. The Law School was declared the best way to continue FIU's growing reputation as a fully accredited university. "I was very glad when the Board of Regents approved the Law School. It provided me with the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming a lawyer," said sophomore Maryjoe Sanchez.



The newly built Panther Hall was definitely a favorite. Its facilities were above and beyond the previous F.I.U. Housing. Yet, along with comfort came a higher cost that was not necessary within the reach of every student. Photo: Liz Bello

Besides construction, there were also many school activities that began with the turning of the millennium. For the first time in 10 years FIU's yearbook was reinstated. The staff and sponsors were very enthusiastic about the production of the new book, and had high hopes for continuing the tradition in upcoming years. Radiate 88, changed to the FM dial from AM. Pi Kappa Phi became the most recent addition to the Greek fraternity system, where numerous brothers united to form a strong brotherhood. "The recent growth spur at FIU has been exciting for us all," said junior Lazaro Rodriguez. Last but not least, the Board of Regents also granted approval of a brand new FIU Football Program for the fall of 2002. Each of these school additions increased the spirit and excitement of the FIU community.

By: Evelyn Battillo

Horizons



"I was glad that they finally added new elevators to the Primera Casa"
-Alexis Rodriguez, freshman

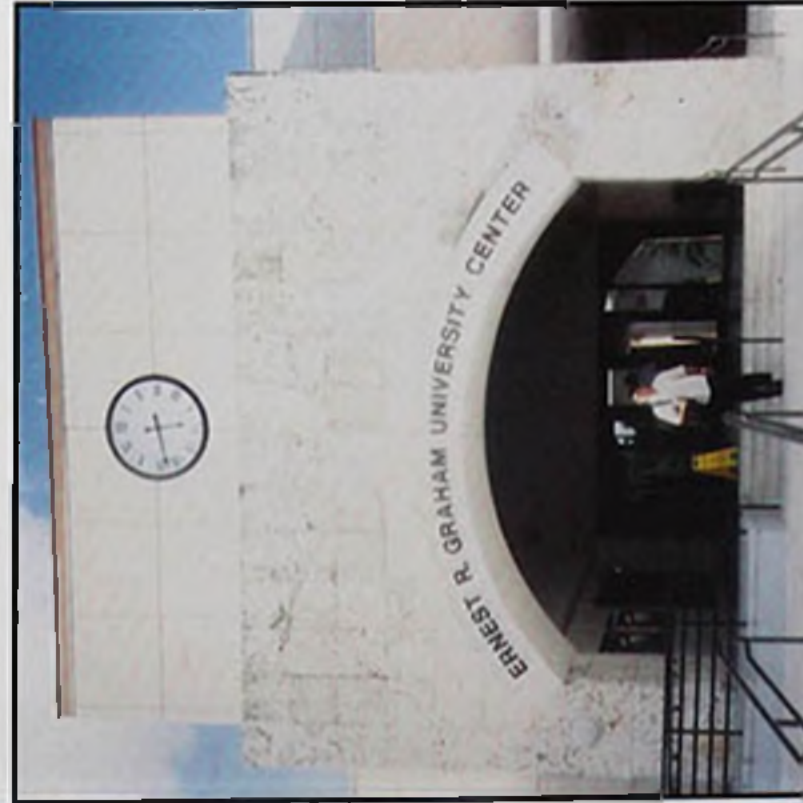


Making An Entrance

Among the additions was the newly built entrance at 107th Avenue. The construction was well worth the wait, as the new entrance was just what commuter students needed. Photo: Liz Bello

Golden Dazzlers!

The FIU Golden Dazzlers reappeared after a couple of years. Despite the numerous difficulties that the team faced, they proved to be strong and determined. This allowed them to survive the hardships of the season. Photo: Liz Bello



Beautifying!

The Graham Center received a bit of a face lift. An attractive entrance was completed for this building. The numerous remodeling that took place helped the school acquire a more appealing look. Photo: Liz Bello

Future Plans

One of the most anticipated school additions was the Football program. FIU President, Modesto Mardique proudly announced the start of the program scheduled to begin in 2002. Photo: Campus Life Publications

An Inside Look

Panther Hall not only provided students with shelter, but also with activities for involvement. Freshman Jessica Carlson served as the fourth floor representative. Photo: Liz Bello



Working Hard

An very important factor in getting an education was money. Part time jobs were occupied by plenty of students, especially at FIU. The bookstore was among the numerous school locations that made jobs available to students. These friendly individuals seemed to keep smiles on their faces and helpful attitudes despite the hectic activities going on around them. The Service Desk was also an integral part of the Graham Center as students bustled around asking for information on how to get to their next class.

Trainers and announcers contributed their time and energy to FIU activities as well. Working on campus was also an opportunity to become involved in school related functions.

Students could always rely on the information desk for any assistance. Anna Fuentes sat awaiting an opportunity to guide any confused students in need of help.

Photo: Jose Otero

Student Government members worked extremely hard to maintain school spirit through organizations and clubs. The Beacon Newspaper staff and the Vision Yearbook staff worked extensively at keeping up to date with school events and important university related news.

In addition, internships were a large part of campus life, as college students tried to gain experience while maintaining adequate study habits. Work, internships and studies took up quite a bit of time. Being able to get all of these things done on campus was a big plus for many individuals.

By Evelyn Battillo



Ready To Help!

Athletic trainers were present at every sporting event. Monica de la Maza and Marjorie Stege sit patiently during a basketball game. The services provided by the trainers were very appreciated by all athletes and coaches. Photo: Jose Otero



Always With a Smile

Bookstore employees always greeted everyone with a smile. Nicole Morales helps Howard Liebman find a book for his fall term. The assistance of a knowledgeable staff was very useful. Photo: Lu Bello

The Game Is On

For sports lovers, FIU offered many jobs. Brian Small announces for WRGP 88.1 during the basketball games. Having a job one enjoyed was priceless. Photo: Jose Otero



For The Money



Are You Ready?

Homecoming organizers went all out to put on the very best show yet. Rachel Breslow as Homecoming Chair, served as announcer during the Fall Fest. Photo: Mario Abril



Getting Involved!

Student Government offered numerous jobs for students to fill. George Cortón was able to demonstrate his leadership skills by assuming the position of Student Lobbyist. Photo: Lu Bello

Mixing It Up!

As a result of the many school celebrations, being a DJ was very beneficial. In the Greeks Week Banquet, the radio station disk jockeys took it upon themselves to keep the party going. Photo: Lu Bello



On The Lookout!

Among the many positions available on campus, Public Safety Patrols were very important. Will Kilgore and Anthony Cavenaro circle the parking lots to assure that everything runs smoothly. Patrols helped protect the students. Photo: Jose Otero

Just A Snack

For last minute emergencies or everyday necessities, students could count on the Panther Stop. Javier Neto charges Orlando Martinez for a quick snack. Having such a store on campus was very beneficial for the student body. Photo: Lu Bello



"Working in the Graham Center gave me the opportunity to become more acquainted with the school and the activities that took place"
-Hatzel Vela junior

What A Banner!

One of the best ways to show school spirit was through banners. Kappa Theta proudly displayed their enthusiastic cheerleaders during Homecoming. There is no stopping us now! There is no great theme. Now, here, now!

Showing Spirit!

Organizations did not hesitate to become extremely creative while making their Homecoming floats. Delta Psi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu teamed up to celebrate the future of the football program Homecoming. It was guaranteed much spirit from the Greeks. *Photo: Maribel*



We're Got Spirit!

A postgame crowd was always appreciated. The combination of Phi Mu and Phi K during the Homecoming basketball game resulted in quite a bundle of energy. Crowd members were just what the doctor ordered. *Photo: Jessica*



Warming Up

Did you hear it? The roar of the crowd as fans cheered for their team. Did you smell it? The hot dogs roasting at the concession stand. Did you see it? The excitement on the smiling faces of those having fun. This was what FIU was all about. *This was the ultimate college experience!*

Many exciting events led to a rise in school spirit. Homecoming, Greek Week and Golden Panther Games were among the numerous activities that ignited pride in the hearts of FIU students and faculty. Spirit and excitement unraveled itself as Greek Week approached. Brothers and sisters united to support FIU and generate a feeling of enthusiasm for everyone. Athletic events climbed to outstanding levels of enthusiasm as crowds roared and supporters went wild.

School spirit hit its peak at the Homecoming basketball game as competitors over who could show the most enthusiasm sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Body paint was a very popular way to show school spirit. *Cedrick McMillan was never afraid to go wild both in attire and in attitude during the games. This kind of spirit made sporting events more enjoyable.* *Photo: Joe Otero*



Many spectators showed off Golden Panther colors by painting their faces and bodies blue and yellow. While pom-poms, buttons and various t-shirts sold out in the stores, colorful ribbons were worn, and megaphones were cheered through. Everyone possessed a different style as they showed up to various events in support of the golden teams. All the while, the Cheerleaders and Dazzlers humbled and danced, urging crowds on and inspiring unanimous spirit.

As the stands filled, pride and encouragement became the focus. Although we may not have always won the game, we definitely had a great time. This was what having FIU spirit was truly about!

By Evelyn Barrios

The Spirit

Which event do you feel promoted the most school spirit at FIU?

Homecoming

Sporting Events

Greek Week

43% 47% 10%

Going Wild!

Certain individuals went crazy during sporting events. Alejandro Villaluz was among the many who did not hold anything back. Panther Pride was obvious in the stands. *Photo: Joe Otero*



Power In Numbers

Greeks united their powers during Homecoming. Sigma Sigma Sigma and Tau Kappa Epsilon clearly made their presence known. The unity encouraged by Homecoming events helped the rise of spirit. *Photo: Joe Otero*



Blue & Gold Pride!

Sometimes never linked to show off spirit, Amy Moor & Diana Delgado cheered the basketball team to victory. Phi Sigma Sigma not only had the right colors, but also very animated attitudes. *Photo: Joe Otero*

Panther Rage!!!

Everyone took part in the excitement. Spirit never lacked during school related events. FIU was the home of very proud Golden Panthers, such as Shelly Hayes. *Photo: Joe Otero*

Lets Go FIU!!!

Always ready for action, FIU cheerleaders were the first to stir up the crowd. Melissa Biana fully delivered part in exciting the fans. Their presence helped make games a lot brighter. *Photo: Geoff Anderson*

Taking Some

Attending a university can be very draining. Students often needed to escape from the daily pressures of college life. FIU students were especially susceptible to dealing with stressful situations as a result of living in a city like Miami. However, at the same time students were fortunate to benefit from the beautiful scenery and landscaping that decorate both campuses. "The scenery at school was relaxing because the campus was beautiful and encouraged a feeling of comfort," explained Michael Magni.

Besides enjoying the atmosphere of the campus, there were many other ways for a student to unwind at school. Some spent large amounts of time outside of class socializing with others. Greek social organizations not only offered the opportunity to become involved in charitable activities, but also made it possible for new and lasting friendships to develop.

Certain individuals had very exhausting schedules. This was a rare occasion when Sergio Tigera was not seen on his feet. Photo: Jose Otero



Gracies Grill at University Park, or the pool at the Biscayne Bay campus were among the places where one could relax. "Whenever I felt overwhelmed by school I usually went to workout at the gym," stated freshman Vanessa Gonzalez. Exercise proved to be the modern way of relieving stress; yet, other students preferred to spend their time relaxing in more private places. There were many quiet spots around campus designed in an effort at relieving tension created by school. "When I wanted to think I usually went to a quiet bench where I could gather my thoughts," said Gertrudis Solano. Whether through reading a good book in the library or catching up on sleep by the piano area, students had the opportunity to engage in activities they enjoyed in order to relax.

By: Maribel del Rio

Time Off!



Time In The Sun!!!

Students who lived in the dorms had fast and easy access to the swimming pool. This was wonderful considering the warm weather in Miami. Who says that college is all work and no play? Photo: Jose Otero



Getting a Tan!

Every person found some leisure time to escape from school stresses. When necessary, the imaginations of students were guaranteed to cook up outrageous things such as sunbathing at the tennis courts. Obviously, everyone had a different way of relaxing. Photo: Jose Otero

Playing a Game!

The university offered numerous activities to entertain the student body. Magda Crespo and Osvaldo Osorno play a game of table tennis in the gym. There is always something to do. Photo: Jose Otero



Video Games!

For video game lovers, FIU offered a couple of machines. Chris Risco plays a short game during a break. At some point, everyone needs some time to relax. Photo: Liz Bello

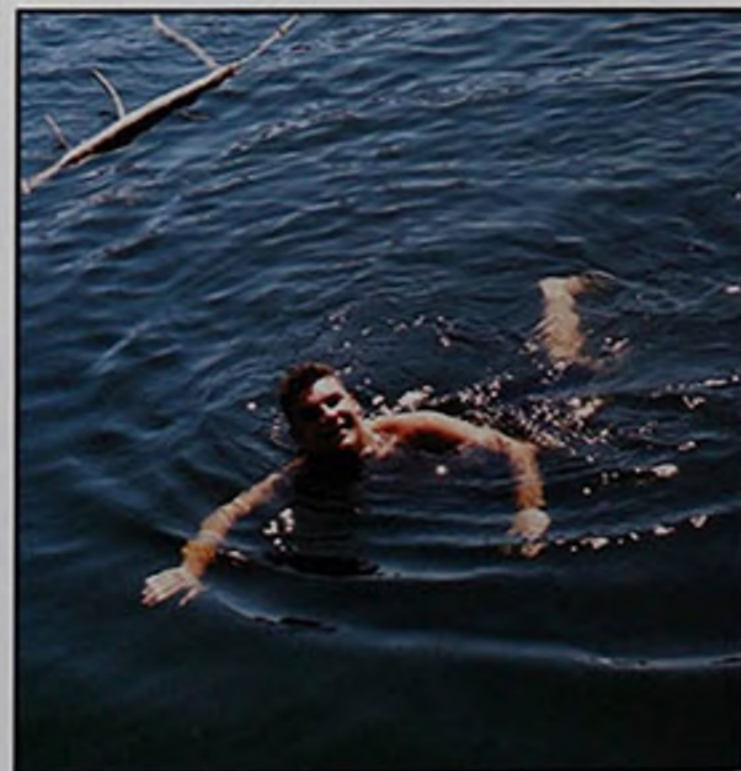


Me Paso.

Gracies Grill was the place to be. An exciting game of dominoes took place practically every day. Students enjoyed each and every minute from school related stresses. Photo: Giselle Hernandez

Cooling Down!

A little swim never hurt anyone. Fernando Pou jumped into the lake after a tough day at school. The pressures of classes sometimes made students a little crazy. Photo: Jose Otero



In The Pocket!

A good game of pool was enough to relax almost anyone. Students gathered in the pool hall to loosen up. The facilities provided numerous possibilities to take time off. Photo: Giselle Hernandez

A Little Nap.

One of the most relaxing places in school was the G.C. lounge. Many often found the time to take a nap during breaks. The soothing sounds of the piano could help anyone unwind. Photo: Jose Otero



"Listening to people play the piano in the G. C. lounge was one of my favorite ways to relax at FIU"
- sophomore Evelyn Battillo

On The Phone

Sometimes it was necessary to hear a familiar voice. Virginia Molin uses the pay phone for an emergency call. The phones were very useful for many students, especially those who found it difficult to be away from home. Photo: Liz Bello



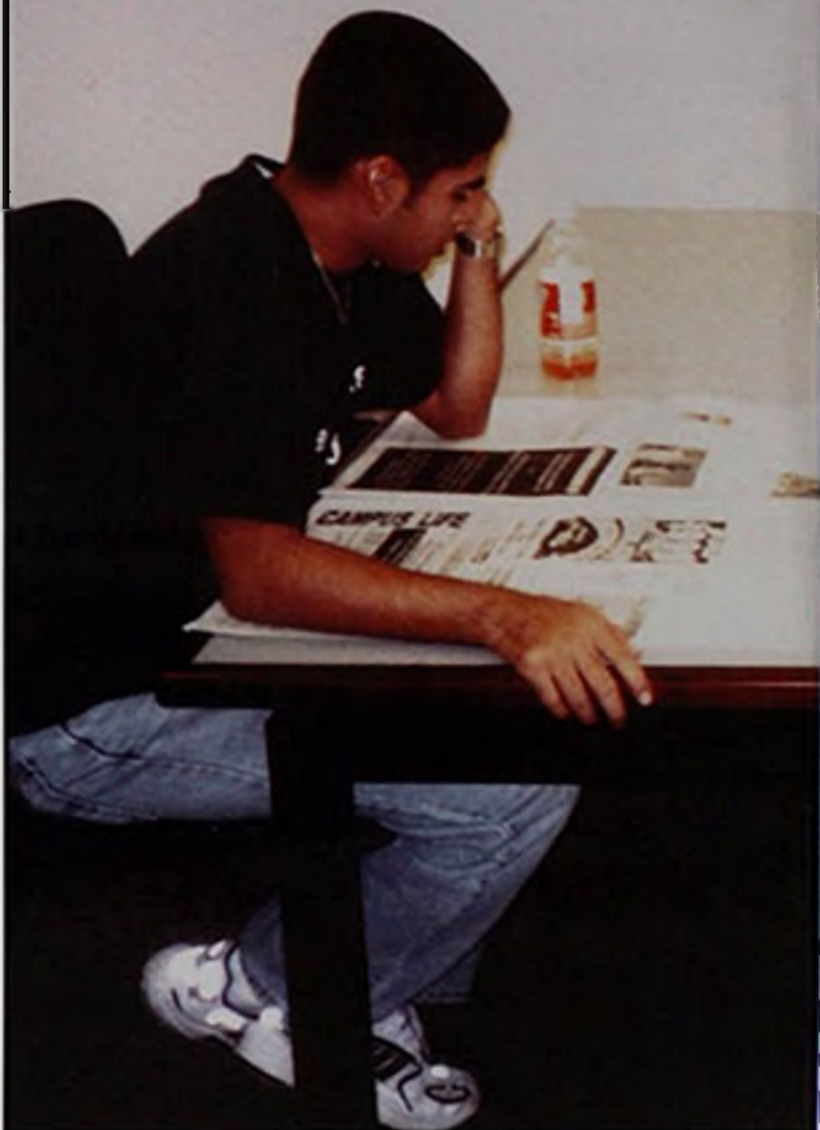
Getting Together

Being a good student called for more than just attending class. Andres Luna, Renzo Narciso and Janet Benitez gather for a short review. Study groups were very common. Photo: Liz Bello



Studying Hard

At times, it was difficult to find quiet locations to study on campus. Tomas Ruiz and sister Madine Ruiz take a little time off of their hectic campus activities and relax in the library. Photo: Jose Otero



Enhancing The

Most say that the college years are the best years of a person's life. Yet the reality of the matter is, that college is what one makes it. Life as a college student consists of endless nights without sleep, last minute cramming sessions, excessively long term papers and ultimately squeezing in a little time for fun. "College life was really full of its ups and downs, there was always something to take care of," said freshmen Carmell Johnson. Numerous sacrifices followed the enrollment in an institute of higher learning. The majority of students gladly faced the challenge of difficult classes in order to accomplish the goal of acquiring a special degree.



A vital lesson to learn when entering a university is realizing that each person is considered an adult, and therefore is held accountable for his/her actions.

The North Campus was commonly surrounded by friendly squirrels. These small creatures always made the lives of college students a bit more interesting. Photo: Jose Otero

"You must be responsible in order to survive in college. No one was expected to be after you in order to make sure you do what you had to do," said sophomore Rachel Legros. The transition period for incoming freshmen was often difficult, yet after several semesters of attendance, each individual managed to accommodate the change of environment.

The campus was commonly packed with students. Thousands of students entered the library each day to conduct research or for a quiet place to study.

By: Cindy Fortune and Liz Bello

Minds



"So many assignments sometimes make it hard to balance my time"
-Ayleen Barbel sophomore



Free, free, free!

An activity was always taking place on campus. Students waited in lines at outside tents where organizations would distribute free lunch or special items. Photo: Campus Life Publications

Relaxing

With the many stresses of college life, students often found it necessary to take some time to relax. Gilberte Paul studies, while enjoying the calm atmosphere of the South Campus. Photo: Liz Bello



On The Run!

Without a doubt, college students do a great deal of exercise. Going up and down stairways is not at all strange. For those who can not squeeze the gym into their schedules, there are always stairs. Photo: Jose Otero

Experimenting

Classes offered challenging activities for students to do. Diana Perry and Cyndie Mesa conduct a class project. There was no better way to learn than through hands-on experience. Photo: Jose Otero



Just a Snack!

With such busy schedules, it was often difficult to find the time to have proper meals. Edgar Crispin makes a quick stop at the GC vending machines. Photo: Liz Bello

Taking Parx

School related events took center stage at FIU. Being involved in these activities was a sure way of making new friends. A wide array of events was made readily available to all students. Among them, the Comedy Connection, Movie Night and Theme Weeks were all a large part of student activities. The Comedy Connection gave the FIU community a chance to see both top comedians as Bill Belamy and hypnotist Tom DeLuca as well as local talent at free or reduced prices. Shows were jam packed with people as the Comedy Connection's reputation grew. Students also rallied at the Graham Center auditorium each Friday to view box office hits such as The Sixth Sense, Eyes Wide Shut and everyone's all time favorite- American Pie.

Even the university's many commuter students gathered during special Theme Weeks which portrayed cultural and educational awareness of our diverse community.

Cultural celebrations enabled many students to express their ethnic pride. Art Tremel dresses up for a lecture during the Pan-African activities.

Photo: Joe Otero



The different cultural weeks offered food, music, dance and films from various ethnic backgrounds. Vendors selling specially made jewelry from all over the world filled the hallways, along with other booths displaying various items for sale. If the Comedy Connection, Movie Mania and Theme Weeks just didn't do it for you, there were always a billion other activities one could participate in. The blood drive was a well-known event that served a very important purpose. Fashion shows featured the latest styles, and it seemed as if everyone was involved in intramural sports. Clubs and organizations grew to maximum capacity as students became more involved.

When looking back, one can acknowledge that there was always something to take part in despite each person's preference. School sponsored activities united students in spirit and allowed them to have a great college experience.

By Evelyn Battillo

In Activities



Love For Sports!

Among the numerous sports offered at FIU soccer was one of the most exciting to watch. Fearlessly, David Goby defies gravity to maintain control of the ball.

Photo: Joe Otero



Blood Drive

Students did not hesitate to participate in activities that benefited those in need. Cynthia Turcios gladly donates blood during one of the many Blood Drives.

Photo: Joe Otero



Lets Cheer!

The Greeks were always involved in school activity. Delta Phi Epsilon competed in the Cheer Contest. After dedicating their time to practice, they walked away with second place.

Photo: Joe Otero



So Much Creativity

Homecoming provided a great deal of spirit from the student body as well as the faculty. Gracie Menendez & Ju Busiandur make a banner for Phi Mu. It was definitely fun to become involved!

Photo: Joe Otero



Work That Thing!

The Lipique contest brought out the most creative sides of everyone. Many Reyes does not hesitate to live La Vida Loca on stage. Participants truly showed what they could do.

All Eyes On Me!

Some students loved to perform. Roy Riley and Giny Santamaria strut their stuff on the runway during the Greek Fashion Show. Such events enabled students to express their individuality.

Photo: Lester Thomas



Sense of Humor!

Anyone searching for a form of entertainment should like the popular Comedy Connection. Jane Miranda helps bring some laughs to an amused crowd of students by helping Steve Sar with his show.

Photo: Joe Otero

So Dramatic

For those who like the arts, various departments produced annual shows. Performing arts were often appreciated by students and faculty. As a result, the shows often sold-out.

Photo: Lester Thomas

Why take part in school related events?

- To Meet New People 43%
- Learning The School 22%
- Do Something Different 35%

Music To My Ears!

Many students had the ability to play musical instruments. Hector Fernandez, Jose Leon and Les Kemper enjoy listening to Chen Pope play the piano in the Graham Center Lounge. This was a hobby that she truly took pleasure in. *Photo: Lu Bell*



Buffing Up!

In such a health and looks-conscious society, it is no wonder that the hobbies of many was working out. The FIU Fitness Center was always packed with students eager to exercise. Despite the reasons, being a gym rat was definitely healthy. *Photo: Lu Bell*



A Natural High!

Some students proved to be more daring than others. High in the sky, Guido Marti, Helena Poleo and Lois Bigger enjoy the excellent view of the city along with their instructor. Such exhilarating experiences is what made these students become Skydiving fanatics. *Photo: Skydiving Club*



Always Time

A hobby can be any type of activity people do during their leisure time. Most people take up a hobby for relaxation, pleasure, or friendships or to develop new interests. Sometimes a hobby can lead to extra income. Students at FIU have the opportunity to join clubs, fraternities or any other extracurricular activity to relieve the stress and pressure that school can bring. "Sometimes college can be a handful. So it's great that FIU has so many activities that students can be a part of," said freshman, Kenneth Fonseca.



Martial Arts were appealing to many students. As a result, some joined the Karate Club which promoted proper knowledge of the Arts. Such a hobby not only served as great self defense, but also as a valid source of discipline. *Photo: Sharon Caldera*

A hobby offers a way to relax after periods of hard work. Hobbies offer broadened areas of interest and ways to pass the time pleasantly.

"There was nothing better than a good book to release the pressures of the mind. I considered book reading to be my biggest hobby. Without it, I don't know how I would have been able to escape the pressures of school from time to time," said freshman Cathy Silva.

In the past, hobbies were largely limited to the wealthy. The average person was too busy earning a living to find time to pursue a hobby. But in this day and age, students have more leisure time. In order to fill it, they often develop interests in hobbies.

By: Derek Deliard

Well Spent



"I liked to spend my spare time figure drawing/ painting, playing basketball and spinning to Hip-Hop."
-Orlando Amorin senior



Sunny Days!!!
The tropical Miami weather certainly called for days at the beach. No'vin Jansen and Sharon Caldera relax on the sand and squeeze a little time to study as well. Sometimes the best hobbies were those that involved mother nature. *Photo: Jose Otero*

Walking On Water!
Ocean lovers always found something to do in Florida. Nestor Carbonell shows off his skills while wake boarding. Of course, some hobbies were more strenuous on the body than others. *Photo: Alex Rodriguez*



Straight Up!!
Generally, sports appealed to many students. Lisa Montero takes advantage of the climbing event during Homecoming to fulfill her love for athletics. True athletes never failed to face a challenge. *Photo: Jose Otero*

One More Game!!!
Playing competitive games was definitely the most popular way to take time off. Cristina Franco and Eduardo Saez find it exciting to play a short match of table tennis. This was the perfect hobby for students at FIU. *Photo: Lu Bell*



J.U.G.G.L.E.
A sign of individuality was each person's hobby. Juggling was clearly Asher Yalich's favorite hobby. Yet becoming a master was very time consuming. *Photo: Jose Otero*

Life Is Just

Many believe that life is composed of a series of events that take place as a result of constant competition. Everyone constantly searches for some sort of recognition or attention. Without a doubt, human beings have fighting spirits and the will to compete is a natural requirement for self fulfillment. It seems that competitive events revealed the peak potential of most individuals and everyone enjoyed the rush of personal challenges.

The FIU population did not lack this endurance for competition. Whether in sporting events or spirit based activities such as Homecoming, students found it necessary to reveal their abilities and talents.

Kappa Theta's used the Cheer Contest as an opportunity to bond. Camilla Takahashi put together a great routine. Many sororities and fraternities used the Cheer Competition as an outlet for showing off their school spirit! Photo: Jose Otero

"I played basketball intermursals because I love the game. It is a rush to be out there on the court showing everyone what I can do," said Robert Santana.

The Greek system on campus definitely possessed the highest level of competitiveness. Each organization endlessly yearned for the opportunity to show their potential and gain respect and recognition as a result. Special events encouraged everyone to be the best. Greek Week consisted of numerous activities such as the Lip Sync Contest and Cheer Contest which enabled students to show off their spirits.

Despite the competition, everything was in good humor, for the sole purpose of having a good time.

-Liz Bello



No Thank You!

Homecoming was an exciting event for all. Angel Reyes and Susan Carillo Lip Sync to "Walk Like an Egyptian". This event helped students become excited about the times that followed. Photo: Mario Abril

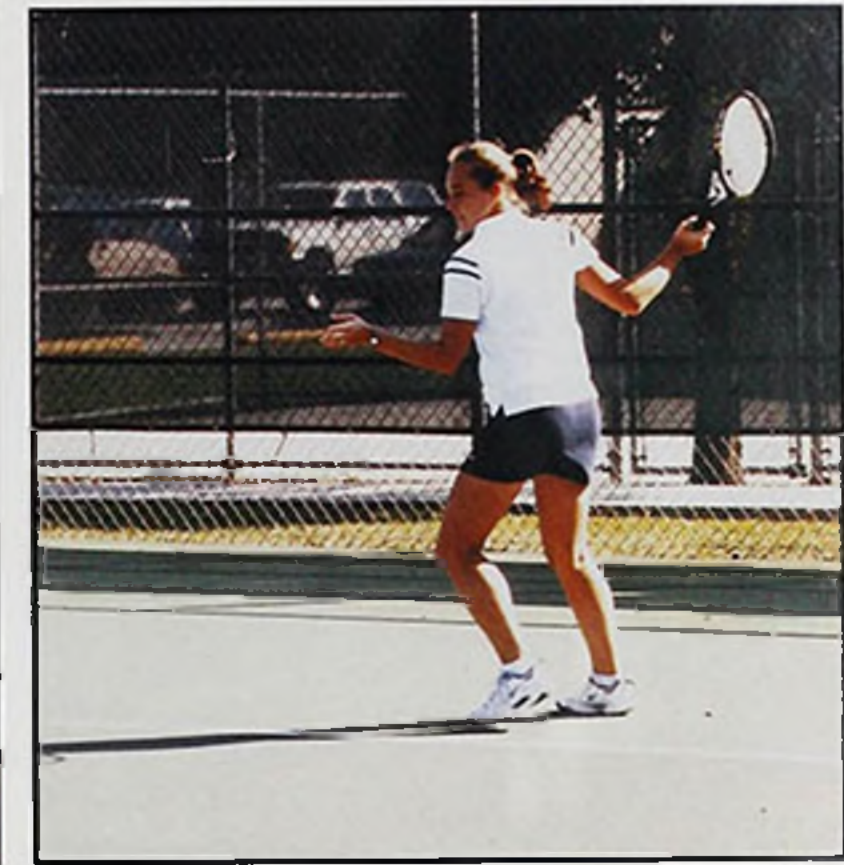


Keep On Cheering

Campus activities inspired students to perform to the best of their abilities. Phi Sigma Sigma gave it their best shot at the Cheer Contest. Smiles filled the faces of not only spectators, but also competitors. Photo: Jose Otero

Love For Tennis

Students in sports kept up their enthusiasm and fighting spirit. Tennis players showed off proud Golden Panther skills on the court. Athletes always made students a bit more competitive. Photo: Mario Abril



A Game



Greek Olympics!

Greek Week brought out the best of team spirit as everyone. Miguel Otero played volleyball in the Sigma Phi Epsilon team. Everyone had a great time participating in these events. Photo: Mario Abril



Beauty Contests

Student activities often included participating in competitive events. The Pan African Beauty Pageant was a great way for all the girls to get to know each other while celebrating their heritage. Photo: Jose Otero

Got That Beat!

In the fall semester Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity hosted FIU's step contest. Sigma Gamma Rho was among the many sororities that participated in the contest. Showing no fear, their routine was creative and very entertaining. Photo: Leslie Thomas



Lip Sync...

The Lip Sync contest was a much anticipated event. Jenny Kim, Rachel Garcia and Alicia Vigil-Blanco put on a great show for spectators. Students competed with all their might to win the cash prize. Photo: Mario Abril

He shoots, he scores!

Intramural sports played a large part in student life at FIU. Competition ran high between schools as boys' basketball teams fought to win. Playing at the Golden Panther Arena encouraged more and more spectator support. Photo: Liz Bello



"The Greek system encouraged students to become very competitive while involving themselves in school related functions"

-John Parmenter

Mmmmm!

Who could not use a little time off from the pressures of school? Teammates Mirna and Leslie met at Ruby Tuesday's after Dazzling the crowd at a basketball game. Students often spent time together outside of school as well as inside. Photo: Liz Bello

An Adventure!

The new Islands of Adventure theme park was a favorite this time around. Stacy Padron and coaters smiled at the camera as they 'surfed' their way through the park. Many students took advantage of time off from school to go to Orlando. Photo: Amanda Padron



What Was Your Favorite Time Away From School?

Spring Break 44%
Holidays 34%
Weekends 22%



Shagadelic Baby!

Coconut Grove was definitely the hot spot on Hallowe'en. Friends gathered dressed as the characters from the Austin Powers movie. Trick or treating was pretty much forgotten as people just for laughs. Photo: Ace Otero

Quite An Occasion

The ropes course helped the recent addition of fraternities brothers to bond. Pi Kappa Phi member, Chris Buzgal, worked the ropes at the North Campus Retreats, such as these. Helped students to learn about working together. Photo: Ace Otero



Snow Day!

Friends and family members spent quality time together during the winter vacation. Orlando's Machado stored away his swim trunks and instead shared a day in the snow with his family. People often chose to go up North where it was colder to get away from Miami's blistering heat. Photo: Orlando Machado



Let's Get Ready

The hectic periods and pressures of college life resulted in extreme stresses for students. Often it was necessary to encounter a bit of relaxation through any means possible. This was where the joys of the numerous holidays took center stage. Upon surpassing the short lived excitement of beginning a new semester and engaging in fresh projects, the student body anxiously yearned for the arrival of much needed holidays. The idea of being able to place aside all worries and carelessly enjoy life was doubtlessly appealing to all. "After dealing with the stress of school, it was great to finally take some time off. I needed a little time of relaxation," said Carlos G. Hernandez.

The days off simply offered students the opportunity to experience a different

Bloobuster nights were often just as fun as going out. Alexis Rodriguez could always be found in the kitchen cooking something for his friends. Watching movies and snacking at home was the sure way to relax. Photo: Liz Bello



atmosphere than the expected in Miami. Many took advantage of this time to travel, which made it possible to interact with new faces. Special dates such as Spring Break and Labor Day served as the ideal time for students to glide on the different beaches of the world. "I was lucky to have a friend that lived close to Daytona Beach, so I got to spend my Spring Break with good friends and had a great time," said Cesar Quinzada.

When all else failed, students could always rely on the much awaited weekends in order to have a good time. The magical land of Orlando was only several hours away and students did not hesitate to escape to popular locations such as the new Island of Adventures. "I took advantage of a long weekend to visit my friends in Gainesville. School usually takes much of my time, so it is sometimes hard to keep up with friends," said Andy Diaz. Ultimately, the goal was to have a little fun and from time to time, leave the world behind. -Liz Bello

To Party!!!



Overcoming Obstacles!

Students had a great time competing in the obstacle course during Greek Week. Teddy Abando and Natalie Fernandez showed off their spirit by participating in such events. Each activity inspired lots of laughter and amusement for all. Photo: Cesar Quinzada

Spring Break!

FIU students had a blast during Spring Break. Cesar Quinzada and Natalie Fernandez partied at Daytona Beach. The beach was the best place to be in when school was out. Photo: Cesar Quinzada

Capturing Unique

Normally, a sequence of exciting events can change a typical school year to one of amazement and excitement. Luckily for FIU, the "buzz" around campus never stopped as FIU stepped into its golden age with the birth of several new traditions.

Every Golden Panther took notice when Don Strock, the former Miami Dolphins quarterback and assistant coach of the Baltimore Ravens, was introduced as the head of football operations for FIU. Under great leadership students were informed that FIU would be receiving its first ever football program.

Homecoming took center stage when it created a twist in its traditional campaign. Students were in for a treat when FIU hosted its first bonfire as a part of the Homecoming festivities. "I thought that the bonfire really added much needed **It seems that everyone was affected by FIU spirit. Maxine Hylton proudly waves her blue and gold pom-pom during an exciting basketball game. Such fans made athletic events much more interesting.**" *Photo: Jose Otero*



spirit to the university. It gave students and faculty members something to unite through," said Jose Otero.

The Board of Regents made it possible for the university to cater to the needs of those students pursuing a career in law as the Law School was added to the list of graduate studies program. Persistence truly paid off for the acquisition for the new school. "Miami possesses a great deal of well rounded minds. The new law school will enable these minds to be further developed and ultimately better the community," said Liz Bello.

Also, the successful turnout for the student council election was a definite highlight. Students showed their respect for a hardworking SGA by setting an all time high of voter turnout. A new dawn was set for FIU, one that paved a path of success for years to come.

-Derek Delard and Carlos L. Hernandez

Moments

First Place!

Competitive spirits multiplied during Homecoming. Phi Sigma Kappa members truly revealed their creative spirits and walked away with the first place award in the float contest. A great deal of dedication was necessary in order to put this float together. *Photo: Jose Otero*



Bonfire!

Activities on campus never lacked. Robert Joye gladly ignites the flames of the SGC sponsored Bonfire in the South Campus. Many students and faculty members participated in this event. *Photo: Liz Bello*



Above The Rest!

Attendance at athletic events was quickly rising. Brian Betancourt gladly represents Sigma Alpha Mu at the Homecoming basketball game. School organizations were always ready to give the necessary support to FIU Athletics. *Photo: Jose Otero*



What a Banner!

Numerous items were used to show support for the FIU teams. The stands were constantly covered with blue and gold pom-poms, megaphones and banners. Panther spirit always found a way to be displayed. *Photo: Mario Abril*

She Is So Cute!

This furry creature made an appearance at most school related events wearing an FIU bandana. Mascots were never lacked, as students were quick to involve everyone in the Panther spirit. *Photo: Jose Otero*



The Scorpion

Watching the cheerleaders perform was a great treat. Lisa Montero shows her true skills by partner stunting a difficult Scorpion. It is no wonder that the FIU Cheerleaders were ranked highly in the nation. *Photo: Jose Otero*

Blue & Gold Spirit!

Students were not the only to display school spirit. Michelle Perez does not hesitate to go all out during Homecoming. Such faculty members served as a great example for the student body to follow. *Photo: Liz Bello*



School spirit really brought the student body together and allowed all of us to create many special moments.
-Venus Golcochea

Campaigning!

Campaign week gave everyone the opportunity to meet new people. While conducting her campaign for Representative-at-Large, Bettina Inchausti takes the time to interact with new faces.

Questions?

Certain individuals chose to truly become involved in the campaigning process. Rolando Rojas takes an active role in the debate for the executive officer positions. Photo: Jose Otero



Conversing!

All candidates yearned the support of the student body. Raul Perez Jr. converses with fellow SCA Intern ledgers Agna. Who said the job of campaigning was easy? Photo: Jose Otero



Embracing New

The SCA election marked the first time in Florida International University's history that an election surpassed the 3,000-vote mark. There were 3,465 student ballots. 2,635 came from University Park while the Biscayne Bay Campus and Broward Campus combined for 530. The increase was 40% from last year's student government election. In total, the votes reflected 10% of FIU total student population. Compared to the college institutes around the country, such a turnout is at a 2% margin above the national level of 10%. It is great

that students took the initiative to become involved in the election process. It is very important that they realized that it was their responsibility to choose their leaders," said Michelle

Castro. Ruth Hamilton credited the increase to the new voting locations that were installed around the campus. "I attribute the voting increase to the extra



Upon winning the SCA election, Sergio Tigera and Patrice Scipio are thrown in the lake for a little celebrating. It was refreshing to finally witness the week of campaigning come to an end. Photo: Jose Otero

rooming and the Fitness Center. Although it was more work, we tried to reach the students that did not ordinarily come to the Graham Center. Those two areas really helped us out," said Hamilton. After a vigorous week of campaigning, the results were finally in for the newly elected Student Government Council. The two Lower Division Representative positions were filled by Lisa Mallard and Alejandro Diaz. The three Representatives at Large were Victor Romano, Joselin Low and Bettina Inchausti. The executive board was occupied by President, Sergio Tigera and Vice President, Patrice Scipio. Although the election proved as difficult and vigorous as the many before, there is no doubt that qualified leaders were chosen and new concept would successfully follow the choices of the student body.

-Denik DeLard & Jose Otero

Leaders



Such a big voter turnout during election week really gave FIU and Student

Government a sense of pride. -Zory Hernandez



Taking A Break!

A rough week of campaigning could easily tire an individual. Speddy, Haines, Abbeduto Allen, Patrice Scipio and Sherril Torres took the time to discuss the running candidates. Everyone benefited a different outcome for the race. Photo: Jose Otero

Answers!

The debate gave presidential and vice-presidential candidates the opportunity to publicly express their views on issues of concern. Patrice Scipio and Sergio Tigera clearly had all the right answers. This campaign resulted into their election into office. Photo: Jose Otero



Vote For Me!

Those running for office were forced to give it their best during campaign week. Lizzy Berenson and Elena Cruz ran for one of the three Representative-at-Large positions available. It was sometimes difficult to convince the voters. Photo: Jose Otero

Helping!

Certain individuals worked behind the scenes during campaign week. Lizzy Berenson and Elena Cruz distributed the ballot on the election days. Their involvement was crucial. Photo: Jose Otero



Announcement!

The time to announce the campaign winners finally arrived. Lisa Mallard is congratulated by Ruth Hamilton upon winning one of the two Lower Division Representative positions. Photo: Jose Otero

Traveling Back

Florida International University witnessed a hectic period. There was always something going on that students could be involved with. School related activities as well as Student Government and Greek life encouraged an immense level of involvement for the student body. Greeks were excited to see the new addition of the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity, and the change of Kappa Theta to Alpha Omicron Pi.

Homecoming took on a whole new atmosphere as students threw themselves wholeheartedly into preparations. School spirit soared with the addition of new competitions. The building decorating contest and scavenger hunt were adopted, as well as the exciting bonfire. Alumni were proud to see the increase in student participation and fans in school colors packed themselves into the Golden Panther Arena for the basketball game. Pete the Panther made numerous appearances, helping to boost the spirit of the crowds.

Homecoming court was a great honor. The Biscayne Bay Court united with the University Park Royalty as they were paraded during Homecoming.

Photo: Jose Otero

Competitive games provided a great opportunity for students to show their school spirit, and the colors of blue and gold could be seen just about anywhere. Students sported megaphones, pom-poms and even face paint in practically every event. Cheerleaders and Dazzlers yelled and danced at many school events, adding in the goal of igniting the student body with Panther pride. Athletes also proved their skill and endurance as they led FIU to many victories. In addition, the radio station was able to get on the FM dial. "Radio 88 was forced to overcome numerous obstacles. Thanks to the administration we were able to accomplish our goals and will continue to do so," said Asai Sealy. There was clearly much to be proud of.

- Evelyn Barullo

In Time



Let's Go Panthers!
Doubtlessly, Homecoming brought out the best in everyone. Sigma Alpha Mu members truly showed their spirit by cheering the basketball team on to victory. The stands were never fuller than during Homecoming. Photo: Mario Abril



In The Game!
In order to enhance involvement, many activities were organized. Phi Sigma Kappa participated in the Greek Week Volleyball Tournament. Such events made college life very exciting and interesting. Photo: Mario Abril

Toga!!!
Greek Week established a great sense of unity on campus. Without a doubt, what Greeks did best was party and this was precisely what they did during the Toga Party! Photo: Jose Otero



Just For Laughs!

The comedy shows were yet another form of entertainment. Comedian Elvia Kurt puts on quite an act for the student body. Everyone was always ready for a laugh. Photo: Jose Otero



Heart Breaker

What a treat it was to watch organizations combine their talents. Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sigma Sigma Sigma performed the song "Heart Breaker" during the Lip Sync. It was fun to see organizations reveal their talents. Photo: Mario Abril

Lip We Go!

The rope course gave organizations the opportunity to build unity. The brothers of Phi Kappa Phi experienced their first taste of Greek life during this event. The Greek organizations on campus proved to be very involved. Photo: Jose Otero



Bounce With Me!

The spirit of competition was seen during Greek Week. Mashaika Allan dribbled the ball down the court to score. Practicing her technique made it easier for a successful victory. Photo: Mario Abril

Making A Splash!

Unity could be seen throughout the FIU Campus. The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon jump into the pool after a long day of recruitment. College life was nothing but fun. Photo: Jose Otero

What Was Your Favorite Activity of the Year?

- Hanging With Friends 40%
- Spring Break 22%
- School Related Activities 38%

Say Cheese!

Campus Life made sure to always have an activity going on. Yesterday, Cancino shares a moment during a fun lunch. Grilling student free food was definitely a great idea. Photo: Jose Orta

Out On The Town!
All smiles for the yearbook staff as they attended the College Student Press Association in New York City. After an eleven-year gap, these group of students faced quite an obstacle to make up for the lost time. A "Vision" they surely had. Photo: Jose Orta



Knowing that my sacrifice at Dance Marathon 2000 would benefit the kids at Miami Children's Hospital made my effort worthwhile.
-Julia M. Suarez
Senior



Relaxing!
The important moments were spent with good friends. Myriam Sanchez and Evelyn Batillo take some time off their busy schedules to catch up on the latest events of each other's lives. Good friends always make life a bit brighter. Photo: Jose Orta



Light It Up!
Building traditions was what student leaders did best. The bonfire prior to the first FIU men's basketball game was one good example. The court was organized by the founder of Panther Rags, Sergio Tiguera and it brought together the de la hard Panther fan for a great time. Photo: Jose Orta

The Parade!
A multitude of college students walking along SW 107th Avenue, displaying pride and showing off their Golden Panther spirit. The parade of Sigma Phi Epsilon made sure to include their motto, "above and beyond" as they escorted their banner. Photo: Jose Orta



One Final

Fall semester brought about soccer games, the annual fashion show and rush week. Midnight Madness was cancelled due to Hurricane Irene, but that did not stop students from getting excited about the numerous activities that followed. The Lip Sync contest was an extremely popular show, which enabled many students and organizations to become involved. Whether participating or simply just watching, the events were always jam packed in support of FIU spirit.

Spring semester involved Homecoming's festivities, Greek Week's crazy antics and much more. From movie showings to basketball games, pep rallies to school projects, life was always in full gear. People



Going above and beyond the call of duty was an understatement to describe the drive that these students lived by. Having participated in the Alternative Spring Break Program, they found the county taking part in multiple community service projects and affecting countless lives. Not only did these Golden Panthers take action for their noble cause, they also represented our university well while doing so. Photo: VIC

could be seen talking and laughing at the beach or at friends' homes. A friendly game of basketball was sometimes the answer to much needed stress relief. When finals rolled around, the tables and benches around campus were covered with students getting in some last minute study time. A general sense of relief was felt when it all came to an end, yet everyone also felt a great deal of enthusiasm about the many improvements and new additions to the university.

"Tomorrow's tradition began with today's initiative. Student leaders with big dreams and persistent hearts made this a clear stepping stone and a time to remember in FIU history for more reasons than just the run of the millennium," said Carlos L. Hernandez, FIU's law school was widely praised and the addition of our brand new football program caused great anticipation. It was a year of many victories, one to always remember.

-Evelyn Batillo

Look Back



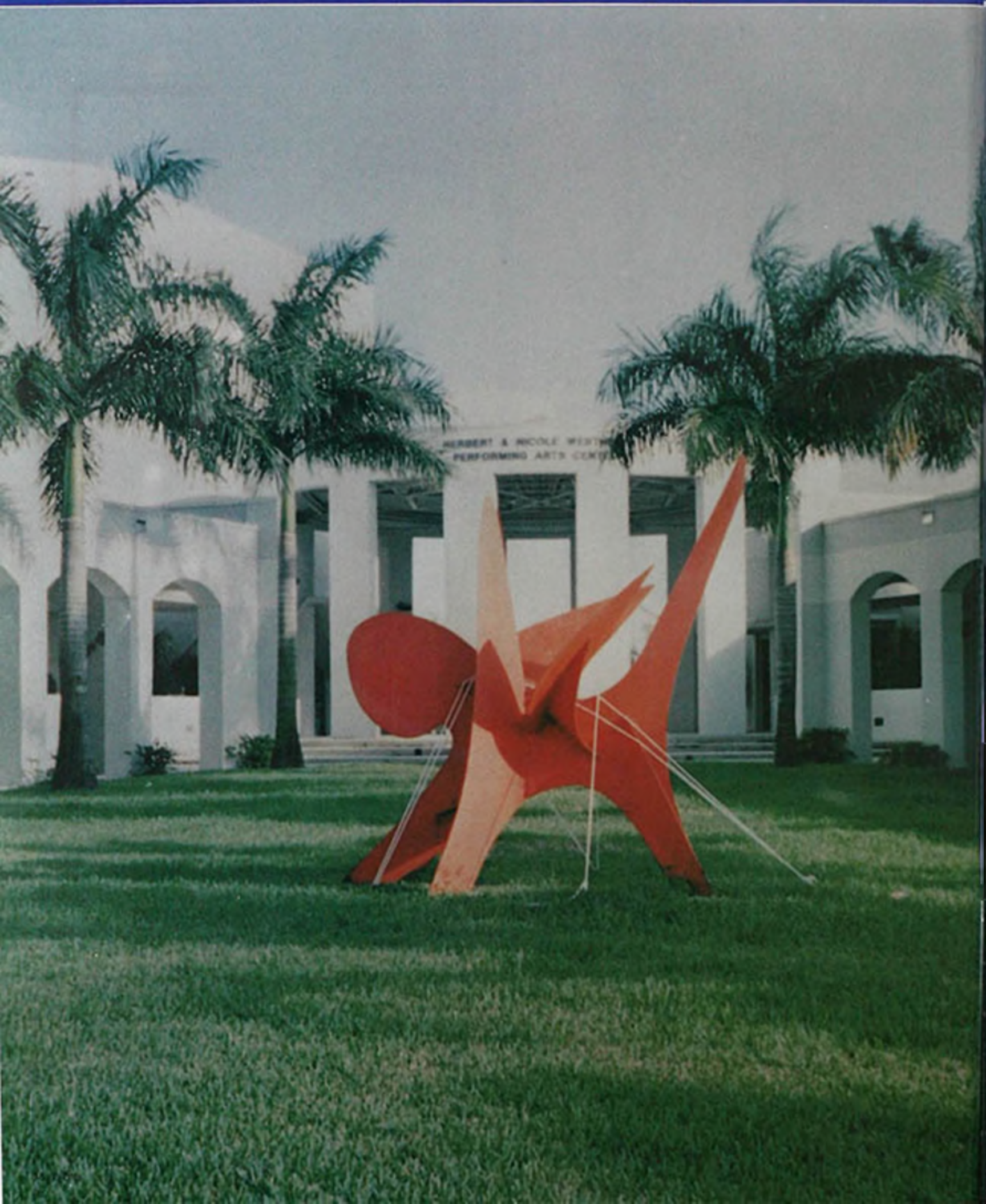
In The Spirit!
Aside from the free food and live musical performances, Homecoming served as an opportunity for students to interact with the community. The ladies of Delta Psi Epsilon assure that attendees of all ages had a part of the festivities. Photo: Jose Orta



Celebrate!
Nothing better than a Campus Let's team to enjoy the sweet success of overcoming a full campaign season. You are only young once, right? With that in mind, Justin Low showed that a great role model for all young things is out on campus with the

Bang!
Externally sports are among the many merits that the Women's Volleyball team had. Their dedication to excel in the sport as well as in the classroom served as a great role model for all young female athletes. Photo: Jose Orta

THIS TIME



As many have learned upon entering a university, things do not always go as planned. Ironically that may be the only fact one can rely on, Murphy's Law. "If something can go wrong, it will!" Fortunately, not all unexpected events are bad. Somewhere, somehow surprises were appreciated. This year all across FIU's campuses there were both planned and unplanned events, as well as pleasure-filled and nightmarish events. Monthly, Comedy Connections were among the pleasant experiences for 1999, as were Greek formals. Greek Week, in celebration of homecoming created cherished moments. Many sports events brought students and faculty together in sharing of school spirited functions. The anxious awaiting of the new Millennium was a 'planned' event that never really escaped anyone's mind. Hurricane Irene also surprised and interrupted, the University Park campus with an exceptional amount of flooding and a short visit from the National Guard. The Greek Fashion show, like the Millennium fashion show, were two events that captured students' attention in the here and now. The masquerades planned for Halloween raised goblins and ghost to parade amongst FIU students. Another event that left impressionable memories was the unfortunate death of the University founder Charles Perry. He will be sadly missed. However, the impacting events were not just local, many global happenings affected students right here in Miami. At the World Trade Organization summit in Seattle, Washington, police had to use excessive force to control the violent outbreaks of violent protesters. Also, in Turkey, thousands died as a result of a massive earthquake. The eastern seaboard of the United States suffered more hurricanes than ever recorded in history. On the good side of the news, scientific breakthroughs for curing spinal cord injuries advanced tremendously. Scientists finally mapped out the first human chromosome gene by gene. Locally, the city of Miami improved its skyline by adding the Miami Heat's newly constructed arena, named the American Airlines Arena. The university added dorms and Greek housing. While staying on the subject of construction, an ancient tribal circle was found buried in downtown Miami where a developer was building a hotel. Nonetheless, we realize that in the end the positive overcame the negative and lessened the seriousness of those not so pleasant moments. With this time around, events are not only impacting closer to home because of advances in communication technology, but political and environmental issues have the attention of University students as the future leading generations.

-Vanessa Valencia

AROUND...



EVENTS

Homecoming 2000

By Denis Delard

FIU was full of competition, excitement and spirit during the week of Homecoming.

The week started out with the Homecoming court elections. Candidates from various organizations at FIU competed for the four spots. The winner for Queen and Princess were Susan Carrillo and Ana Cristina Tristan both representing Delta Phi Epsilon. The winners for King and Prince were Juan Molina and Manny Casmire both representing Sigma Phi Epsilon. Banners hung on the wall outside the Graham Center by the vending machines. The banners were part of the first competition



of Homecoming Week. Kappa Theta sorority won the competition. Phi Sigma Sigma finished second and Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu were third. Each winner received a cash reward. The second competition was the building-decorating contest. Each participant had to decorate a certain part of the campus. Alpha Xi Delta which decorated the ECS building won first place. Phi Sigma Sigma, which decorated the Panther Hall Lobby, was the runner up, and Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu, which decorated the OE building, were third. Each participant received a cash reward.



The Lip Sync, considered to be the funniest competition during Homecoming, was held Wednesday night. Various organizations put together a performance. "I Love Lip Sync" Junior Margarita Collado said, "It's the funniest show." This year, there was a tie for first place between Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Panther Hall Association took second and Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu third. Thursday was the scavenger hunt. Participants had to run around Miami, collecting items from 11:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu won the competition and Phi Sigma Kappa was the runner up. Third (con't to page 43)



February 2, 2000, junior Rouana Cozma reviews the candidates for the 2000 Homecoming before she casts her vote. Every year FIU sets up computers in the Graham Center Forum for students to vote for the Homecoming Court. Photo By Mario Abril



The Biscayne Bay campus. Homecoming was quite different this year. For the first time students had the opportunity to hear a lecture on the art of Kissing. Photo By Mario Abril

Homecoming is not for students, it's really for the Alumni. Each year the Alumni Association of FIU hosts the annual golf tournament in the Doral golf Course. Alumnus Patricia Onelan had the opportunity to meet the current golf team members and discuss techniques. Photo By Kaldan Torres-Moure



Looking on the different banner hanging outside of the Graham Center, Danielle Jones and friends view the winning banners of Homecoming. Kappa Theta Sorority placed first in the homecoming banner contest. Photo By Mario Abril

Over 11 years FIU has not seen a bonfire during Homecoming. With hard work and determination junior Sergio Tigera made the impossible possible during the 2000 Homecoming. Photo By Campus Life Publication



During the annual lip-synch contest, Mark Martel from the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity entertains the audience. Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Phi Epsilon tied first in this competition. Photo By Mario Abril

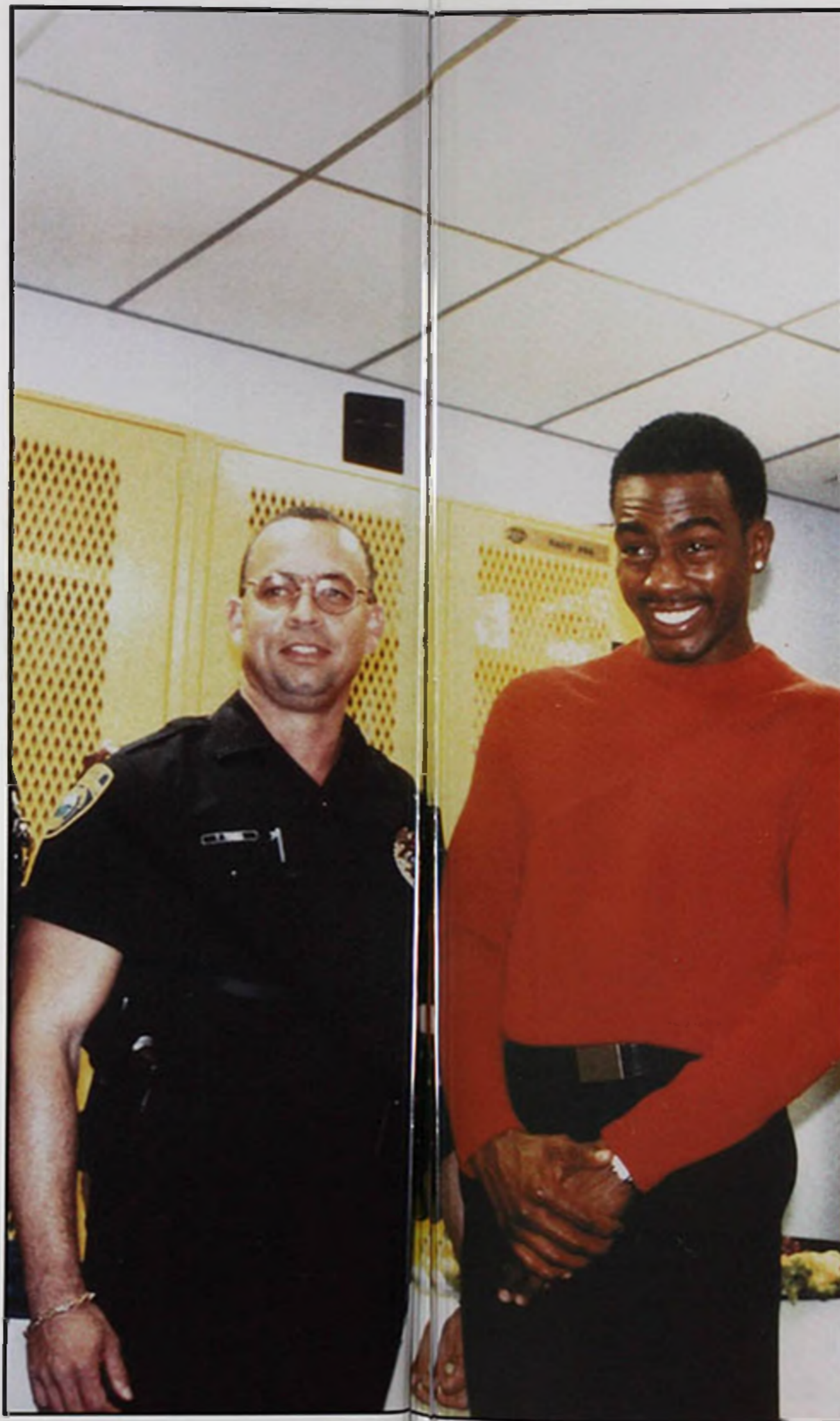
The 1999-2000 Homecoming court University Park: Juan Molina (ΣΦΕ), Susan Carrillo (ΔΦΕ), Manny Casmite (ΣΦΕ), and Ana Tristian (ΔΦΕ). Photo By Jose Otero



The 1999-2000 Homecoming Court Biscayne Bay. Photo By Jose Otero



After an entertaining performance, Bill Belamy takes time out of his busy schedule to meet some of the students and faculty and staff of FIU during the Homecoming Comedy Connection. Photo By Jose Otero



There's No Stopping Us Now!

By Allan Villegas

(con't from page 40) place went to Phi Mu and Pi Kappa Alpha. Bill Belamy performed in the comedy show that night. The Golden Panther Arena was so full that people had to



be turned away at the door. Homecoming Co-Chair Rachel Breslof said, "Bill Belamy was really funny," freshman Gina Grand champ said, "It was a great show." Bellamy did his homework, Breslof said, and mentioned FIU. He seemed to have looked into FIU facts. FIU's first annual bonfire took place Friday night. The fire burned for hours at the construction site off 107th Avenue. Everyone who

attended these events received a glow stick. Saturday was the final day for FIU's Homecoming Week as well as the biggest day. The FIU Fan Fest started with a parade and ended with the basketball game against the Denver Hawks. The parade started at 3 p.m. at the engineering building on 107th Avenue and Flagler and went down to the football stadium. There was



a lot of participation from the Greek organizations, the Salsa Kings, and the VISION yearbook staff. All organizations in the parade either had a float, a brigade or both. Phi Sigma Kappa won the float competition, and Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu were runners up. Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu finished first in brigade competition. Alpha Xi Delta came in second. "We definitely had a bigger parade this year", Breslof said. "Last year, we had two floats. This year we had six." Oscar Villegas, a representative for Hookitup.com, was working at the event, taking pictures and posting them on the web (con't to page 44)



Glancing over the table, the students from FIU Biscayne Bay campus check out the different type of entrees served at the annual Homecoming Dance. Photo By Mario Abril

Panther Prowl

By Allan Villegas

(con't from page 43) site. "I think the parade looked good", Villegas said. "There was a lot of action going on. "My Garage Band" entertained the crowd while they were eating barbeque catered by Burdines and participating in the rides and games. After the band finished playing, Willy Chirino came out and performed for about two hours, playing his typical tropical sounds. After the Fan Fest, fireworks lit up the FIU campus as a way to say good-bye to FIU's Homecoming Week.



FIU took on the Denver Hawks in the Golden Panther Arena at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the game, there was a cheer contest. Different Greek Organizations competed for the loudest, most spirited section. Delta Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Mu won the competition and Phi Sigma Sigma came in second. FIU won the game.

This year's Homecoming was

successful. Breslof said. "Everything went awesome," she said. "People have told me nothing but good things about the whole week.



Walking down Flagler street, Phi Sigma Sigma sorority showed great spirit during the annual Homecoming Parade. Photo By Mario Abril



During the Homecoming cheer contest, the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority performs a two-sided pyramid. Photo By Jose Otero

From the stands in Golden Panther Arena, the Men's Basketball team goes head to head against the Denver Hawks. Photo By Jose Otero



Coming into the distance, the Florida Panther stands proud and tammed. Photo By Mario Abril

Retaining the audience at Fan Fest, Willie Chirino performs to "Un Artista Famoso". Photo By Mario Abril

Hurricane Irene

By Dyana Nieto

The day began dreary and wet on Friday, Oct. 15. It seemed as if the rain would never let up. No one had any idea what was the cause until many turned on their televisions and radios to hear the reports. Hurricane Irene was on top of Miami, and no one knew about it. The media had decided to be hushed about this storm fearing another chaotic scene as with Hurricane Floyd a few weeks earlier. To the naked eye, Hurricane Irene seemed harmless. It was barely a Category One storm, but no one took into consideration that it was still a



hurricane. The rains this storm brought accumulated 10-20 inches of standing water in many places of South Florida. The flooding was a great problem. Police had to close down specific neighborhoods because of it. "I was stuck in my house for a whole day because the water in my front and back yard had my family and me trapped," exclaimed junior Lisa Borges. Thousands of people were left without power. For days, Florida Power & Light worked to restore it. "I didn't get my power back until Tuesday of the next week," freshman Aracelis Gil commented. This storm claimed seven lives. Five died of electrocutions and two died of auto-related drowning. Hurricane Irene will be a disaster that will be used as a model in years to come. No one was prepared for it, but they learned from this experience.



Over a week, the FIU South campus felt like you were walking through a rain forest. This water made it difficult for students to walk to class and even study for upcoming exams. Photo By Lazaro Llanes



During Hurricane Irene, the crosswalk sign on 109th Avenue and 7th terrace sways to the high wind and rain brought by the Hurricane. Photo By Lazaro Llanes

Sweetwater, over 18 inches of rain fell because of Hurricane Irene. The streets were flooded for days involving students to be late for class or causing them not showing up at all. Photo By Lazaro Llanes



After Hurricane Irene, more than 20 trees fell to the ground and debris was found all over campus. This Hurricane involved one full week of cleaning up of the FIU campus. Photo By Lazaro Llanes

The day after Hurricane Irene hit South Florida, FIU students walk through the water after a study session in the library. Hurricane Irene brought 18 inches of rain. Photo By Lazaro Llanes

Hispanic Heritage

By Derek Deland

Hispanic Heritage Month was in full swing at FIU this year. October began with a full slate of activities planned by the Student Programming Council (SPC) and ended with several academic departments taking time out to educate students and faculty about the hispanic culture. "We were very excited," said Raul Rodriguez, co-chairperson for Hispanic heritage Month. "It was a total departure from what we've done in the past. It was a stepping stone for the activities that have yet to come. SPC kicked off the celebration with a variety of activities. "Each day, we had something different," said Lisa Demetrius, SPC chairperson. "Each day, the celebration of each culture was different from the previous day." The first week's activities included the display of flags, the Brazilian and Latin Sound Company, the Argentine Tango Production and a fashion show. "The Argentine tango was very well received by the students," Demetrius said. "A lot of people came out for that one." Freshman Ernesto Guevara said he enjoyed the tango. "The way that they were dancing was pretty cool," Guevarra said. Campus Life concluded its week of activities with its first ever Hispanic Heritage Gala. The celebration featured an arroz con pollo luncheon and a performance by the Colombian group Alquimia. The gala gave students the chance to educate themselves about a variety of hispanic cultures. Clubs sought membership from the student body and inactive clubs reorganized themselves. "FIU is such a diverse school," John Suarez, president of the Cuban America Student Association said. "But it's not everyday we can try and experiment something from every culture." The Social gathering places and the academic departments did their fair share of coordinating events as well. Gracie's Grill and the Graham Center Game Room hosted a dominoes tournament. This was the first year that the two entities will be hosting the tournament together. "We combined to make it a big event," said Luis Torres, recreation coordinator. "It's a big thing to a lot of people. Every year, the dominoes tournament is successful. A lot of cultures like dominoes. We're going to have giveaways like shirts, caps, and neon fluorescent lights." Freshman Vincente Luz said the tournament will make his hobby more enjoyable. "Dominoes has been an activity that me and my friends have been doing since high school," Luz said. "Now since we had the tournament at FIU, I think it made it even more fun." Other Hispanic Heritage Month activities included features by the FIU Symphony Orchestra. The FIU Jazz Band and Samba school presented a Brazil's Night. Additionally, professors Rodolfo Pacheco Bayona and Eduardo Gonzalez Viana, gave lectures on "The Descomposicion Socia y La responsabilidad de la Clase Dirigents de Columbia," and "La Inmigracion Latin Americana en mi Literatura."



performing to various types of Hispanic music, students from FIU entertain other students and give knowledge of their Hispanic Heritage. Photo By Campus Life Publication



During the Latinos Unidos Hispanic Heritage presentation, students from Panther Hall sang and dance to Ricky Martin's "Livin' in the Vida Loca". Photo By Lazaro Hanes

Performing at the Latinos Unidos Presentation, students from FIU entertain other students and give knowledge of their Hispanic Heritage. Photo By Lazaro Hanes



On day during Hispanic Heritage Month, performances were held in the Graham Center Forum as entertainment for the students and faculty. Photo By Jose Otero



During the Hispanic Heritage Carnival, children from faculty members of FIU are dressed in costumes from different countries of South America and the Caribbean Islands. Photo By Campus Life Publication

Greek Week

By Alano M. Sarria Jr.

Fraternity and Sorority, these words are derived from the Latin word "frater" meaning brother and "soror" meaning sister. March 2nd of 2000 through the 5th of March was Greek Week. The event the Greek community has set to demonstrate the words of unity their Latin names and Greek letters dictate. Greek Week kicked off Thursday March 2nd with the opening celebration at 12 p.m. on the Graham Center front steps with a National Pan-Hellenic Council step show exhibition. At 5 p.m. there was the all-Greek picture and later at 9 p.m. an organized cheer in AT 100. The following day began at 2 p.m. with a midday scavenger hunt in the Graham Center Forum and ended with an all-Greek Toga Party at 9 p.m. in the Ballroom. Greek Week's Greek Olympics began on Saturday March 4 and took place at Tamiami Park. The Greek Olympics consists of competitive group events and "simple cut" special events. The games were: 3 on 3 basketball, 2 on 2 volleyball and Tug of War. Special events include: Egg-Toss, 7-legged Race, sack race and an obstacle course. Concluding the events was an all-Greek Luau at 9 p.m. at the Panther Hall Pool. As the Greek Olympic events, highly competitive events were incorporated into group events and "simple cut" events were favored, according to Ray Morales of Tau Kappa Epsilon, director of Greek Week.



Morales who attended the only two Greek Weeks recalls the last time the event was held. "The last Greek Week wasn't as good as the first" Morales said. The last Greek Week was plagued by poor participation and sportsmanship. "There were like three fraternities and maybe two sororities that participated and a fight broke out" Morales commented. Despite the last Greek Week Morales is positive regarding the event's revival. "I think everyone is going to come out to support their Greek organization" Morales stated. The Greek Week festivities concluded with an awards ceremony on Sunday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballroom. In the light of heated discussions among the Greeks and the rest of the FIU student body, Todd Sullivan, Greek advisor says, that Greek Week will give



Greek organizations the opportunity to demonstrate their doctrine. "Greek Week will be a great opportunity for fraternities and sororities to show the FIU community the positive things they do," Sullivan stated. Jose Garcia of Pi Kappa Phi agrees that Greek Week will be the event to showcase the Greek community. "As one of the founders of Pi Kappa Phi, our initiative is to get rid of the negative connotations associated with Greek organizations by emphasizing sportsmanship, school spirit and brotherhood at this event," Garcia said. The outlook towards Greek Week among Greek students is positive. Freshmen Ricardo Guerrero of Sigma Phi Epsilon looks forward to Greek Week. "Greek Week will be an exciting experience," Guerrero said. "I think Greek Week will be all Greeks together," Guerrero commented. Griska Mena of Phi Mu agrees that Greek Week will be a positive event. "I think it will show the strength and unity of the Greek system, it should have a positive impact on FIU" she said. She comments that the impact Greek Week will have on the Greek system is positive as well. "It will give the Greek system the chance to have some fun and at the same time grow stronger as a whole."



Speaking to the Greek community on the steps of the Graham Center, Ray Morales announces the events for the 2000 Greek week. Photo By Jose Otero

This year, fraternities and sororities of FIU gather on the steps of Primera Casa to take their annual group shot. Photo By Vanessa Valencia



The Panther Pool, many Greek members swim and play around during the Greek Luau. Photo By Jose Otero

During the Greek Olympics, the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority participate in the tug-of-war against Delta Phi Epsilon. Photo By Jose Otero



During the Greek Week awards ceremony, this Phi Sigma Sigma Sister goes as low as she can. Photo By Jose Otero

Comedy Connection

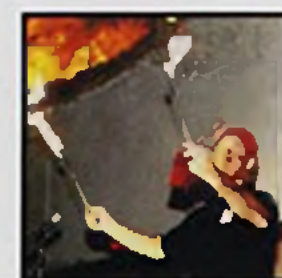
By Derik Deland

Halloween Night was a night of spooks, screams and inevitable laughs when

Stevie Starr and Harley Newman came to the FIU campus on the Thursday before Halloween. Both comics defied the rules of life by performing death defying stunts that were real. They used their bodies as a tool to institute self-pain to serve as a forum for laughs. Newman, who was the opening act of the show, started off by using ropes to tie himself. Normally any other human being could not escape this trail created the audiences' hands, who helped Newman perform the stunt. But Newman found a way out of it. He also captured the audience gasps by placing himself on top of long thick



Photo By Jose Otero



nails and having six people in the audience stand on top of him. Cathy Silva, who was one of the audience participants in this stunt was amazed, but a tad bit embarrassed. "He called us up there and had us stand on him. I was a little embarrassed but I couldn't help but be amazed at the performance. He was amazing!" Silva said. Starr, who has been on the Jay Leno show and other various shows, did what he got paid to do and that is to capture the hearts of the audience literally by re-



gurgitating the various objects that he swallowed. He swallowed a rubric square, rings off the audience fingers, and concluded the performance by swallowing goldfish. All were brought up whenever he wanted them to, and in which ever order he wanted them to come up in. Although the audience was split in the middle when concerning Starr's performance, some were watching with bewilderment and applause while others hid their eyes, altogether the FIU student body was pleased with his performance. "He was great. I covered my eyes when he swallowed the goldfish and the other stuff but I loved his accent," Freshman Lidice Arguello said.



All tied up on stage, George Cotton, Sergio Tigera and Vivan Hernandez look into the audience waiting for what comedian Harley Newman has in stored for them. Photo By Jose Otero



Surprising an audience member, comedian Stevie Starr coughs up dry sugar after swallowing glass water. Photo By Jose Otero

During the intermission between comedians, this man prepares for Stevie Starr's performance by filling water in each of the nine glasses on the table. Photo By Jose Otero



Amazed on what Harley Newman can do, FIU students wait in anticipation to see if he can accomplish what he set forth for the night. Photo By Jose Otero



During the Comedy Connection on Oct. 28, 1999, One of the Comedians Harley Newman drills into his nose using a power drill. Photo By Jose Otero



Celebrities at FIU

By Derek Deland

It's no secret that FIU is slowly becoming a major university in the state of Florida. Every year the bar to become a Golden Panther gets raised a tad bit higher meaning that students have to work extra harder to get accepted. This policy is no different when it comes to incoming celebrities. FIU seeks the very best and influential celebrities who can come to FIU and either provides hilarious entertainment or sound perspective on life. This year FIU had the pleasure of extending an invitation to prominent celebrities like the Dalai Lama, whose inner



strength is recognized throughout

the world. Damon Wayans and Bill Belamy were invited to come during Homecoming Week to provide students with instant laughs. Willie Chirino also was invited to come to Homecoming Week. His music entertained the huge crowd that came out to hear him sing during the Homecoming picnic.

The Reverend Archbishop

Desmond Tutu, who received a Noble Peace Prize, was honored at FIU this year for his work. Reverend Tutu received an honorary degree from FIU. State Representative Willie Logan visited SGA this year to help lend a helping hand to SGA. Logan's visit was welcomed by FIU's Student Government. The culmination of celebrity visits this year for FIU illustrated the new dawn at FIU of only accepting the very best to provide entertainment and provide leadership to their students.



Entertain everybody at the 2000 Homecoming fan fest, Willie Chirino show off his talented skills for FIU alumni, students and faculty. Photo By Maria Abril



Last spring, FIU received a visit from Dalai Lama. This was one of many special events that occurred at FIU. Photo By Michael Upright

The Representative Willie Logan visiting FIU and Sergio Tizera discuss plans for a law school. Photo By Jose Otero



Last Spring, Damon Waynes visited FIU during the annual Homecoming Comedy Connections. Photo By Beacon Newspaper

During the visit of Archbishop Tutu, Provost Mark Rosenberg awards him an honorary degree from FIU. Photo By Jose Otero

Greek Fashion Show

By Sara Wellman

It was a night to remember, a night that stood out as one of the most glamorous nights of the 1999 fall semester at FIU. The fourth annual Greek Fashion Show was held on Oct. 21, 1999. It featured selected members of various Greek organizations to model clothes from Structure and Rampage. The man behind this night of style was Raul Rodriguez, marketing director for Campus Life. "Of all the events I am in charge of, this is my favorite," Rodriguez said. "It's more than a fashion show. You have to keep them [(the audience)] entertained for 45 minutes." Entertain, he did. The show contained eight segments, each with its own theme. The first segment opened the show with dancers from Lourdes Academy in Coral Gables. As the show began, the dancers performed as marionette puppets, their hands tied to chords hanging



from a beam on the ceiling, and their movements accentuated by a dark red spotlight. After the dancers performed, the models appeared for the second segment. Each walked down the runway and showed off a collection of casual business attire including khaki pants, blouses and skirts. During an innovative third segment, a video camera projected an image of the outside hallway to the audience inside the ballroom. The models would walk down the hallway and into the ballroom, then proceed to walk down the runway. The look for the third segment was glam rock. The models were dressed in leather from head to toe.



During the fourth segment, the models took on a western look as they sported cowboy attire. The fifth scene definitely took the audience by surprise. The models walked down the runway in sleep wear. As they neared the center of the runway, they shocked the audience by stripping to their underwear. The sixth segment featured club wear. Following the sixth scene, fake snow began to fall as a ballerina took center stage. Midway through the ballerina's performance, the three dancers moved in and looked the ballerina to the ground. They danced, then picked her up and carried her offstage. The seventh scene consisted of men's formal wear, followed by a final scene featuring women's formal wear. Afterwards, the entire troupe came together for one last trip down the runway. "I think everyone looked great," Rodriguez said. "I give credit where credit is due." Seven Martinez, a sophomore, and one of the models in the show, said it was that unity that made it special for her. "It was a great opportunity to unite with all the Greeks, and when you work together, you get closer," she said.



During a short intermission, Rebecca Mendez, a student from Our Lady of Lourdes High School entertains the audience members with her ballerina skills. Photo By Campus Life Publications



Walking down the runway, Eric Rojas from Pi Kappa Alpha shows off more than clothes for the audience. Photo By Lazaro Llanes

Stripping his clothes off during the 'underwear' scene at the Greek fashion show, J. C. Morales from Pi Kappa Alpha shows his Structure Briefs. Photo By Campus Life Publications



With great determination, Giny Santamaria Phi Sigma Sigma walks down the runway showing off the different outfits sponsored by Rampage. Photo By Jose Otero



Turning around in the snow, Jessica Iove from Phi Sigma Sigma stands in the middle of the runway ready to introduce the formal wear. Photo By Lazaro Llanes

Pan-African Celebration

By Hazel Vela

Nationally, February is Black History Month. At FIU, it's called Pan African Celebration. The name was changed in light of the diversity that surrounds FIU. According to Michael Barnett, a Pan African Celebration committee member, the name was coined because of the prefix Pan, which means encompasses all and applies to everyone. "Pan-African is the totality of everyone from African ancestry," Barnett said. "Most of the black students at FIU are not only African-American, but from the Caribbean or Latin America." The Pan African Celebration was an initiative at University Park in 1997 when a committee thought this name was more adequate as opposed to Black History Month, which was inclusive only to African Americans. "We wanted to be more inclusive to other people from African ancestry," Barnett said. This year, the celebration was based on an overall theme titled, "Reaching Back to Move Forward." Charles Michael, Pan African Celebration chairman, discussed the reason behind this theme. "This title was selected to correlate all the events while having some history behind the event," Michael said. According to Michael, "Reaching Back to Move Forward" is a way for people of black heritage to gain knowledge of themselves by researching into their past. The month was initiated with an opening banquet on Feb. 1 in which Dr. Molefi Asante, a renown professor of Temple University, defined the whole theory of Pan-Africanism at the same time setting a foundation for the rest of the month. In addition to the banquet, Marvin Dunn provided a display of photographs and artwork in the Green Library with the theme "Black History: The Effects of Racism." About 180 people attended the discussion. "Asante, an expert on Pan Africanism and notable founder of the Theory of Afrocentricity, discussed what Pan Africanism means," Barnett said. The second lecture took place Feb. 8 and featured Muhammad Abdullah, the national representative of Latin Americans in the Nation of Islam. He spoke about the correlation between Latinos and blacks. "Muhammad Abdullah was clear about the connectedness of both heritages arguing that both of their ancestors were slaves, therefore sharing a common history," Barnett said. The day after the Abdullah lecture, Dr. Muntu Ashby spoke about spiritualism in connection with the concept of Pan Africanism.



Photo By Jose Otero

Ashby argued how Pan Africanism is incomplete without the understanding or emphasis of spirituality. He said "We must rise above our basic instincts to operate in higher spiritual levels." Barnett said Barnett said he was disappointed at the turnout for the Knowledge Bowl. "I was concerned with the low attendance at the Knowledge Bowl because this should have been more about acquiring knowledge rather than entertainment," Barnett said. Poetry readings and a viewing of the film "Sugar Cane Alley" were two smaller events at the end of the week. Several events took place to continue the month of celebration. "Tababi Africa" gave a musical performance in the GC Forum. The artist played native African music in the Graham Center. The Miss Pan African Collegiate Pageant was held in the GC Ballrooms. According to Barnett, the pageant is traditionally a popular event and a high attendance was expected. Randall Robinson gave a third lecture of the celebration in the Kovens Conference Center at Biscayne Bay Campus. Randall spoke about "The Role of Race in Policy Formulation in America." The Pan African Celebration on Feb. 29 capped the month-long celebration. It took place from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in front of the GC archway. The theme of the event was "Seven Shades of Blackness." "This will be a Pan African gala that will exhibit culture from around the African Diaspora," Barnett said. According to Barnett, the three-hour celebration was inspired by the Hispanic Heritage Day of Celebration and will be "an afternoon of fashion, entertainment, food and fun."



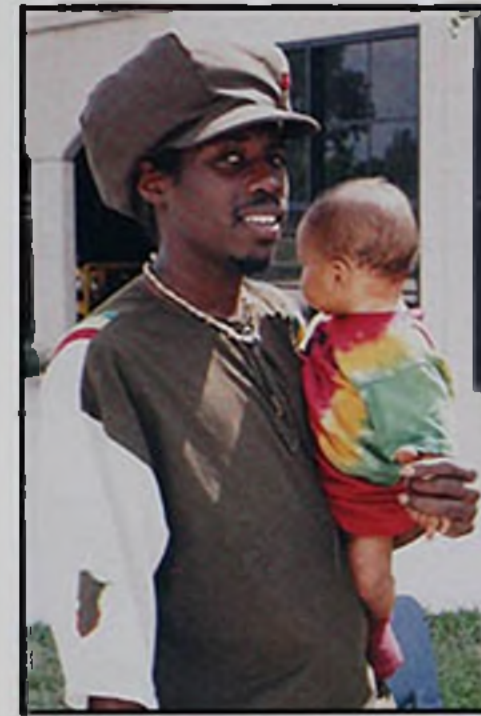
Photo By Jose Otero



Photo By Jose Otero



During Pan African month, many vendors came onto campus to sell many diverse cultural items. Photo By Jose Otero



The Pan-African month Joel Huggins introduced diversity in the FIU community to students and faculty. Photo By Jose Otero

During Pan African month, many students, faculty and staff participated in the activities. Photo By Jose Otero



Performing in the Graham Center forum, this group played many different sounds of African culture. Photo By Jose Otero

Wearing different native costumes, these students participate in the annual Pan African fashion show. Photo By Jose Otero



Caught in the moment, this FIU student races through time so he can win the \$50 dollar prize money. Photo By Jose Otero.

During one of the opening acts for American Heritage week, the Piscataway Nation Singers sang for the students of FIU. American heritage brought many acts and presentations to FIU. Photo By Jose Otero.



During American Heritage Week, students were given the opportunity to register to vote in the national elections. Photo By Jose Otero.



During the first day of American Heritage week, Native American Indians perform their dances in the Graham Center Forum. Photo By Jose Otero.



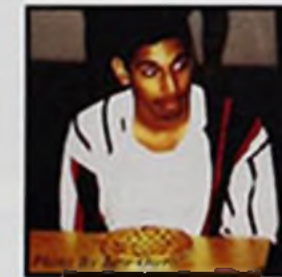
American Heritage

By Nhan Trilligan

FIU will be honoring American culture during American Heritage week with a variety of events. "This week is full of events dedicated to educating, promoting, and celebrating American culture," said Nelly Imares, chair of American Heritage Committee. The celebrations started on Nov. 15 with an opening ceremony hosted by Michelle Perez, assistant director for Leadership Development. Following the ceremony, the Piscataway Nation Singers entertained the FIU community with their singing and dancing. The Piscataway Nation Singers is a group of Native Americans who educated



those in attendance with the earliest of American tradition. Athletes from various FIU teams competed against each other for prizes on Nov. 16 in a pie-eating contest in the GC forum. At 7:30 on Nov. 16, the Society for Environmental Action Club showed a film dedicated to Marjory Stoneman Douglas entitled "Lady of the Glades." The movie will honor one of the greatest American traditions, the Everglades, and the person who made it all possible. On



Nov. 17, in the GC forum, there was a Tex-Mex and line dancing, which is an old country dance. On Nov. 18 in the archway entrance, students and faculty enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving luncheon. Blood, a rock band, performed. Junior Margarita Collado said she hopes the luncheon will make the week-long celebration more memorable. "I don't remember too much about last year's American Heritage Week,"



Collado said, "I think this luncheon made it different." At 10 p.m. on Nov. 18, comedians Hood, Chris McGuire and Joe Rogan, ("News radio") performed at the Comedy Connection.



During the Apple pie eating contest, FIU students finish eating their pies as fast as they can so they could claim their \$50 dollars prize money. Photo By Jose Otero.

Spring Culture Fest

By Ana Olivares

Spring Culture Fest was held from Wednesday, March 1 until Thursday, March 16, 2000. It was a time where the FIU community united to celebrate their culture and several student organizations showcased their different customs. Some of the participating organizations were the International Student Club, the Puerto Rican Association, the Israeli Student Organization,



tion, the Indian Student Association and much more. The "World Class Show" was the theme of the month. Several dancers and singers such as "Los Principales" and the "Japanese Taiko Drummers" entertained the students in

the Graham Center Forum. Food tasting and bake sales of various of food were also highlights of the month. "We attempt to enhance the diversity that we have here on campus throughout the student body by making Spring Culture Fest happen. This way students get a wider exposure of different cultures," Lisa Demetrius said.



At the Graham Center Forum, many students had the opportunity to try many different diverse foods during Cultural Fest. Photo By Jose Otero



Performances were seen throughout the month of Spring Culture Fest, this student moves to Latin sounds of her country. Photo By Jose Otero

During the opening ceremonies of Spring Culture Fest, this student takes the opportunity to explain the different diverse culture that FIU has. Photo By Jose Otero



Bringing out food from their distinguished country, members of the Colombian Student Association participate in the Spring Culture Fest. Photo By Jose Otero

Spring Culture Fest was the time when everyone had the opportunity to meet and receive knowledge of the diverse background that FIU has to offer. Photo By Jose Otero

In Memory of FIU Founding President Charles E. Perry



Courtesy article by Alex Segura, Jr. and Steve Coate, *The Beacon Newspaper*

As FIU's president from 1969-1976, he was the State University System's (SUS) youngest president. He is fondly remembered as the catalyst that sparked FIU's transformation from an abandoned airport on the edge of the Everglades into the thriving University Park (UP) campus it is today.

Before there were buildings, there was an old airport control tower with no phone lines and sparse furnishings. Mr. Perry and others sat on their over-turned wastebaskets and old platforms to work.

Mr. Perry's responsibilities at the growing university were varied. From academic programs to buying furniture, Mr. Perry had his hand in every aspect of the university, all the while monitoring the budgets.

Former president Gregory Wolfe recalled a time at the beginning of FIU's construction when Mr. Perry had a discussion with the governor of Florida about continuing to finance FIU's construction.

Mr. Perry sat in the airport tower during the phone conversation while construction occurred outside. He was informing the governor that the \$400,000 allotted for FIU's construction had already been depleted and more money was needed.

"When the governor said 'We don't have anymore

money for you, you have to stop," Wolfe said in the phone conversation. "Chuck said 'I can't stop,' and stuck the phone outside the window so the governor could hear the drilling that was going on. And he got the money. That's the kind of guy Charles Perry was."

Primeria Casa was rechristened the Charles E. Perry building in September of 1994, to honor the former president.

"He made it [FIU] happen in the first place," Wolfe said. He had to fight for everything he got. He was the ideal first president."

Mr. Perry recruited current Senior Vice President of Business and Finance, Paul Gallagher, straight out of the college and hired him as an assistant dean in 1971.

"He was a builder and he exuded energy, exactly who was needed [at the beginning of FIU]," Gallagher said. "He told us, there are no boundaries. We could do anything."

"About the only thing the tower had was rats," said Assistant Director for Academic Support, Thomas Riley.

"It was an abandoned airport in the boondocks," Mr. Perry said in *The Beacon's* 1997 Silver Anniversary Edition. "We drove an old state car out the two miles from the nearest life, humping on the dirt road out to the control

tower. We worked our way to the top of the tower, and as I looked out over the sight I had a flash of what it was going to be."

Soon, the structure was fixed up and painted white, lovingly dubbed "The Ivory Tower." Mr. Perry declared that the tower would always stand at FIU, saying that every university needed its Old Main.

Charles Perry's vision was a very profound one. I heard the news when former president Wolfe called me." Provost Mark Rosenberg said. "I was extremely saddened by the news. Charles Perry was a visionary that empowered all of us to do better. He made the impossible the inevitable."

After 30 years, FIU's Old Main remains standing at UP just north of the HealthCare and Wellness Center, testament to Mr. Perry's realization of his dream of building an exceptional education center.

"He was a brash, determined, idealistic man," Wolfe said. "And a little guy with a big heart, great mind and immense strength of character. That was clear to me 30 years ago, when we first met."

Mr. Perry left the university in 1976 to become president and publisher of Family

Weekly, then the nation's fourth largest magazine with a weekly circulation of 11 million. Mr. Perry was given a farewell celebration by the university community that he said was touching.

"The whole scene was very emotional," Mr. Perry said. "They were my family. I knew everybody; their good points, their bad points; the good times and the bad times."

Last spring, Mr. Perry surprised his wife on her birthday by letting her know that a wing in the Art Museum at UP would be dedicated to her. Betty Perry was largely responsible for ensuring UP establishment of an art museum, Wolfe said.

Some of Mr. Perry's most notable business ventures included becoming president and chief executive of golfer Jack Nicklaus' company, Golden Bear International, Inc., a group of companies with annual sales of more than \$1 billion. He was also Dean of the Graduate School of Management at the University of Dallas, the largest

MBA granting university in the southwestern United States. The diagnosis of liver cancer forced him to leave that post. Since then, the cancer spread throughout his body.

Wolfe said Mr. Perry was recently nearing completion

of work on the construction of a third golf community for GBI.

"He said it might be his last act," Wolfe said. "I guess it was."

Wolfe said one of Mr. Perry's main goals while battling the cancer, was to see his recently born grandson.

"His big objective was to live to see the child," Wolfe said. "He did."

When Mr. Perry returned in 1997 to relight the Torch of Knowledge, he left a welcoming committee of about 350

waiting for him while he met with students outside, Wolfe said.

"We told him there were 350 some people waiting for him inside

and he said 'Too bad. There are students here and that's why I'm here and that's why they're here.'"

During that same visit, Mr. Perry extended a personal message to the students.

"Dream great dreams," he said. "Set wonderful goals, because if you do, you can reach them."



Picture Information

1- In 1976, Charles Perry gives his farewell address to the students and faculty of FIU. Photo by FIU 1977. 2- After one of many dinners held before the opening of FIU, Charles Perry celebrates with his wife and friends. Photo by Library Archives. 3- Receiving a painting of FIU before its construction. Charles Perry and President Modesto Malique. Photo by Library Archives. 4- During the renaming of the Graham Center, Senator Bob Graham speaks to Charles Perry about the expansion of FIU over the years. Photo by Library Archives.

THIS TIME



The day will soon arrive for seniors. The zenith of hard work will be displayed within the framing of a foreseen degree. The times in-between the beginning and the end of this long journey we call a University Education, will be put into perspective, analyzed, and hopefully cherished. Remember the first day, the first registration, and the first exam? Do not ever forget orientation, the pit, and Gracie's Grill. And now, onto bigger and better things! The road traveled will not only supply the graduating class of 2000 with skills necessary for financial success, but also with the lessons of life, only achieved through self-discovery and the understanding of human existence. Although not many look at college from this point of view, the truth is found in reading between the lines of college material and courses. The class of 2000 can look back upon their years spent here, as well as to a time long past, such as your childhood. Memories will flood the minds of those treading across the stage on their way to initiating a new life, with diploma in hand. It will be obvious what a difference each separate experience makes for one individual. They have prospered and grown past hardships, lived and interpreted lessons, and most of all, added to and developed your personalities. People say college years are the best of your life, and FIU graduates have reason to believe that. Attending an institution like the kind of FIU brings proud thoughts, not only to the graduate, but to the community and families alike. It is safe to say that as the first graduating class of the Millennium, many future generations will look upon their accomplishments in search of meaning and traditions. This class, with its spirit and enthusiasm in contributing to FIU, reflects well what President Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." If anyone has fought to build new utilities, to develop transportation issues and bring solutions to the forefront, it would be this graduating class. In fact, an immense amount of gratitude is due the graduates from all of those who stay behind. We send you out into this harsh but hopeful world, to sew your seeds of knowledge and bring forth the qualities you have acquired on these campuses. It will not be an easy task, but just as you have made it through this test, you will shine and conquer again. Take to heart the dreams that set you here, and live them out with the tools your 'Alma Mater' has supplied. When time requests your attention, remember what you once lived.

-Vanessa Valencia

AROUND...



SENIORS



Jacqueline Alfonso's favorite quote comes from Trent Reznor. Reznor states, "If I can't have everything well then just give me a taste." With Alfonso receiving a BA in Psychology and minors in sociology and anthropology, and participating in clubs such as Best Buddies, Generation S, Psi Chi, and Golden Key, Alfonso is doing exactly what Reznor stated. She is receiving a taste in everything. Alfonso finds her main subject's very unique. "I find it extremely intriguing. I really want to help people whether it's one on one, or through grand scale research," Alfonso said. After graduating from FIU, Alfonso plans on attending the University of Central Florida in the fall of 2000. She will be entering as graduate student in the Clinical Psychology PhD program.



Elaine Abreu
Special Education



Heather Absten
Management & Marketing



Geleys Acosta
Marketing



Nadege Adam
Health Science



Radhika Aggarwal
Computer Science



Diego Aguerro
Accounting



David Aguilar
Business Management



Maria Rosario Arana
Finance



Mario Alaya
Industrial Engineering



Alexander Alberti
Music Performance



Saybel Aleman
Elementary Education



Manuel Alexander
Accounting



Sheila Alexis
Social Work



Jacqueline Alfonso
Psychology



Christian Allaga
Marketing



Ann Marie Allen
Health Service



Masheika Allen, playfully nicknamed 'Peanut' by her father as a little girl growing up, is at the computer completing a paper for her Political Science class. But unlike the many papers that she has done before, this one is extremely important. This paper not only represents the last paper she will ever write at FIU, but it also represents the last barrier in Allen's quest to attend graduate school. Allen has been dreaming of becoming a lawyer since she was a little girl. "My father wanted to be a lawyer when he was younger but he couldn't. I've wanted to be a lawyer since I was in the third grade," Allen said. Although she's been dreaming since she was a child to become a lawyer, Allen has more plans after she has achieved that dream. She states that, "After I've been a lawyer for about 15 years and I've made my money, I want to become a professor. I'm using this teaching experience over the summer as a substitute teacher at Tropical Christian School to make sure it's something I want to do." In whatever future endeavors that may pass and change, Allen's livelihood, there will be one thing about her that she says will stay the same and that's a piece of advice that she was given by her pastor's wife. "She told me to put God first, education second and a man third. I know that it may sound corny, but I've seen a lot of people dropout because of early pregnancies and relationship issues," Allen said. "You have to be responsible for your own actions and living your life in this way minimizes the number of regrets you will have at the end of the day."

By Derril Dillard



Masheika E. Allen
Political Science & English



Gina Allador
Health Information Management



Carlos Alvarado
French



Malte Alvarez
Special Education



Surey Alvarez
Elementary Education



Orlando L. Amorin
Finance



Dawn Anderson
Health Information Management



Marcella Angel-Sridens
Marketing



Zoe Anorena
Elementary Education



Maria Aranda
Marketing



Ramon A. Arbesu
Architecture



Veronica Artulu



Veronica Arcila
International Business & Business Management



Gerardo Aguillo
Industrial Engineering



Paulette Arline
Psychology



Jean Aznord
Physical Therapy



When Orlando Amorin became SGA president in 1998, and again when he was reelected in 1999, he continued two legacies. The first legacy that Amorin protected was the consecutive terms in office that his fraternity brothers, Sigma Alpha Mu, has served in the SGA president's office. The second legacy that Amorin protected by being elected to office, to which he regards as the most important legacy, is continuing Student Government's concern for FIU students. Amorin has sponsored many bills that has protected student interest at FIU. Amorin's most famous bill required that student representatives had to increase their working hours while taking a decrease in pay. Although he might be known more for his student government work, Amorin has done other things to solidify himself as a student leader. Amorin was a peer advisor, a member of OAK and Motor Board honor societies, and was a DJ for WRGP and WUF1. Amorin will be graduating with a degree in Finance and hopes to eventually become an entrepreneur one day.

By Denis Delard



Anabeatriz Baldoquin
Elementary Education



Melissa Barba
Elementary Education



Leandro Barbuscio
Accounting



Rhema Barnes
Nursing



Helen Barnfather
Education & Recreation Therapy



Ellanays Basulto
Elementary Education



Anneze Bathelemy
Social Work



Maria Bedoya
Accounting



Yamika Bell
Management



Jose Bellido
TV Production



Patricia Bellon
Social Work



Karla Bernasides
Management & International Business



Simy Benchimol



Teresa Bendana
Management Information System



Mayelyn Benitez
Business Administration & Marketing



Dayana Bennett
Broadcast Journalism

It didn't take Ramon Arbesu long to figure out what career choice he wanted to pursue. Arbesu made the choice to study Architecture in third grade on a class field trip. "In the third grade, my class went on a field trip to an exhibit of Frank Lloyd Wright's work. From that moment on, I couldn't imagine doing anything else," Arbesu said. Arbesu's dream of studying architecture has taken him through many travels. Before arriving at FIU, Arbesu attended Miami-Dade Community College. Arbesu received his associate's degree from Miami-Dade. Arbesu's gained a new perspective while at Dade. "It's not a matter of what school you go to, it's a matter of what you do while you're there," Arbesu said. While at FIU, Arbesu has been key member in some organizations around campus. Arbesu was part of Golden Key National Honors Society and Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society. Arbesu now has one more goal before pursuing his career and that's obtaining his master's degree in architecture.

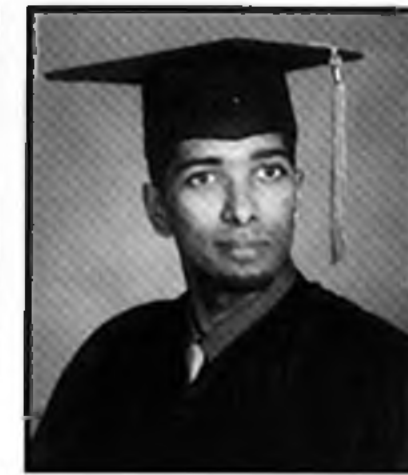
By Derik Deland



Dante Bergamo Jr.
English



Jenny Beegstem
Hospitality



Don Bernard
Health Services Administration



Shawn Bernard
Mechanical Engineering



Christine Beannilla
Business Management



Michael Blackman
Economics



Oein Blackman
International Business & Management



Tamone Blair
Political Science



Grisel Hodden
Elementary Education



Alda Bolanos
Psychology



Miguel Bolivar
Criminal Justice



Lydia Ron
Elementary Education



Angela Bonilla
International Business



Shakira Boone
Nursing



Claudia Bouche
Management Business Administration



Chris Boulos
Physical Education

Dorret Sawyers, Director of Student Services and Programs at FIU, paid Dayana Bennett perhaps the highest praise that anyone can give when she recommended Bennett for Law School admission. "I have found Ms. Bennett to be dependable and personable," Sawyers said. "I highly recommend Ms. Dayana Bennett for consideration by the Law School Admission Council. I believe that she would be an asset to any law school program that she is admitted to. Her persistence, determination and enthusiasm in her studies all demonstrate her ability to perform well in law school." Along with trying to accomplish her ultimate goal of getting into law school, Bennett has been very active in various activities on campus. Bennett was in student government, Phi Beta Sigma honor society and was a radio host on Panther radio 88.1 FM.

By Derik Delard



Dannielle Boyer
International Relations & Political Science



Gisele Braceray
Psychology



Justin Bramwell
Finance



Chantal Brenard



Rachel Bresluf
Television Management



Maureen Bristol
Psychology



Jameelah Brown
Broadcast Journalism



Renato Bucholtz
Marketing Management



Carolina Bueno
Elementary Education



Ines Bueno
International Relation



Richard Hurney Jr.
Broadcast Journalism



Carlo Burrey
Business Management



Michelle Buteau
TV Production



Gloria Jean Cabral
English



Desiree Cabriles
Special Education



Steve Caceres
Management Information System

When turning in the application for Senior Spotlights, Danielle Boyers' achievements, clubs, and organizations that she has compiled for the past five years ran over four pages long. This aggressive approach correlates with Boyer's personal beliefs that lie within her motivational quote. "Do not hesitate to take advantage of various opportunities because life is short, but it can be enjoyable if you make it that way," Boyer said. Boyer finished FIU with a degree in International Relations and a minor in Political Science. Among the activities that she been a part of include Peer Advising an Student Programming Council and Student Government Council. "As a peer advisor and active member of SPC and SGC, I tried to instill more school spirit at FIU," Boyer said.

By Derik Deliard



Carmín Cadenas
Accounting



Elvis Caines
Criminal Justice



Ivo Calderín
Physics & Mathematics



Susan Callejas
Chemistry



Martha Cancino



Vanita Cappello
Psychology



Chantel Caraza
Interior Design



Linda B. Carmona
Health Information Management



Kelly Carrasco
Medical Technology



Gina Castellano
Public Relations



Anastasia Carter
International Business & Finance



Annette Castillo
Business Management



Barbara Castro
Social Work



Zulay Castro
Therapeutic Recreation



Pierre Cedeno Sussmann
Finance



Christianna Chamorro
Marketing & International Business
Seniors 79

Graduation Tassels

College of Architecture
Blue/Violet

College of Arts and Sciences
White

College of Business Administration
Dab

College of Education
Light Blue

College of Engineering
Orange

College of Health Sciences
Green

Honors
Gold

School of Hospitality Management
Navy Blue

School of Journalism and Mass Comm.
Crimson

College of Urban and Public Affairs
Peacock Blue



Siu Ming Chan
Hospitality Management



Linda Chimney
Public Administration



Ruth Chisholm
Advertising



Marva Clarke
MIS & Computer Science



Michael Clauss
Electrical Engineering



Gall A. Clunie
Health Services Administration



Kenta Coakley
Health Information Management



Rosana Cocina
Visual Arts



Sheyl Colebrooke
Health Information Management



Charmela Collier
Public Administration



Angela Colomer
Biology & Psychology



Michelle Coman
Special Education



Orlando Conde Jr.
Business



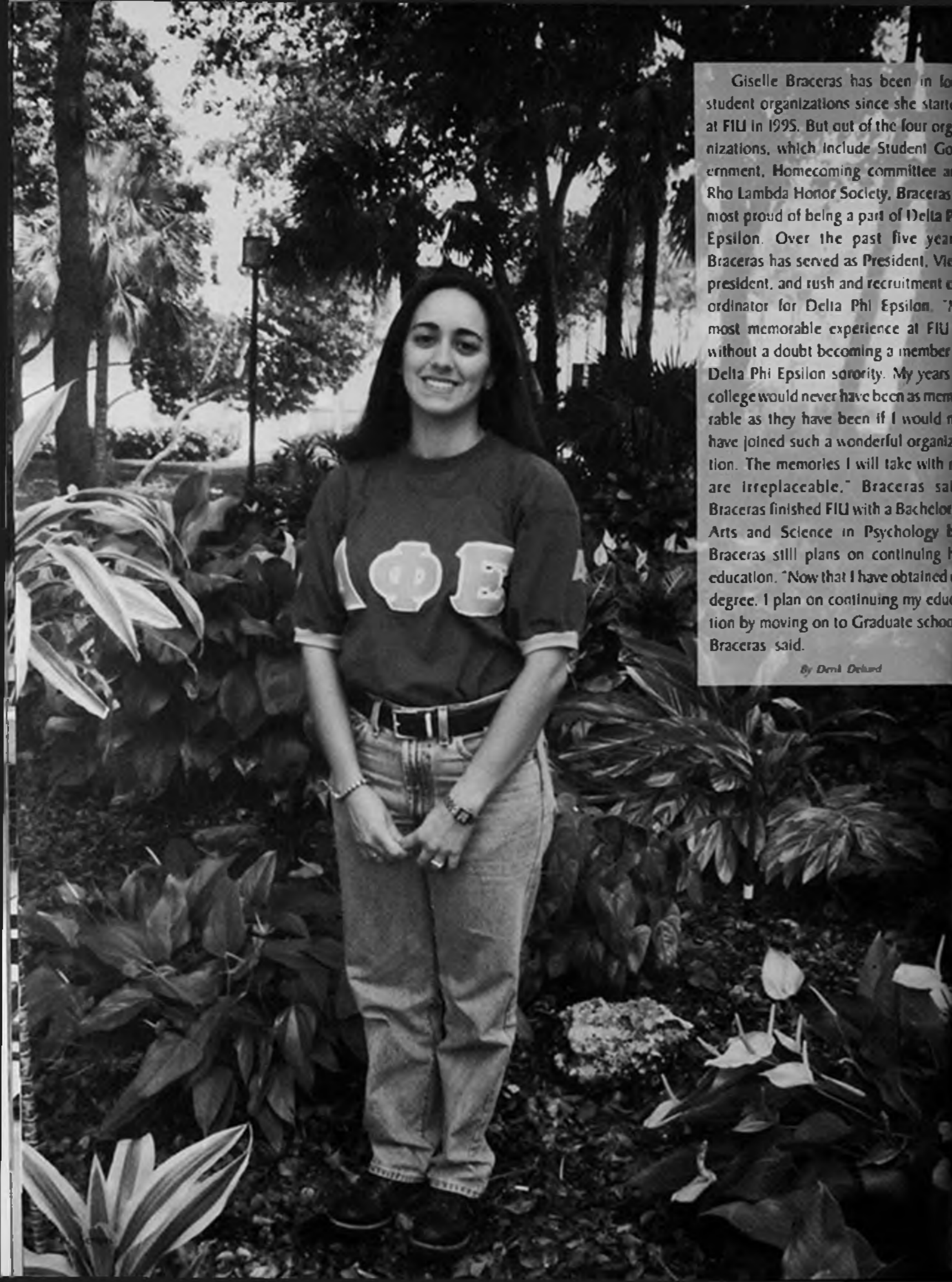
Raul Contreras
Finance



Erick Corea
Mechanical Engineering



Ricardo Correa
History



Giselle Braceras has been in four student organizations since she started at FIU in 1995. But out of the four organizations, which include Student Government, Homecoming committee and Rho Lambda Honor Society, Braceras is most proud of being a part of Delta Phi Epsilon. Over the past five years, Braceras has served as President, Vice-president, and rush and recruitment coordinator for Delta Phi Epsilon. "My most memorable experience at FIU is without a doubt becoming a member of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. My years in college would never have been as memorable as they have been if I would not have joined such a wonderful organization. The memories I will take with me are irreplaceable," Braceras said. Braceras finished FIU with a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Psychology but Braceras still plans on continuing her education. "Now that I have obtained my degree, I plan on continuing my education by moving on to Graduate school," Braceras said.

By Demi Delaud



Alael Cortina
Accounting & Management Information System



Kenson Coupel
Civil Engineering



Brian S. Cowin
Nursing



Tamara Crealt
Psychology & English



Charissa Croes
Accounting



Carlie Crowe
Special Education



Alany Cruz
Elementary Education



Luis Cuervo
Modern Languages



Cearon Cull
Psychology



Talwo Cummings



Teresita Curi



Judy A. Curtis
Marketing



Yavmin Damian
Psychology



Alexis Daoud
Humanities



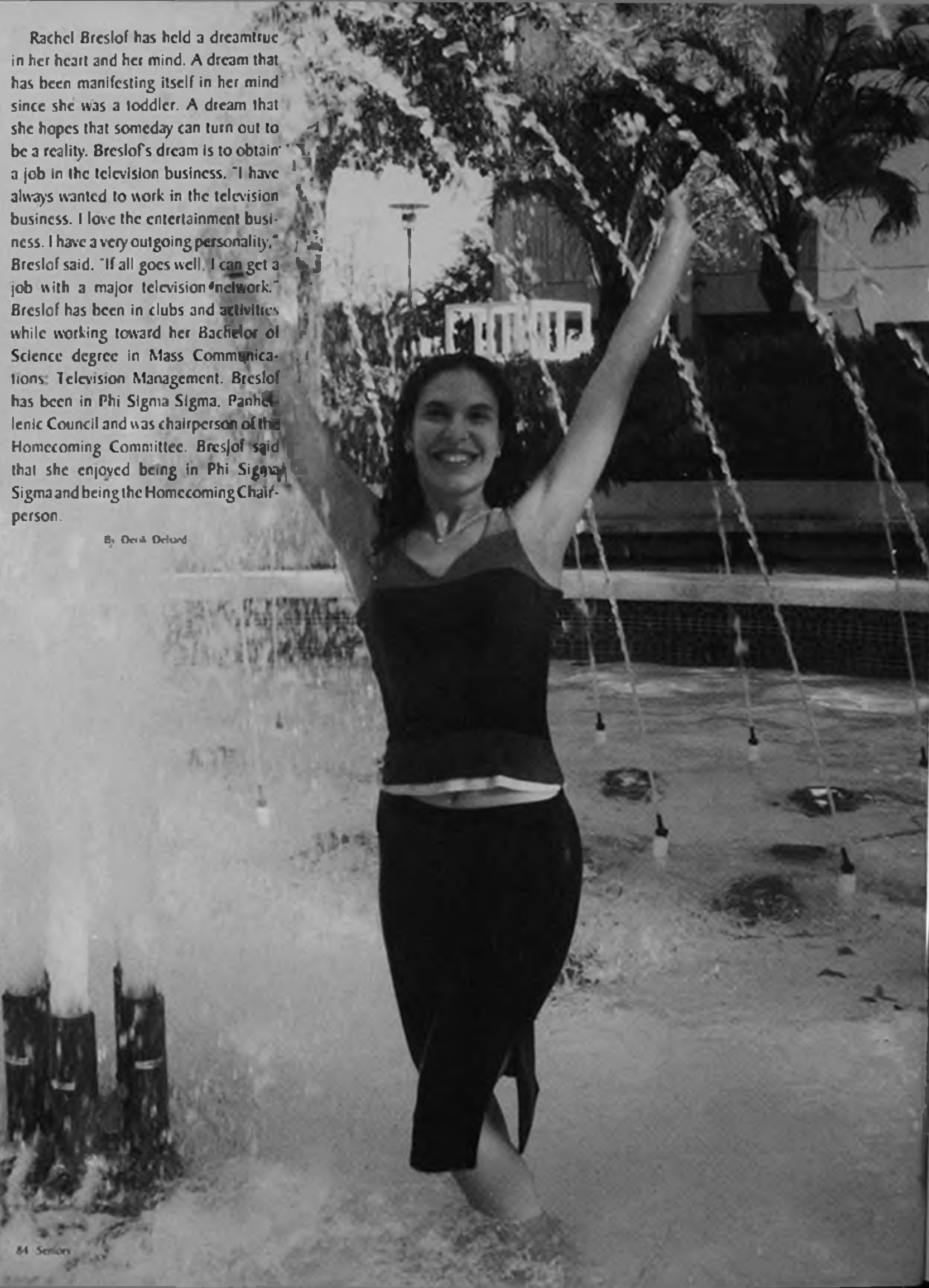
Macushla Darville



Gabriela De Aree
Psychology

Rachel Breslof has held a dream true in her heart and her mind. A dream that has been manifesting itself in her mind since she was a toddler. A dream that she hopes that someday can turn out to be a reality. Breslof's dream is to obtain a job in the television business. "I have always wanted to work in the television business. I love the entertainment business. I have a very outgoing personality," Breslof said. "If all goes well, I can get a job with a major television network." Breslof has been in clubs and activities while working toward her Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications: Television Management. Breslof has been in Phi Sigma Sigma, Panhellenic Council and was chairperson of the Homecoming Committee. Breslof said that she enjoyed being in Phi Sigma Sigma and being the Homecoming Chairperson.

By Deak Deland



Oeta De Armas
Public Relations



Nicole De Freitas
Biology



Gisselle De Velasco
Marketing Management



Lorraine De Diego
Marketing



Margaret Defoe
Accounting



Denise Del Campo
Learning Disabilities



Daniel Del Mazo
Marketing



Rene Del Portillo Jr.
Finance



Octavio Del Rio
History



Andres Del Toro
Construction Management



Enrique Denis Jr.
Industrial & System Engineering



Elleith Depass
Nursing



Lisa Deveaux
Health Services Administration



Clara Diaz
Liberal Arts



Nicole Diaz



Edmond Dozmeus
Civil Engineering

Chantel Caraza-Garcia decided to major in Interior Design after she had met Peggy Gordon, a Miami Beach observer. Through Gordon's impressive nature in Interior Design, Caraza-Garcia knew that is what she wanted to do. "Although I was creative and artistic, I was still unsure whether or not to pursue interior design," Caraza-Garcia said. "Then I met Peggy Gordon, who impressed me with her knowledge and poise at a meeting I attended with my uncle as my guest. She treated me with respect and professionalism. I wanted to be like her." So Caranza-Garcia started working toward her degree in Interior design and now she has it. While working for her degree, Caranza-Garcia was an employee at FIU working as a secretary. She felt as though her peers really benefited from her experience. "I have tried to aid my fellow classmates by sharing my knowledge and experience as well as by helping through cooperational advice," Caranza-Garcia said.

By Derik Deliard



Felix Davalos Jr.
Management



Angela Duclou
Management Information System



Lolcatha Dukes
Business Management



Karyn Dunn
Psychology



Tamesha Dupont



Virgile Egnankou
Finance



Ana Escobar
International Business & Marketing



Maria Espada
Home Economics Education



Christina Esteban
Elementary Education



Liv Esteviz
Biology



Violeta Fajardo
Hospitality



Elizabeth Farias
Hospitality



Jabrina Farrington
Criminal Justice



Tanya Fehr
International Business



Daniel Felipe
Criminal Justice & Psychology



Elvie Fencion
Social Work

Lorraine De Diego is leaving FIU with a degree in Finance and a 3.8 GPA. The GPA was very hard to come by especially since De Diego worked with so many extra circular activities. De Diego was Honors Council president in the fall of 1999 until Spring of 2000. She also served as secretary of Honors Council before reaching the presidency. De Diego was also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi. Di Diego served as the Vice-President of Professional Development for the organization. In Di Diego's free time, she enjoys scuba diving, swimming and Reading.

By Derik Delard



Kezi-Ann Ferguson
Architecture



Adriana Fernandez
International Relations



Christian Fernandez
Criminal Justice



Palmenia Fernandez
Accounting



Marco Ferreira
Construction Management



Jahneel Figueroa
Civil Engineering



Rodney Figueroa
Broadcast



Yanelle Finlay
Special Education



Carolyn Fleary
Computer Engineering



Ruslan Fletcher
Management Information System



Claudia Flores
Psychology & Religious Studies



Hector Florin Jr.
Communication Journalism



Wilnick Florvil



Sandy Fombrun
Management



Taliana Fombrun
Marketing



Joan Fontaine
Management Information System

Never did Arazis Oliveros think that he would discover his major and ultimately his career choice in his senior year of high school. The class was psychology and it's something that he will be pursuing past his FIU days and into graduate school this upcoming fall. Along with studying psychology, Oliveros was involved with the National Honor Society, FIU Communications and SAVE among other clubs that he participated in. Thanks to his work in these clubs, Oliveros won the Outstanding Senior award for student life. According to Oliveros, the award capped off his four-year tenure at FIU. "My four years at FIU have been full of memorable experiences. I have enjoyed being apart of student life. All of the student affairs' activities have contributed to my overall education. I am especially proud of receiving the Outstanding Senior award at the Student Life awards for which I am very grateful and honored to be chosen," Oliveros said.

By Derek [unclear]



Leslie Forde



Sean Foreman
Political Science



Deshon Fox
Civil Engineering



Sharlee Francis
Exercise Physiology



Nimena Franco
Psychology



Ingrid Francoeur
Political Science



Heather Freeland
Marketing & International Relations



Nhasandra Funches



Adriana Gallardo



Fernando Gamara
Exercise Physiology



Johanna Gamba
Elementary Education



Denia Garcia
Accounting



Edwin Garcia
Elementary Education



Juan Manuel Garcia-Freundt
TV Production



Patricia Garcia
Finance



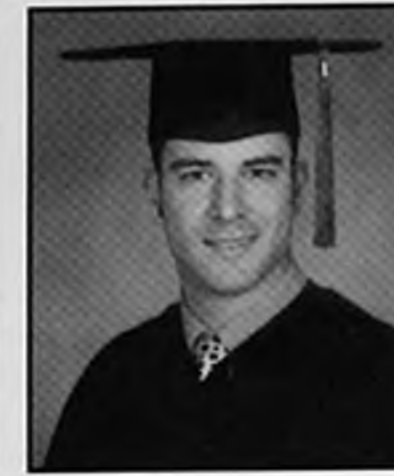
Yanet Garcia
Mathematics Education

It has been a long journey to graduation day for Marco Ferreira. Before Ferreira attended FIU, he went to four universities that have spanned the United States hemisphere. From Miami to Virginia, back home to California, then his return to Miami, Ferreira has kept focused on one thing: he was seeking his degree in Construction Management. On his way to receiving his degree, Ferreira has been active on the FIU club scene. Ferreira was president of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), honor representative of Sigma Lambda Phi and co-chaired community service in honors council. But it was his presidency of AGC, which will leave a long lasting memory in Ferreira's mind. "I believe that I have constructed a student organization with a member body large enough to bring unity to our department," Ferreira said.

By Denis Deland



Nicholas Gazo
Physical Therapy



David Gely
International Business



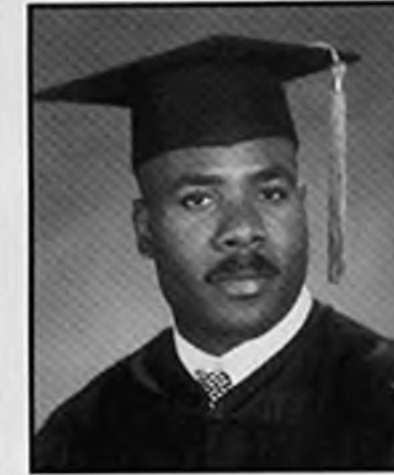
Amella Genao-Blanco
Management



Nolege Georges
Health Information System



Keeline Germain
Nursing



Jean Giordani
Swail Work



Martel Givenis
Nursing



Sandra Goldglantz
Visual Arts



Carlos Gomez
International Business Management



Carmen Elena Gomez
Spanish



Tamara Gomez
Management Information System



Elizabeth Gongora
Psychology & Recreational Therapy



Alan Gonzalez
Biology



Gina Gonzalez
International Business



Idelys Gonzalez
Psychology



Jose Gonzalez
Political Science



Honor Societies

Alpha Epsilon Delta
Premedicine

Alpha Epsilon Lambda
Graduate students

Alpha Kappa Delta
Sociology

Alpha Phi Sigma
Criminal Justice

Alpha Phi Mu
Industrial and systems engineering

Beta Alpha Phi
Accounting

Beta Gamma Sigma
Business and management

Civil Engineering Honor Society
Civil Engineering

Eta Kappa Nu
Electrical Engineering

Golden Key

Interdisciplinary scholarship

Honors College Society

Honors Program

Kappa Delta Pi
Education

Mortar Board

Leadership, Scholarship, & Service

Omicron Delta Epsilon
Economics

Order of Omega
Greek leadership

Phi Alpha
Social Work

Phi Alpha Theta
History

Kappa
Graduate Education Honor Society

Freshman Scholarship

Phi Kappa
All Academic Fields

Phi Sigma Tau
Philosophy

Pi Delta Phi
French

Pinnacle
Non-Traditional

Pi Sigma Alpha
Political Science

Pi Tau Sigma
Mechanical Engineering

Pi Theta
Occupational Therapy

Pi Lambda
Drama

Scabbard and Blade
Military Honor Society

Sigma Lambda Alpha
Landscape Architecture

Sigma Lambda Chi
Construction Management

Sigma Tau Delta
English

Tau Beta Pi
Engineering

Theta Alpha Kappa
Religious & Theological Studies

Delta Delta Phi
Hospitality Management

Cappa Tau Alpha
Journalism

Nursing Honor Society
Nursing



Lourdes Cristina Gonzalez
Special Education



Monica Gonzalez
Special Education



Peter Gonzalez
Accounting



Anla Gonzalez-Tablada
Recreational Therapy



Kathleen Gordon
Accounting



Tanika Gray
Broadcast Journalism



Sean Greaves
Management



Charles Green
Finance



Nell Grey
Exercise Physiology



Diana Guayana
Mass Communication



Alain Guerra
Finance



Erika Guevara-Demarche
Management Information Systems



Claire E. Gurney
Criminal Justice



Melissa Gutierrez
Elementary Education



Tanis Guzman
Health Information Management



Cathy Hamilton
Health Services Administration

Heather Freeland's best move at FIU came in her freshman year. In the fall of 1995, Freeland rushed for Delta Phi Epsilon and ever since that moment, Freeland has never looked back. "My most memorable experience at FIU was rushing and joining Delta Phi Epsilon in my first semester in college. I met so many fascinating and inspiring women," Freeland said. "Part of the reason I joined Delta Phi Epsilon was because it was composed of women who had their own unique personalities, backgrounds and opinions. As a sorority, we have achieved many things, received numerous awards and set the stereotype of Greek organizations. I will always cherish the memories I have of my college experience and the friendships that were formed." Along with pledging Delta Phi Epsilon, Freeland also served as athletic chairperson, special events chairperson and Panhellenic representative. Freeland majored in Marketing and International Business but Freeland doesn't plan on stopping there. "I plan to continue my education so I can obtain my masters while working," Freeland said.

By Devi Delord



Amos Handfield
Management



Kella-Gaye Hann
International Business



Karla Hargaul
Management, Human Resources



Donna Harris
Social Worker



Jeanne Hatfield



Hermann Hencke
Criminal Justice Administration



Shuraima Henriquez
Hospitality



Sasha Henry
Biology



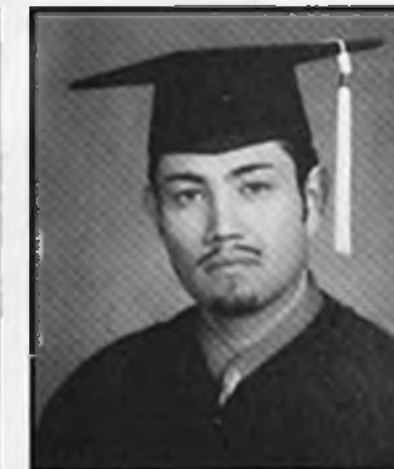
Andrew Hernandez
Construction Management



Brenda Hernandez
Elementary Education



Reynel Hernandez
Criminal Justice



John Herrera
Biology & Chemistry



Mike Hickey
Communications



Yvette Hidalgo
Advertising & Marketing



Marlene Hidalgo
Sociology



Manourhka Paul Hong
International Relations & Political Science

Before entering FIU in the fall of 1995, it's been Andrew Hernandez's dream to become a construction worker. Hernandez majored in construction Management; in which he has received a BS, in order to turn this dream into a reality. Hernandez says his love for construction working stemmed from the fact that he loves dealing with infrastructure. "It's just that I have a love for turning a yard of material into a structure that can be used," Hernandez said. Along with completing his requirements needed for his degree, Hernandez found time to become involved in Sigma Lambda Chi Honors Council and Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). Hernandez also served as community service chair for Honors Council during his presidency of Sigma Lambda Chi, which is an honor society for construction, for which Hernandez has taken the greatest pleasure in being involved. "I'll always take with me the fact that I've revived a dormant honor society and brought it up to a full functioning and striving honor society," Hernandez said.

By Dena DeLard



Enrique Horna
Computer Engineering



Noah Hoskins
Psychology



Melli Hsu
Special Education



Shirlin Hsu
Public Relations



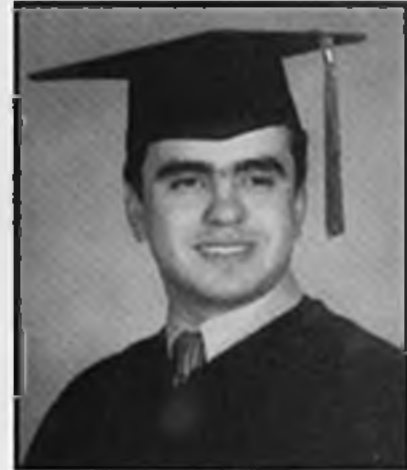
Jamie Hupp
SLD with Vetrack



Rosalía Inguanzo
Management & International Business



Alexandra Inostroza
TV Production



Frankie Isla
Marketing



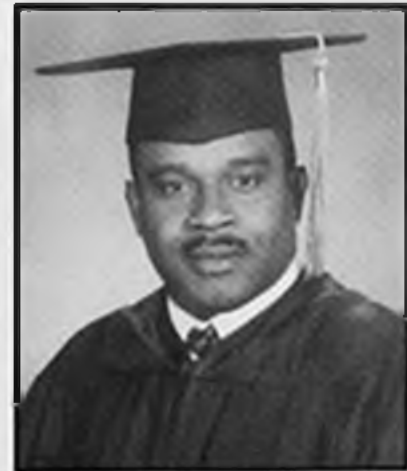
Ian James
Hospitality Management



Aaron Jarrett
Computer Science



Pierrrel Jean Baptiste
Health Service Administration



Jeanmarie Jean Pierre
Health Service Administration



Maryse Jean Pierre
Health Service Administration



Jehane Jean-Baptiste
Social Studies Education



Amos Jean-Glaude
Math Education



Christina Jimenez
Elementary Education



Yvette Hidalgo would like to put her creative juices to work in the real world and that is the reason why Hidalgo transferred from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, to FIU. Hidalgo wanted to receive her Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications. It's been two and half years since she's made the jump from New York to Miami, and now she is finally getting her degree. "I want to use my creative instincts to make commercials and advertisements in any media that caters to the latin community," Hidalgo said. Hidalgo contributed many of her services to FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus. Hidalgo was a student assistant and was a crew member on the rowing crew club. "Meeting my boyfriend Mike, who happens to be from Queens, at the dorms in North Campus was my most memorable experience. After he graduates next year, we plan to get married," Hidalgo said.

By Derik Deliard



Jimmy Jimenez
Computer Science



Ruth Jimenez
Sociology



Jody Joe
Business Management



Annette M. Johnson
English



Charinus Johnson
Sociology



Tania Jorin
Elementary Education



Leuana Junior
English & Dance



Lisa Kaufman
Specific Learning Disabilities



Marie Carmel Nathalie Kehreau
Business Administration & Marketing



Kathleen Kelly
Psychology



Giselle Khan
Business Management



Aliea Khayoum
Health Services Administration & Management



Moshe Khoudari
International Business



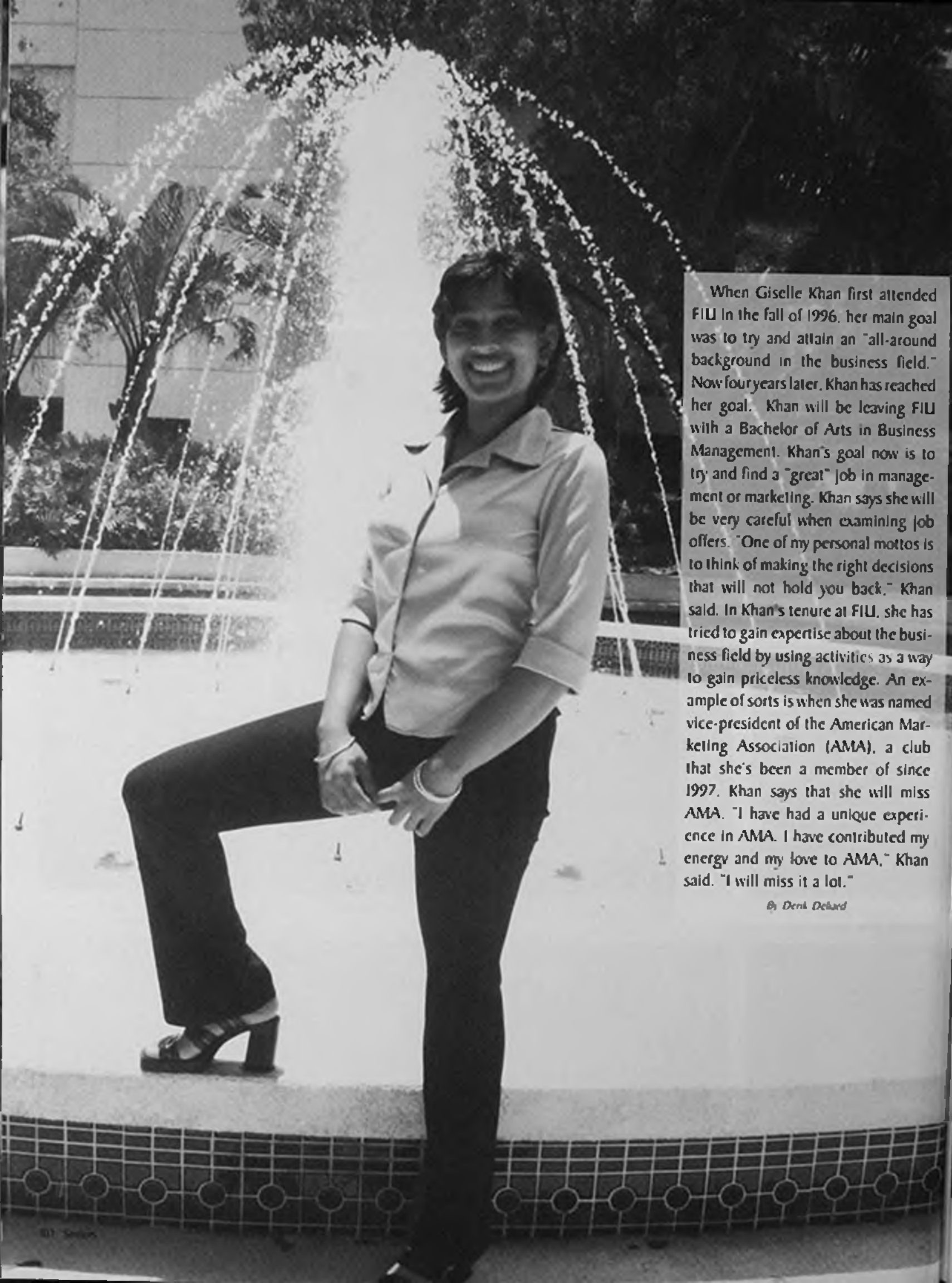
Gail Kinali



Shonise King
Journalism & Mass Communication



Tracee Kinloch
Health Information Management



When Giselle Khan first attended FIU in the fall of 1996, her main goal was to try and attain an "all-around background in the business field." Now four years later, Khan has reached her goal. Khan will be leaving FIU with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. Khan's goal now is to try and find a "great" job in management or marketing. Khan says she will be very careful when examining job offers. "One of my personal mottos is to think of making the right decisions that will not hold you back," Khan said. In Khan's tenure at FIU, she has tried to gain expertise about the business field by using activities as a way to gain priceless knowledge. An example of sorts is when she was named vice-president of the American Marketing Association (AMA), a club that she's been a member of since 1997. Khan says that she will miss AMA. "I have had a unique experience in AMA. I have contributed my energy and my love to AMA," Khan said. "I will miss it a lot."

By Derek Dehaed



Linda Knapp
Psychology



Shamaika Knochke
Management Information System



Konstantine Kokorelis
Management Information System



Junell Koski
Marketing



Janice Lachman
Health Information System



Antonella Lacomare
Marketing & International Business



Jennifer Lage
Dietetics & Nutrition



Evelyn Laitano
Marketing



Hector Landata
Industrial Engineering



Damian Landeiro
Accounting



Indira Lapps
Hospitality Management



Lisa Larrozeaux
Marketing



Jeannette Lashower
Finance



Yves P. Laventure



Nuan Lazo
English



Wency Lee
Health Information System

One day Adriana Linares may look back nostalgically on her college days and unlike many, Linares will have no regrets because she lived college to the fullest. Along with leaving FIU with a 3.9 GPA, Linares has been involved in numerous activities. Linares has served on many committees in the Student Programming Council such as SPC Sports Spectacular, Spring Luau, and Comedy Connection before reaching her apex when she was named chairperson of SPC. Linares was also active in the Alternative Spring Break program. Linares served as site leader. Among other activities that Linares served in was the FIU Sign Language Club, where she was served as president. Linares also served as vice-president of Kappa Delta Pi. Linares left no stone unturned in her tenure at FIU and she serves as an example of student getting the most out of the college experience.

By David Deland



Victoria Legra
Psychology



Amaris Leon
Special Education



Jose Leon
Management Information System



Luisa Lewano
Social Work



Vanessa Levadas
Psychology



Hong-I Liao
Finance



Adriana Linares
Specific Learning Disabilities



Elizabeth Lind
International Relations



Andrew Lisle
Chemistry



Layla Llewelyn
Civil Engineering



Mariluz Londono
Criminal Justice & Anthropology & Sociology



Carmen Lopez
Accounting



Daniel Lopez
Marketing



Harold Lopez
Marketing



Yvonne M. Lopez
Accounting



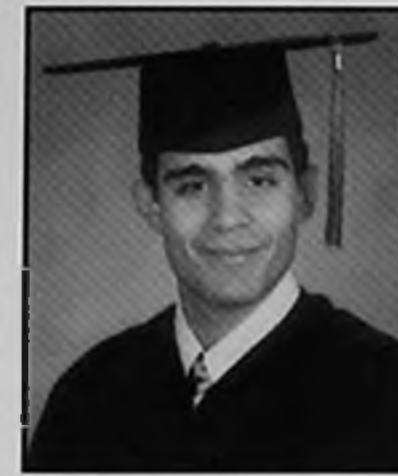
Carl Louis

Griska Mena graduated FIU with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology and a minor in International Relations. Mena said that the reason why she majored in Sociology and Anthropology is that she enjoys working with society. "I'm interested in dealing with people and the society that we deal in," Mena said. Since entering FIU in the fall of 1997, Mena has been doing more than just striving to obtain her degree. Mena has participated in the Panhellenic Council, Honors College, Golden Key and the National Honor Society. "Participating in school activities and becoming active in the Greek system has added so much meaning to my life," Mena said.

By Derek Deland



Werland Louis
Medical Laboratory Sciences



Jorge E. Loyo-Loesanos
International Business & Finance & MIS



Natalia Luna



Tania Lupera-Jaramillo



Melba Luque
Criminal Justice



Judy Eyewang
Nursing



Elicia Lyn
Mathematics



Horace Lyncooke
Mechanical Engineering



Daphne Mackey
Nursing



Angela Mahany
Social Work



Chris Maliali
Marketing



Vanessa M. Manana
Psychology



Nicole Maranto
Hospitality Management



Alba Marin
Hospitality Management



Daniela Marinucci
English



Ann Marquez
Psychology

Graduate Expenses

Tuition
\$1,200.00 (12 credits)

Books
\$250.00 (Semester)

Gallon of Gas
\$1.60

Movie Ticket
\$6.25

Soda can
\$0.65

Bottle of Water
\$1.00

Yearbook
\$55.00

Senior Pictures
\$50.00-\$250.00

Class ring
\$200.00-\$500.00



Arlene Marrero
Political Science



Veronica Marrero
Social Work



Claudia Martin
Special Education



Michelle Martin
Accounting



Antonio Martinez
Political Science



Catalina Martinez
Sociology



Christina Martinez
Elementary Education



Eduardo Martinez
Finance



Elena Martinez
Business Management



Tallana Martinez
Elementary Education



Yanet Martinez
Business Administration



Michael Muscardo
Mechanical Engineering



Steve Musena
Management Information System & International Relations



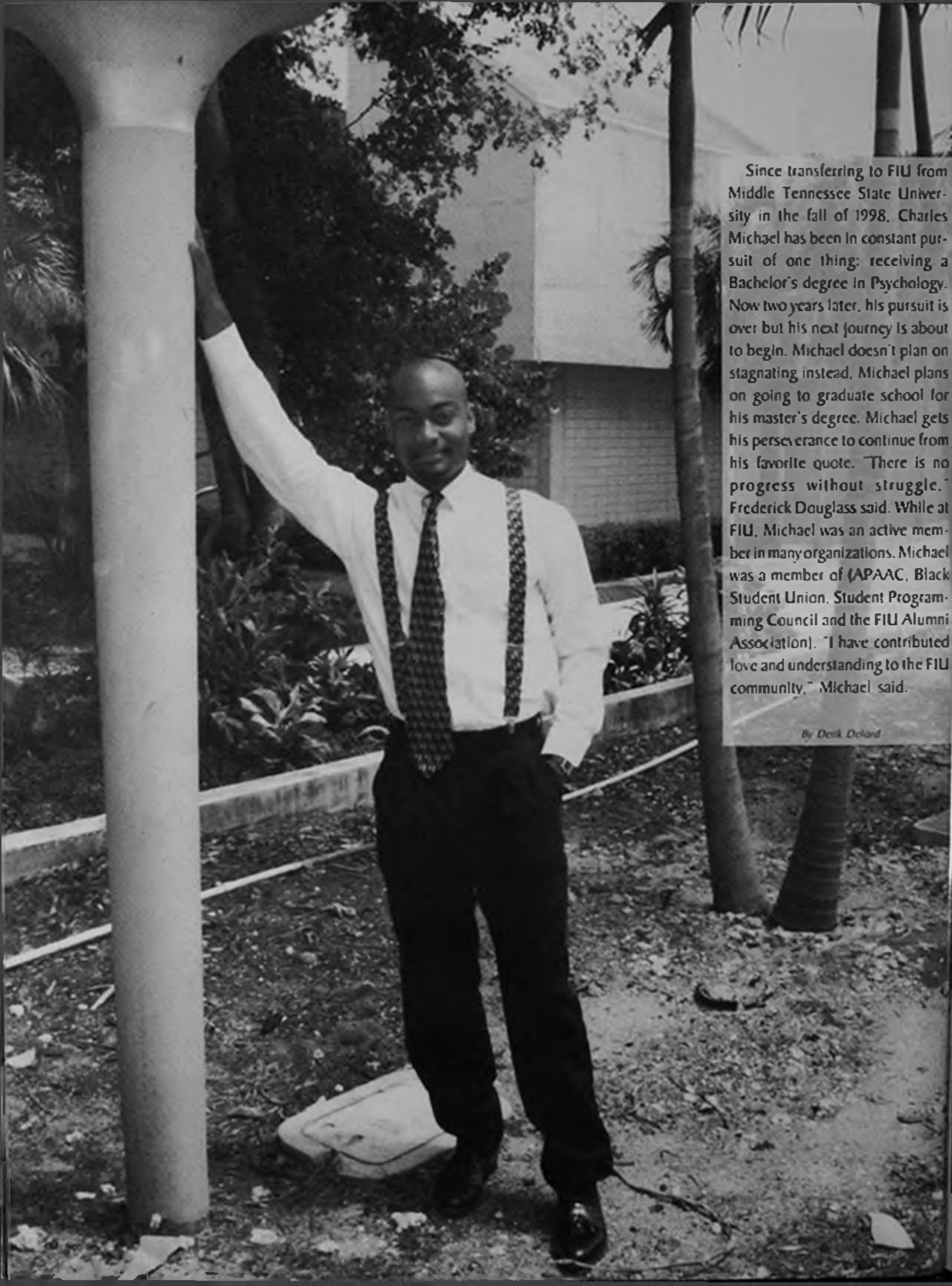
Jennifer Maxwell
English Education



Galle May
Sociology



Jennifer Mc Conney
Liberal Studies



Since transferring to FIU from Middle Tennessee State University in the fall of 1998, Charles Michael has been in constant pursuit of one thing: receiving a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Now two years later, his pursuit is over but his next journey is about to begin. Michael doesn't plan on stagnating instead, Michael plans on going to graduate school for his master's degree. Michael gets his perseverance to continue from his favorite quote. "There is no progress without struggle," Frederick Douglass said. While at FIU, Michael was an active member in many organizations. Michael was a member of (APAAC, Black Student Union, Student Programming Council and the FIU Alumni Association). "I have contributed love and understanding to the FIU community," Michael said.

By Derek Delard



Catherine McCalley
English



Jany Mederos
Special Education



Cynthia Medina
TV Production



Iris Mejia
International Business



Shawn Melton



Elizabeth Mena
CCJ



Griska Mena
Sociology



Marie Menard
Management



Anne-Sophie Mendoza
Hospitality Management



Alejandro Mendoza
Computer Science



Aila Menguc
Hospitality Management



Rachel Mercier
Health Information System



Maria Mesa
SLD with Ventrack



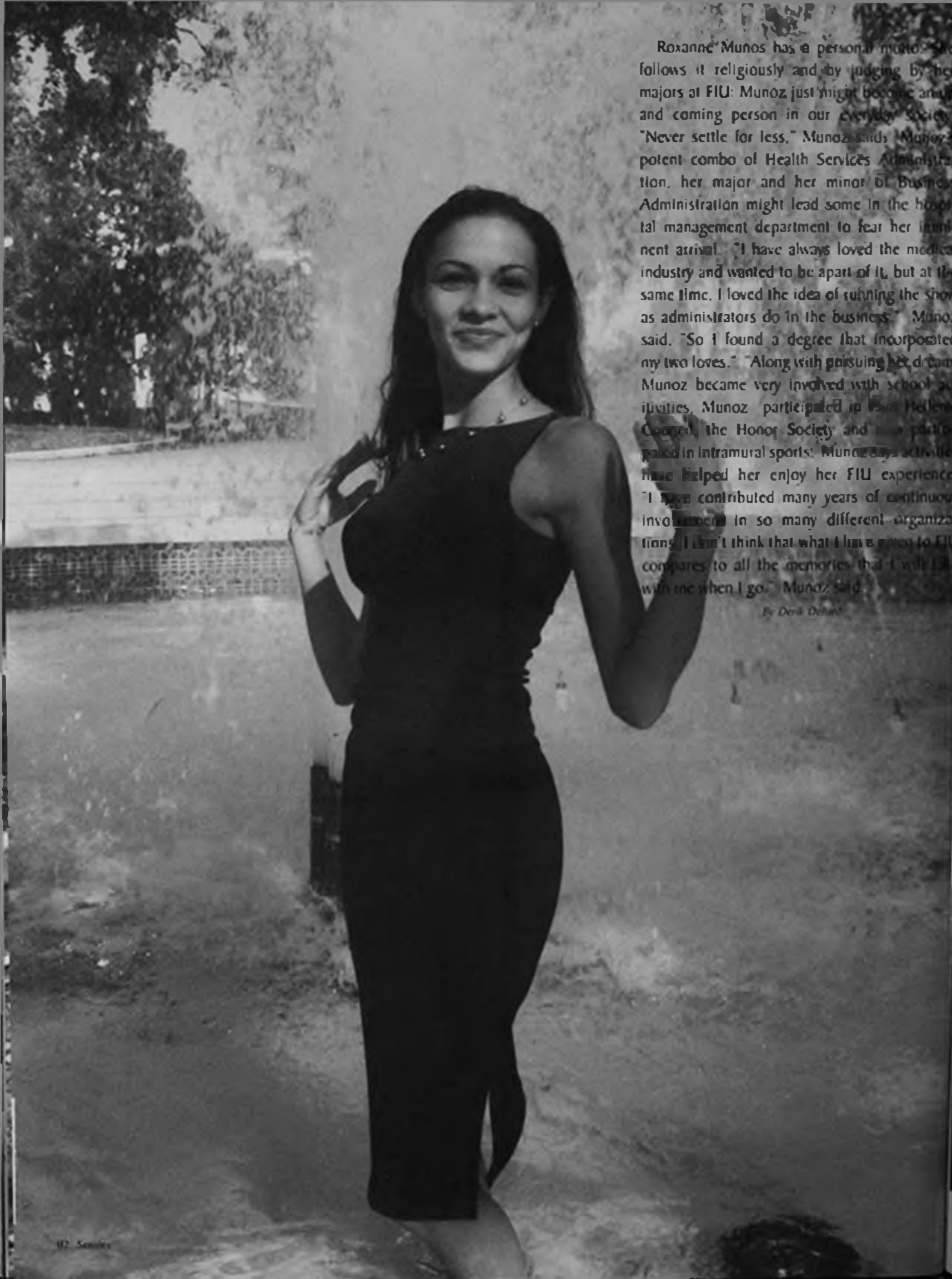
Mercedes Mesa
Elementary Education



Remy Metzger
Civil Engineering



Charles Michael
Psychology



Roxanne Munoz has a personal motto. She follows it religiously and by judging by her majors at FIU: Munoz just might become an important and coming person in our everyday society. "Never settle for less," Munoz says. Munoz's potent combo of Health Services Administration, her major and her minor of Business Administration might lead some in the hospital management department to fear her imminent arrival. "I have always loved the medical industry and wanted to be apart of it, but at the same time, I loved the idea of running the show as administrators do in the business," Munoz said. "So I found a degree that incorporated my two loves." Along with pursuing her dream, Munoz became very involved with school activities. Munoz participated in Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the Honor Society and was a participant in intramural sports. Munoz says activities have helped her enjoy her FIU experience. "I have contributed many years of continuous involvement in so many different organizations. I can't think that what I have given to FIU compares to all the memories that I will take with me when I go," Munoz said.

By Derek DeLeon



George Miguel
International Business & Marketing



Rafay Mohammad
Management Information System



Jose Molina
Business Management



Daniel Monroe Jr.
Electrical Engineering



Michelle Monte
Business Management



Ayleen Monzon
Health Education



Misty Moore
Music Education



Italo Morales
Finance



Juan Morales
Accounting



Maria Morales
Marketing



Sandra Morales
Accounting



Manuel Moreno
Civil Engineering



Shany Moreno
Management Information System



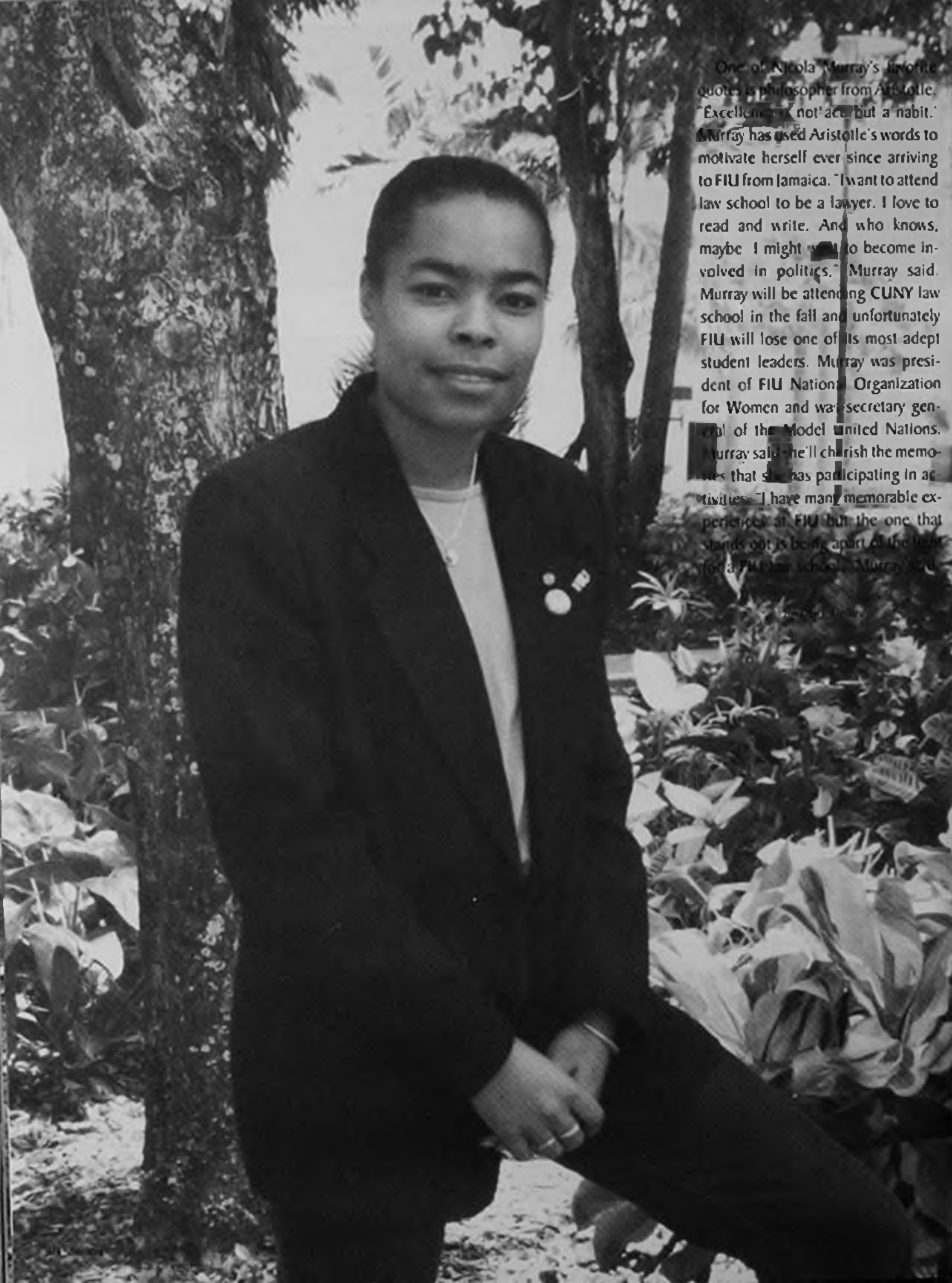
Brian Mori
Accounting



Jessica Moses
International Business & MIS



Craig Moss
Civil Engineering



One of Nicola Murray's favorite quotes is philosopher from Aristotle. "Excellence is not an act, but a habit." Murray has used Aristotle's words to motivate herself ever since arriving to FIU from Jamaica. "I want to attend law school to be a lawyer. I love to read and write. And who knows, maybe I might want to become involved in politics," Murray said. Murray will be attending CUNY law school in the fall and unfortunately FIU will lose one of its most adept student leaders. Murray was president of FIU National Organization for Women and was secretary general of the Model United Nations. Murray said she'll cherish the memories that she has participating in activities. "I have many memorable experiences at FIU but the one that stands out is being apart of the fight for a FIU law school," Murray said.



Pelella Moutinho
Chemistry



Patrick Muesse
Marketing



Yolanda Muller
Education



Roxanne Munoz
Health Services Administration



Jacqueline Murphy
Music



Lela Mwakysa
International Business



Viktoria Nagy
Finance & International Business



Arlene Naranjo
Mathematical Sciences



Nathalie Navellhan



Roonghan Nedtranon



Christopher Neuhauser
Marketing & Managing



Kathrin Neuhauser
Public Relations



Hai Nguyen
Electrical Engineering



Rebecca Nimmer
Elementary Education



Diane Nino
Accounting



Marta Nobo
Accounting

Francisco Pages decided to follow in the footsteps of his father and great uncles by majoring in Psychology. Now, after receiving his Bachelor's, Pages has decided to pursue his masters and then his Ph.D. "I have always been interested in this field, part of it is due to my family. My father is a psychiatrist in the local community. My father followed in his four uncles footsteps. His uncles owned one of the biggest private medical hospitals in Cuba." Pages said. Pages has worked among the psychology community at FIU. Pages was elected president of Psi Chi. Along with Psi Chi, Pages has been a member of Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Dive program. One of Pages' favorite memories comes from being apart of the Dive program. "My most memorable experience at FIU has been the opportunity that I received to teach students how to scuba dive and see the excitement when they take their first breath under water," Pages said.

By Ben DeLeon



Brad Nojaim
Finance & Management Information System



Giancarlo Nova
Hospitality Management



Yanet Novoa
Psychology



Andrea Obregon
Spanish



Mariela Ochoa
Chemistry



Dildra Oghun
Public Administration



Aracelis Oliveros
Psychology



Orlando Orozco
Finance



Nelson Ospina
Computer Science



Merlem Oukacha
Psychology



Ricardo Osiedo Jr.
Business



Pauline Padilla
Biological Sciences



Iryna Paea
Social Work



Francisco Pages
Psychology



Edgar Palacios
Industrial Engineering



Gina Palmer
Physical Therapy



Lurking around all three campuses of Florida International University are students who consistently complain about campus life but Avia Rice isn't one of them. Since making FIU her home in the fall of 1996, Rice quickly became involved with several clubs and organizations at the North Campus. One of the organizations in which Rice probably takes the most pride in being a part of is Student Government. Rice was named the first senate president in North Campus history when its student government realigned themselves to a senatorial style of government. Rice enjoyed being president of the senate because it allowed her to help students. "I have not prided myself on my leadership work alone but more on the lives that I have impacted by mentoring and serving as a positive student leader who constantly 'walks the walk and talks the talk.' Rice will be receiving her degree in International Business Marketing.

By Devik Deland



Martha Palmer
Personnel Management



Fernando Panizo
Management



Adonis Pardo
Biology



Veronica Parker
Criminal Justice



Bobby Parrish
Financial Management



Haydee Patel
Psychology



Christina Patts
Accounting & Finance



Marie Paul
Nursing



Kelvin Pena
Finance



Leslie K. Pena
Elementary Education



Analise Perales
International Relations



Claudia Pereira
International Business



Brian Perea
Management Information System



Elizabeth Perez



Eric Perea
Marketing & Management



Lourdes Perez
International Business



There are two hobbies that Mrs. Rodriguez enjoys doing: Teaching and conserving her heritage. So when it was time for Rodriguez to choose a major, the choice was clear. "I always wanted to become a Spanish teacher. I have always wanted to be a teacher and since I also feel strong about conserving my heritage, I thought it would be the perfect combination," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez will be receiving her degree in Spanish along with a bachelor's of science in Spanish education. Rodriguez hopes to begin her dream of teaching while still studying speech pathology. "I hope to begin teaching while I continue my education at FIU," Rodriguez said. Rodriguez was active while at FIU. Rodriguez was a member of Student Organizations Council, while being elected president of Kappa Delta and ODK. "By participating in activities, I believe that I felt a part of me and I hope one day to come back to FIU and still feel that this is my second home," Rodriguez said.

By Denis Delaid



Umberto Perez Jr.
Marketing & International Business



Ligia Perez Reyes
Architecture



Jean-Marc Perry
Management Information System



Josie A. Perry
Criminal Justice



Christine Petit-Jean
Psychology



Shamma Phillippe
Travel & Tourism



Claudia Picasso
Visual Arts & Art History



Heana Picon
Elementary Education



Katty Piloto
Elementary Education



Roxanne Pluede
Computer Engineering



Kenneth Pinos
MIS & Marketing International Business



Teddy Pintado
Finance



Elizabeth Pizzo
English



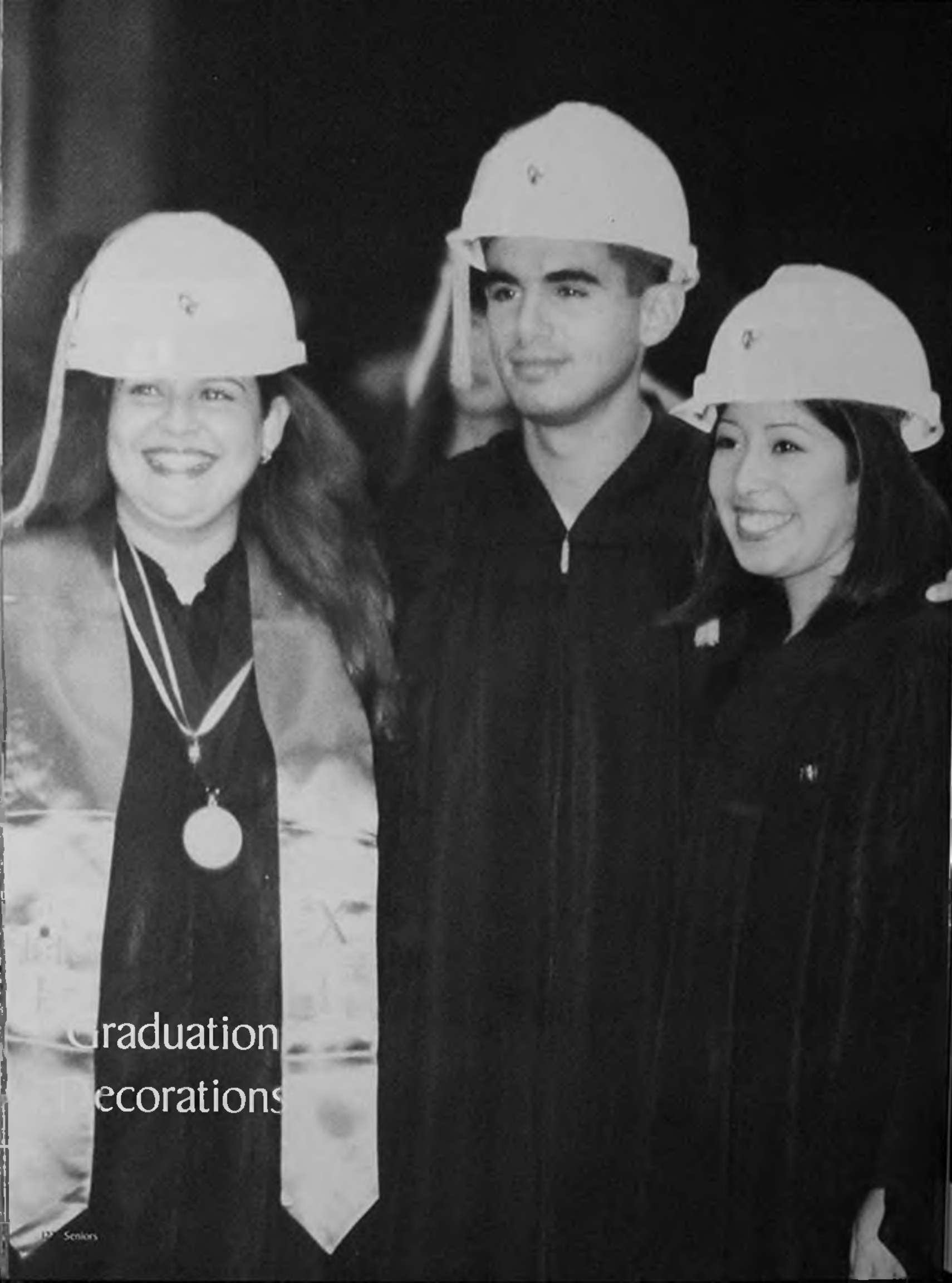
Aileen Plaza-Wilson
Management Information System



Juan Poggio
Computer Science



Tamika Poole
Special Education



Graduation
Decorations



Franka Posso
International Business & Marketing



Arianna Prieto
Elementary Education



David Puente
Management Information System



Hamiel Pulido
Computer Science



Arturo R. Quezada
Finance & Management Information System



Ramon Quinones
Political Science



Annette Quintana
Business Management & International Business



Osvaldo Quintana
Performance



Wilfredo Quintana
Information System



Nathija Radis
Hospitality Management



Melissa Ramirez
Human Resource Management



Shellaine Ramkishun
Computer Science



Carlos Ramos
International Relations



Birgitta Rausch
Business



Rachel Remy
Psychology



Walter Rey
International Business & Finance Services



Maya Rodriguez will be graduating this spring with a bachelor's degree in communications and a minor in Criminal Justice. Rodriguez also minored in Sociology and Anthropology. Rodriguez majored in Broadcast Journalism because she wants to highlight positive news genre. "I want to report stories that impact people's lives in a positive manner," Rodriguez said. But before trying to find an internship or a job in the communications field, Rodriguez will be heading off to another college for her master's degrees. She'll be attending Columbia University in the fall. By leaving to Columbia, Rodriguez says that she'll miss the activities that she was a part of. Rodriguez has spent time with Student Programming Council and Alternative Spring break. Rodriguez hopes that she has helped fellow students at FIU. "I would hope that I have encouraged people to express their opinions and be more open with other people's ideas," Rodriguez said.

By Derik Delaird



Ninoshka A. Reyes
Elementary Education



Teresa Reyes
Travel Management



Kim Ricardo
Criminal Justice



Ayda Rice
International Business & Marketing



Onisha Richards
Tourism & Travel



Edmee Richardson
TV Production



Nia Richie
Marketing & Management



Elizabeth Rios-Perez
Accounting



Demetrice Ritchie
Nutrition



Susan Blusech
Political Science



Lissette Rivera
Dietetics and Nutrition



Lakesha Rivers
Criminal Justice



Ivette Rivet
Special Education



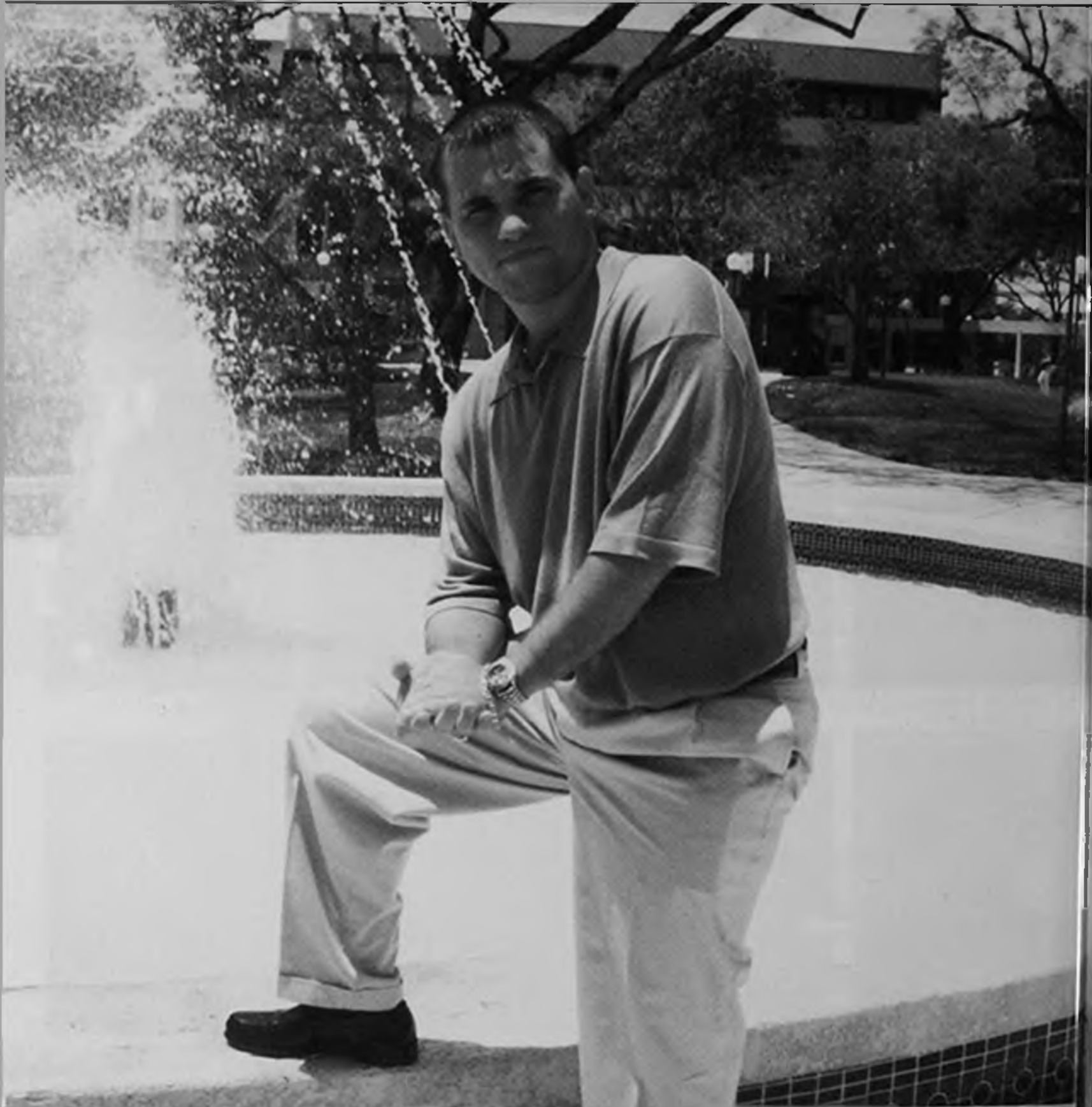
Francisco D. Robles
Hospitality Management



Rainier Rocafort
Exercise Physiology



Gilania Rocha
Computer Science



Brian Smatt has a goal in mind regarding what he wants to do in life. If he can accomplish it, it would stand as a crowning achievement. "I will do my master's in Public Administration here at FIU and work as a graduate assistant in FIU athletics," Smatt said. "I eventually want to become the youngest athletic director in history. It's still in the cards as to whether or not Smatt will meet his goal, but he is stopping at nothing to make sure that his dream will become a reality. "I am responsible for my luck, I just have to get it done," Smatt said. Along with receiving his BS in Sports Management and his minor in marketing, Smatt has been heavily involved in the growth and development of Golden Panther Radio, WRGP and WUFI. Smatt was the sports director of WUFI for three years before eventually moving up to become the general manager of both WRGP and WUFI. Smatt is also involved in Phi Gamma Delta, which he is a founding father of and he is a member of the Baptist Student Ministry. Smatt credits his faith as the reason why he has the strength to accomplish his goals. "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me," Smatt said.

By Derril Delard



Zanya Rodney
Psychology



Carolina Rodriguez
Personnel Management



Ines Rodriguez
Spanish Education



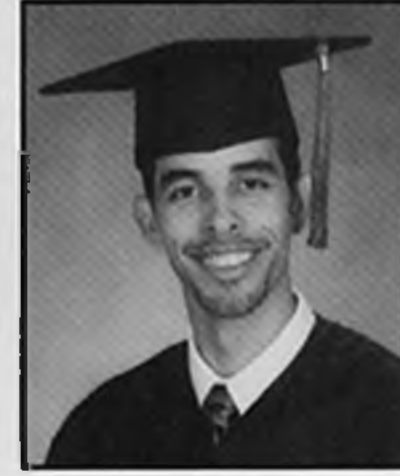
Marju Rodriguez
Elementary Education



Mauricio Rodriguez
Electrical Engineering



Nicole Rodriguez
International Relations



Vincent Rodriguez
Finance



Luis Rodriguez-Garcia
Hospitality & Tourism Management



Dina Rojas
Biology



Larry Rojas
Mechanical Engineering



Chilean Rolfe
Public Administration



Rachel Rolfe
Personnel Management



Barbara Rosen
Elementary Education



David Rosenthal
Advertising & Marketing



Julio Ruiz
Nursing



Alexander Sabonge
Industrial Engineering



After this upcoming graduation, Alfredo Soto will be able to answer a question that perhaps half of the student body at FIU will never be able to answer. Is graduation sweeter the second time around? This will be Soto's second time graduating when he walks down the aisle this spring. The first degree that he received was a bachelor's in English, now he will be receiving his master's degree. The actual answer to the graduation question will be answered in the near future, but there's one thing that is for sure. Soto has left no doubts that he has enjoyed himself in the past two years. Along with serving as the editor in chief of FIU's newspaper ("The Beacon"), Soto also became a disc jockey for WRGP. Soto also taught English as an adjunct professor. He taught ENC 1101, 1102 and Essay Writing. Carlos Ovalles, a student of Soto's last semester, enjoyed his class. He always listened and encouraged us to share our opinions about the readings in the class," Ovalles said.

By Derril Deland



Clara Sadurni
Criminal Justice



Maria Salgado
Civil Engineering



Raul Salmeron
Political Science



Ashish Sampat
Hotel Management



Carlos Sanchez
Management Information System



Cynthia Sanchez
Health Services Administration



Julian Sanchez
Industrial Engineering



Mayra Sanchez
Biology



Ofelia Sanchez
Computer Engineering



Cateela Sandifer
Athletic Training & Health Education



Loneice K. Sands
Public Health



Gladys Santana
Human Resources Management



E. Shakira Santiago
Liberal Studies



Ezeck Santiago-Rivera
Finance & International Business



Hernan Santiesteban
Computer Science



Marilyn Santiesteban
Social Work



Michelle Perez, assistant Director of Campus Life, recommended Julia Suarez for an award this year. Perez felt that Suarez would make an excellent choice. "I have had an opportunity to interact with Julia in different levels. I was fortunate to first meet Julia when she initiated contact with me in order to explore new leadership opportunities that might be available to her," Perez said. "Julia impressed me as mature, intelligent, open-minded and with a desire to positively impact those around her. She has consistently proven to be very supportive of the FIU Leadership Initiative." Suarez finished FIU with a degree in Hospitality Management. The field, she says, really sparked her interest. "I enjoy interacting with people from all parts of the world and love the growing industry with so many opportunities," Suarez said. In Suarez's tenure at FIU, she has been apart of Dance Marathon, Student Government and Delta Phi Epsilon. "I have contributed my time and love to this growing institution which has offered so much to its students," Suarez said.

By Denâ Delard



Sunita Sardarsingh
Finance



Andrea Saunders
Social Work



Olpal Saunders
Social Work



Priyanka Savana
Computer Science



Andrea Scappini
Finance



Giorgio Scappini Jr.
Finance



Peggy Schaefer
Dietetics & Nutrition



Pamela Segal
Management & Marketing



Leonie E. Senior
Human Resources Development "Masters"



Jacqueline E. Seanes
Psychology



Vanasha Shearer
Management & Marketing



Andrea Shelly
Management Information System



Muhammad Siddique
Management Information System



Mauricio J. Niles
Accounting



Hauremarie Simeus
Health Services Administration



Kaywana Simpson
Therapeutic Recreation

Before attending FIU, George Thomas attended the University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica but although he changed universities, his dream to become an engineer didn't change. In fact, it fueled his University swap. Since entering FIU in the fall of 1996, Thomas has been trying to turn his dream of becoming an engineer into a reality. Along with getting his BS in Computer Engineering, Thomas has been involved with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) of which he eventually became president. Thomas is very proud of his presidency of NSBE. "I helped to have FIU represented at all NSBE functions and helped provide opportunities for students to get employed," Thomas said. Thanks to his involvement with NSBE and his hard work, Thomas has already landed a job in the engineering field. He works now with Bell South Telecommunications.



Rodolfo Simpson
Civil Engineering



Elly Siregar
Accounting



Jimmy Sio
Management Information System & Marketing



Bridgette Skeete
Management Information System



Mawiyah Skinner
Management Entrepreneurship



Brian Smatt
Sports Management



Kathia Smith
Advertising



Nicole Soltan
Marketing



Nadlitz Sosa
Management



Adolfo Soliz
International Business & Marketing



Lisandra Soto
Elementary Education



Reuben Solo
Computer Science



Glrlande St Hubert
Social Work



Julia M. Suarez
Hospitality Management



Susan Suarez
Elementary Education



Shinichi Tachibana
Management International

When Valerie Vanderbiest was choosing her major, she had to make sure that the major she chose would compliment her three cardinal characteristics. The three cardinal characteristics of Vanderbiest are the fact that she loves food. She loves people and most importantly, she has a strong need for excitement and for creativity. Some career choices didn't have the leeway in order for those desires of Vanderbiest's to be met, but some careers did. Eventually, there stood a clear-cut winner: Hospitality Management. Vanderbiest followed one of her favorite passages from Kathie Kollwitz when deciding her major. "I do not want to die until I have faithfully made the most of my talent and cultivated the seed that was placed in me until the last small twig has grown," Kollwitz said. The twig in Vanderbiest grew in other areas as well. Vanderbiest was vice-president of Eta Sigma Delta, hospitality's fraternity. She was also vice-president of the American Sign Language Club. "I have dedicated my time and effort to this institution in order to make it more enjoyable and worthwhile for everyone and this I've done through a positive disposition and friendly attitude," Vanderbiest said.

By Devi Deland



Amy Tate
Criminal Justice



Mercedes Taylor
Business Administration



Yoko Tazoe
International Business & Marketing



Jessica Tejera
Dietetics & Nutrition



Gemima Teleide
Health Services Administration



Sonya Teran
Marketing



George Thomas
Computer Engineer



Loydel Thomas
Criminal Justice



Jeraldine Thompson
Nursing



Nicayas Thompson
Management Information System



Tania Tigera
Psychology



Eduardo Tobenas
Biology



Gregory Todd
Physical Therapy



Tracy Tomney
English



Claudine Tomlinson
Broadcast Journalism



Gwendolyn Yara
Architecture

Beyond the doors of Florida International University, seniors embraced the numerous opportunities that awaited them. Questions about a first job or new job raced through the minds of students as they walked down the graduation isle. Wondering where they would be in ten years, the graduating class of 2000 took the next steps toward their goals in life. Looking back, seniors held fond memories of school events and great times with friends. Homecoming, Greek Week, sports events and school related activities were thought of and smiled about. Difficult classes and encouraging teachers were thanked and remembered, as students realized how much they had accomplished. As the diploma was handed over, graduates looked forward to the new and exciting experiences they would have next in life. Faculty and classmates wished them all the best of luck with their future as a door closed on an old era and a new window of opportunity was opened.

By Evelyn Batillo



Liza Michelle Toro
Architecture



Hugo M. Torres
Architecture



Ryan Teeco
Construction Management



Nam Trinh
MIS & Logistics Management



Melicent Trinidad
Health Information System



Elida Trull
Hospitality Management



Melissa Trumbly
English Education



Cristina Turner
Public Relations



Gladys Ulloa
Psychology



Rafael Urbino
Chemistry



Debbie Ureaca
Biology



Alina Valera
Special Education



Omar Valqui
Finance



Javier Valverde
History



John Vanegas
Accounting & Finance



Lisette Vazquez
Elementary Education

Alma Mater

Hail to thee Dear F.I.U. with voices true. We pledge to thee all our love and our devotion humble faith and Loyalty. We will stive for understanding and for peace and unity. We will search for truth and wisdom we will always honor thee. F.I.U. Alma Mater Hail hail to thee.



Murline Vedrine
Health Information Management



Claudia Vera
Fine Arts



Yanira Verbel
Social Work



Adema Verne
Mechanical Engineering



Nicole Vidal
Elementary Education



Ralph Vidal
Emotionally Handicapped



Jill Vielto
Advertising



Janice Villa
Business Administration



Maritza Viquez
Elementary Education



Lincoln Vitalis
Nursing



Juliene Wade
International Relations



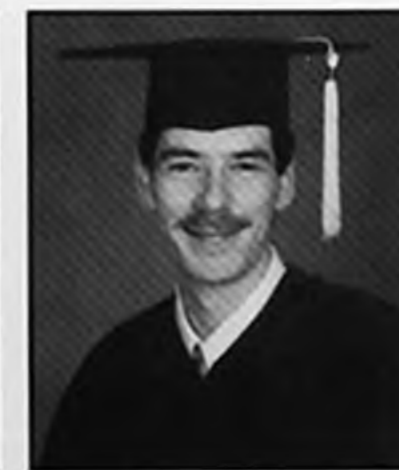
Christa Walker
Environmental Studies



Theodore Wansley
Broadcast Journalism



Simona Waters
Criminal Justice



Matthew Watt
Sports Management



Rosa Watts
Accounting



Doug Westcott
Psychology



Yeny Whitl
Health Services Administration



Najwa Whyte
Computer Science



Sandra Whyte
Management Information System



Osalee Wilkinson
Health Information Service



Melrove F. Wilks
Family Consumer Science Education



Andria Williams
Management



Caroline Williams
Sociology



Novelette Williams
Hospitality



Sandra Wilson
Physical Therapy



Ann-Juliet Wong
Management & Marketing



Meefun Wong
Computer Science



Kwesi Woodroffe
Civil Engineering



Susan Wulf
Physical Therapy



Paulette Wyche
Public Administration



Kaydene Wynter
Exercise Physiology



Huisian Xu
Accounting



Carolina Yaya
Management & Business Administration



Liann Yelkson
Television Management



Sharon Young
Psychology



John Yunis
Management Information System



Laura Zahala
Architecture



Kathleen Zaldivar
Special Education



Andrea Zarate
Print Journalism



Nimona Zuazo



Maria Zuniga
Elementary Education

Congratulation Class of 2000

THIS TIME



AROUND...

The idea of a chance at outperforming themselves was taken seriously by this year's Student Government Association, nicknamed, "The Voice of the Students." Led by student body president, Orlando Amorin, the association not only set aggressive goals, but met and exceeded them. In fact, the majority of students felt the ease of the open door policy that was practiced by the association. Besides representing the student body at a local, state and national level, SGA has proportioned means by which students could improve their educational opportunities. For starters, this academic school year marked the launch of the student operated radio station, FM, 88.1. SGA also funded the first yearbook at FIU in over a decade. With the success of bringing fruitful activities to the campus, SGA presented an optimistic outlook for the student body. Not only was the SGA an advocate of career opportunities, but it also made an effort in improving student life outside of academics. Comedy Connection, a monthly activity, brought celebrity comedians on campus for entertainment. A weekly movie was shown on the first floor of the Graham Center for students viewing pleasure. These activities in turn created an atmosphere of community. This atmosphere, necessary for student body support, present on the university campus was an important influence for the SGA in completing their goals. The goals outlined by the SGA included revision of the constitution and by laws, improving SGC visibility, contributing to student retention, and improving present student services. These goals were met through the dedication and perseverance of its members, which was evident through the construction of new dorms and garages. Not only were the changes evident among the students, but FIU's SGA has been recognized at a state level. Yearly, the Florida Leader Magazine holds state competitions to recognize outstanding student organizations. Last year, the FIU SGA was also led by student body president Orlando Amorin, named the 2nd most successful and efficient student organization in the state. The presence of a strong SGA has brought school spirit to the students at FIU, something that the campus has lacked in the past two decades. School spirit was a factor in initiating the transformation of FIU away from a commuter school. As we enter the next Millennium, the theories and practices that SGA employs bring about innovative ideas and changes in improving the quality of education for all FIU students.



-Vanessa Valencia

SGA

Student Government Association

University Park



Orlando L. Amorin
President

Greetings from the University Park Student Government.

It is with great pleasure that I sit and write to you my FIU Family as this academic year comes to an end. As my term as your SGA President concludes, I reflect on all the accomplishments that we have made. Your commitment toward the betterment of our university has been beyond reproach. So many times we encountered bumps but we never let our spirits get down, we never quit.

Four years ago, I entered the SGA office first as your Chief of Staff, then as Representative at Large, and the past two years as your President. I came with the goal to represent YOU, the students, to the best of my ability. As a result of your dedication toward keeping me informed of your concerns, I feel that I have succeeded.

It is incredible to see the impact that this Student Government has had at Florida International University. We have implemented programs to boost FIU Spirit such as Panther Rage. We helped launch our very own radio station, Radiate 88, fought to bring back the CATS shuttle system, sponsored the first ever disability walk-through and most important of all, the Student Government Council at University Park received the recognition of being the second

best student government in the state of Florida.

Therefore I want to take this opportunity to thank you. I thank you for participating in the SGA process. I also want to thank you for giving me the honor to serve as your President. I congratulate you for your efforts and wish you luck in your future endeavors. Best of luck, remember to always shine, and above all keep that GOLDEN PANTHER Spirit! Just focus the full power of all you are on what you have a burning desire to attain, and you will achieve success. Act on your dreams and they are yours.

Your friend,

Orlando L. Amorin
President, University Park



Mashelka Allen
Athletic Coordinator



A. Monty Ahmad
College of Education



Micheal Barnett
Graduate



Joannette Brooks
Vice President (Spring 00)



Michelle Castro
Clerk



George Carlton
Director of Student Lobbying



Khira Chang
College of Engineering



Rajesh K. Chateani
School of Computer Science



Bettina Inclan
Lower Division Rep



Irfan Jindani
College of Health Sciences



Danielle Jones
Vice President (Fall '99)



Perry Kyles
Comptroller



Carlos Lopez
College of Business



Luis Moreno
Rep at Large



Paulina Munoz
Intern Coordinator



Eric Pfaffle
Student Services



Wilmiel Phitossaint
Academic Affairs



Wellington Richards
Election Board Commissioner



Victor Romano
Rep at Large



Patrice Scipio
Honor College



Julia Suarez
Executive Assistant



Seegin Tigera
Rep at Large



Kirk Weiss
Student Union



Dubaney Williams
Housing

Student Government Association

University Park

By Julia Suarez:

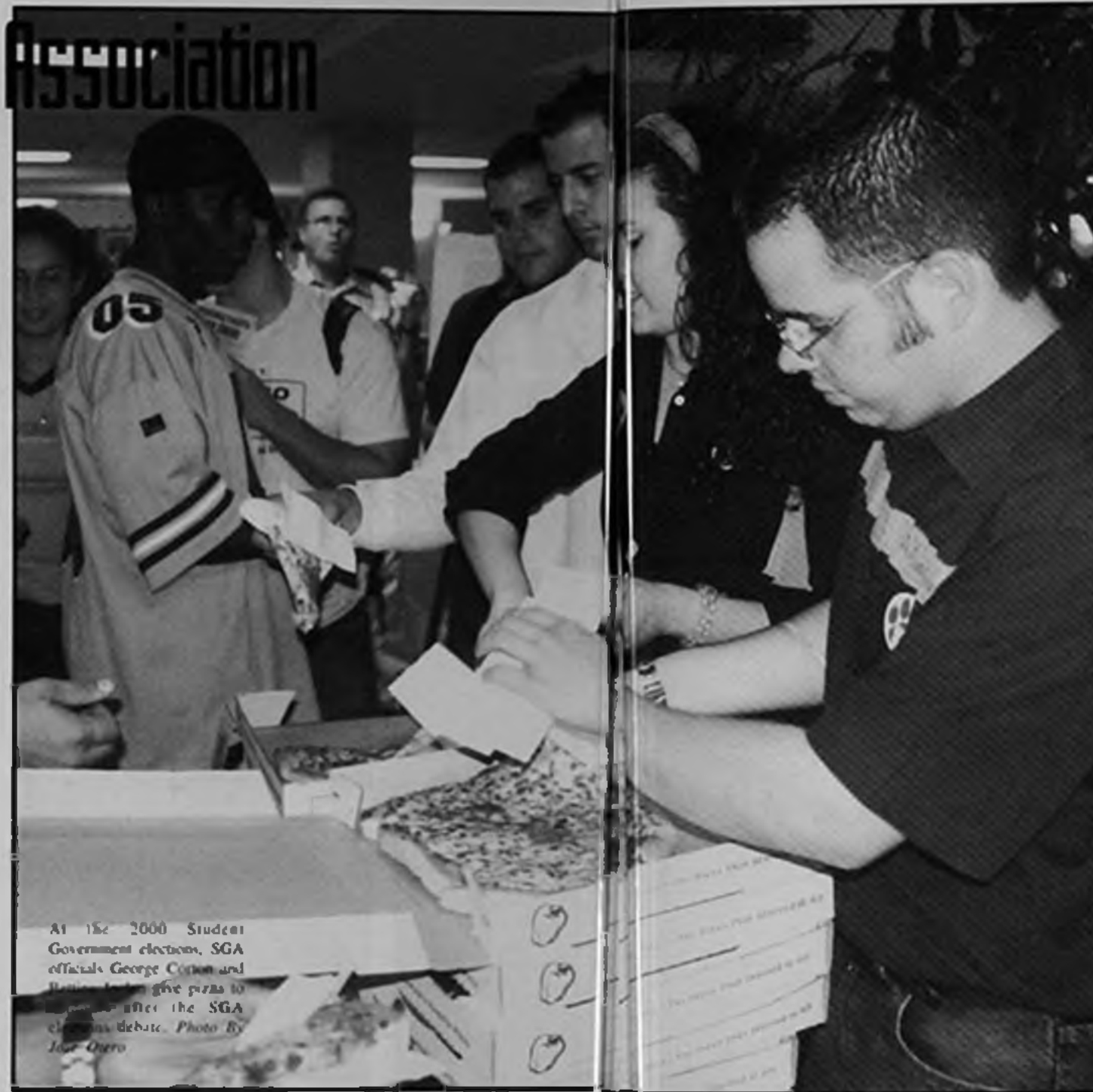
WOW. What a year? It seems like just the other day that we walked into the university and now we are at the end of this academic year. Hopefully you excelled academically and you participated in, or maybe even initiated, some events. The Student Government Association is proud to have helped you in any way possible. Ultimately **THAT** is what we are here for.

We are proud to have been present in the Welcome Back festivities at the beginning of the year. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with you. We also established friendships with one another, while we always kept in mind the concerns and desires of students at heart. We welcomed you with open arms as you embarked on your transition into a productive Golden Panther.

"VOTE SGA! I VOTED SGA!" You walked the halls during the Elections Week and you received more fliers than you could handle. You heard about the issues and voted for the future of Florida International University. This resulted in the highest voter turnout in FIU history. Through your participation we surpassed all records by (Con't to page 149)



The 1999-2000 Student Government Council University Park. Photo By SGA



At the 2000 Student Government elections, SGA officials George Cotton and Benjamin Lopez give pizza to students after the SGA election debate. Photo By Jose Quiro



During American Heritage Week, SGA representatives Victor Roman, Sergio Urena, Robyn Joyce and Gloria Torres help the students voting drive. Photo By Jose Quiro



Welcoming FIU student to the Fall semester, President Orlando Amorin announced the FIU football program. Photo By CLP

FIU Wolfsonian Museum is located in Washington Avenue in South Beach. Photo By Jose Quiro



Do you have Golden Panther Spirit? Julia Suarez, Zory Hernandez and Ian Grocher sure do as they show the prizes they won during the annual SGA retreat in Key Largo. Photo By SGA



At the annual Homecoming parade, Elysa Chung, Bettina Inclan, Michelle Castro and Joannette Brookes show their FIU spirit. Photo By Mario Abril

Radiate 88.1, which is funded by Student Government, always sets the mood while providing all its listeners with just what they wanted to hear. Hard at work is Robert Santana who is playing music at this year's bonfire. *Photo By Mario Abril*

Lobbying for the law school, Carolina Palacios, George Corton, Julia Suarez, Betty Bruna and Bettina Inclan get ready to meet with the Board of Regents. *Photo By SGA*



Having lunch in the Panther Suite, Representative at Large Sergio Tigera discusses issues concerning FIU students with State Representative Willie Logan. *Photo By Jose Otero*

At the end of each semester, the Student Government Council hosts Cram Jam. Cram Jam is a night event where food is served to students while they study for their finals. *Photo By SGA*



In search of new ideas, Student Lobbyist George Corton, Ruth Hamilton and Jennifer Silberman discuss the new Constitutional revisions. *Photo By Lazara Llanes*



Student Government officers such as Student Lobbyist George Corton, Ruth Hamilton and Jennifer Silberman discuss the new Constitutional revisions. *Photo By Lazara Llanes*

Student Government Association

University Park

(Con't from page 146) casting more than 3,000 votes.

"CAN'T STOP US NOW" was our theme for Homecoming. We participated and funded most of the activities that took place during that week in hopes that your Golden Panther Spirit would take flight. Contests, floats, banners, a parade, a concert with Willy Chirino, one of Miami's best Hispanic singers, are just a few of the events that took place during that week of festivities.

This year has been one of the most productive years for the Student Government Association. Of key importance is our lobbying effort toward getting a Law School, the first public law school in South Florida. It has not been an easy task thus far but one of which we have fought till the very end.

Other issues we dealt with during this year were the much-awaited Constitutional revisions, launching Radiate 88.1 ex- (Con't to page 150).



The 1999-2000 University Park Student Government Interns. *Photo By SGA*

Student Government Association

University Park

(Con't from page 149) ceeding our voter turnout, creating new leaders with the newly revamped intern program and the much anticipated VISION yearbook.

As we conclude our journey, let us reflect on all of our accomplishments. We recognize that these would not be possible without your dedication and commitment toward the success that we fervently desired. As always we had high expectations of representing the students in a matter that would make you pleased that you put your trust in us. We want to stress that our main goal was to represent you to the best of our ability by considering your concerns and desires in all our endeavors.



After a long day of workshops, the Student Government Interns was for... Photo By Jose Otero



Always on the road, the Student Government Council was always traveling to different schools and conferences for FIU. Photo By SGA

The Student Programming Council, funded by SGA show their spirit at the Homecoming parade. Photo By SGA



After 11 years of not having a yearbook, the Student Government Association decided to document FIU's history. Photo By Jose Otero

During the annual SGA retreat, the Student Government Council gathers after a long day of planning. Photo By SGA



During the annual President's Christmas Party, the student Government Council celebrates it together. Photo By Jose Otero



FIU celebrates its diversity through Diversity days. Students enjoy a together they reflect on all the contributions to the community. Photo By Jose Otero



At the annual Homecoming Dance, this student proudly shows her excitement at the festivities. Photo By Mario Abril



Bringing the gap between students and administration, President Trio Ormagnoni and Dr. Moocartz share some laughs after the meeting. Photo By SGA



Vote Once, these students register to vote at the Wolfe Center. The event was sponsored by Student Government. Photo By SGA

During Diversity Awareness Day, members of the Student Government Council celebrate the richness of different cultures. Photo By SGA

Editor's Note
Please go to pages 370 & 371 to see the rest of the pictures of Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council.



Student Government Association

Biscayne Bay Campus

A new year began and many goals were set. We were overcome with optimism and excitement about the upcoming year. We had new members, old members, but most importantly we were a team and we would strive to serve those who had elected us. We began with the goal of making history and making a difference. It did not take long for us to discover those who also made a pledge to FIU, supported our innovative ideas and would help us attain the goals we had set. We worked as a team and kept in mind that we needed to help each other with our projects. Together we had combined success and made the road easier for future councils.

We started our journey on an SGA retreat to help us sharpen our leadership skills and ensure that we were prepared for the job that awaited us throughout the year. At the retreat we got to know each other and identified our strengths and weaknesses. We kept these qualities in mind so that we would know how to proceed when times got rough. Also, we took this time to set our council and personal goals. We vowed to work for the betterment of our student body and with the goals as our focus, we stripped foot into our first meeting.

We decided to create a Student Government Senate. We supported Panther Power and worked hard to make sure it moved to another level. We saw the necessity of a registration drive and promoted one as a tool for students to voice their concerns. Our first annual Diversity Awareness Day was a success. This event opened many eyes and we were fortunate to share with others the cultural richness of FIU. Most importantly, we got the FIU community involved and we educated many on the Holocaust. We didn't stop there. We felt there was more to be done. We promised not to let the year end without bridging the gaps between the student body and the Administration. A meeting was held, many topics were discussed and decisions were made. It is because we took the initiative that we now have regular administrative rap sessions, which have proven to be very productive.

So as we reflect on a successful year, let us remember all the growing that we have done. Most of us started shy and insecure and we have blossomed into leaders with loud voices and convictions. We cannot forget that FIU has become a more respected institution due to our hard work and dedication. Thank you students for allowing us to serve and be your voice. You were our first priority and we are proud of all of your contributions to Florida International University.



The 1999-2000 Senate gathers at their bi-weekly meetings to address issues that concern students. Senate meetings played host to discussions upcoming bills, request for funds presentations, setting goals and ways of implementing new ideas. Photo By SGA



Students sit at tables while waiting for the Tallahassee event. Photo By SGA

THIS TIME



CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

Over two decades ago, the city of Miami witnessed the long awaited establishment of its first public university. As the doors of Florida International University opened during a sunny day in August of 1972, eyes filled with enthusiasm proudly viewed history in the making for both the city and the State education department. An institution composed of only one building named the Primera Casa, was quickly on its way toward helping create bright futures through the hope of higher education for countless students across the world. Over 20 years later, this very university is still providing the essentials of knowledge and the basis for a better tomorrow to all of those who attend. The foundation that was set decades ago has blossomed into an institution far stronger than ever expected, making Florida International the fastest growing university in the nation. Despite the many activities in which FIU places an emphasis, undoubtedly, the most important factor that the school has to offer is its academics. With 10 active schools of learning, FIU proves to be a diverse and very well rounded university. Whether one is considering a degree in the fields of Education, Hospitality Management or Engineering, Florida International has the necessary education to cover everyone's interests. "I feel that academically, FIU is very advanced and most of the faculty is very helpful. I decided to be a Special Education Major because I feel it is my calling. It is very rewarding to make a difference in someone's life," said sophomore Chery Rico, who has been greatly satisfied with the College of Education. With the progression of time, FIU has become more dedicated toward offering the very best education to its students. As a result, numerous programs have been established that enhance the process of learning as well as improve the means of doing so. In addition, special offices were created for the convenience of the students. Such programs include career counseling, computer labs, tutoring, seminars and of course, the all mighty LUIS Library System that provides access to endless educational and research oriented books, publications and films. The Honors College was also launched as well as the International Students and Scholar Services. Florida International is definitely a well formed university, quickly expanding and highly enthusiastic about its improvement and the betterment of its students, and community. There is no doubt that student graduates are prepared and knowledgeable professionals, truly possessing the tools necessary to open doors in the future.

-Liz Bello

AROUND...



ACADEMICS

ARCHITECTURE

Designing the blueprints of our future one sketch at a time...

By Cassandra Caballero

There is an old adage, which claims, "if it can be dreamed, then it can be realized." Personifying this cliché is FIU's School of Architecture, which backed by some of the most proficient educators in this country it maintains its unwavering promise to uphold only the highest standards of excellence in education for all qualified students. Presently, the six year architecture program is enjoying the prestigious status of having been fully accredited by the NAAB or National Architectural Accrediting Board. Most recently, the school was honored yet again when the Master of Architecture program was granted full accreditation this past January. The School of Architecture proudly shares the benefits of this latest recognition with the alumni of the Master of Architecture program who may now return and apply for the state-licensing exam.

Keeping in steady pace with these increasingly technologically based times, the School of Architecture has, along with the inception of two contemporary computer facilities, devised courses which would incorporate computers into the classrooms. This in turn, allows for higher learning not only in student's lives but, inevitably their careers.

Being regarded "as the largest gift ever given to any university in the state of Florida," it is therefore imperative that there be some mention about the Wolfsonian Collection of Decorative and Propaganda Arts, or newest addition to this school's family. This one of a kind museum/library is located on Miami Beach and will no doubt provide those with a thirst for design, a vast array of invaluable information and essential resources.

Lastly, the desire to travel and expand one's academic horizons have been listed by the School of Architecture as two quintessential elements found in most well rounded graduates. Reinforcing this belief is the school's decision to extend its programs to various parts of the world, thus granting students the rare opportunity to learn their prospective professions in a more tangible setting. Only through indomitable perseverance and persistence of this caliber are programs such as these made possible. For, it is this same ideology which assures all enrolled students that in regard to the future of architecture the sky is not the limit, it's just another obstacle waiting to be overcome.

During the morning hours on Friday, senior Robert Joyce completes one of his final projects for the semester. Photo By Jose Otero



Wearing a Japanese costume from his native country, junior Shigehiro Otsuki competes in the annual water polo race behind the Owan Ehan building. Photo By Shigehiro Otsuki

Working towards her architecture career, freshman Carolina Fuenaguera completes her final exam project for her class. Photo By Jose Otero



"They don't call it Architecture for nothing"
-Lance Henderson
Junior AIA president



"Perseverance leads to character"
-Rick Dunn
Senior



"It's a 24 to 7 pursuit"
-Amosuel Barona
Senior



"At finals, two hours of sleep, wake up and get back to work"
-Greg Little
Senior



Designing a house, senior Eva Vela sketches different designs for her final exam floor plan. Photo By Jose Otero



After several hours at work, senior Robert Braham works at full capacity until he finishes his job. Photo By Jose Otero

ARTS AND SCIENCES

The tangible and aesthetic beauty that enlightenment brings...

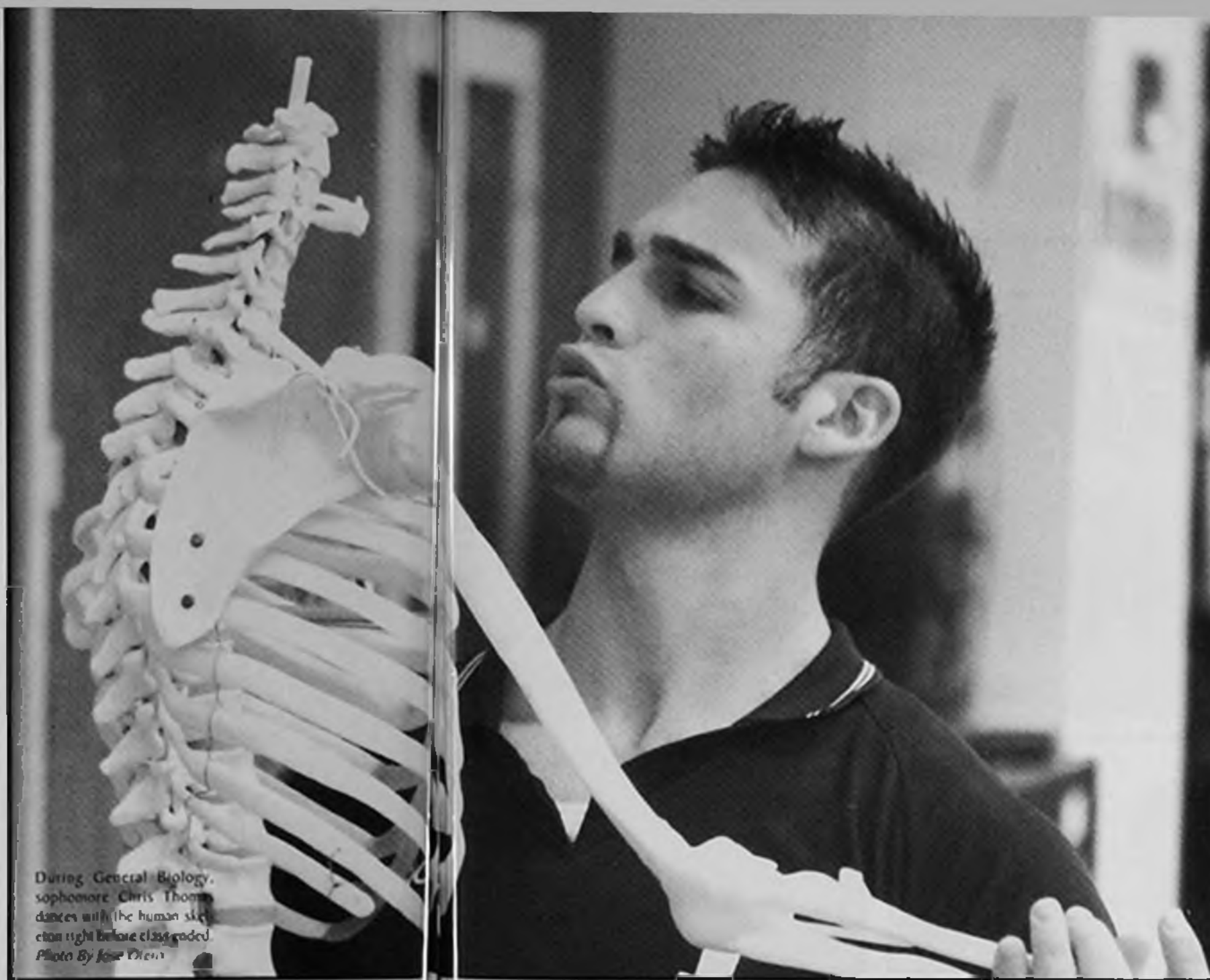
By Cassandra Caballero

The folks at FIU's College of Arts and Sciences have been spotted doing quite a bit of boasting, of late. Fortunately, it seems they're not just full of hot air, but instead beaming with pride at the high level of overall success their programs have been fostering. Expectant freshmen interested in becoming CAS majors might heed well the words of this school's esteemed dean, Dr. Arthur Herriott, who informs us of some of the "extraordinary accomplishments CAS alumni have demonstrated." Included among those accomplished individuals are a United States representative, a cabinet-level secretary, a federal judge, a state secretary, numerous local and state officials, college professors, administrators and physicians.

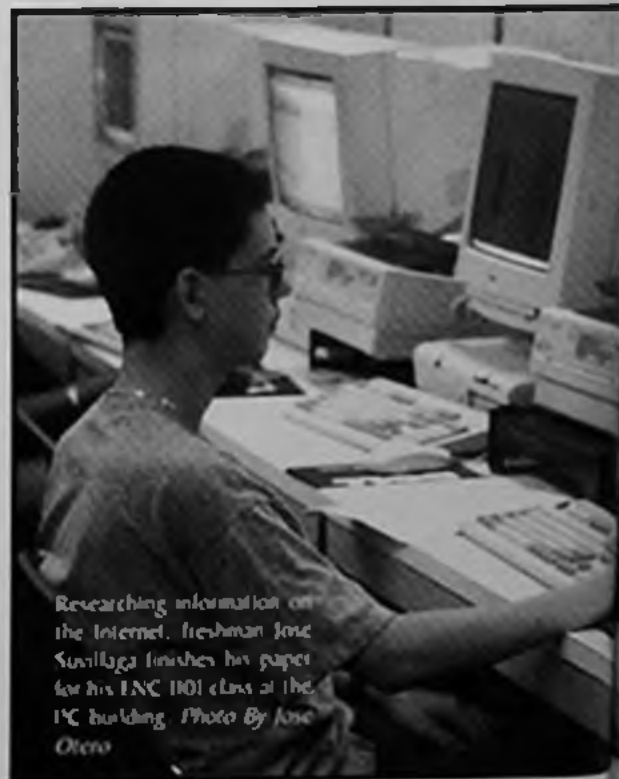
Most noteworthy instructors, upon hearing how well their graduates were faring would graciously bask in the luminous glow of contentment, but here at FIU's College of Arts and Sciences, news such as this serves not only to empower, but to motivate. Ask any member of FIU's CAS faculty what they want most for the future of this program and the answer will be a resounding: "BREAK COMMON STUDENT STEREOTYPES." FIU alumni and meritorious associate dean, Dr. Gisela P. Casines, believes that Florida International University will lead the way in breaking the common assumption that teachers are apathetic towards their student's academic futures. She has, since day one of her long and prestigious career with the university, sought to create and implement programs that would instill students with the understanding that teachers ultimately share their same objectives and only through laboring together can they truly triumph.

In addition, to working hard towards one's goals, students are also urged to employ the various resources around them, including each other. The introduction of study groups into the classrooms is another avenue that is currently being ventured, to shepherd students throughout their scholarly journey and simultaneously, promote the elusive utopian feeling of unity that comes from a community's challenge rather than the uncertainty of singular problem solving. Dr. Donald Watson, head of the English Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, strongly encourages the formation and utilization of such study groups, citing how invaluable the various views expressed may be when they are able to shed some light on otherwise perplexing material.

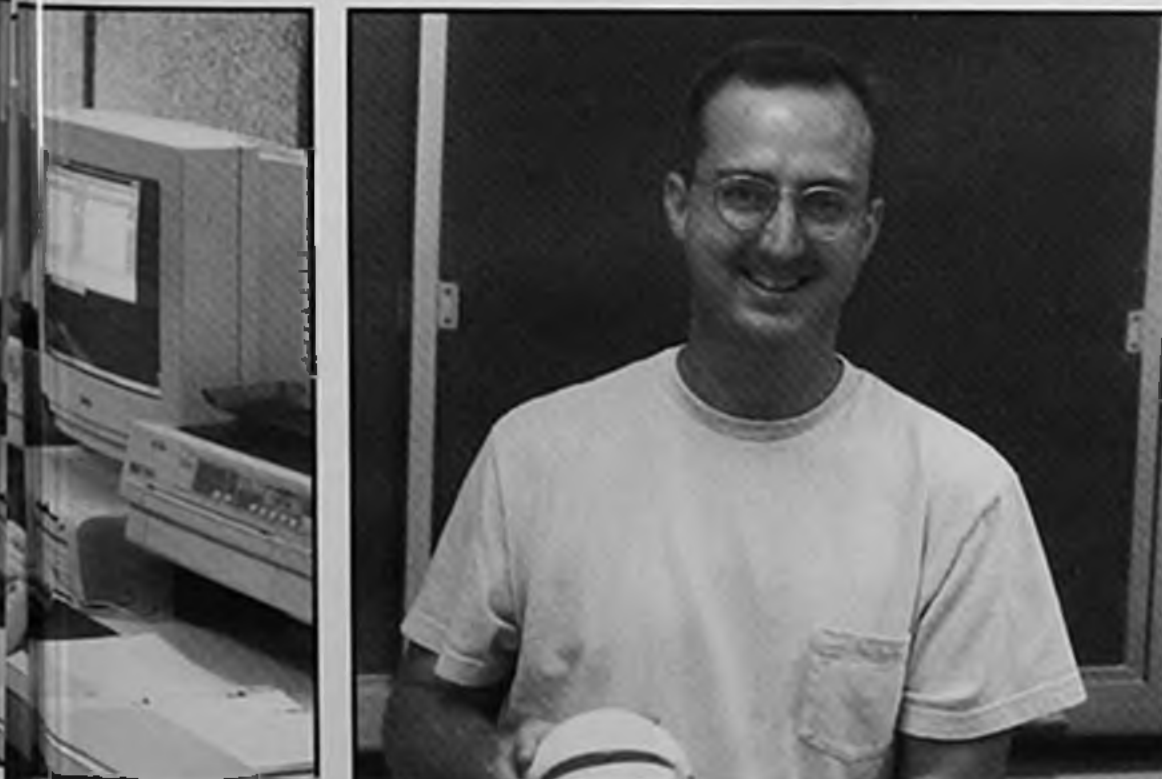
At the FIU North Miami marine lab, FIU students and faculty managed to rescue a stranded dolphin in the Florida Keys. The dolphin spent two weeks of recuperation until it was released in the Atlantic ocean. Photo By Jose Otero



During General Biology, sophomore Chris Thomas dances with the human skeleton right before class ended. Photo By Jose Otero



Researching information on the Internet, freshman Jose Suvillaga finishes his paper for his ENC 1001 class at the 1C building. Photo By Jose Otero



Dissecting a white rat in General Biology, sophomore Teriza Roberts cuts through the heart and liver to catch glimpse of the stomach. Photo By Jose Otero

During General Biology, Professor John Geiger smiles for the camera after his students finished their lab work. Photo By Jose Otero

"A comprehensive curriculum in Arts and Sciences provides the foundation for future success, as so many of our alumni have demonstrated, our students are prepared for the challenges of this and the next century."
-Arthur W. Herriott
Dean



"One of the great lessons students should learn, but often overlooked, is that here at Florida International University, we are all one big family. Faculty member's doors are always open and the opportunity for students to receive aid is readily available. All students have to do is knock."
-Dr. Gisela P. Casines
Associate Dean



"A Degree in Political Science will give me the opportunity to go to law school."
-James Pappas
Freshman



"Although, studying hard is a proven way of reaching one's academic goals, there are times when study groups can act as an essential tool in the learning process."
-Donald Watson
English Department Head



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

In pursuit of professionals...

By Cassandra Caballero

If you're a born leader, then chances are your birthplace was the College of Business Administration at Florida International University.

But, none of the freshman or future enrollees are expected to accept a statement as weighty as this at mere face value. They can listen instead, to the dozens of accolades by distinguished journalists nationwide who consistently rank this school in the top percentile.

As the second largest college of this exceptional university, the school is constantly expanding on its resources to assist the increasing demand for their undergraduate programs. CIBER was established by the school when it was presented with a generous grant by the Department of Education. The College was honored indeed, by this latest gift, as it has only been awarded to fewer than 30 schools.

The school has credited most of its success to its "dedicated multicultural faculty of more than 80 scholars, business leaders and teachers," and the students whom they prepare for the obstacles of a "rapidly changing, technology-driven global business environment."



During registration time, graduate student Flor Gilmore helps junior Ryan Mabry pick his classes for the Spring term. Photo By Jose Otero



In between classes, senior Jorge Correa works on the MBA program in one of the business labs located in the BA building. Photo By Jose Otero

Studying in the lobby of the Business Administration building, senior Cesar Urrunaga prepares for his International Business class. Photo By Jose Otero



"I'm good with money"
-Karina Castro
Senior



"After working in a bank I decided to major in finance so I can work with investments"
-Vanessa Eban
Junior



"Accounting is like a cup of tea or by one and out by three"
-Maria Menard
Senior



"I like working with money"
-Elizabeth Gutierrez
Freshman



Working diligently on a project, juniors Luis Bandrich, Zachary Kutner and Maria Peneda finish their assignment before the next class begins. Photo By Jose Otero



Finishing his work in the Business lab, senior Fernando Diaz fills out his worksheets prior to his next class later that day. Photo By Jose Otero

EDUCATION

Eradicating the myth that ignorance is bliss...

By Cassandra Caballero

The College of Education was founded on many admirable principles but its most revered is also its most basic: to prepare prospective students by aiding them in acquiring a plethora of knowledge which would not merely hone their skills, but shape their lives. Being book-savvy though, is just a brief snapshot of the bigger picture for this school's destiny, as it wishes to broaden its influential horizons way past the confines of the customary classroom and right into the developing minds of all its students. The College mission profile clearly states that the academic goals that are set up for their students are closely intertwined with a noble humanitarian effort to destroy the barriers that spring from ignorance and expose the common grounds of enlightenment that link us all.

It seems, that this line of thinking has been quite successful for the College of Education. Running sixty fully accredited programs with over 3,500 students and approximately 100 faculty members, not only are they the third largest school in the university, but 80% of all their teacher education graduates can expect immediate employment from Miami-Dade County Public schools. Another noteworthy accomplishment came in February, 1998 when the College won the "Teacher Education Best Practices Award" by the American Association of Colleges. These rewards as humbling as they are though, pale in comparison to the students themselves. They are eager to learn and are taught by their instructors to embrace the act of educating first and revel in its many triumphs later, regardless if that success comes in the form of an illustrious plaque or just a juicy red apple.



"Choosing a major in education, or an education-related field such as public and recreation, prepares you for a challenging and rewarding career in teaching, counseling, administration, or training. Join us and make a difference!"

*-Linda Blanton
Dean*



"The purpose that I am here is to learn how to teach English to apply this back to Mexico"

*-Ramon Rivera
Graduate*



"I love children, that's what persuaded me to become a teacher"

*-Inella Hester
Senior*



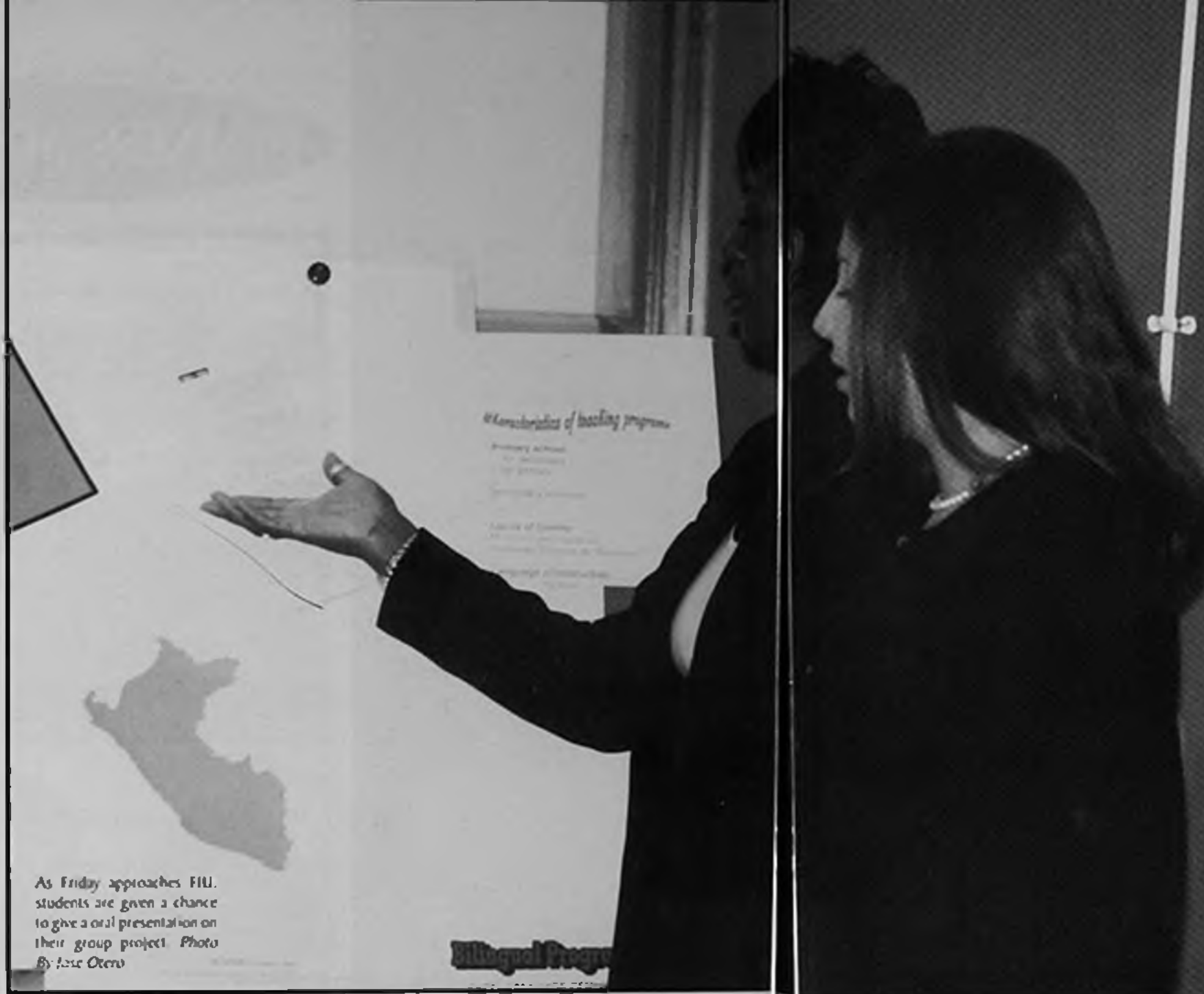
"I am going to be doing my graduate studies in languages to help immigrant students in Miami by the year 2000"

*-Edwin Garcia
Senior*

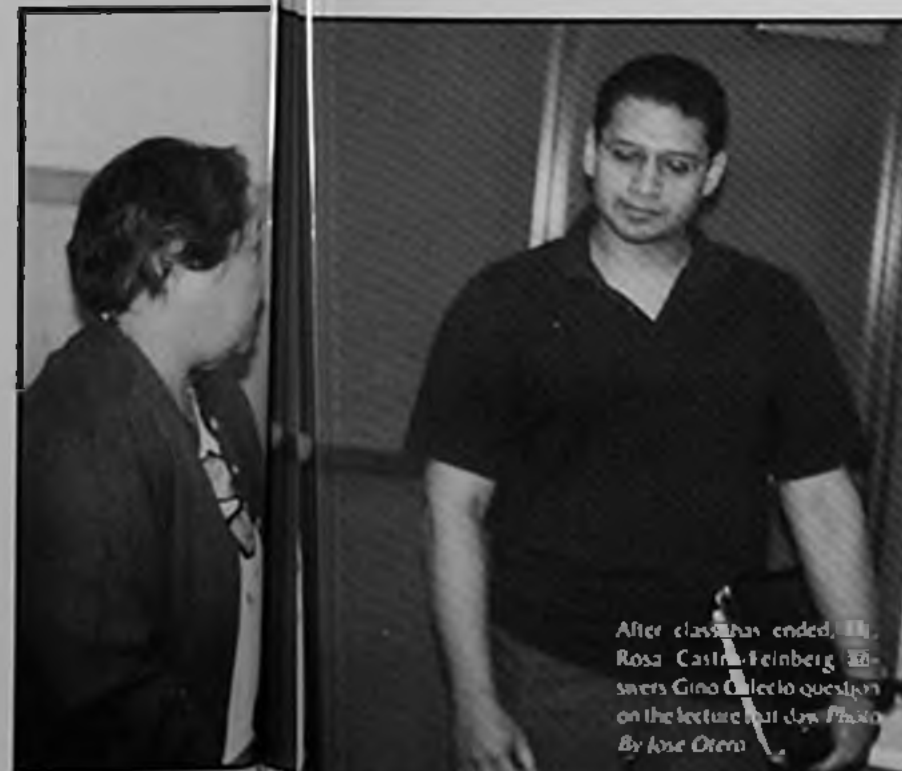


Right before finals, senior Nicholas Mandville finishes working on his portfolio project. Photo By Jose Otero

Deep into thought, senior Javier Acosta finishes his portfolio in the computer lab in the Education building. Photo By Jose Otero



As Friday approaches FIU, students are given a chance to give a oral presentation on their group project. Photo By Jose Otero



After class has ended, Rosa Castro-Feinberg answers Gina Coleto question on the lecture that day. Photo By Jose Otero



After several hours at work, senior Paula Peralta completes her portfolio project on the computer. Photo By Jose Otero

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES

Pre-wired for success...

By Cassandra Caballero

More than 1,500 enrolled students in FIU are presently majoring in what has been judged "the number one best profession in the world." This is due perhaps, much in part to the job market's great demand for engineers and the extravagant salaries offered to obtain them. But inevitably, it is this career's high level of satisfaction that motivated most graduates. Lego Leagues and robotic wars are just some of the innovative projects blasting off from the launch pad known as the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

U.S. FIRST, a high school competition of engineering robotics that culminates at Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida, is one example of these inventive projects. High schools from all over the U. S. work in teams to construct their own robots. Then, in a three-arena setting, these same robots are pit against each other in an exciting game of offense and defense. The college heavily supports this competition and similar projects by providing participants with free consulting, lab equipment, multi-media presentation, actual labs to work on their respective machines and a university hosted regional competition. For example, the Ramtech Robotics Team is composed of faculty and students from both Miami Coral Park Senior High as well as Florida International University. This team and many like it were founded in the hope that these types of programs could act as a virtual gateway for students to explore subjects like math, science and technology.

A vital component in keeping the mainframe of these beneficial operations from short-circuiting is the charitable time, energy, and effort exerted behind the scenes by many generous volunteers. One such volunteer is project coordinator Nola Garcia, who is selflessly devoted to this cause and spends most of her time either promoting these competitions or recruiting high school students to participate in them. It is therefore, little surprise that Mrs. Garcia's greatest aspirations for the kids involved in these programs is invariably one in the same with the college's ambitions for all its enrolled students. The goal is simply that every student allow the engineering aspect of themselves to be exposed and brighten this world, for there is a "solution finder" in all of us just waiting to shine, no batteries included.

During an experiment in the School of Engineering, FIU students use the laser beam machine in the Laser Laboratory. Photo By Jose Otero



Working side by side, senior Shawn Bernard and junior Donna Grell finish up their assignment before going to their next class. Photo By Jose Otero

Working on one of many engineering projects, this student works a robotic research project. Photo By Jose Otero



"I decided to major in Mechanical Engineering because of my love for designing mechanical tools and equipment"
-Shawn Bernard
Senior



"I decided to major in Electrical Engineering because of the interest I have in communications and electronics"
-Iñaki Inturbe
Senior



"We are trying to get the First Lego-Legos into the school system. We are to work less on putting a professional Lego league table at the May 15 competition so that the kids in the middle school can get as excited about it as the teachers and us, you know this is my school"
-Nola Garcia
Faculty



"I decided to major in industrial engineering because of its broad application in the different types of industries"
-Walfred Simons
Senior



Testing out the new brain wave computer program, these students convert brain waves to guide computers. Photo By Jose Otero



During the Robotics competition in Disney World, students from all over the USA compete in making robots. Some students from local high school such as Coral Park participate in this activity thanks to the School of Engineering. Photo By Nola Garcia

HEALTH SCIENCES

A calling to cure...

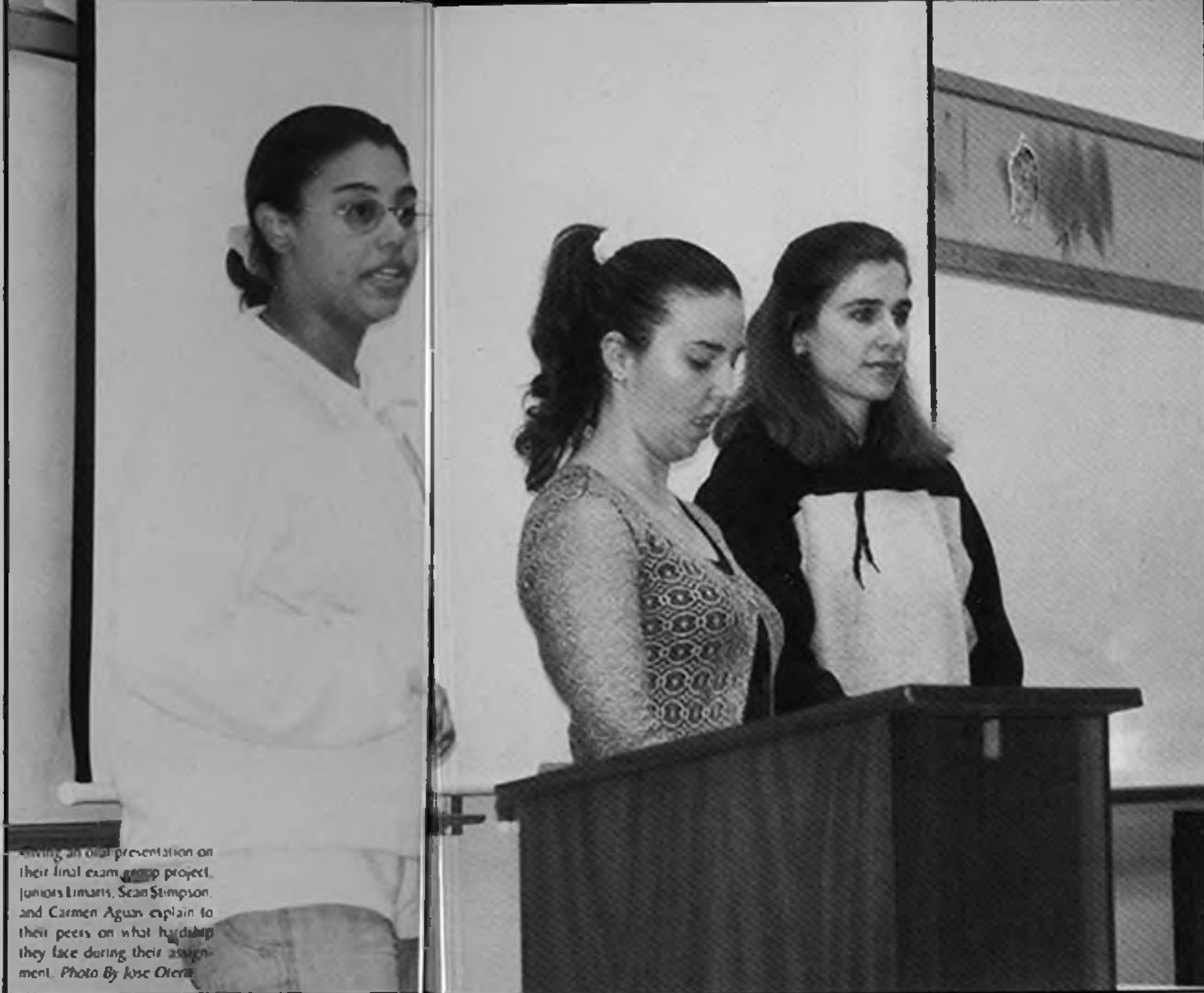
By Cassandra Caballero

Students enrolled in the College of Health Sciences won't have to wait for graduation to put their knowledgeable skills to the test. One of this school's very goals is to provide students with clinical settings which would enable them to experiment freely and improve their level of training. Another unique aspect of this school is that the process of learning is meant to be a shared experience. For example, both faculty and staff members devote much of their time and effort on research that will benefit the various programs, so in other words, students are not the only ones busy with homework.

Continuing with the running theme shared by the university as a whole, the College of Arts and Sciences takes advantage of a simple truth: South Florida is a "dynamic multicultural area."

With that little pearl of wisdom in mind, health students can appreciate the obvious benefits that comes from working in over 300 technologically advanced diverse urban settings.

Taking notes on a video, students from the Occupational Therapy class copy vital information for their final exam. Photo By Jose Otero



During an oral presentation on their final exam group project, Juniors Limaris, Sean Stimpson, and Carmen Aguas explain to their peers on what hardships they face during their assignment. Photo By Jose Otero



Giving Occupation Therapy one thumb up, this student agrees that even college has its hard times. Photo By Jose Otero



Intigued by the different toys and objects in the Occupation Therapy class, senior Colleen Murray experiments with the different products. Photo By Jose Otero

Listening tentatively to his fellow peers, junior Pedro Machin anticipates for his group to be called next for their presentation. Photo By Jose Otero

"I like to help people come over their challenges be it physical and mental"
-Fernando Miranda
Junior



"I got into Occupation therapy because I felt I can benefit people in the rehab setting and I feel that I'll do a good job preparing me as a professional!"
-Wendy Sines
Senior



"I like to become a OT to help disabled people to live a better life"
-Ulbert Adega
Junior



"I got into Occupation Therapy to benefit people in various"
-Paola Apaza
Senior



HONORS

Truly a league of their own...

By Cassandra Caballero

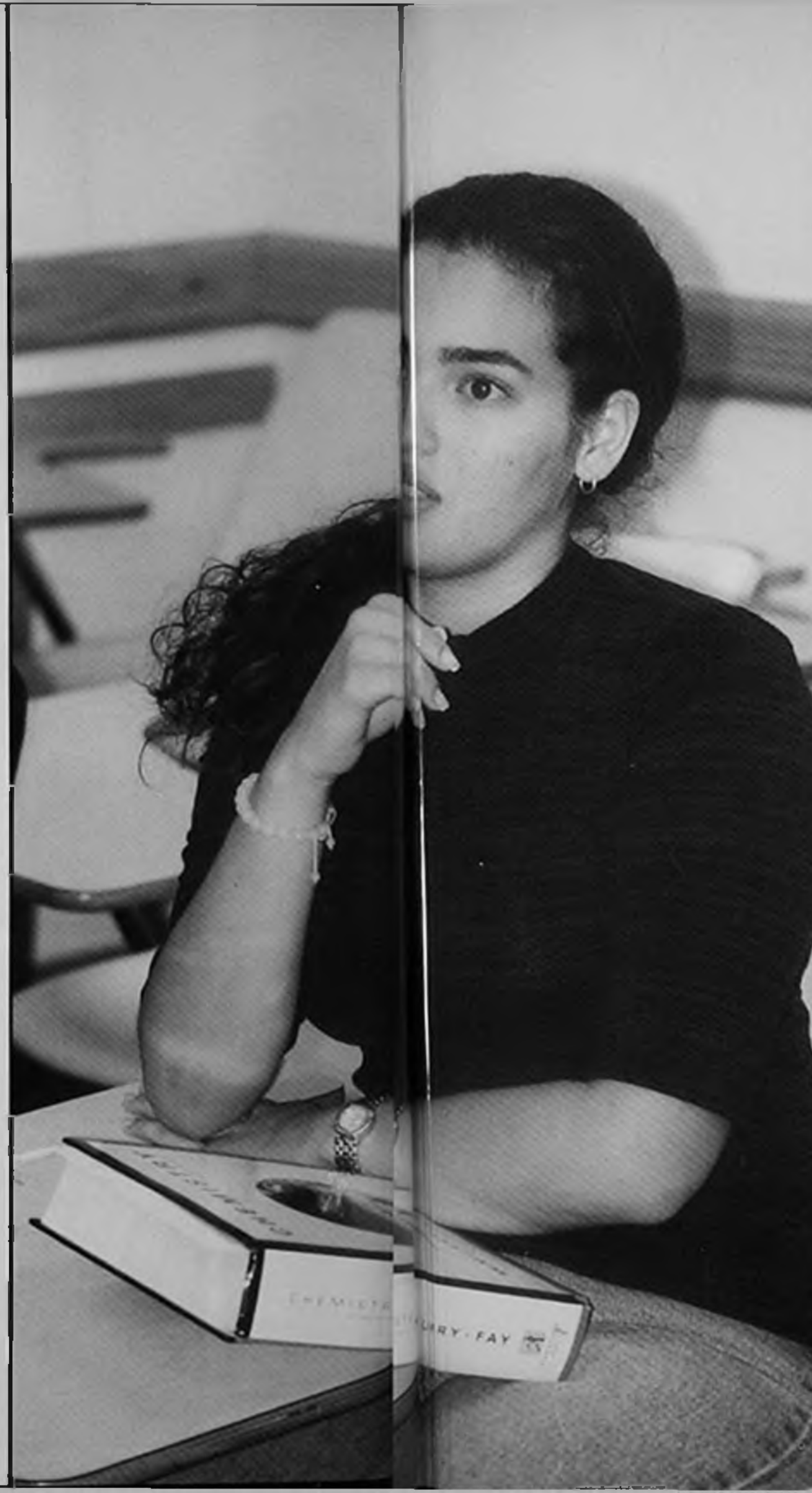
Webster's dictionary defines the word "honor," as high regard or respect. But, for FIU's Honors College, the word honor refers to tradition, as in a tradition of students whom have proven that with hard work, dedication and pride, one can excel beyond even the most stellar of expectations. Exemplifying this prestigious heritage of success best, is the recently established Faculty Advisory Board whose membership is comprised of faculty who is both old and new to the Honors College.

Nearing the college's tenth year and offering what most call "only the very best in undergraduate education," this college with its over 500 members has newly initiated an extensive internship program, as well as expanded its study abroad options to better serve its students. Seniors can even opt to have beautiful Italy as the scenic backdrop for their summer studies via this innovative study abroad program.

They will not only have satisfied their six-credit requirement for graduation, but also have experienced the delights of such wonders as the Roman forum, the Vatican and the Renaissance cities of Florence and Pisa, to name a few.



Laughing with Professor Bill Besting, freshmen Jean Haskins, Shelton Goff, and Leslie Morris prove that even honor students can kid around. Photo By Jose Otero



Listening attentively to Professor Bill Besting, freshman Johanna Rodriguez pays attention to his lecture. Photo By Jose Otero

During one of his Honor classes, Professor Bill Besting lectures to his students on current news events. Photo By Jose Otero



"The Honors College nurtures the brightest students in a large urban university. It offers them tools of inquiry for the long haul."
Stephen M. Fyellman
Associate Dean



"I believe it should be more challenging."
Nichelle Legendre
Freshman



"This class allows us to be creative."
Cresto Cajigas
Freshman



"It allows us to expand our opinions. Aesthetics, Value and Authenticity."
Aida Lopez
Freshman



Giving an oral presentation to her class, freshman Alysia Robinson explain her project on the Psychology of Genocide. Photo By Jose Otero

During a class group assignment, freshmen Mike Smith and David Pulgar reenact different scenes from a movie they watched before class started that day. Photo By Jose Otero



HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Serving up excellence to the next millennium...

By John Otero

The demand for Hospitality Management has increased abundantly with the boom of tourism all over the world and especially here in South Florida. This curriculum was originally instated twenty-seven years ago when FIU first opened its doors in 1972, but since that time it has grown into one of the nation's top-rated hospitality management programs recognized by industry leaders nationwide. Alumni from the first graduating classes are now achieving corporate leadership and executive positions with major lodging companies, food service groups, cruise lines, and tourism organizations.

The school of Hospitality Management is now located in FIU's North campus in its prestigious two hundred acres and simulates a resort like setting which is instrumental in creating just the right ambiance. Hospitality Management offers both Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as certificate programs that employ hands on experience within a classroom setting. This unique experience allows students to receive the myriad of skills, techniques, and knowledge that better prepare each individual to achieve their personal goals in the hospitality industry. The school has created internship programs with industry executives that bestow students with the opportunity to utilize hotels, resorts, restaurants, clubs, airlines and travel agencies as practice labs for their preferred field. The advanced phase of this internship will also provide students with a structured management training that is not normally available to them until he or she enters the field after graduation.



"I discovered I really enjoy interacting with students and conducting research"
*-Joseph West
Dean*



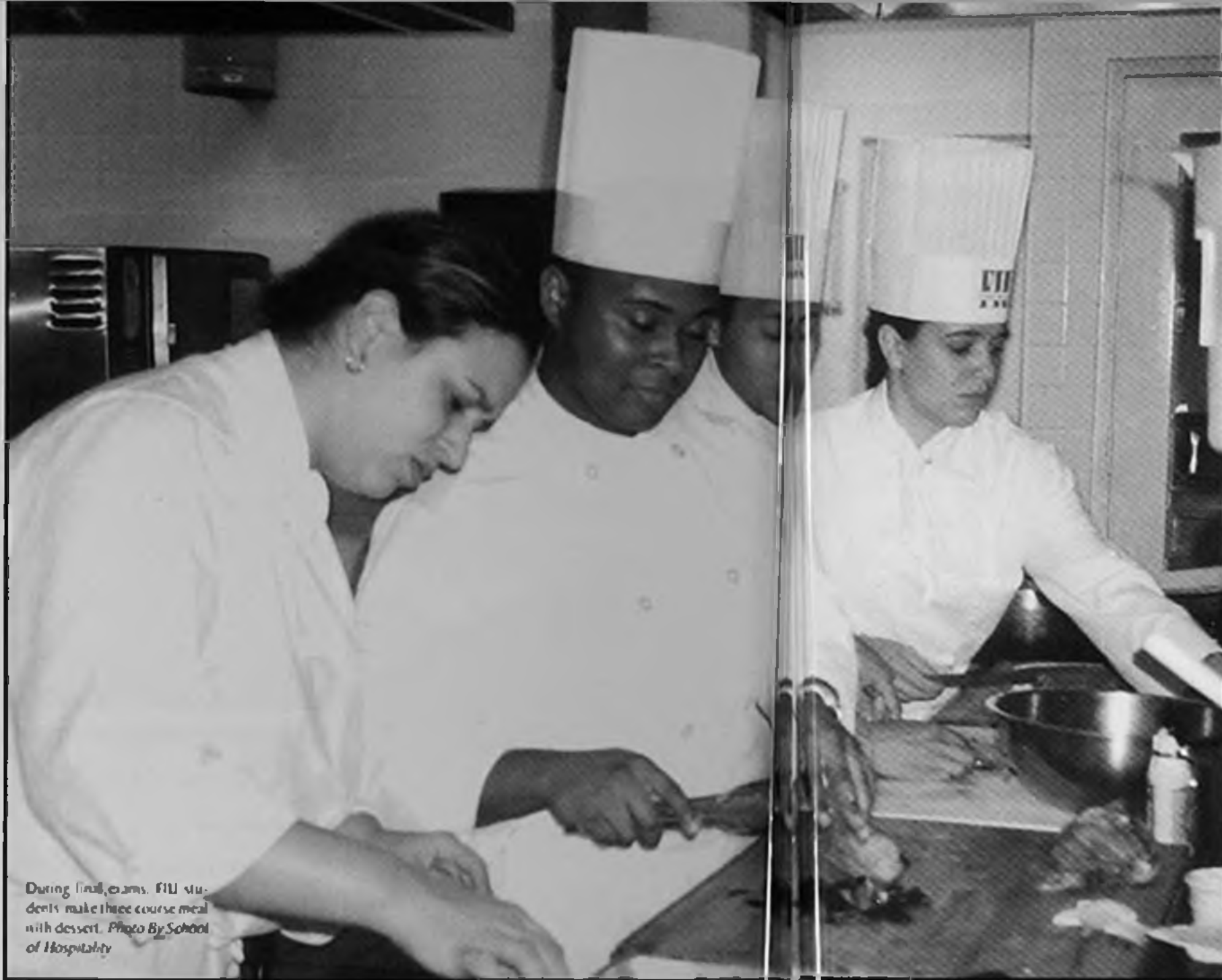
"It's challenging to work with people, but it is also fun"
*-Sharon Wong
Senior*



"Great food! Meeting great people! Having a great career! That is what hospitality is about!"
*-Kevin Fowler
Senior*



"My personal life Hospitality is indescribable!"
*-Virginia Tetlow
Senior*



During final exams, FIU students make three course meal with dessert. *Photo By School of Hospitality*



After cooking different dishes, senior Avital Harel cleans all the utensils before she leaves for the day. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Cutting out different chunks of frozen pork, this student prepares the meat to be sauteed in garlic sauce. *Photo By School of Hospitality*



Watching
goggles and wet
tires are coming out.
Photo By Jose Otero



After class ends at North Campus, students from the school of Hospitality Management are seen coming out of their classrooms. *Photo By Jose Otero*

JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

By Cassandra Caballero

They say, "practice makes perfect," and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication proves it's no exception. Today, students can expect to be exposed to superior hands on training, along with courses that assess and improve their writing ability by vigorously reinforcing basic grammatical skills. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication has no qualms about what goals they set for themselves as well and have always been very vocal about one in particular which is "preparing professionals." A professional, according to the school is an individual who has successfully mastered not only the underlying theory, but the practice of journalism itself, thus allowing for educated, independent and focused, bias-free reporting.

Creating the "professional" journalism is the mission of the school of journalism and mass communication. With thousands of students emerging in this field, it is only the best of the best who receive the opportunity of becoming a star.

"The professors really push us hard in class and challenge us to do whatever we can to get ahead in the field. They stress the importance of experience, patience, and commitment in the field of journalism," Junior, Chris Font said.

With the distinguished status that comes from running an accredited program whose emphasis is placed mainly on quality, the school of journalism and mass communication truly reflects the miscellaneous components that are involved in preserving an acclaimed reputation.

Making certain she has the best plays included, senior Betsy Sanchez edits a college football game for her broadcasting class. Photo By Jose Otero



On the Journalism and Mass Communication bulletin board, senior Bard Levnik looks for upcoming events and class openings for the next semester. Photo By Jose Otero

Working hard on a late Friday afternoon, senior Jonathan Goldberg helps other students in the Grammar Lab. Photo By Jose Otero



"We are the newest, dynamic school at a new, dynamic university. But we have already graduated two Pulitzer Prize winners. Want to reach the top? Come talk to us!"
-J. Arthur Hesse
Dean



"Getting paid while learning, and throwing off the adrenaline!"
-Marius Stevens
Senior



"I have always loved to write and Journalism gives me the opportunity to do what I love!"
-Bobby Meadows
Senior



"Since I was young it has been my passion and I have always dreamed of being an advertiser!"
-Lena Morano
Junior



During the filming of a show, seniors Dayana Bennette and Betsy Sanchez practice their scripts before going on the air. Photo By Jose Otero



Computers help students improve their writing. Senior Sergio Giusti takes his grammar test. Photo By Jose Otero

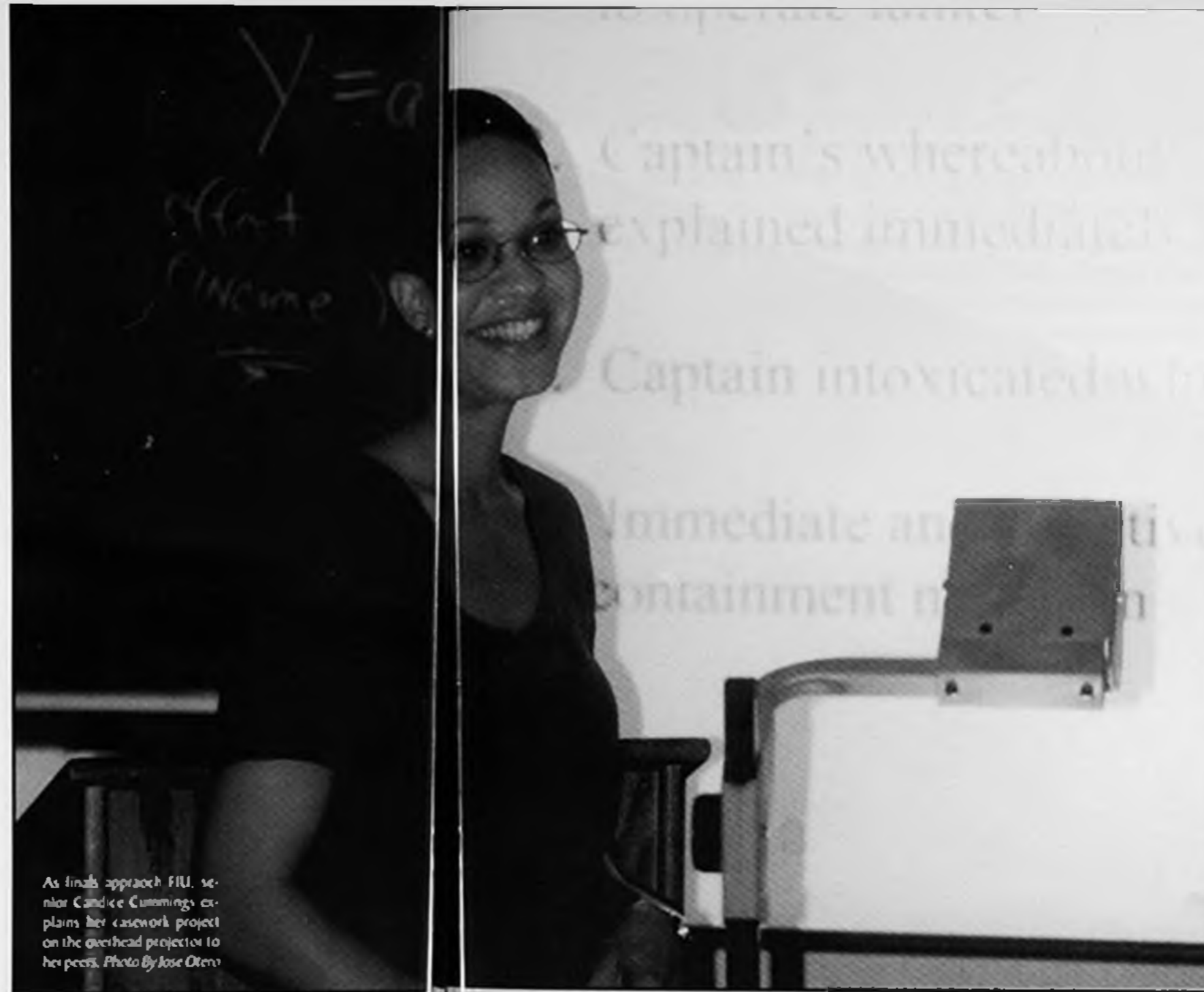
URBAN & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

To serve and protect...

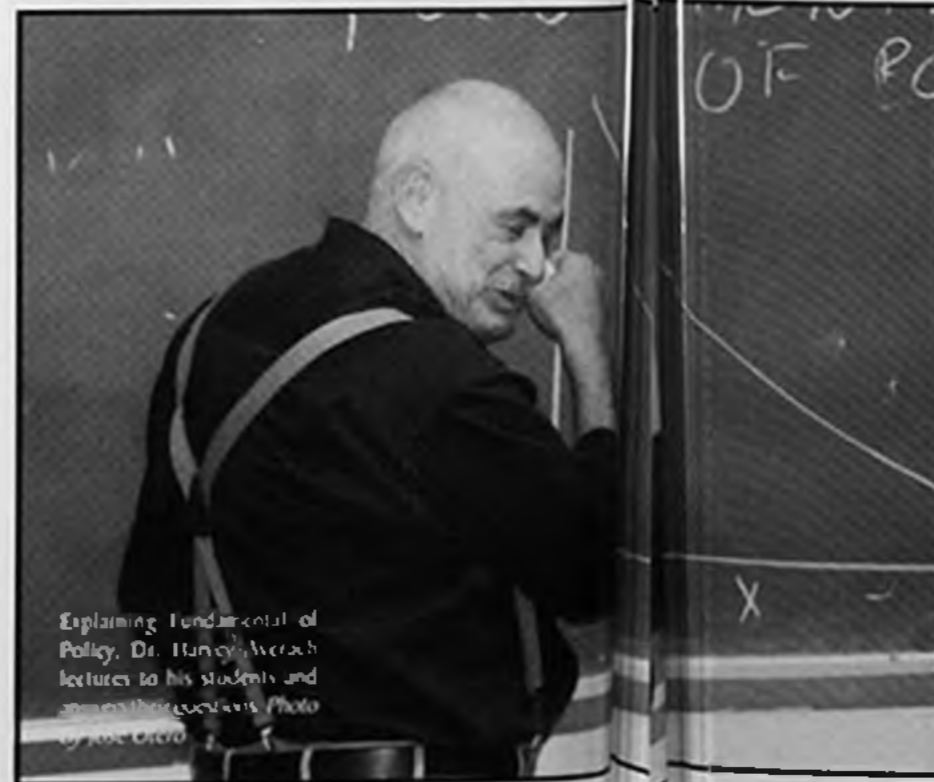
By Cassandra Caballero

CUPA, or the College of Urban and Public Affairs, which was formally established in 1994, evolved from its original predecessor, the School of Public Affairs and Service. Even today, the college is broken down into two schools: The School of Policy and Management and the School of Social Work. The College has such a strong desire to see its respective students succeed that like many of the schools in this university, it has outlined a mission statement. This seems ideal because it encourages new applicants and reinforces currently enrolled students by allowing them firsthand knowledge of what they can expect from these programs, as they view for themselves the school's detailed objectives. One of the points made clear by these objectives is the importance the College places on teaching students how to widen their views to include a more global understanding of their social environment, which is no doubt, essential for tackling even the most minor of urban challenges. To further this cause and improve the community, the school has made several adjustments for both minorities and working students by increasing their educational opportunities, thus opening doors to a career driven society that many believed they had long been shut out of.

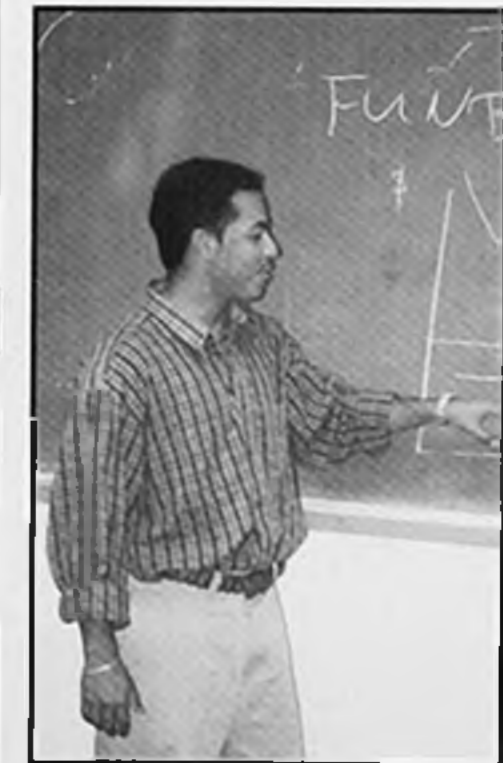
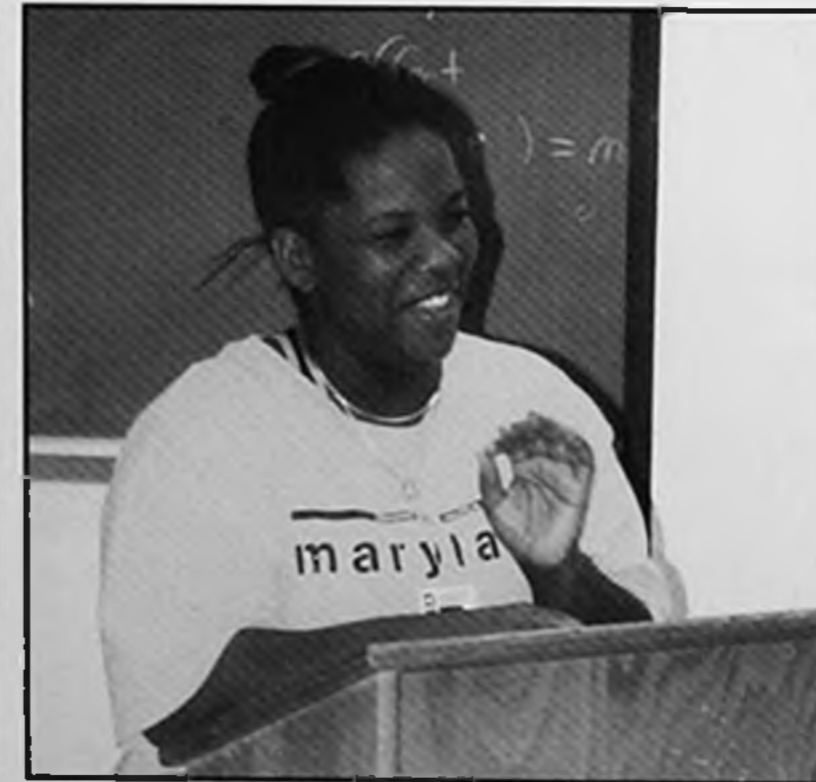
During open house for the graduate students, different tables were set up throughout the Graham Center for each of its respective schools. Photo By Jose Otero



As finals approach FIU, senior Candice Cummings explains her casework project on the overhead projector to her peers. Photo By Jose Otero



Explaining Fundamental of Policy, Dr. Hancey Averach lectures to his students and answers their questions. Photo by Jose Otero



Trying to explain the universal graph to his peers, junior Rolando Lara attempts to cover all the areas of the graph. Photo By Jose Otero

Giving an oral presentation on her casework project, junior Eliza Mykoo presents different types of casework to her fellow peers. Photo By Jose Otero

"The College of Urban and Public Affairs is educating a new generation of public service professionals and creating partnerships to strengthen the metropolitan area"
-Ronald Berkman
Dean



"I picked P.A. as my major because it gives me lots of opportunities to give to the public as a whole"
-Candice Cummings
Junior



"I picked Public Administration because it allows me to consider all angles when it comes to the needs of the public"
-Jason Shore
Senior



"I choose to study the field of P.A. because I have a passion for being an advocate for the public good"
-Eliza Mykoo
Senior

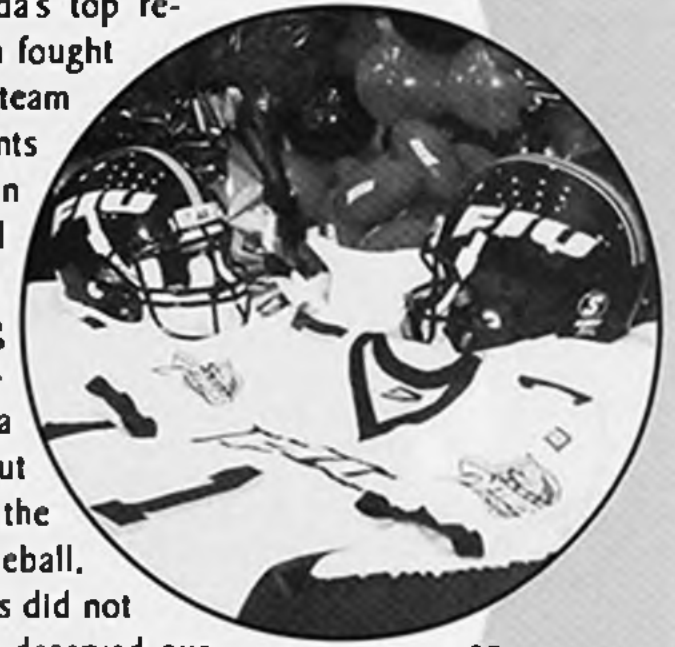


THIS TIME



AROUND...

Sports at FIU this year took on a whole new attitude as student involvement climbed to new levels. While students gathered together to support their teams, they learned the true meaning of strength and perseverance. Alumni filled the stands in order to bring sustenance to our nine lady teams. Crowds grew as each new game of the season approached. Stands were no longer empty; enthusiasm and excitement reached new heights with the encouragement of the Cheerleaders and Dazzlers. School spirit and campus life became the uniting goal as students rallied together in support of the Golden Panther teams, and spurred them onto victory. FIU athletics flourished in many ways this season, both for men and women. Baseball and soccer both had exciting seasons, as did the rest of the university's teams. From golf and volleyball, players were filled with dedication and determination as they surged forward to becoming some of Florida's top respected teams. As the men's basketball team fought its way up, the lady Panthers track and field team crossed the finish line with top scores. Students were especially excited to hear about the soon to be addition of Golden Panther football team. While the Board of Regents met in May, students sat anxiously awaiting this exciting news. Hours of practice, hard work and determination all brought pride to our school as a whole. Although men's tennis and golf were cut in the fall, they overcame new challenges in the areas of soccer, cross-country, basketball, baseball, and track. When the going got tough, players did not give up. Difficult games and new strategies deserved our applause. Even the loss of an athletic director and new budgetary constraints did not dilute the hopes of let team members or supporters. In fact, hopes ran high as FIU climbed to the top. Their dedication was admired and their goals reached with pride. When victory passed us by, heads were still held high with the knowledge that we gave it our best shot and went out fighting. Spring was filled with new challenges as the baseball team lost its home field advantage. Yet even the move to the Homestead baseball field for all the home games did not dim their amazing spirits. FIU Athletics showed us what it really meant to have dreams come true, and hard work rewarded. This time around, we look back on the memories not only with joy, but also with pride.



-Evelynn Battillo

SPORTS



FIU FOOTBALL



By Derik Deliard

After 27 years of serving as an institution of higher learning, FIU is taking one more step to the mainstream collegiate level. FIU's getting a football team. Although the details are still sketchy, plans are in the works to add a football program to FIU. FIU has already secured a solid foundation for the program. The university has already named Don Strock, a former Miami Dolphins quarterback and former Quarterbacks coach for the Baltimore Ravens as the director of Football Operations. "We needed a proven leader with extensive football experience who could carry our ball and our message to the people of South Florida and who can complete and implement a plan to guarantee FIU football is successful on and off the field from the beginning," FIU President Maidque said to the Beacon. "Don is a man who's never been afraid of a challenge," Paul Gallagher, senior vice-president for business and finance said. "Instead he thrives on it." In turn Strock hired two Football operations assistants to work under him in hopes of helping jump start the program "Bruce has great name recognition down here, having played with the Dolphins, and he knows many of the coaches in the area," Strock said to the Beacon. "Carmen has coached at the colleges and high school levels here and has extensive contact in the football community. Both will make great contributions to our program." FIU has one more step that it must complete before the football team can be come official. The Florida board of Regents must approve the FIU's Football bids. FIU will pursue the bid in May 2000. Both Maidique and Gallagher expect FIU to receive the go ahead. "We didn't get a law school, but we're damn sure going to get a football team," Maidique told the crowd during the FIU football pep rally. "There are two things that will assure approval from the board of Regents: financing and equity which we have." Gallagher told *The Beacon*. Never the less, the prospect of a football team has aroused the interest of many in the FIU community including freshman Ernesto Guevarra, who is looking forward to the opportunity when he could don on the blue and gold of the Golden Panthers. "I can't wait for the opportunity to play football. I've been working out everyday so I can be prepared. I just can't wait for FIU football to begin," said Guevarra.



Coming at you
New Head Football Coach Don Strock addresses the crowd on his plans as the new head coach. His profile as a former professional, local, and famous athlete gave the students a strong foundation and outlook on the program. Photos provided by Campus Life Publications



"It has been a long standing dream that FIU would have a football team. We are close to that dream."

-Mark Rosenberg



"We needed a proven leader with extensive football experience who can carry our ball and carry our message to the people of South Florida and who can complete and implement a plan to guarantee FIU football is successful on and off the field from the beginning"

-President Modesto Maidique



Watching from above, many students and faculty members enthusiastically listen to words from new head Coach Don Strock. Photo By Campus Life Publications



Right before the FIU football pep-rally, different types of FIU football memorabilia could be seen throughout the Graham Center. Photo By Campus Life Publication

During the FIU Football celebration, the new FIU director of FIU's first football team, Don Strock, holds up his new football jersey with President Modesto Maidique. Photo By Campus Life Publications

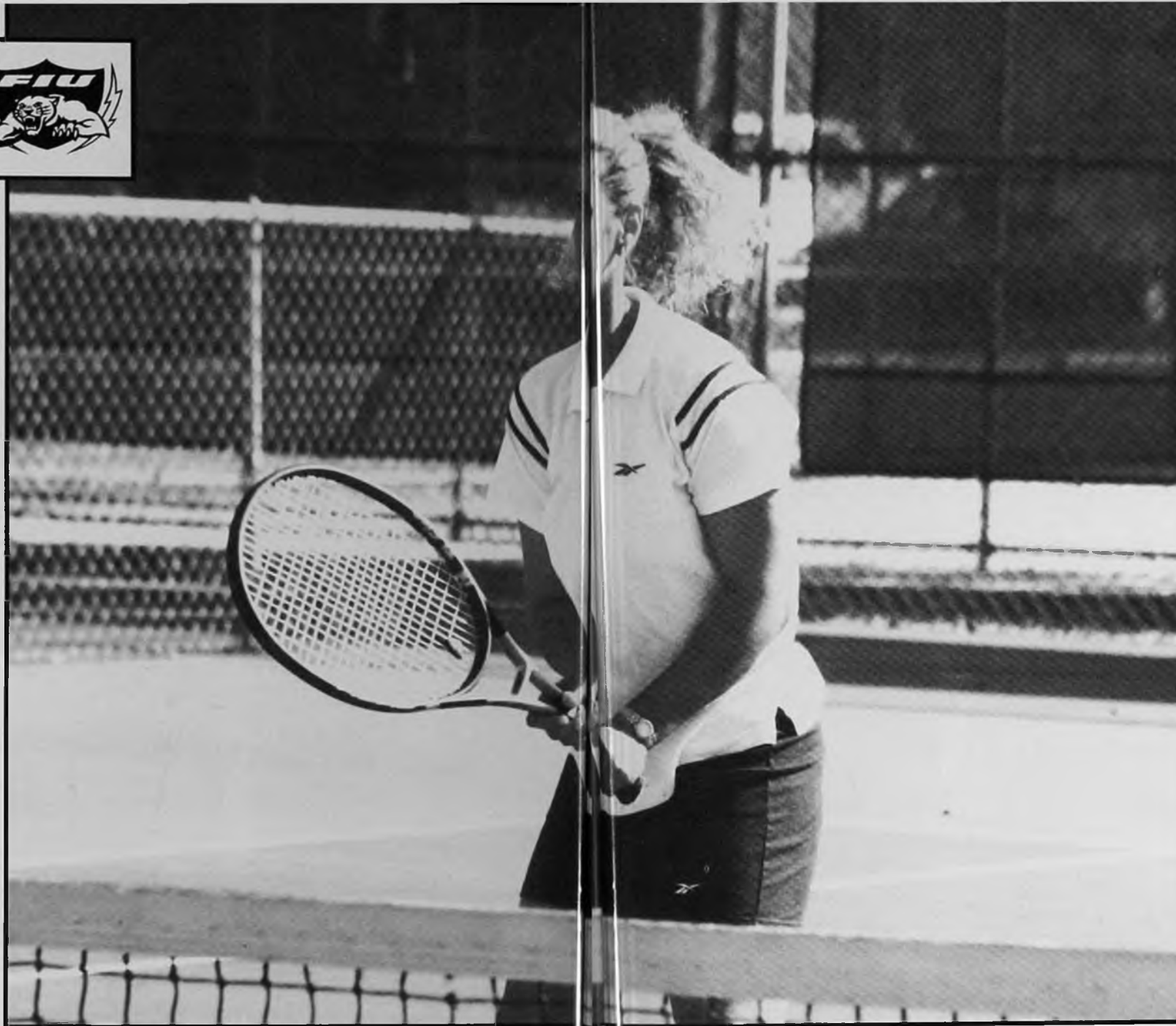


WOMENS TENNIS



By Marlene Sato

With this season, the women's tennis team strives to reach new heights by practicing year round, eight weeks in the fall and 16 weeks in the spring. The girls feel they are in top physical condition. Winning the Sunbelt Conference is the girls' main goal, and if they win, the girls will be able to play in the NCAAs. "The girls have an extremely strong and highly competitive team this year," said Roni Bumstien, head coach of the girl's tennis team. Last season this elite team of girls won the All Conference singles and doubles. The starters for the women's tennis team are Alexandra Guzman and Maria Montoya. Both of these girls have been playing tennis most of their lives. Montoya is originally from Columbia, and has been playing tennis with FIU for a year and a half. The main strength of her game is her consistency, which gives Montoya the upper hand against her opponents. Guzman's ability to maintain composure during a match gives her the edge in her game. When watching Guzman on the court, as the game becomes more tense, her game strengthens. New to the team is promising athlete Annelisse Rose, who has great ability on the court. She accepted the opportunity to play for FIU not only because of its great sports program, but for the simple reason that FIU offered her area of study. One thing that all the girls on the team can boast about is their great academic achievement, as well as holding the top position out of all FIU sports athletes.



Practicing on her back hand swing, sophomore Nazly Elsawaf makes sure that she will have it down pack before their next game. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Using much strength and precision, senior Marine Nizri makes sure that she delivers the final winning point during her match against her opponent. *Photo By Jose Otero*



"Our goal is to win the conference"

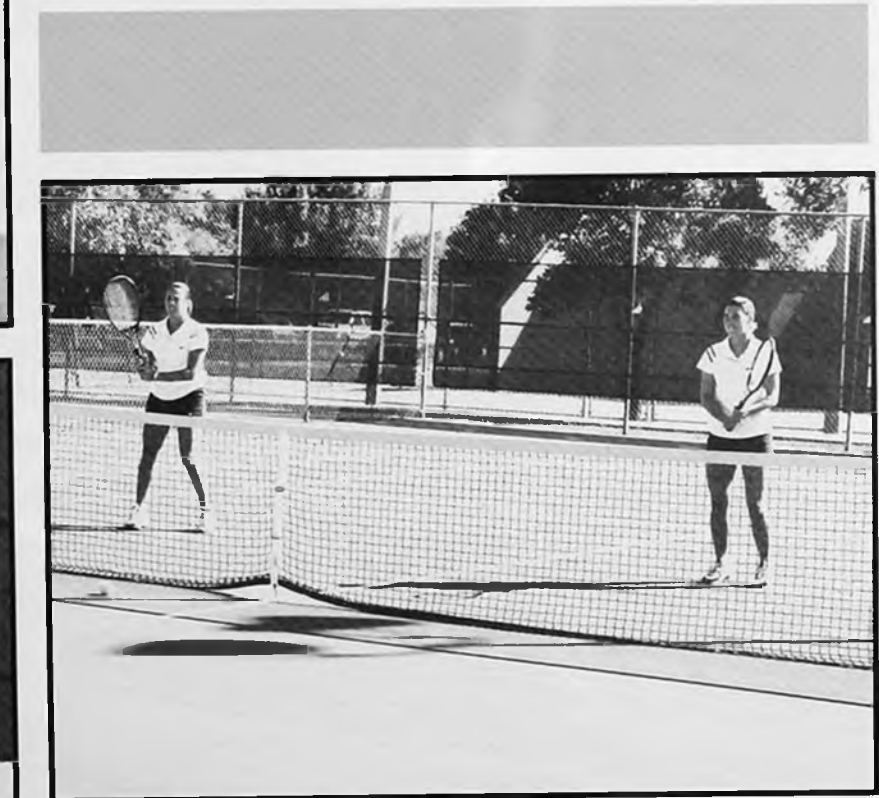
-Mariana Faustinelli

"I have work hard to reach where I am today"

-Alexandra Guzman



Top Row Alexandra Guzman, Mariana Faustinelli, Nazly Elsawaf, Marine Nizri, Anneliese Rose Back Row Maria Montoya, Carola Garcia, Karolee Jones, Coach Ronni Bernstein



During one of their warm up exercises, junior Carola Garcia and sophomore Karolee Jones practice on their back hand swing before getting ready to play. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Preparing to serve the ball, sophomore Anneliese Rose gets ready to score yet another point for FIU. *Photo By Jose Otero*



WOMENS VOLLEYBALL



By Derik Deliard

The final record of the FIU women's Volleyball Team (6-22) will not reflect well on the new changes that was made to improve their team. But this season did not go in vain, and in the future it will serve as a stepping stone for new things to come for the FIU Women's Volleyball program. Prior to this season, the seeds for change were planted by FIU appointing former Miami Dade and Westminster Academy Coach Dulcie "Cookie" Stevens as its new head coach. Stevens was the fifth head coach named in Golden Panther History for Women's Volleyball. FIU hopes that her winning ways at Miami Dade, eight consecutive championships and two Southern Conference Crowns can eventually turn this fledgling program around. The season prior to Stevens, the Golden Panthers were 4-21. "I want the girls to have a commitment to excellence and a sense of pride in what they do. The bulk of the team is young, so they will primarily add to the defense and ball control, which are major weaknesses," Stevens said to *The Beacon*. "Right now, our weaknesses seem to be poor fundamentals and ball control. I'm trying to develop some ground work in technique, foot work and basic fundamentals to improve the team's play," Stevens added. The team responded mentally to Stevens' challenges despite the hardships of the season. "This year, things are more intense," Susan Moleski said to *The Beacon*. "There is a lot of hard work, and we're learning what discipline is all about. The coaching staff brings lots of structure and discipline, and we are putting a lot more heart in what we are doing," Captain Jessica Andreolas told the *Beacon*. "Cookie wants 120 percent from us and if we give her that then she can produce." Another step that the program was able to make was the accomplishments of Andreolas. Andreola set a new FIU record with 920 kills in her career. She broke Melanie Krupowicz's record of 918 kills. Andreolas' accolade brought praise from her coach. "Jessica is our money player and we need her to play well to have any chance at winning," Stevens told the *Beacon*. "I am excited to break the record. It was one of my many goals since my freshman year," Andreolas said.

"A year of learning fundamental techniques"

-Kristy Pesanti



"Adjusting to new leadership took time, but in the long run I was able to manage."

-Tracey Gaver



During a game, athletic trainer Christina Rodriguez helps injured player junior Tracey Gaver recover from her accident. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Making sure that FIU scores, senior Jessica Andreolas serves the ball while freshman Meg Birch comes from behind. Photo By Geoff Anderson



During an intense play, senior Jessica Andreolas protects the ball while Gianna Brown-Steele makes the winning point. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Bottom Row: Kristen Lewis, Sarah Seyedkazemi, Meg Birch, Panny Gauer, Iris Gonzalez. Top Row: Heather Foster, Lisa Schwartz, Gianna Brown-Steele, Anita Cuff, Jessica Andreolas, Jill Rokosik, Melissa Byrus, Susan Moleski, Kristy Pesanti, Kristy Andreolas. Photo By Jose Otero

At a soccer game Matt Holstege runs to help injured player number 14 Julian Martinez with a leg cramp in the second half of a game. *Photo By Jose Otero*



ATHLETIC TRAINERS

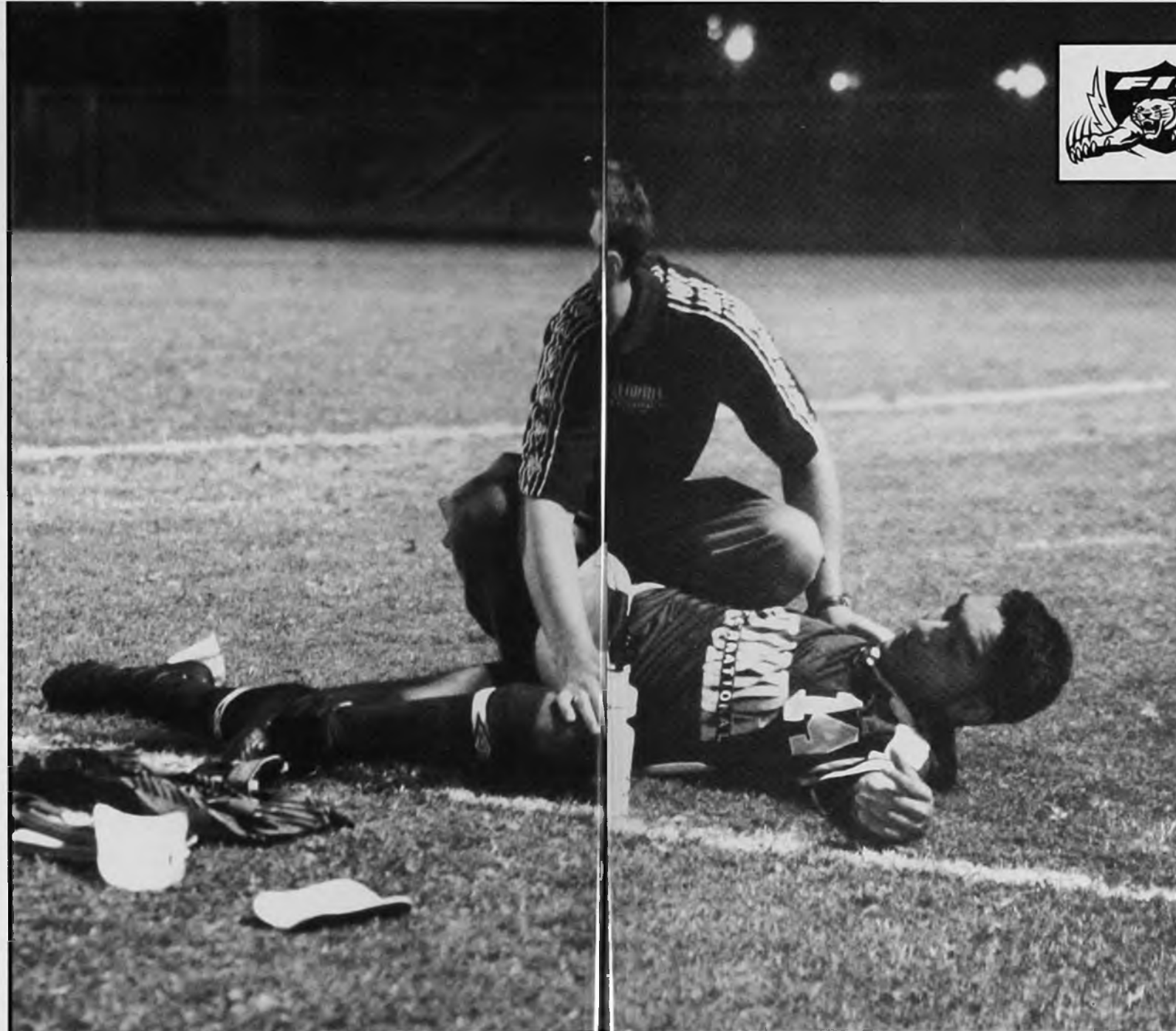


“There is nothing like helping out an athlete when they are injured”

-Natasha Cuervo

“Being an Athletic Trainer has helped me tremendously in pursuing my career”

-Lana Walters



By Isabel Garces

Have you ever wished that you had someone to help you when you were injured? FIU Athletic trainers dedicate their time to injured athletes. Julie Berg head Athletic trainer, has been running this program at FIU for nine years. She started when she was in College at New York’s Courtland State, and later went into Sports Medicine as a career. “When I first started Athletic training, this wasn’t done in high school,” said Berg “It was mainly in colleges around the U.S.” She also works with the University of Miami’s football program where she worked as a Graduate Assistant. At FIU, they are involved with 15 sports all year round. This program has been running for 27 years since the inception of FIU. Every year the Athletic trainers go to compete at a competition called the Sunbelt. This is a competition between different schools and their ability to move quickly and to be able to remain poised under pressure. Every year FIU has placed fifth and next year they hope to better it. Julie Berg’s Assistant Matt Holstege is the trainer for Men’s Soccer and for Men’s Basketball. He started when he was in college and has continued since. He is a graduate of West Oregon University. He maintains accounts with medical associates and insurance companies for the athletes. Berg and Holstege are there to help educate the athletic trainers and the athletes.



Watching as the basketball team players run from one end of the court to the other, Matt Holstege and Monica De La Maza are prepare for anything unexpected. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Helping basketball player Cheryl Moody with her back pains, Natasha Cuevo and Fernando Gamara make sure to comfort her injuries. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Head Athletic Trainer Julie Berg-McGraw, husband Mike McGraw and trainer Avar Cordero are ready to spring into action if any FIU players get injured. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Top Row Matt Holstege Cristina Rodriguez, Andre Tucker, Lana Walters, Caleb Mendez, Christine Mctyre, Al Cordero. *Bottom Row* Julie Berg, Teacy Romozzi, Natasha Cuevo, Sandra Pantoja, Fernando Gamarra



MENS SOCCER



By Derik Deliard

There were many expectations for the FIU men's soccer team this season. After starting last season 4-7, the Golden Panthers turned the season around by winning their last seven games and finishing the season with an 11-7 clip. This season was supposed to continue the strong play of the season before. Coach Karl Kremser described his excitement over this year's team before the season. "If we get off to a good start, we have the opportunity to really create some excitement and get people back in the stands," Kremser said. A part of the excitement that was supposed to accompany this season was the play of David Gely. Kremser depended heavily on his striker's scoring capability. "He's a big, strong individual," Kremser said. "He had a very good spring. He's a guy we've got to get some goals from." Gely hoped that this season would be productive for the team as well. "This year's team has an enormous amount of talent," Gely said. "And the only thing that could prevent us from advancing to (the NCAA tournament) would be getting on a losing streak, as happened last year at the start of the season when we dropped six in a row." But unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, this year's team was marred by the same disappointment that the beginning of last season had endured. But this time, it lasted throughout the season. The positives such as the five victories and strong play by Russel Ureeland and Julian Martinez, who scored his first goal as a Golden Panther this year can not be ignored. Hopefully, according to Kremser, the team can fine tune it's focus and concentrate on winning next year. Kremser has already developed a strategy. "I think at the very least, one of the primary goals since we don't have a conference is to shoot is to get an NCAA bid," Kremser said. "And I think once you get into the bid, then it's a one game season. The ultimate goal is to get to the NCAA's and take it from there."



First Row Left: Danny Camchon, Conor Collins, John Pulido, Juan Rivera, Eddie Testa, Frank Rubio, Na'Ron Akims, Wally Cittenken, Julian Martinez, Hector Ferreyra, Hugh LeeLah, Matias Asorey, Andreas Lindstrom
 Second Row Left: Karl Kremser, Bruno Coasta, Anders Sacomonsen, Benjamin Tocco, Jim Mitchell, Andy Valerison, Stephen Kennedy, Daouda Kante, Sean Barrett, David Gely, Burt Burris, Wendell Cullimore, Kevin Phillipson, Russell Ureeland, John Carroll, Matt Holstege (trainer) Photo By Joe Otero



"It's a great sport and it allows me to make friends and create relationships with my teammates. It's like a fraternity on its own but better."

-Conor Collins



"Playing Soccer is in my blood, there is no other sport I would be a part of"

-Shawn Barrett



Kicking the ball away from the opposing team, senior David Gely passes the ball to another FIU player. Photo By Geoff Anderson



About to make a goal, freshman Ben Tocco shoots around his opponent to score. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Each game enable the players to display their skills. Freshman Russell Ureeland clearly shows the oposition that FIU is number. The crowd went wild after each exhilarating play. Photo By Geoff Anderson



WOMENS SOCCER



By Derik Deliard

There were many positive accomplishments this season for the FIU Women's Soccer team. Not only did the Golden Panthers finish the season over .500 (a 9-8-1 record) and returning veterans such as Michelle O'Brien play well, but also there was a streak that caught everyone by surprise. Jen Servido, who was hampered by stomach problems earlier in the year, finished the season off with an electrifying scoring streak. Servido scored in each of the last six games for the Golden Panthers. In the women's last game of the season, Servido went scoreless for the first 26 minutes of the game until she finally scored in the 27 minute, preserving the streak.

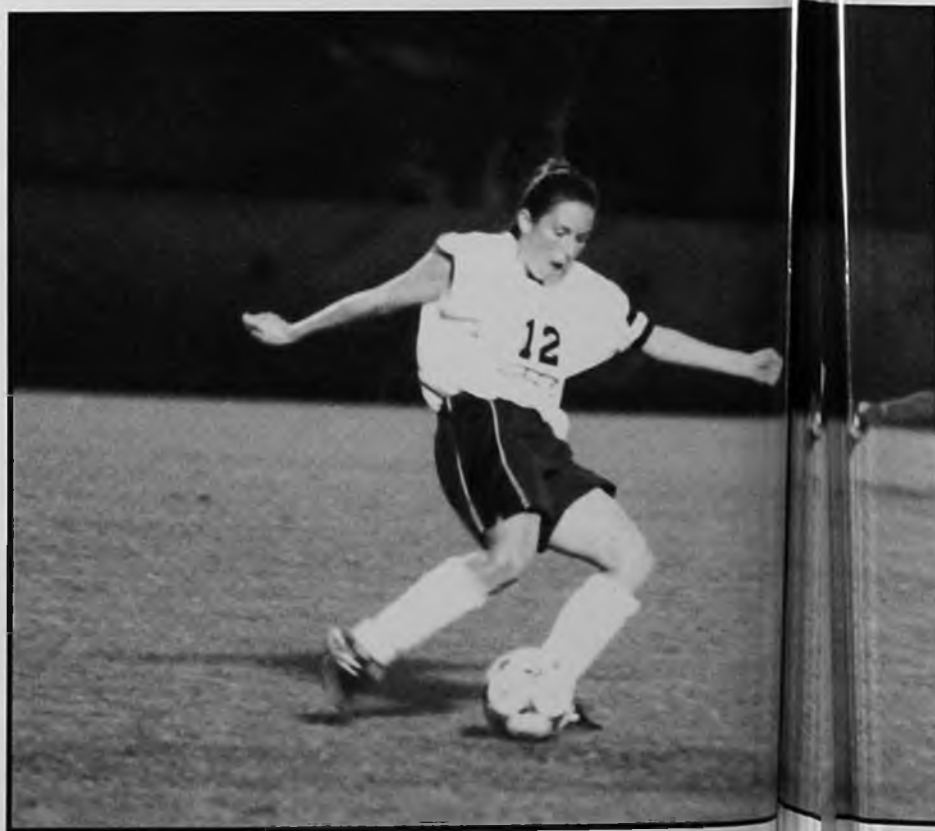
"I wasn't concerned (about the streak)," Servido told the Beacon. "But I did want to score." Servido's streak pretty much described this season for the Golden Panthers. At times the Golden Panthers looked stagnant and lethargic but at the end, the women put on a great show for all that had previously counted them out. But despite the inconsistencies, the team's play could have been worse. Coach Everton Edwards was expecting growing pains in the preseason, before the women started their season.

"I am concerned with the new players learning my system," Edwards told the Beacon "The goalie position was one of my biggest concerns." Throughout Edwards concerns, the players played to their potential and played hard throughout their competitive schedules, one of their toughest in years.

"I wanted to keep the ladies in competition, not that the regular schedule isn't competitive," Edwards told the Beacon. "But I wanted to give some extra incentive."

"A competitive schedule creates a competitive atmosphere, and with 30 players, they had to fight for a position. They don't know who is going to play. The day there is no competitive schedule is the day I quit coaching and playing," Edwards added.

Next season, the Golden Panthers will have hope and incentive to continue to play as well as Servido's scoring streak.



Kicking the ball with all her might, Senior Tracy Romozzi drives the ball down the field to setup a goal. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Using her strategy to keep the ball away from the opposing team, freshman Sara Middlebrook kicks the ball to one of her teammates. Photo By Geoff Anderson



"Determination and dedication was the success of my soccer career"

-Emilia Drogo

"This season we had an ok season but I'm really looking forward to next year. We are getting a few new girls so hopefully we'll make it to the tournament (NCAA)"

-Jen Sevedil



Making sure the ball is kept away from the opposing team, sophomore Michelle O'Brien runs the ball down the field. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Keeping the ball away from the opposing team, Freshman Michelle Torre takes a chance by kicking in a goal. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Top Row Frankie Delgado, Lana Walters, Margery Kraus, Anatasia Martiniuk, Julie Unger, Micko Kabisch, Lorrelle Vascos, Jessica Amisial, Julie Rehberg, Sally Miller, Sarah Middlebrook, Jessica Olivera, Kassey Merritt, Nicole Melow, Corrine Cantanero, Martine Materasso, Richard Pareja Middle Row Katherine Sund, Emilia Drogo, Andrea Peters, Anna Fiorenza, Michele Torre, Coach Everton Edwards, Heoma Dieke, Rosana Lopez, Stephanie Caldwell, Giselle Lopez, Grace Quintanilla Bottom Row Jennifer Servido, Michele O'Brien, Tracey Romozzi, Andrea Kaplan, Heather Slangenaupt, Nicola Bell, Nicole Fernandez, Marsha Torre. Photo By FIU Sports Department



CHEERLEADERS



"Cheerleading is one of the most challenging and unique sports. It's something that you would never understand unless you were a part of it."

-Melissa Viana

"This is my first year on a cheerleading squad and it's been a great experience, full of hard work and fun times."

-Sandra Pastrana

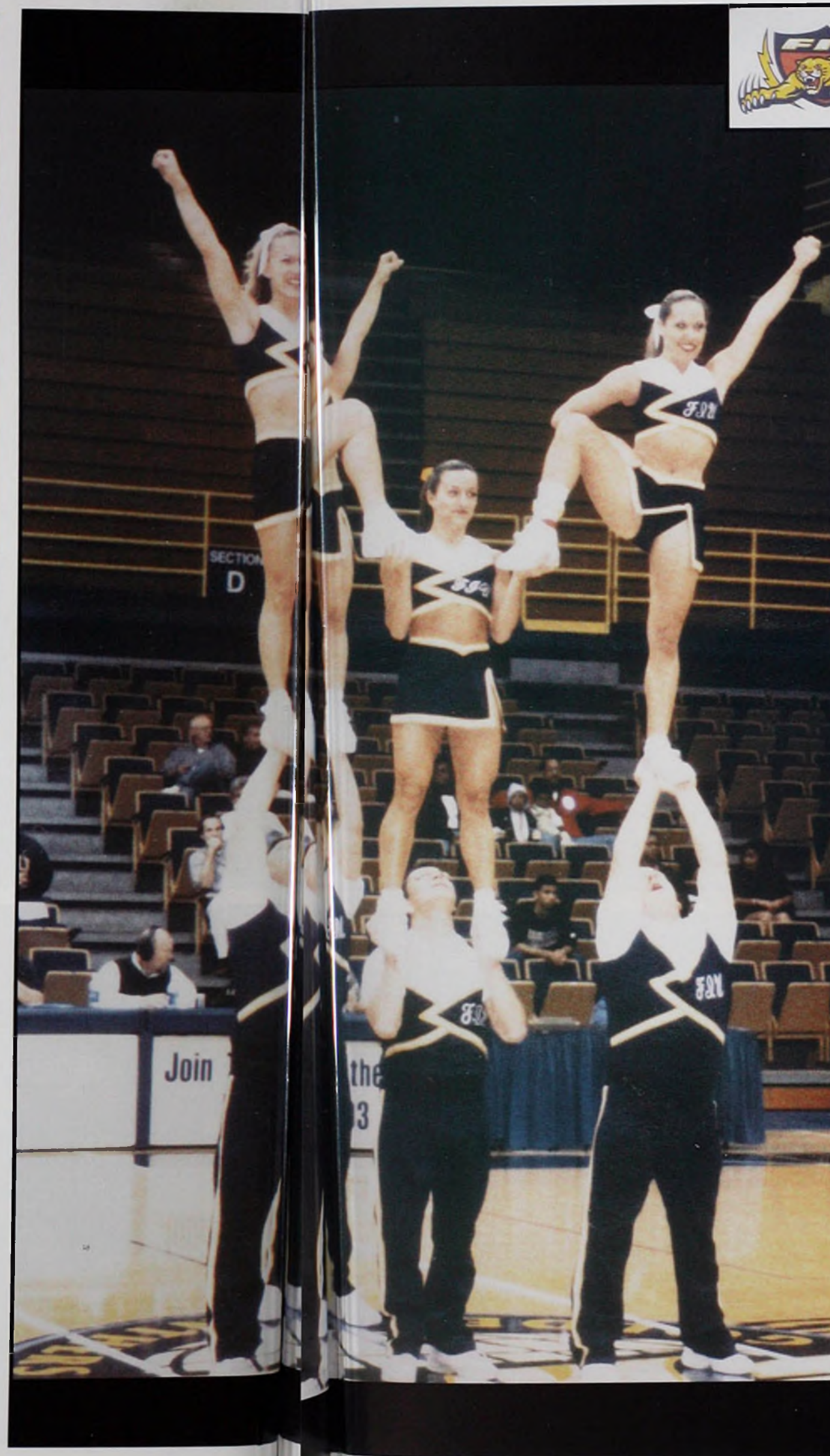


During half time, the FIU cheerleaders entertain the crowd with their amazing stunts and aero dynamic displays. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Balancing each other's weight and making sure of not falling is not as easy as it looks. The cheerleaders practiced long hours until they reach perfection. The crowd enjoyed watching them perform their many stunts, but not many realized the danger involved. *Photo By Jose Otero*



During the last home basketball game in the Golden Panther Arena, the cheerleaders perform a double hinged pyramid for their audience. *Photo By Jose Otero*



By Derik Deliard

Cheerleaders entertain the fans that attend the games. Their job is to get the most out of the crowd. They serve as the buffer between the players and the sixth man, the crowd. Cheerleaders use an assortment of cheers designed to pump up the crowd and to energize the players. The FIU cheerleaders do just that. Their job is to make sure that the growl of the Golden Panther crowd is heard loud and clear.

"A lot of people think that it's easy to stand in front of a crowd as cheerleaders. But it's not," Robert Martinez said. "It takes a lot of creativity and hard work to get the crowd going." This school year, the FIU cheerleaders have been asked to do that continuously. New halftime acts have been called upon to rejuvenate the attendance. Athletic teams resorted to an aggressive campaign in trying to boost attendance.

But there has been one strategy that has stayed the same: the cheerleaders. This year, the cheerleaders have been aggressively keeping the crowd going. They have applied aggressive cheers involving the audience in Golden Panther Arena, holding 'who can cheer the loudest' contests. They also perform during time-outs, carrying out challenging stunts such as scorpions, liberties, basket tosses to boost cheering from the crowd. Other stunts include basket tosses, air besk and tumbling passes.

The players and the crowd have been pleased by the enthusiasm from the cheerleaders. "When you see the crowd pumped, up during the games, it gives the team so much energy," FIU mens basketball coach Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez said. "They really keep us in the games. The depth that they go to enhance fan participation in the game. It's really great. It gives us something to cheer for," freshman Kenneth Fonseca said.



Top Row: Coach-Tiy Fountain, Coach-Domingo Torres, Leo Chavez, Daniel Rotolante, Dennis Smith, Ralph Burgos, Rafael (papo) Frometa, James Aguayo, Coach John Bencomo, Brian Veih, Robert Burns, Felipe Ramirez, Miguel Gonzalez, Coach-Victor Rosario *Middle Row:* Cara Collins, Lauren Gryzkiewicz, Vanessa Socarani, Suzie Ruffino, Lisa Montero, Teena Xenakis *Bottom Row:* Niki Moore, Maressa Trujillo, Melissa Viana, Maria Martinez, Melissa Latza, Sandra Pastrana, Ileana Ceballos *Photo By Jose Otero*

The Cross Country Team members not only raced for the school, but to beat their own records. Endurance and concentration was needed along the way to victory. *Photo By Geoff Anderson*



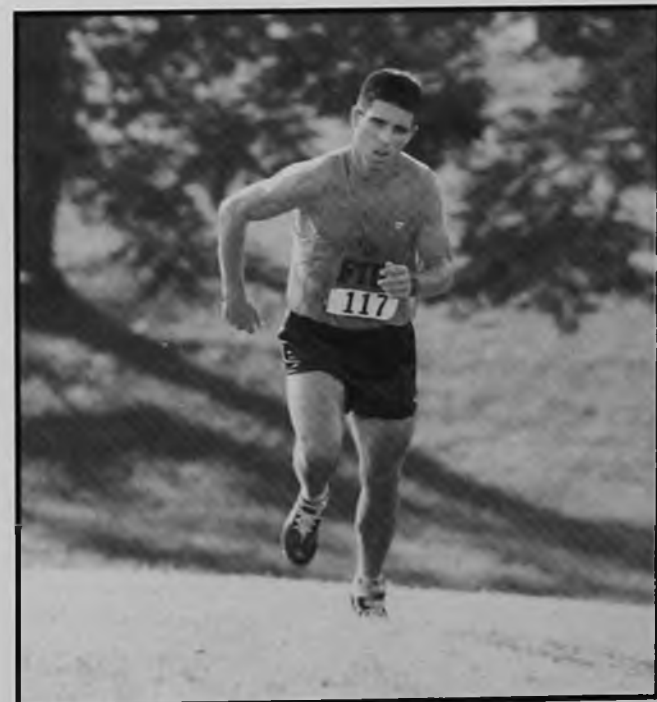
"This year has been a great one" *"Cross Country has been a great experience"*

-Sadie Wells **-Tiffany Cook**



In the lead. Michael Reed surpasses the other opposing team to win for FIU. *Photo By Geoff Anderson*

Keeping it up. Joe Mazzeo maintains his dedication to win the race. *Photo By Geoff Anderson*



On your mark, get set, GO!!! the cross country team surpasses its opponents with training and dedication. *Photo By Geoff Anderson*



CROSS COUNTRY



By Derik Deliard

"Some people had terrific seasons. Nobody could have run better than Gaby. Liz and Rebecca had good seasons," said Mike Becker, assistant coach and former head coach for 13 seasons. There were several bright spots to this season. Michael Reed, the reigning two-time state champion in high school, placed second in FIU finishes, behind teammate Gaby Rodriguez every meet his season. "Michael Reed has gotten off to a good start," said Becker. "He's going to do just fine and he is improving." Reed has obviously met the expectations from his teammates.

The girls had their fair share of freshman power as well. Rebecca Rodriguez, Gaby's sister, carried on the family tradition by running extremely well for FIU. She constantly finished in the upper echelon in the girl's races. "Rebecca has been right on target. She's had a great freshman season," Becker said. "Rebecca ran excellent this season. She's a freshman and she's running like a veteran," Shaw said. Other bright spots this season included the star-strutted performance of Gaby Rodriguez and Liz Borell. Rodriguez has done things for the FIU cross-country program that has been unparalleled by any other runner in the program. Rodriguez has led his team to First place finishes for the past three years. Rodriguez was the first runner from FIU cross-country to be inducted into the Wall of Fame. "It's a tribute to how hard he works and how persistent he is," Becker said.

Borell broke the consecutive streak by Nissen and started her own for the first five meets of the year. "It's hard work paying off," Borell said. "I train pretty hard during the summer. I expected this out of myself. But it's not just me, it's the team."

Next season, the cross-country team hopes that they can carry out this season's goals, which they fell short of accomplishing this year. "We have got to be focused if we want a chance to win," Shaw said. "If we go out there thinking its cake, then we're going to have a hard time. We have to get back and focus on the goals we set at the beginning of this season."



The 1999-2000 Cross Country Team Photo By FIU Athletic Department



DAZZLERS



By Roxana Corzo

As the Sun sets over the University Park Campus, most students are wrapping up a long day of school. However, if you're one of those students that likes to get involved in extracurricular activities here at FIU, your day is not over yet, especially if you're involved in athletics. Walking toward the gymnasium, one will see and hear the sounds of basketballs bouncing off the court, or tennis balls hitting the rackets full force. Flag Football teams will tackle each other and music will sound from the aerobics room. But there's a new noise among all these that one is not used to hearing. It's the voice of a girl yelling at the top of her lungs the eight-count over and over again, as if to keep a rhythm going while trying not to be overshadowed by all the other background noises. One of the latest additions to the FIU Athletic Department doesn't require much roughness and toughness, but instead, more grace. This year, the FIU Dazzlers are spicing up the excitement of watching our home players bring home the gold. Ranging from freshmen to seniors, the 16-member dance team is made up of talented, dedicated and enthusiastic girls, who hope to pep up sport spirit. Because this is the first time in several years the Dazzlers' tradition is reborn, captains Michelle Toral and Paulina Munoz, hope to make their team among the best in the region. To do that, they're first concentrating on building recognition and establishment as a team here at home. "We've participated at Soccer games, we'll perform at Midnight Madness, focus on Basketball games, and also have special appearances like dancing with the Dolphins' Cheerleaders" says Toral. Along with Head Coach Melissa Perez a former Dazzler, and Advisor Brenda Fernandez, a former Dolphin Cheerleader, the girls are working toward refining their technique, style and creativity. One of the challenges of being a brand new team, is the struggling for financial support. SGA and Panther Rage have given the newcomers a boost but: "Support will only come from student participation. The more people come and see us perform, the better it is for us." To become a Dazzler all you have to have is perseverance, personality and rhythm. No previous experience necessary! Every year the team will hold auditions for anyone interested in being part of the team, making new friends and helping the Dazzlers traditions to live on. So, along with other traditions and organizations, the Dazzlers are renewing a tradition which they hope that 'this time around', it's here to stay.



Front Row Dania Dalmay, Michelle Funez, Paulina Munoz, Michelle Toral, Karolina Luna, Carolina Cervera Back Row Alana Vila, Jeannie Graveran, Leslie Morris, Alixandra Rodriguez, Jennifer McMahan, Liz Bello, Mirna Miranda



"Starting a new team is always difficult but thanks to each girls perseverance we were able to successfully complete the year"

-Liz Bello



"They has done a lot and come a long way considering that they did it ontheir own"

-Ingrid Sotelo



At the first basketball game of the season, the Dazzlers entertain the crowds with their dancing skills during the half time show. Photo By Jose Otero



Cheering for the FIU Basketball team, sophomore Paulina Munoz anticipates her performance during half time. Photo By Jose Otero

Performing with grace and precision, Carolina Cervera, Alixandra Rodriguez, and Dania Dalmay impress the crowds with their dancing skills at the Men's Soccer game in October. Photo By Jose Otero

On the court, the players proved to themselves and to others how good they really were. Anita Heller proudly goes all the way to the floor trying to keep possession of the ball.
Photo By Geoff Anderson



"It's been different, of course, but I think I can get used to it"

-Anita Heller

"Hardwork and dedication pays off at the end"

-Laura Camps



WOMENS BASKETBALL



By Derik Deliard

There was a time when the FIU women's basketball team could have given up on the season. The Golden Panthers began the New Year in 2000 under .500. In fact, FIU was in danger of finishing the season under .500 for the first time in a long while. The Golden Panthers changed their team attitude and morale, but it even more surprising was the fact that even their jerseys had changed. The Golden Panthers switched from their normal team jerseys that they had previously worn for the past two years to gold jerseys previously discarded as bad luck.

"Two years ago, we got them for a NCAA tournament first round game VS. Marquette: we won," Viktoria Nagy said. "Then, we wore them for the second game, and we lost. We wore them my junior year for a TV game against Louisiana Tech, and we lost." As a product of change, spurred on by the fact that the team manager was unable to wash their usual uniforms, the Golden Panthers switched their jerseys toward the end of the season and finished the season on a six game winning streak. During this impressive six game winning streak, certain players stepped up such as Gergana Slavtcheva and Silvia Mesa. Slavtcheva, a 6'1 sophomore forward, was recognized before the season as the key to FIU's success this season. Slavtcheva, who had played for her native Bulgaria on the national team, had to make major adjustments last season in moving to America. But before this began, Slavtcheva vowed to help the Golden Panthers in which ever way she could, to make it far this season.

"I want my team to go far, play good and make the NCAA tournament," Slavtcheva said. "I am going to work more than last year." Mesa, whose height at 6'10 sends intimidation to any ball club played beyond expectations this year. During the six game winning streak, Mesa had some impressive games Arkansas State and Louisiana Lafayette. Mesa has added instant offense, rebounding and defense that have been the backbone of the Golden Panther attack. Despite the Golden Panther loss in the Sun Belt tournament, FIU competed strong against Sun belt opponents toward the end of the season.



Aiming for the shot, Cheryl Moody goes for a layup to score for FIU. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Aggressiveness was the key to playing a great defensive game. Viktoria Nagy jumps as she tries to score against Long Island. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Members of the women's basketball team tried their hardest to accomplish their goals. Karen Roxborough beats an opposing player. Photo By Geoff Anderson



1999-2000 Womens Basketball Team Sonia Cotton, Gergana Slavtcheva, Laura Camps, Anita Heller, Silvia Mesa, Mandy Shafer, Adaya Powell, Cormisha Cotton, Viktoria Nagy, Ivelina Vrancheva, Karen Roxborough, Cheryl Moody, Coach Cindy Russo Photo By FIU Sports



MENS BASKETBALL



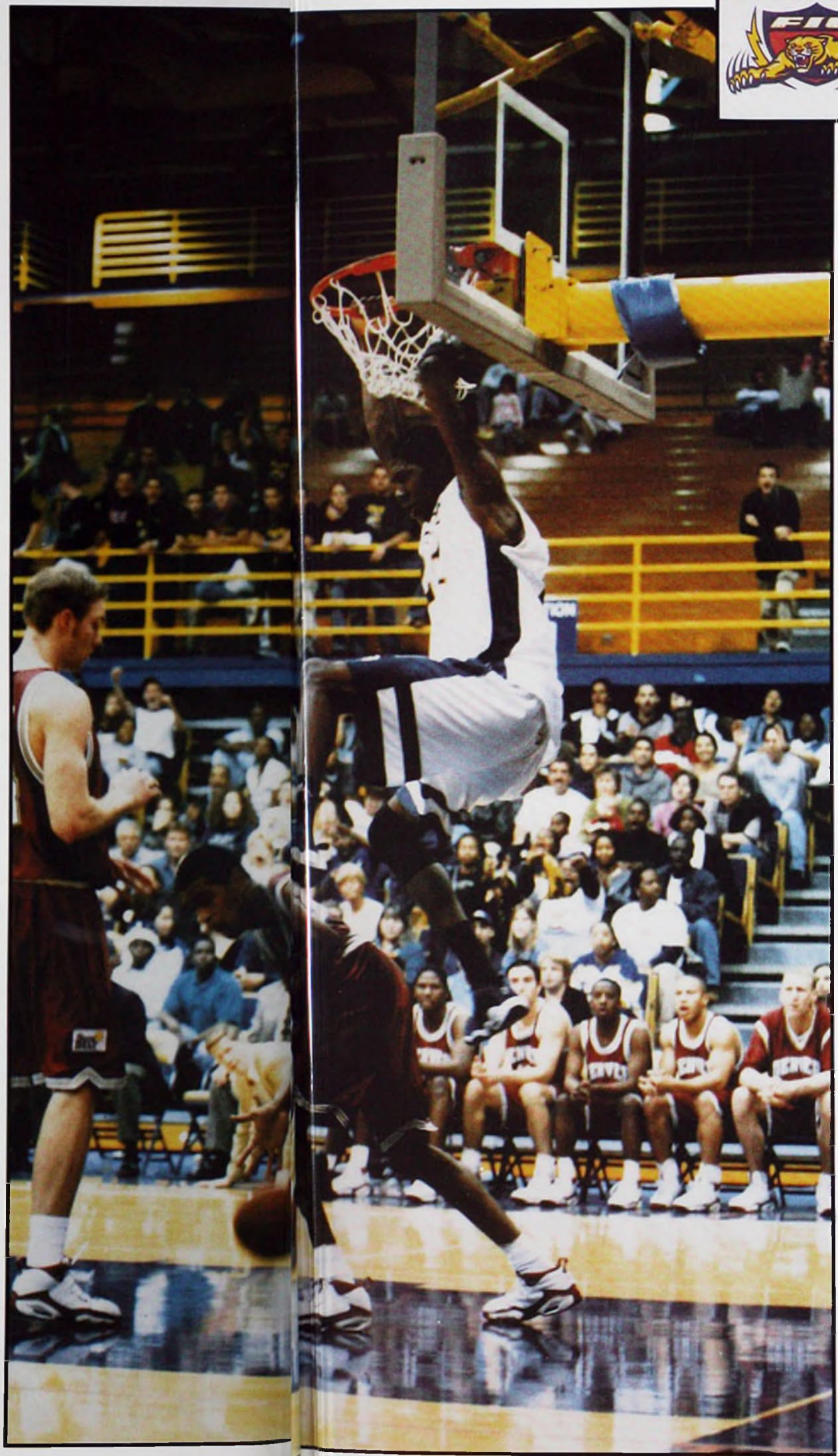
"No Comment Received"

-Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez



"No Comment Received"

-Carlos Arroyo



By Derik Deliard

The freshmen trio of Jabah ari Brown, Fab Fisher, and Michael Tucker brought a new sense of hope to the program. "I think we're very much on the right track," Rodriguez said. "I think we did improve last year. Our record didn't show it, but we're in a tougher conference. I really like this team. The attitude has been great. I don't know if I could say that for the past couple of years," Rodriguez added. "I think we're on the verge of breaking into the national scene as a national program."

Brown started the season off strong, raising eyebrows throughout campus. But the death of his grandmother Brown's caused him to refocus his energies for next year. "At first, it was making me weaker," Brown said. When I went to the funeral, I knew that she was there watching over me, happy." For Tucker, after several starts this season, he suffered a season ending ACL tear in knee. But Tucker says that the injury will not slow him down next year. "I will be back next year stronger than ever. This injury will not slow me down," Tucker said. Fisher was forced into starting duty when Arroyo was suspended midway through the season for violating team rules, but Fisher did not disappoint. Fisher finished second on the team in assists per game and drained a game winning shot at the buzzer in his starting duty.

For Arroyo, who was named to the Sun Belt all-conference first team before the season started, exhibited some skills that he would have. Arroyo found early season success before his suspension but he vindicated himself with a strong finish by leading the team in scoring after the season ending injury to Barnes. Arroyo averaged over 18 points a game and dished out five assists per game. Barnes's arrival was to be one of great jubilation and joy and for a time it was. The former Mr. Basketball of the state of Florida led FIU to a six game winning streak in his short stay. FIU was 6-3 in the games in which he played. "There have been many big victories for our program like Michigan, Charleston, and Alabama and Rhode Island (on the road)," Rodriguez said. "But our biggest win hasn't happened yet, and that will be the win that gets us to the (NCAA) tournament."

While on the court, players did everything possible to place the ball in the net. Gravity was no barrier for Karel Rosario as he heads the basket in mid-air. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Knowing what to do and when to do it was essential when it came to playing basketball. Marshod Fairweather takes advantage that the court is clear and goes for the perfect chance to score. Photo By Geoff Anderson

In basketball making that perfect shot was very important when the win of the game was in jeopardy. Jabahri Brown aims for the basket as he scores for FIU. The team's unity on the court contributed to an incredible season. Photo By Mario Abril



1999-2000 Mens Basketball Team Fab Fisher, Akin Joseph, Nathaniel Aaron, Marshod Fairweather, Jabahri Brown, Carlos Arroyo, Richard Weston, Lucas Barnes, Ben Schifferer, Darius Cook, Karel Rosario, Micheal Tucker, William Copeland, Coach Marcos "Sharkey" Rodriguez Photo By FIU Sports



TRACK & FIELD



By Derik Deliard

For the track and field team, this season has been all about breaking records and starting new ones. It all started in their first competition at the Florida Championships in the fall. In the Florida Championships, seven school records were either tied or broken. The Golden Panthers received record setting performances from Brian Jones, who set a new school record in the men's 55-meter dash with a 6.50 time. Kevone Fair set a new school record in the long jump while Nicholas Derence set a new school record in the pole vault jump. The tumbling school records didn't stop there. Kevin Bateman also got into the act of breaking school records this season. Bateman tossed an NCAA provisionally qualifying 223'-11" javelin throw which was eight inches longer than Bateman's old school record that he just set at the prior meet. In the same meet, Gaby Rodriguez set a school record in the 3,000-meter steeple chase with the time of 9:07.04. The time also broke the Sun Belt Conference time that was set earlier this season. Gaby broke his own personal time by five seconds. Liz Borrell, although overshadowed by Bateman and Rodriguez, set a new school record in the 800 meters with a 2:08.27 mark, good for fourth place at the event. In the next race at the Penn Relays, the women sprint medley relay team that consisted of Vronique Wilson, Ranada Daniels, Anita Edwards and Liz Borrell set a new school record. Their combined finish was 3:51.26, good for 7th best at the competition. At the same competition, Farah Jean-Pierre won the college women's high jump. It marked the first time that anyone from FIU had ever won an event at the Penn Relays. Jean-Pierre also won the high jump at the Miami Gatorade meet. Her jump of 5'10.5" broke a six-year record.



In the lead, this FIU track athlete jumps over the hurdle and successfully wins the race for FIU. Photo By Mario Abril



"Working hard is what got me here"

-Sean Roach



"Being part of the track team has been an asset to my life"

-Rebecca Rodriguez



The 1999-2000 Track & Field team Photo By FIU Athletics



During the final minutes of the race, Saddle Wells continues her dedication. Photo By Mario Abril



Jumping new distances, Ranada Daniels her fellow opponents by breaking new records for FIU. Photo By Mario Abril

Tossing the shot put as far as he can, this track athlete puts maximum effort in scoring for FIU. Photo By Mario Abril

"Our team's talent and experience, mixed along with intense dedication, proved to make a successful equation for winning"

-Brad Eldred

"I'm glad I joined the Baseball team and I'm proud of all the hard work we put into making it the very best"

-Gus Alfonso



Preparing to hit the ball was a nerve wrecking experience. Hector Nunez anticipates knocking the ball out of the ball park. Focus and determination were necessary to win the games. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Third baseman Raul Pujol reaches for the ball before his opponent can reach the base. Getting his hands on the ball before the opponent can reach the base. Getting his hands on the ball was the first step in taking the other team out. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Coordination between arms and the eyes are needed in order to hit the ball and keep control of the game. Mike Quintana prepares to smack the bat and score a homerun for FIU. Photo By Geoff Anderson

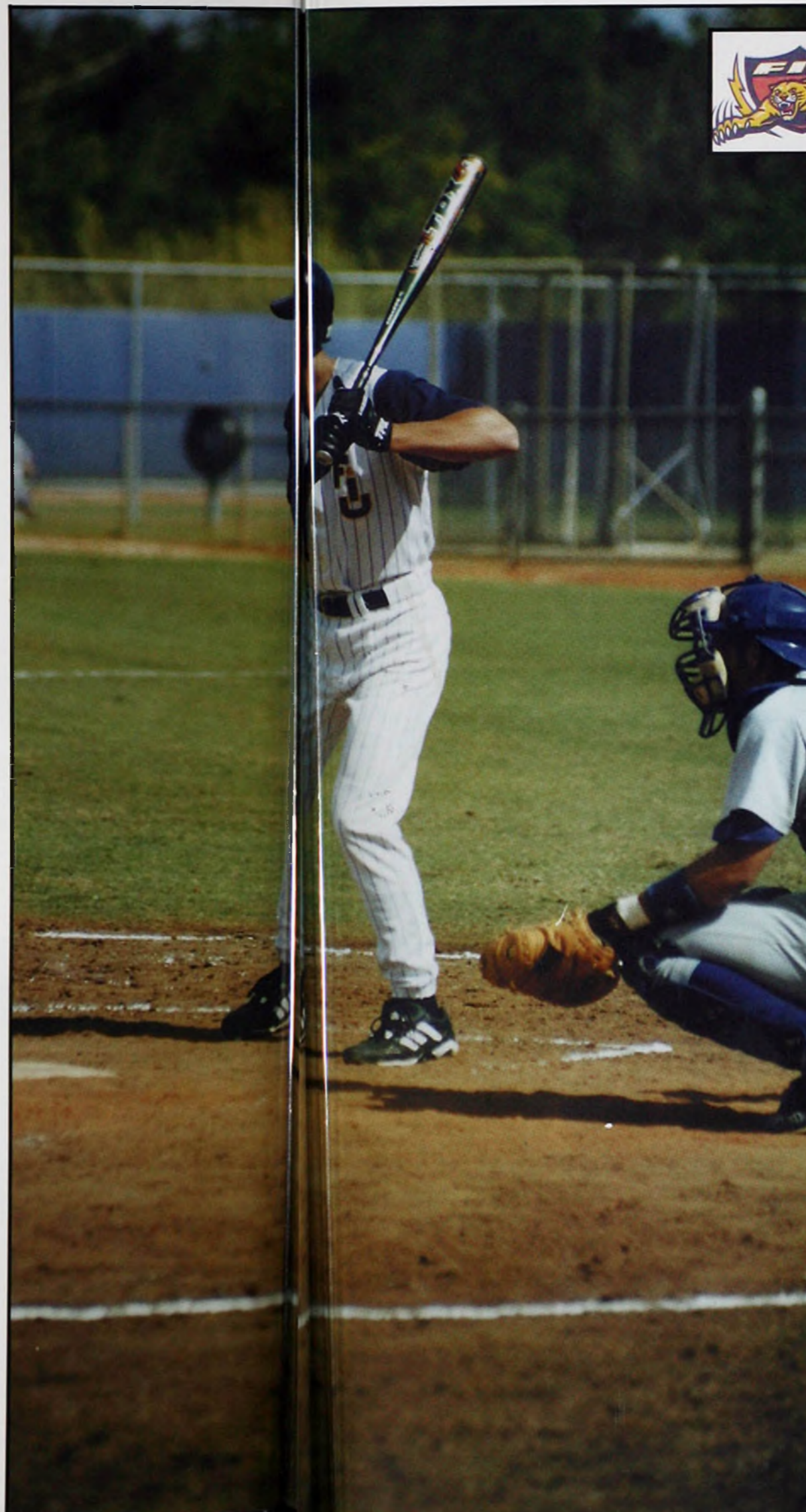


BASEBALL



By Derik Deliard

Many outsiders and analysts predicted that this season would be a rebuilding one for Head Coach Danny Price and the Golden Panthers baseball team. The team had to deal with the fact that they had 19 new additions to the ball club. But despite the pessimists view before the season started, Price dismissed talks of rebuilding and focused more on the potential of the ball club. "I expect our team to go out and win every game. It's too early to say what this club is capable of giving, but this year is definitely going to be a challenge for us," Price said. "But I think that if we are mentally tough a lot of positive things can happen. It all depends on how mentally tough we can be throughout the course of a season." This club so held tough despite an unfortunate circumstance that affected them earlier in the season. Earlier in the season, the team had to deal with the tragic passing of a teammate. Ramiro "Toti" Mendez, who was red shirted this season because of a viral infection, died in April. The team found out when they were on a road trip in Louisiana. Price expressed his sympathies to Mendez's family. "This is a very sad day in the history of our athletic program and such a terrible tragedy to someone so young and vibrant as Toti," Price said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family." This season the team posted 34 victories and only 18 defeats. It may not compare to the epic season of last year, but it may only be a beginning for great things to come in the future. The successes of this season can be mainly traced to the prowess of staff ace Jerry Courtney and the bat of Alfred Corbeil. Courtney led the staff in wins (eight); innings pitched (94.2), and strikeouts (93). This right-hander from Humble, Texas impressed Price before the season even began. "He's solid this spring. He just goes out there and throws strikes. He's very competitive on the mound. We're looking for him to lead the staff," Price said. Corbeil, one of the 19 new faces this year, led the team with a .401 batting average, doubles (19) slugging percentage (.681) and homeruns (9).



1999-2000 Baseball Team Photo By FIU Athletics

Preparing to strike out her opponent, Ingrid Garcia moves onward into the next inning. Photo By Geoff Anderson



"Practicing each day, has helped me improve my performance on the field"

-Erin McCutcheon

"Being apart of the softball team has meant a lot to me"

-Tania Somoano



Not letting anyone get in her way, Laura Lambert gets ready to eliminate the opposing team's player from the game. Photo By Geoff Anderson

Getting ready to throw the ball to the umpire, Kelly Nicosia anticipates another out for the opposing team. Photo By Geoff Anderson



Bunting the ball down the middle of the field, Megan Dontrich prepares for another victorious game. Photo By Geoff Anderson



SOFTBALL



By Derik Deliard

This third season was the charm for the Golden Panther softball team. The softball program, which is only in its third year is earning respectability for its prowess and guile. This past season they set a new record for victories with 38. They were 21-7 at home, 4-4 neutral, and 13-17 away. Head Coach Kim Gwydir, who has been head coach of softball since their inception, was very happy with her team before their season started. "We are getting to the point that we have our strongest team ever," Gwydir said. "We are finally at the moment where we are getting some upperclassmen through the program. We have some girls that have been here for all three years and that's real nice to have." Gwydir cited before the season that pitching was going to be the key this year to their successes this season. "The pitching staff will be our key this year," Gwydir said. Well, the pitching staff was key in their successes this season. Mila Nelson led the staff with 16 victories and had a 1.80 era. Nelson also led the team in innings pitched with 198.2 innings. Auburn Sigurdson finished with 15 victories but her era 1.37 was best on the staff. The team's hitting also fared very well this season. The Sun Belt's newcomer of the year, Shannon Carey, led the team with a .330 hitting average. Carey also led the team in home runs with eight, and was second in RBI's with 30. Senior second baseman Tania Somoano had another stellar season finishing second on the team in batting average (.311) and finished second on the team in total hits, and was tied for second in doubles. The team concluded this year with the season with six of its members being named to the Sun Belt All-Conference team. Monica Pardo was voted in as first team catcher. Joining Pardo on the first team is Kelly Nicosia as outfielder and Sabrina Smith, as designated hitter. Second team honorees were Nelson, Sigurdson, and Carey.



Bottom Row: Kelly Nicosia, Monica Pardo, Sabrina Smith, Ingrid Garcia Middle Row: Melissa Fleitas, Stephanie Wolter, Tania Somoano, Erin McCutcheon, Mila Nelson, Leigh Crain Top Row: Megan Dontrich, Shannon Carey, Auburn Sigurdson, Crystal Boyer, Laura Lambert Photo By FIU Athletics



WOMENS GOLF



By Derik Deliard

The FIU Women's Golf program may not get as much exposure as the Golden Panther basketball program or the baseball program per se, but if Junior Michelle Simpson continues to play as solid as she did this season, maybe the tides will begin to change. Simpson did all she possibly could to carry the women's golf team this season. Simpson finished in the top 15 in all the regular season golf tournaments this season and she has provided solid leadership to a program that is still relatively growing. Head Women's Golf coach David Pezzino says "I am extremely proud of Michelle. She has improved her game throughout the year. She has become more tournament tough, by playing tougher competition and mentally preparing better." Simpson capped off her successful season by qualifying for the NCAA tournament East regional. Simpson was the first FIU woman golfer to make it to the tournament since Moira Dunn in 1994. Although she didn't play well in the NCAA tournament due to the instability of the grass, Simpson was very excited to have had the chance to compete. "I had never played on that grass before. It really penalizes you when you miss the green," Simpson said. "I am glad I had a chance to go, though, and look forward to the experience I gained helping me for next year." Next season could be the charm for the Golden Panther women's golf program, as Simpson will be returning for her senior season. Playing alongside her will be Laura Korus, who finished in the top 20 in nine of the 10 tournaments, Cindy Pilat, who will be a sophomore next season, and Eileen Dunne, who finished in the top 10 in six tournaments this season.



Left to Right Head Coach David Pezzino, Ellen Dunne, Laura Korus, Cindy Pilat, Michelle Simpson Photo By FIU Athletics



"Golfers must be able to compete on their own"

-Coach David Pezzino



"We've finished better as a team this year"

-Michelle Simpson

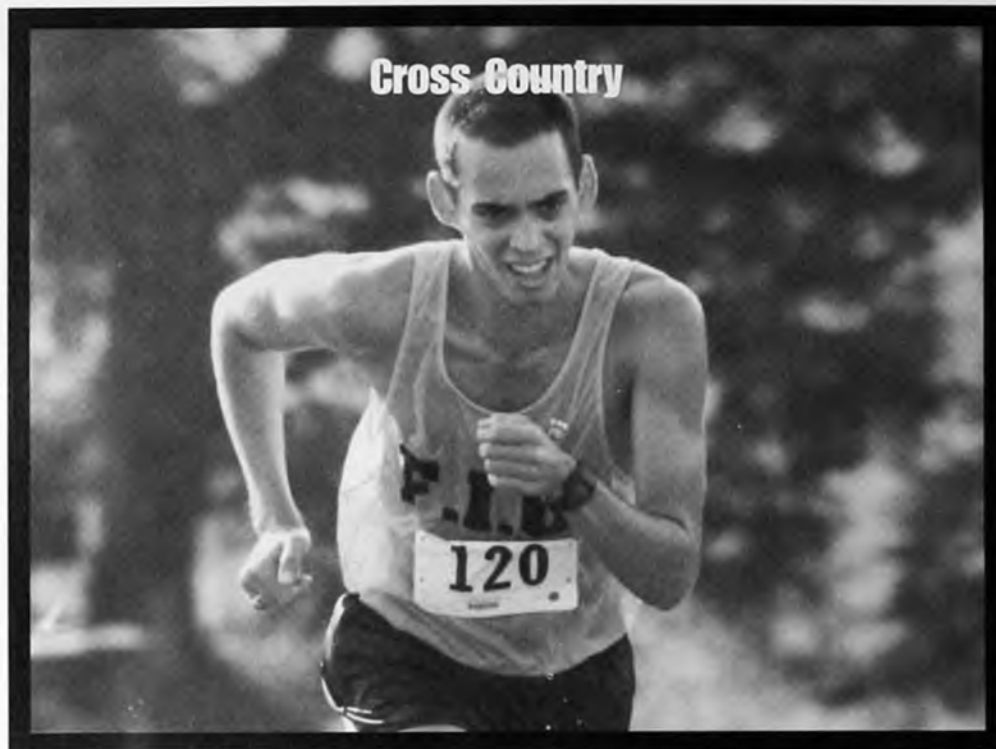


While Michelle Simpson tallies up the score, Ellen Dunne and Coach David Pezzino converse about the last play. Photo By Geoff Anderson

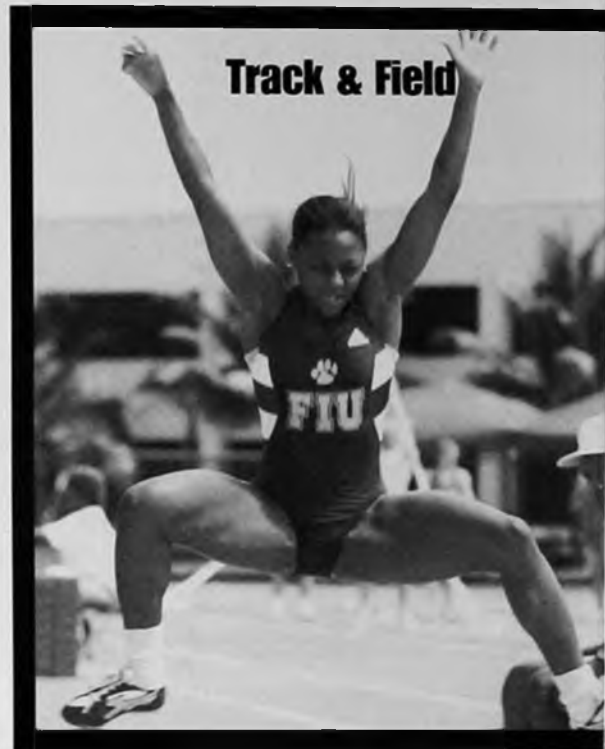


During practice, Coach David Pezzino gives advice to Cindy Pilat on her swinging technique. Photo By Geoff Anderson

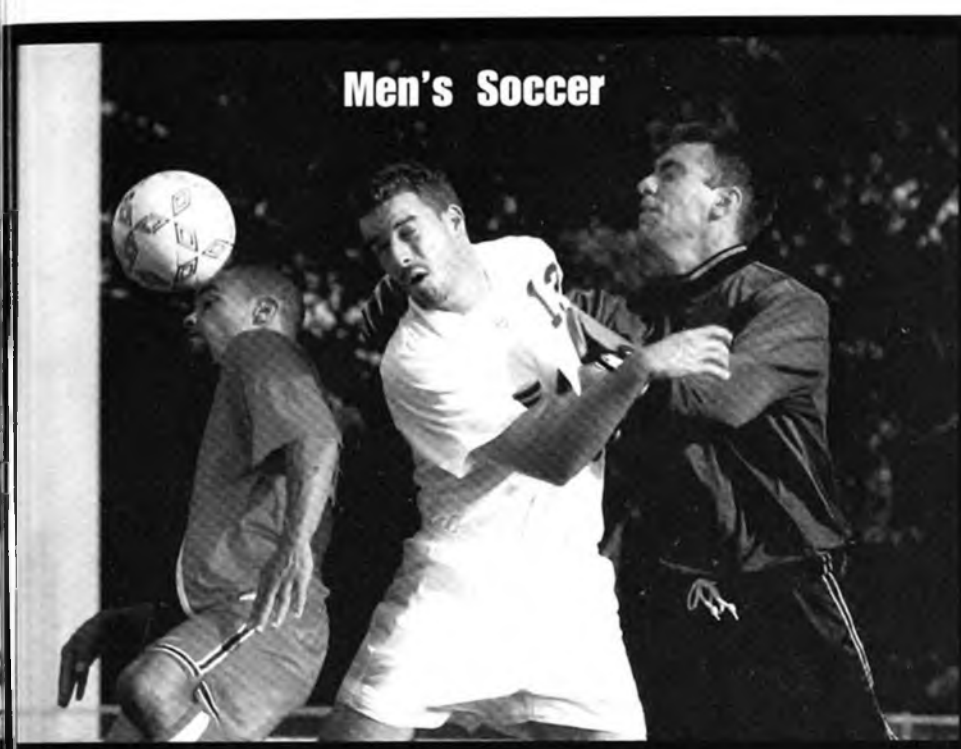
After an intense hit, Michelle Simpson moves to where the ball has landed. Photo By Geoff Anderson



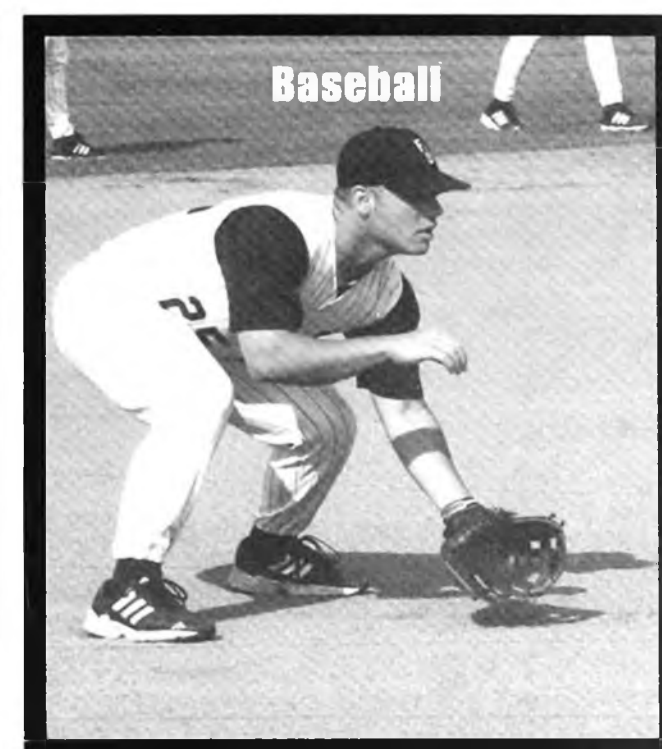
Cross Country



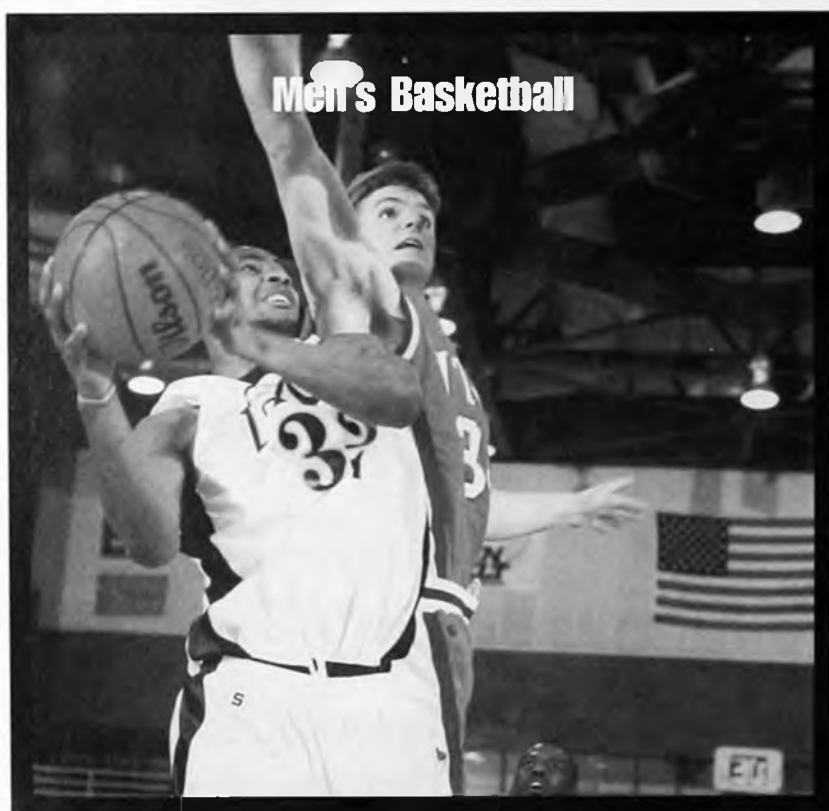
Track & Field



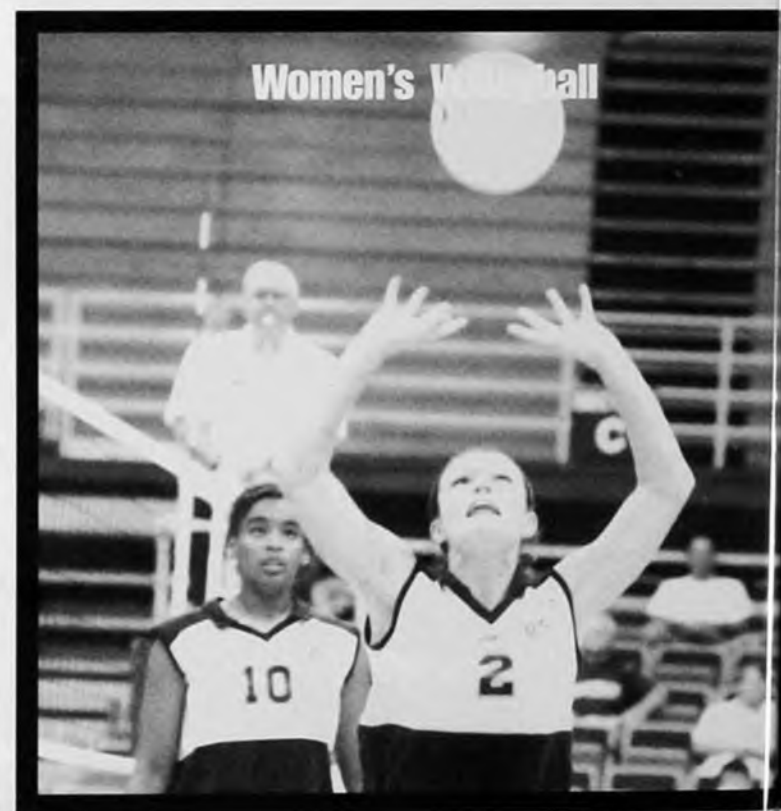
Men's Soccer



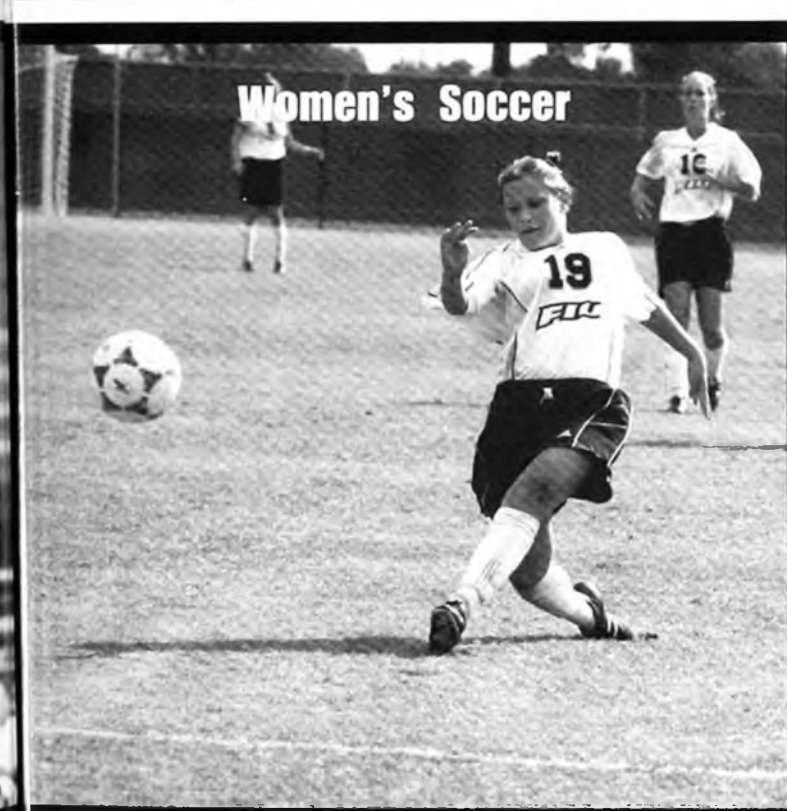
Baseball



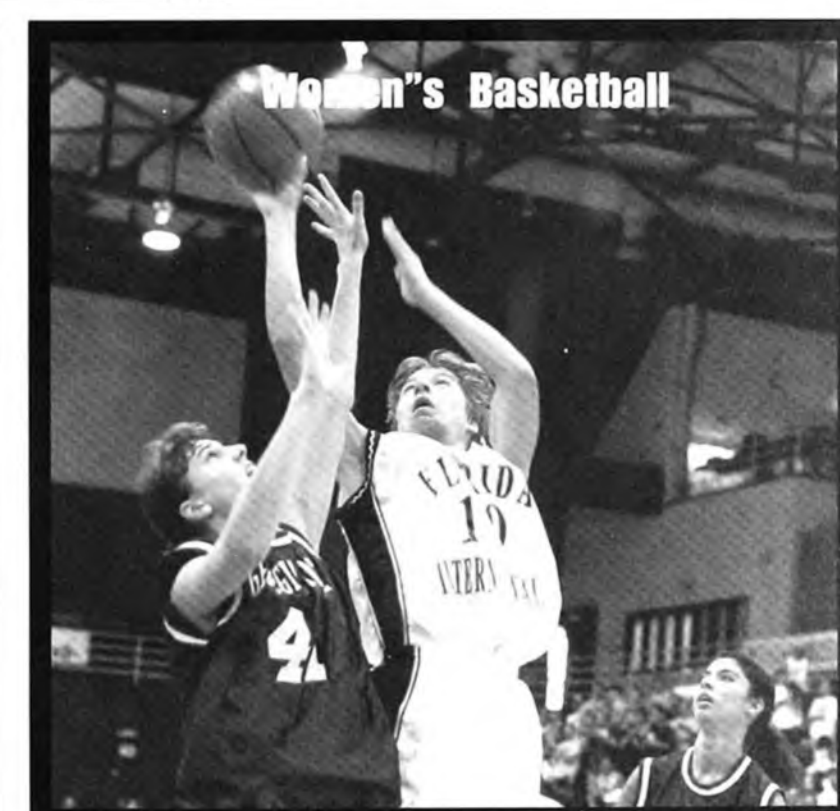
Men's Basketball



Women's Volleyball



Women's Soccer



Women's Basketball



FIU Football

Coming at you!



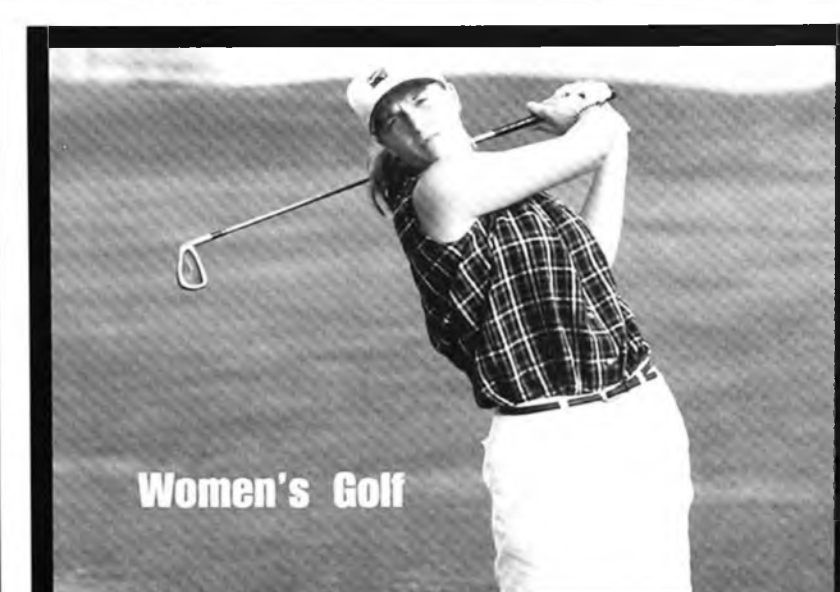
Softball



Cheerleaders



Tennis



Women's Golf

THIS TIME



What makes the academics at Florida International a success is its variety of dedicated educators. The FIU faculty is composed of numerous individuals who have accomplished the highest prestige in their specific fields. These individuals have taken the path of bringing the advantage of knowledge to others. Education is the basis for the future, and FIU professors are devoted towards the enhancement of the mind. Despite promoting the course matter, these educators also teach the fundamentals of real life to their students. The ultimate goal of educating goes beyond preparing students for careers. It mainly concentrates on providing the primary tools to succeed in life. "Most professors are knowledgeable outside the classroom as well. They are real people, with real problems and real life experiences," said sophomore, Jaimy Miranda, a major in Special Education. The student body benefit a great deal from the assistance of the faculty. Whether serving the students through guidance, advice, tutoring or special instructions, the faculty and staff play a main role in the development of each student enrolled at FIU. "The professors and staff are very open minded and take the time to listen to any difficulties that one may be facing. They are also willing to work one on one with the students in order to help them improve and excel," stated junior George Corton, a Political Science major. As a result of such active faculty involvement, it is no surprise that the students at FIU are successful. Florida International University's strong foundation is its academics, yet academic excellence cannot exist without the presence of highly enthusiastic and energetic educators. The ones who compose the skilled faculty and staff of FIU are the doers of bringing the University to its success and place within this community, and the worlds.

-Liz Bello

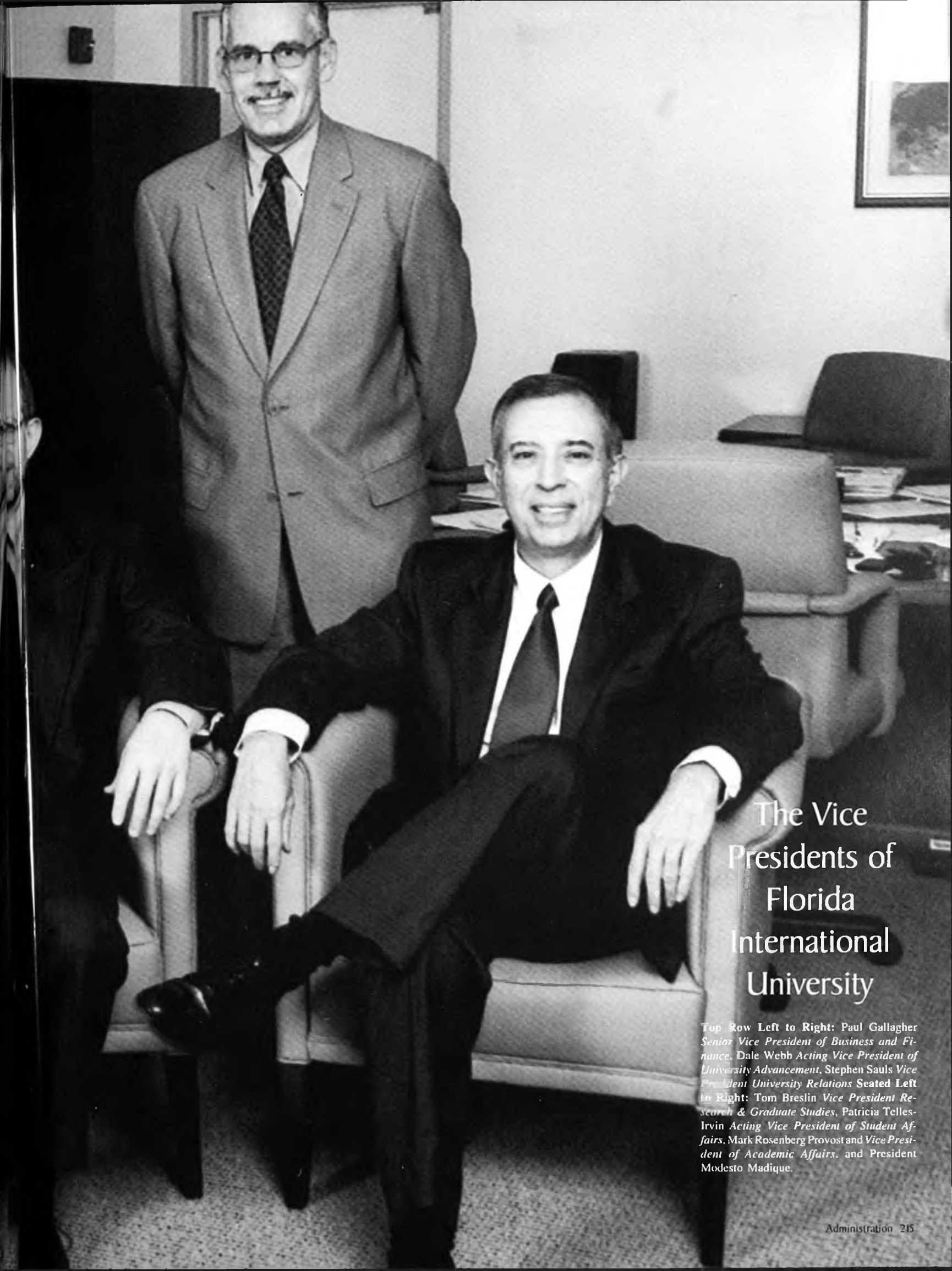
AROUND...



FACULTY

President
Modesto Madique





The Vice
Presidents of
Florida
International
University

Top Row Left to Right: Paul Gallagher Senior Vice President of Business and Finance, Dale Webb Acting Vice President of University Advancement, Stephen Sauls Vice President University Relations Seated Left in Right: Tom Breslin Vice President Research & Graduate Studies, Patricia Telles-Irvin Acting Vice President of Student Affairs, Mark Rosenberg Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and President Modesto Madique.



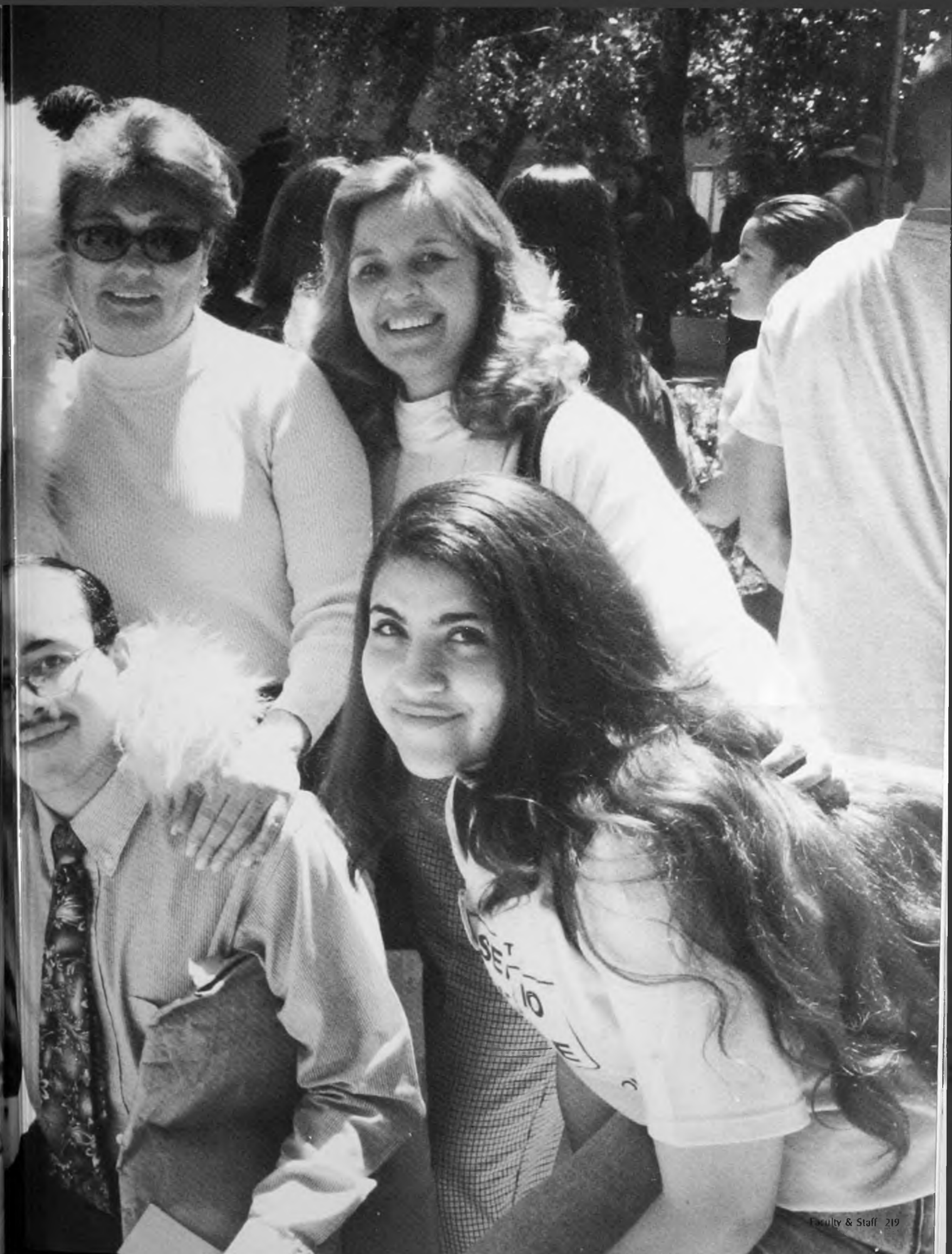
Welcome Back Week

President Modest Madique, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Patricia Irvin, Student Government President Orlando Amorin, and Vice President Danielle Jones welcome the students back to a new academic year.
Photo by Campus Life Publications



SGA Elections

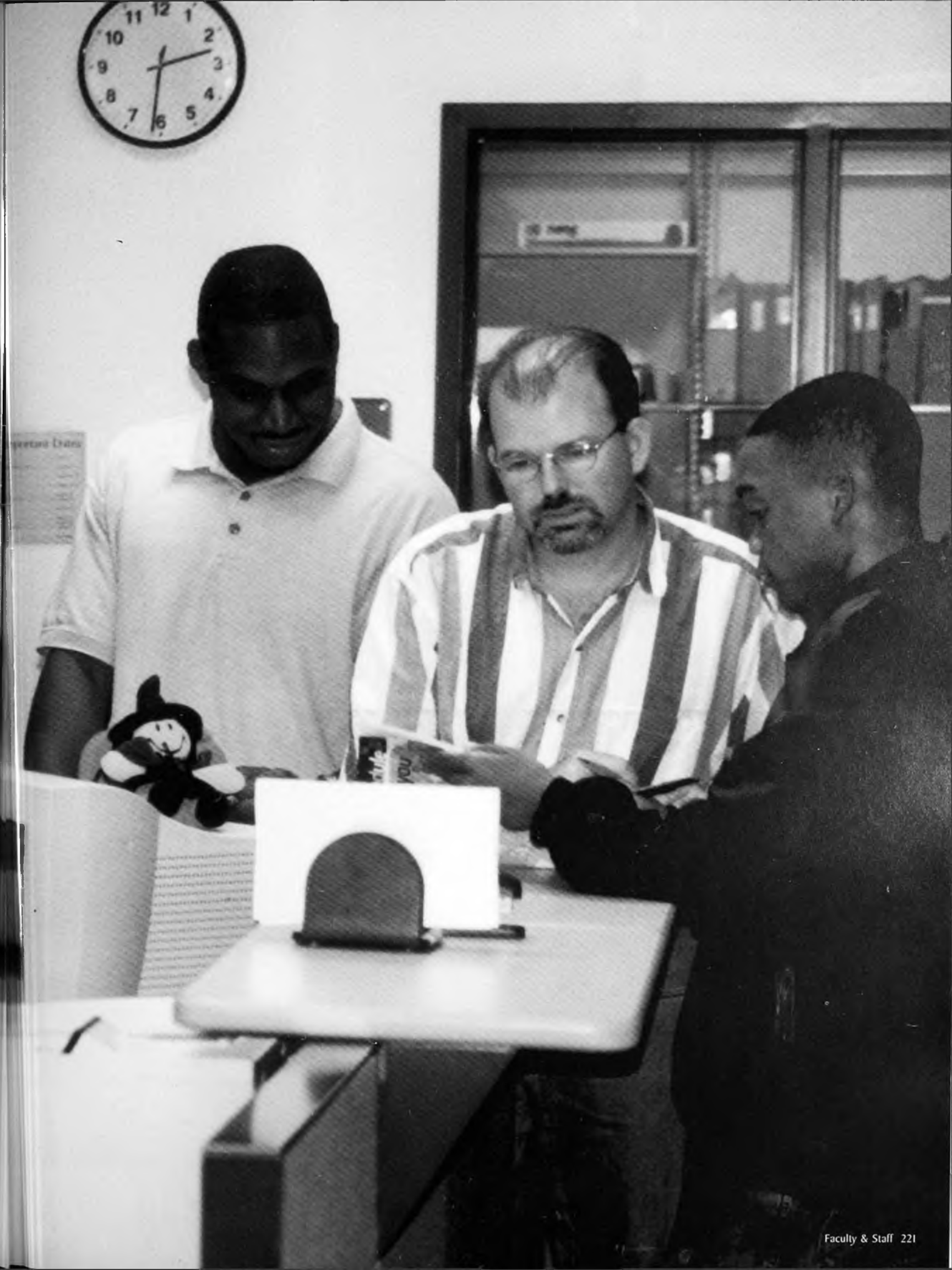
Director of the Graham Center Ruth Hamilton, Angie Tigera, and other students gather together for a group shot with the chicken from college club during election week. *Photo By Jose Otero*





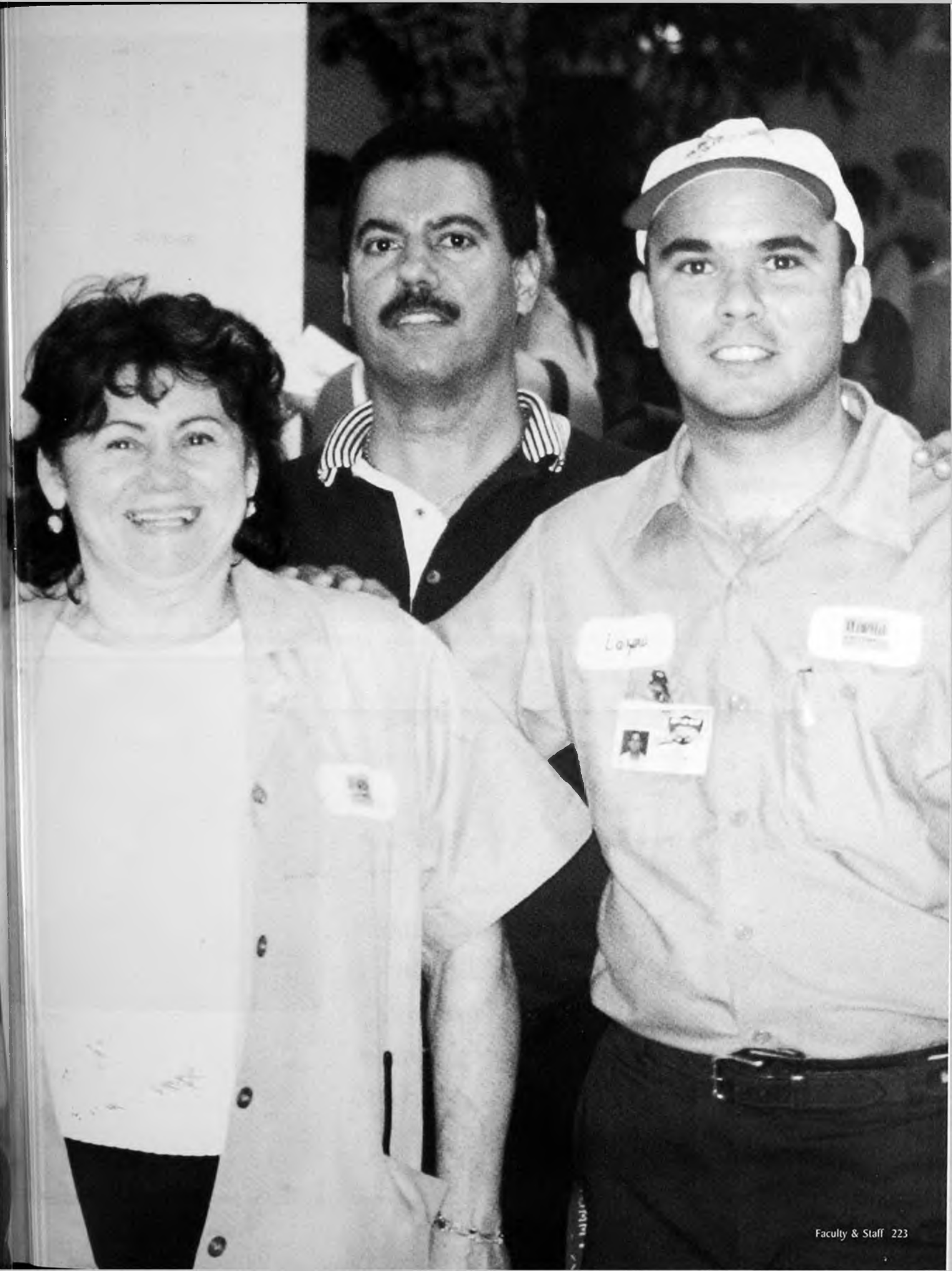
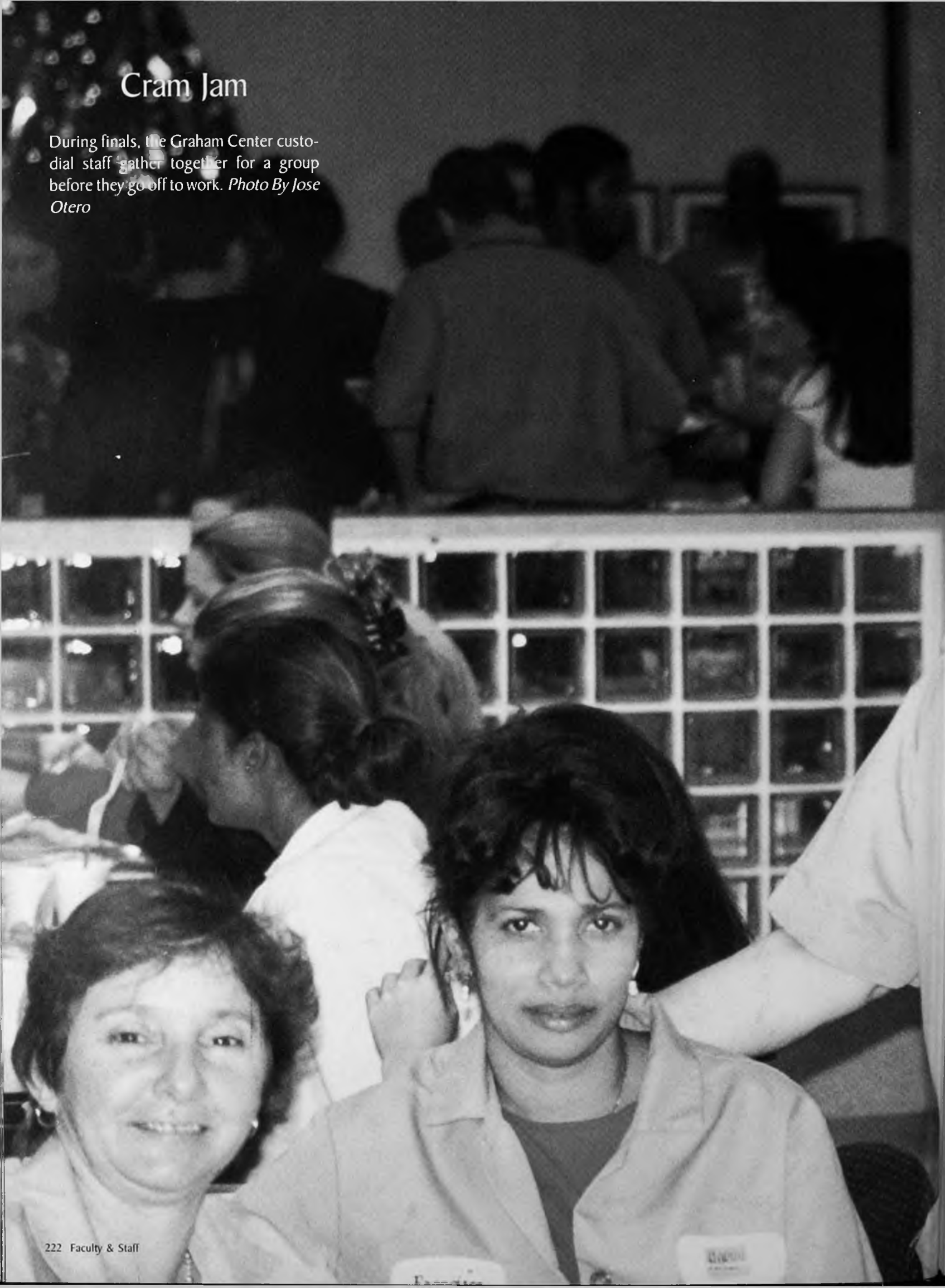
Academic Advising

Right before the Spring semester, students at the School of Engineering receive academic advising from their advisers. *Photo By Jose Otero*

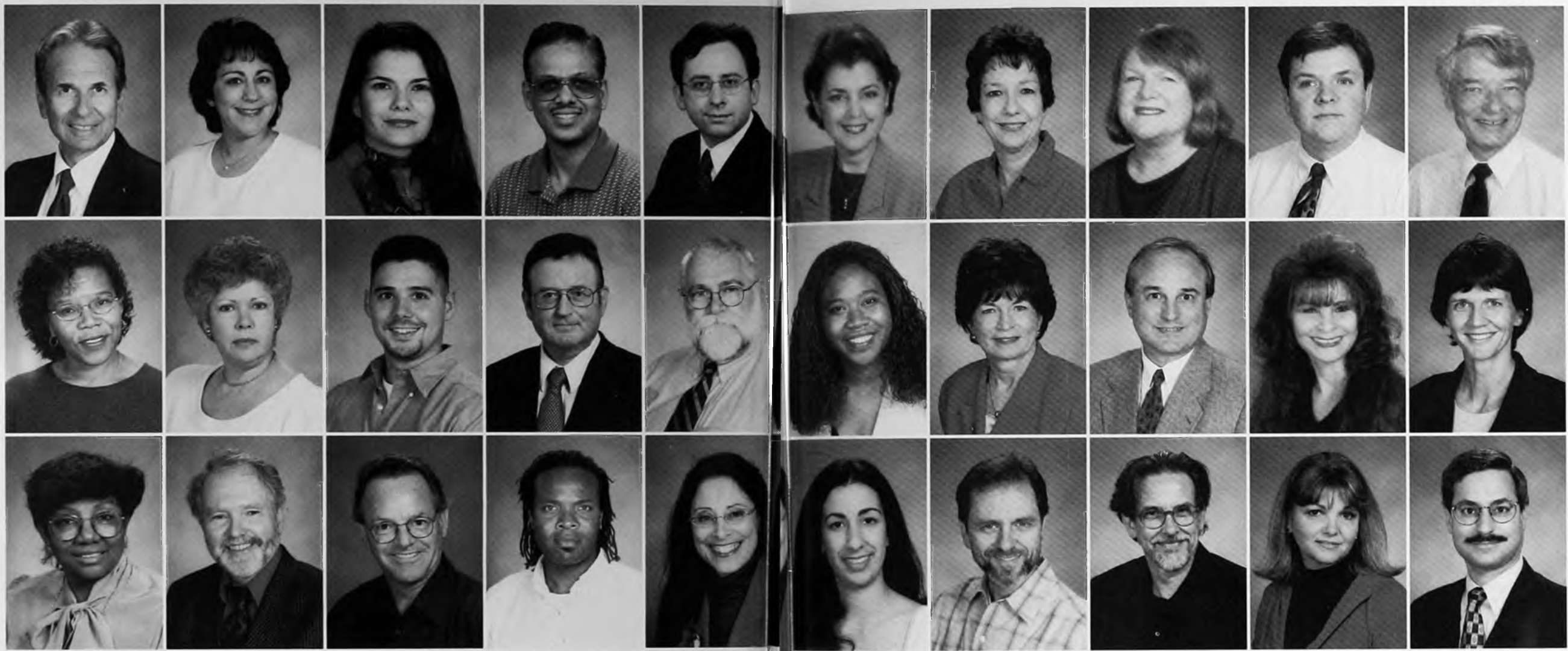


Cram Jam

During finals, the Graham Center custodial staff gather together for a group before they go off to work. *Photo By Jose Otero*



William C Adams
 Alma R Abdel-Moty
 Wanda C Almaguer-Zamora
 Jose R Almirall
 Alfredo Anola
 Sarah C Anderson
 Myrgiam S Arnana
 Carlos Arriesecq
 Rolf Auster
 Tedd Baker
 Linda M Barnes
 Robert Bear
 Bill Beesting
 Nathaniel Belcher
 Margo Berman



Marisa A Bilboa
 Vicki J Bode
 D Bonham-Yeakman
 Courtney C Bosworth
 Fred Bouma
 April Brown
 Ellie Browner
 Juan Antonio Bueno
 Myrna Burgos-Donates
 Claudia Busch
 Yasenny Camejo
 Gary Cameron
 Jaime Canaves
 Marta Canves
 Carlos F Carrasco

Guess
 vwho?

*This picture was taken
 in the 1979 Elan
 yearbook. Can you
 guess who this person
 is? Turn to page 234 to
 find out.*



Guess
 vwho?

*This picture was taken
 in the 1978 Elan
 yearbook. Can you
 guess who this person
 is? Turn to page 234 to
 find out.*



Gisela Csines
 Chun-Hao Chang
 David Chatfield
 Soon Chung
 David L Cole
 Lou Conrad
 Jennifer L Cooper
 Silvia Costa Pasquini
 James Couper
 Paula Crouthamel
 Elena M Cruz
 Jorge Dalmau
 Beverly Dalrymple
 Carol Damian
 Vincent S Daniels



Maria E de Boyrie
 Esperanza de la Torre
 C Delano Gray
 Milagros Delgado
 Manuel Dieguez
 Mortimer Dittenhof
 Robert Dollinger
 Herman W Dorsett
 Kelsey R Downman
 Constance Downy
 Julian Edward
 Rosa Espinola
 Ana D Estevill
 Nadia Fernandez
 Ricardo Fernandez



Guess

This picture was taken in the 1980 Elan yearbook. Can you guess who this person is? Turn to page 234 to find out.



Guess

This picture was taken in the 1977 Elan yearbook. Can you guess who this person is? Turn to page 235 to find out.



Angela Flores
 Heather Foter
 Tillie Fox
 Marcia C Fraser
 Connie Freeland
 Earnest Friday
 Robert Frye
 Kenneth G Furton
 Betty Gajate
 Aleny Garcia
 Georgina M Garcia
 Jose Garcia-Silverio
 Gauri L Ghai
 Karen Gonzalez
 Sharon Gottlieb-Hart



Palmer Graves
 Alice Gray Read
 Liz Greb
 Charles H Green
 Ivelaw L. Griffith
 Sneh Gulati
 Shamita Dutta Gup
 Kim L Gwydir
 Shahid Hamid
 Ruth Hamilton
 Lorna N Hanley
 Kathy Hasselbach
 J Arthur Heise
 Harvey Hendrickson
 Zory Hernandez

Guess
 vvhno?

*This picture was taken
 in the 1978 Elan
 yearbook. Can you
 guess who this person
 is? Turn to page 235 to
 find out.*



Guess
 vvhno?

*This picture was taken
 in the 1979 Elan
 yearbook. Can you
 guess who this person
 is? Turn to page 236 to
 find out.*



Arthur Herriott
 Ivette Hidalgo
 Wayway M Hlaing
 Brett Hobby
 Whit Hollis

 Lixin Huang
 Maxine Hylton
 A Vanessa Innocent
 Rudolf Jaffe
 Royland Jarrett

 Melinda Jo Byrd
 Tsai-Shai Jung
 Richard Kelch
 William Keppler
 Jim Keys



Clive King
 Lillian Kopenhaver
 Shinar Kouranbaeva
 Ann Marie Knecht
 John Kneski

 Carl J Kranendonk
 Abraham Lavender
 David Lavin
 Barbara Levy
 Cyl Levy Cyos

 Tiger Li
 Chunhua Liu
 Patty Lively
 Carmen Iomando
 Doris Lopez

Guess
 who?

This picture was taken in the 1987 Flashback yearbook. Can you guess who this person is? Turn to page 236 to find out.



Guess
 who?

This picture was taken in the 1978 Elan yearbook. Can you guess who this person is? Turn to page 236 to find out.



Woodly Lovinsky

Esther M Lugo

Martin C Luytjes

Karl Magnusen

Olga C Magnusen

Alysa N Mangal

Manita Brug-Chmielenska

Iraj E Majzu

J Randall Martin

Iliana Martin

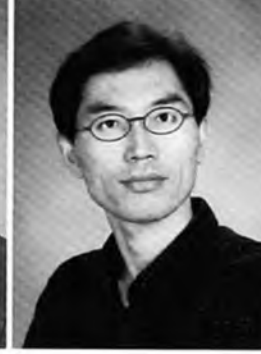
Juan A Martinez

Grace Mayorga

Patricia McCarthy

H Virginia McCoy

William McMin



Ligia Marcella Mintchev

Ronnie Mittleman

Barton W Mondell

Rosie J Montequin

John E Montreal

Jai Navlakha

Marilyns Nepomechie

Ana Olivares

Kevin O'Shea

Yolanda E Parga

A M Parhizgari

Nokil Park

J H Parker

Janat Parker

Guess Who?

This faculty member has served the university since 1973, when the university was only nine months old. Her first endeavor as the first Director of Student Activities was to establish a student newspaper. In 1978, as her third position within the university, she progressed to Director of Information Services and Special Events. In 1981 she began her involvement with the department of Communication as associate chair until it became the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where she currently serves as the Associate Dean and Professor. She firmly believes that, " Faculty should be involved with professional associations in their field to advance their knowledge and the opportunities for their students." And by this belief she stands as recent recipient of The Wells Memorial Key from the Society of Professional Journalists. About her years here she states, " Making a difference in the lives of students through working with them is the greatest reward that one can have personally and professionally. See her today on page 237.



Guess Who?

In June 1976, this faculty member joined as an Accounting Clerk. Following that she served as Fiscal Assistant II, Accountant I II and III, and Sr. Accountant where she is today. Besides her professional life, she takes great pride in her family life. Being married for 40 years and raising two FIU graduates speaks for itself, her daughter in 1983 and son in 1989. Along with this pride, she holds dear to her heart her two grand-daughters Natalie and Stephanie, who hopefully will one

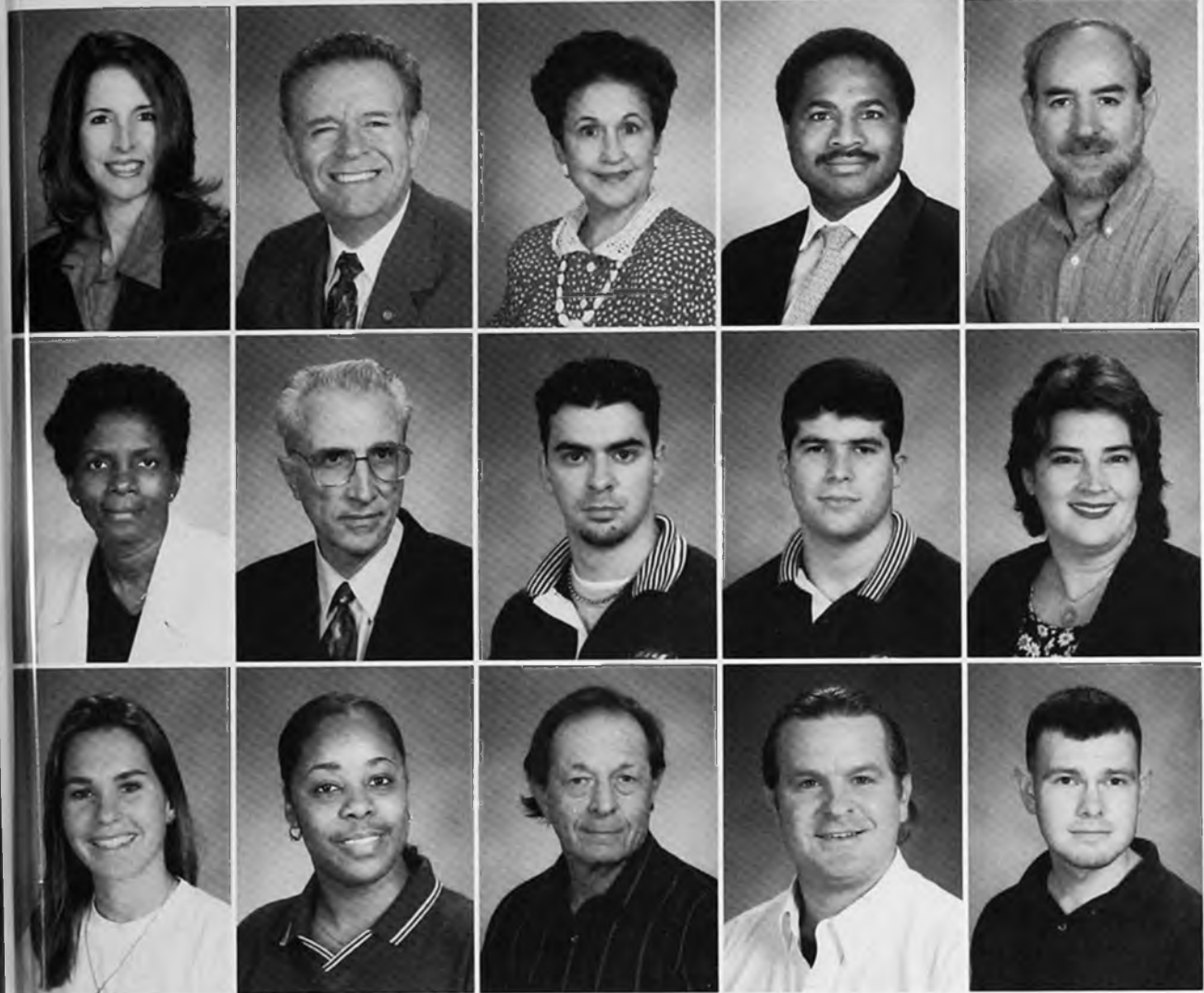
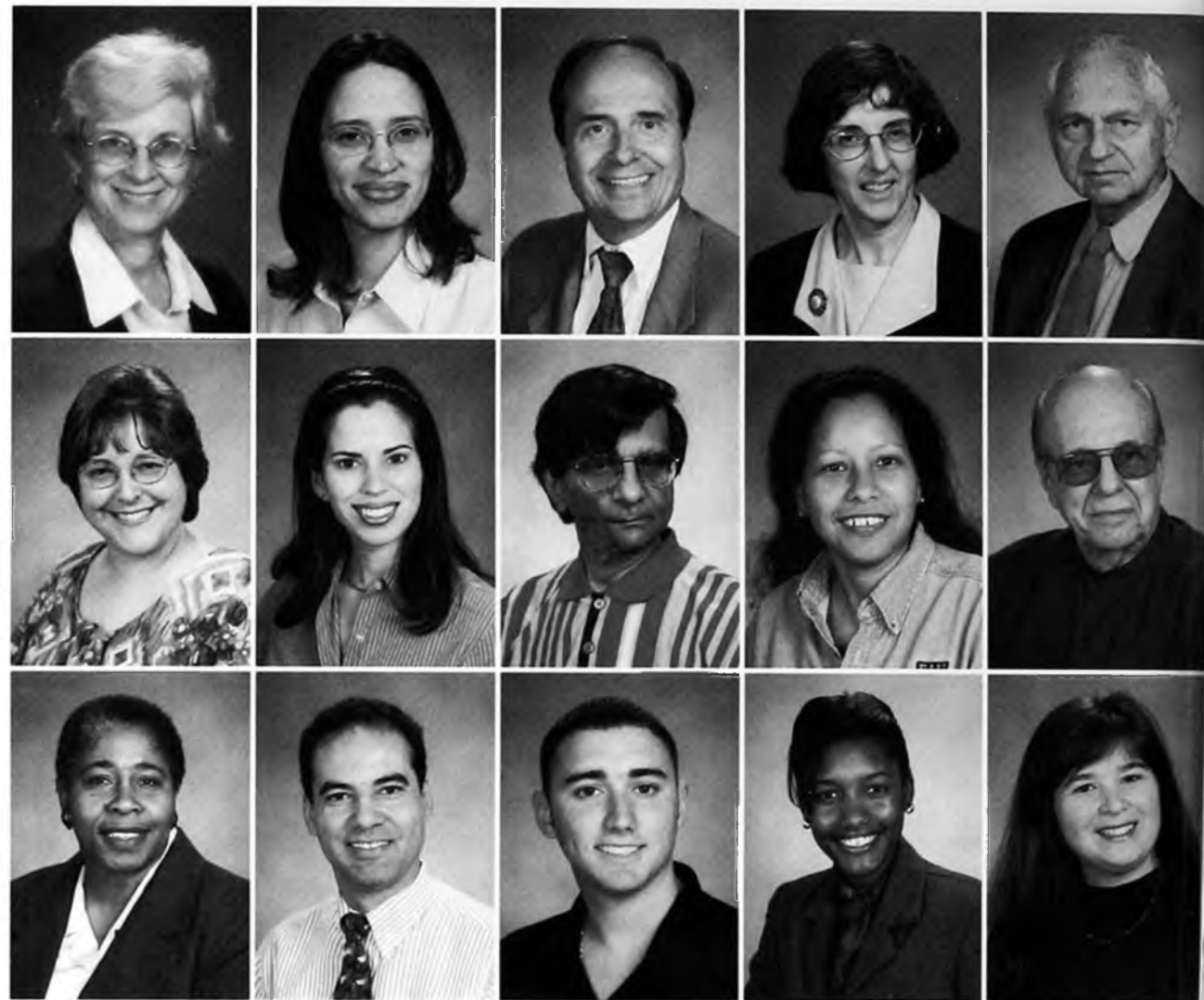


day continue the family tradition of carrying FIU as its alma mater. She would love to one day embark on a trip around the world since traveling is a passion of hers. She also holds steadfast the belief that you should, "Do unto others what you would like done unto you." She sees the expansion and massive growth of the university as the greatest change since her time here. She also states that, "I have had the opportunity to work directly with student leaders, and I have tried to promote in them sense of pride in the both the university and in their achievements." For a look at her today flip to page 237.

Karen Paul
Michelle Perez
Clifford R Perry
Eleanor Polster
Feliz Pomeranz

Mary Porto
Leticia Pradere
Arun J Prakash
Arminda H Pravia
Nicolas J Quintana

Lynda K Raheem
Taje I Ramsamujh
Christopher Recio
Nathalie Rene
Maria T Reyes



Elizabeth M Rizo
Leonardo Rodriguez
Marisa Z Rodriguez
Donald D Roomes
Camilo Rosales

Ena Rose-Green
E N Roussakis
Leandro Ruiz
Pedro Saez
Sara Salazar

Jenny L Sanchez
Loneice K Sands
Samuel Shapiro
Michael Scott Sheeri
Paul Stafelbach



Dr. John Bonanno
*Assistant Vice President
Student Affairs*

*from page
224*



Paul D Gallagher
*Senior Vice President
Business & Finance*

*from page
225*



Arthur Heise
*Dean/Professor
Journalism/Mass Communication*

*from page
226*



Sharon Hart
*Assistant Director
Student Activities*

from page 227



Ruth Hamilton
*Director
Graham University Center*

*from page
228*

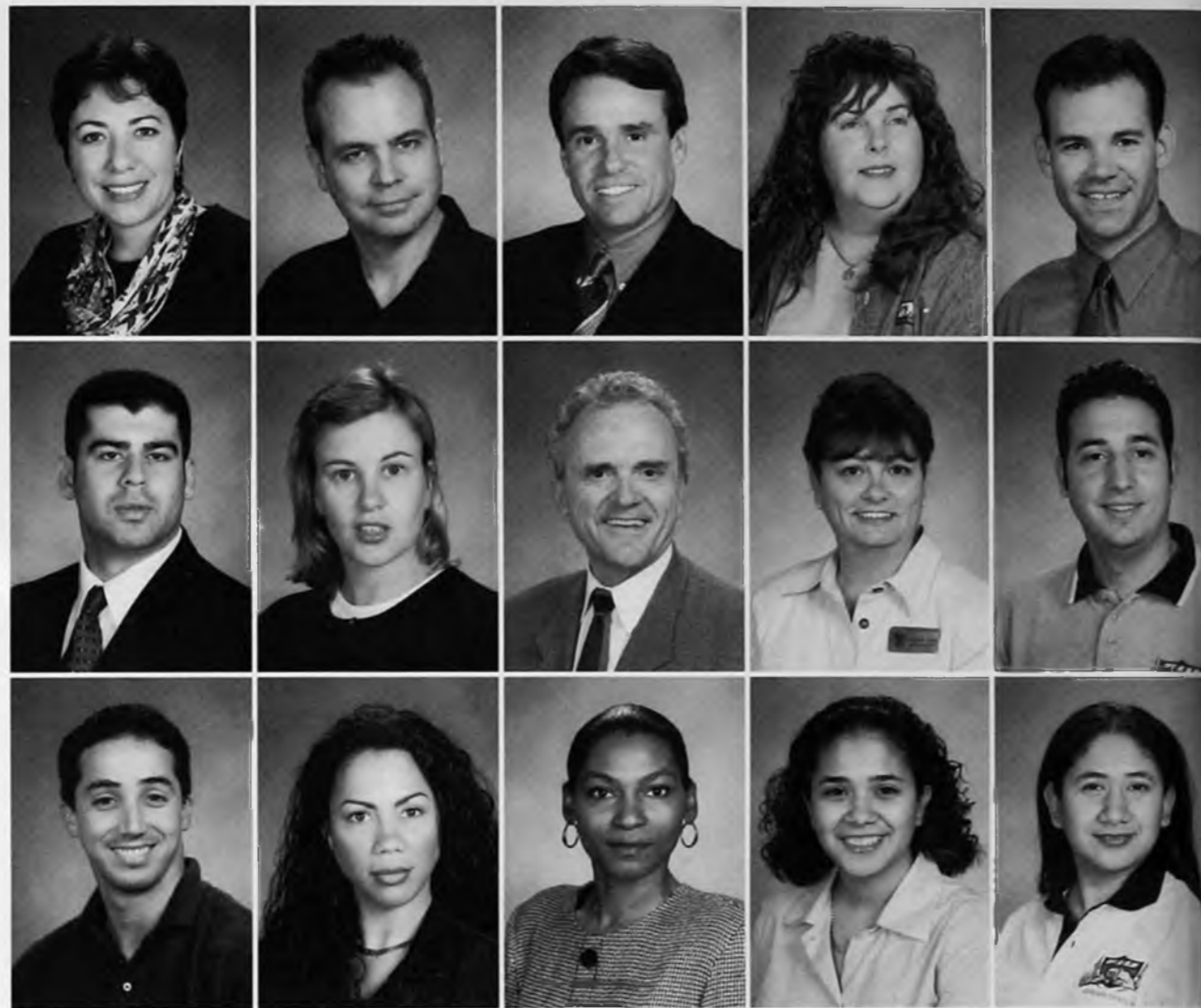
“ Think positively
and
move forward”

- Dr. John A Bonanno

Adriana Stella
 John A Stuart
 Jose Sotolongo
 Maria Elena Suarez
 Todd C Sullivan

 Saul Sztam
 Kimberly A Taylor
 Lee Scott Theisen
 Angelina Tigera
 Alexandre G Torre

 Luis Enrique Torres
 Mitzi Turner
 Marteda Turner-Oglesby
 Hazel Ugarte
 Krishal E Ugarte



Mario Valbuena
 Norma N Varas
 Malena Vilas
 Judy M Whitt
 Gregory Wilkins

 Geraldine Wilson
 Stephen A Winkle
 Betty Joyce Wright
 Harold E Wyman
 Jasbi Zahedi

 Rafael Zapata III
 Anthony Shershin
 Carmen Shershin

The VISION yearbook staff would like to apologize to any faculty & staff members who did not appear in the yearbook. We contacted the departments through e-mail, phone, and faxes for yearbook photo week.



Arthur Herriot
 Dean
 Arts & Sciences

 from page
 229



Ronnie Mittleman
 Publications Production
 Specialist

 from page
 230



Richard Kelch
 Assistant Director
 Media Relations
 Athletics
 from page
 231



Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver
 Associate Dean/Professor
 Journalism/Mass Communications

 from page
 232



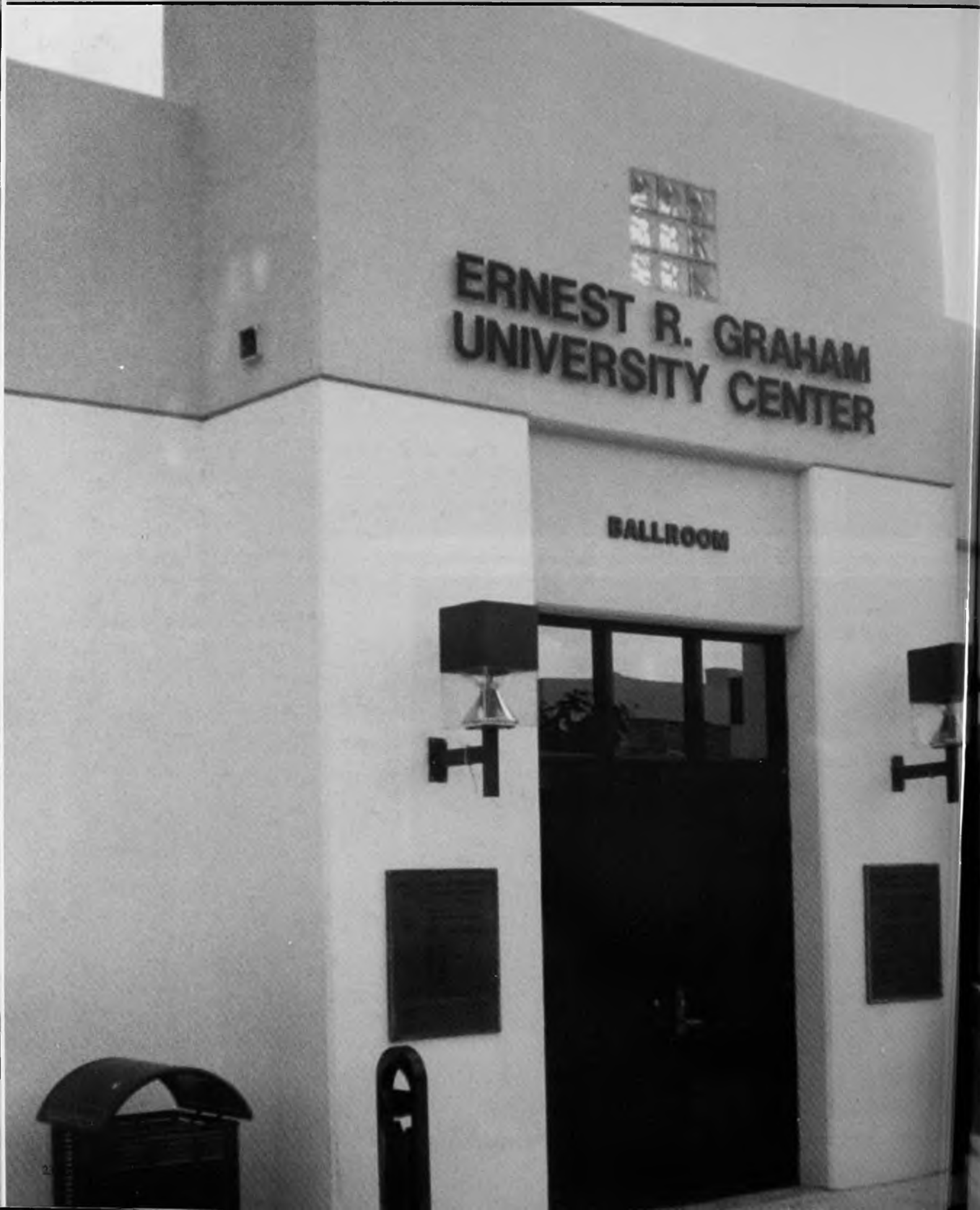
Marisa Rodriguez
 Senior Accountant
 Student Government Association

 from page
 233

“We have accomplished a great deal and will go on to greater heights”

-Dr. Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver

THIS TIME



We are family — brother, sister, you and I. Sisterhood and brotherhood are the foundation of Greek-Letter social organizations in FIU Campus Life. Each semester sorority and fraternity members recruit students who may be interested in joining their Greek organization. Recruitment consists of activities designed to offer prospective members the chance to interact with all chapters and learn what they have to offer. Greeks organize numerous events, for example Greek Week, a Fashion Show and fundraising activities that benefit charities. Greek Affairs is a unit of the Department of Campus Life. There are 24 Greek organizations at Florida International University. They include 11 nationally affiliated fraternities and nine nationally affiliated sororities. Among the Greek organizations, there are three overall coordinating bodies for fraternities and sororities on campus. The Interfraternity Council serves as the governing body for fraternities. The Pan-Hellenic Council is the governing body for sororities. The National Pan-Hellenic Council oversees the African-American fraternities and sororities. For further enhancement, an Order of Omega National Honorary Leadership Chapter also exists. Greek organizations have been around since the establishment of the university. They are among the most active groups on and off-campus. Membership in Greek life not only provides the opportunity to meet new people, but also enhances the FIU atmosphere. Greek organizations motivate academic achievement, provide windows to leadership opportunities, add to personal growth, and increase active service in our community. Greeks also give their time and resources to those less fortunate. Each group has many philanthropic projects it supports every year. In addition, every fraternity sponsors intramural teams and encourages athletic involvement. To be part of the FIU Greek system, one must participate in either membership recruitment (rush) or intake. Rush is a process of mutual selection coordinated through the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council. Intake is the process of selection for the National Pan-Hellenic or historically black organizations. In an interview, Dannielle Carmelle Boyer, the Recording Secretary of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. says, "she feels her organization brings diversity, sisterhood, scholarship and dedication to helping our fellow man, woman and child."

AROUND...



GREEKS

-Kimberly Faison

Greek Advisor



Todd Sullivan
Greek Advisor

During the 1999-2000 academic year, fraternities and sororities continued to make a significant impact on the FIU community. As the chief advisor for all social fraternities and sororities, I was pleased to see the quality and quantity of involvement in campus and community activities. Individual fraternities and sororities sponsored numerous philanthropic events and educational seminars to encourage notions of service and lifelong learning for their members. During the summer of 1999, Greeks helped ease new students transition into FIU through the orientation process. Many Greeks served as Peer Advisors, and Greek Life held interest sessions to show the groups commitment to FIU. Nearly 900 new students attended these voluntary sessions.

The Interfraternity Council held recruitment periods in both the summer and the fall, netting over 200 new members. The Panhellenic Council sponsored their successful Formal Recruitment in early fall, and brought in over 100 new women to their ranks. "Meet the Greeks" programs in conjunction with University Housing helped promote the National Pan-Hellenic Council

NPHC also co-hosted a statewide retreat with the University of Miami's Federation of Black Greeks. In all, Greek Life showed FIU students and community members the benefits and opportunities associated with membership.

A highlight of the fall was the Greek Fashion Show, where many students strutted fashionably down the catwalk in the GC Ballrooms. All three Greek Councils had representatives in the show, and proceeds from the event went to support the Miami Children's Hospital via Dance Marathon. Spring 2000 saw an exciting Homecoming Celebration in February with substantial Greek participation. Part of the festivities included Greek Land Dedication, featuring the five fraternities slated to build new homes on the University Park campus. After a five-year absence, Greek Week returned in March and hundreds of participants competed in various events and attempted to unify the Greek system.

On the expansion front, Pi Kappa Phi was selected to become the newest addition to the Interfraternity Council. National staff members spent time at FIU recruiting men for the new colony. Kappa Theta, our local sorority joined the Panhellenic Council and achieved national affiliation with Alpha Omicron Pi. In addition, with the recognition of established fraternities Lambda Theta Phi and Phi Kappa Sigma, the Greek system exploded from 20 to 24 chapters in just six months! Next year, Lambda Chi Alpha will colonize as yet another IFC fraternity. With strong support from the FIU administration and students, Greek life will continue to flourish for a long time to come.

Sincerely,
Todd Sullivan

Assistant Director of Campus Life for Greek Affairs

Greek History

We are family — brother, sister, you and I. Sisterhood and brotherhood are the foundation of Greek-Letter social organizations in FIU Campus Life. Each semester sorority and fraternity members recruit students who may be interested in joining their Greek organization. Recruitment consists of activities designed to offer prospective members the chance to interact with all chapters and learn what they have to offer. Greeks organize numerous events. For example Greek Week, a Fashion Show and fundraising activities to benefit charities. The friendships developed through contacts made within the organization allow students to explore endless possibilities.

Greek Affairs is a unit of the Department of Campus Life. There are twenty Greek organizations at the Florida International University. They include eleven nationally affiliated fraternities and nine nationally affiliated sororities. Among the Greek organizations, there are three overall coordinating bodies for fraternities and sororities on campus. The Interfraternity Council, which serves as the governing body for fraternities. The Pan-Hellenic Council for is the governing body for sororities. As well as the National Pan-Hellenic Council oversees the African-American fraternities and sororities. For further enhancement, an Order of Omega National Honorary Leadership Chapter also exists.

Greek organizations have been around since the establishment of a university. Such groups are among the most active groups on and off-campus. Membership in Greek life not only provides the opportunity to meet new people, but also enhances the FIU atmosphere. Greek organizations motivate academic achievement, allow windows to leadership opportunities, add to personal growth, and increase active service in our community. Greeks also give their time and resources to those less fortunate. Each group has many philanthropic projects they support every year. In addition, every fraternity sponsors intramural teams and encourages athletic involvement.

To be apart of the FIU Greek system, one must participate in either membership recruitment (rush) or intake. Rush is a process of mutual selection coordinated through the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council. Intake is the process of selection for the National Pan-Hellenic or historically black organizations.

The only way to persuade an individual to involve him or herself in a social environment is to hear from someone who is already in that environment. Greek Life falls under the Campus Life umbrella with as a social environment. In an interview with Dannielle Carmelle Boyer she discusses her views of Greek Life at FIU North Campus. Dannielle is the Recording Secretary of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Iota Pi City-Wide Chapter founded on January 13, 1913. She feels her organization brings diversity, sisterhood, scholarship and dedication to helping our fellow man, woman and child.



Styling the '80s look, four Phi Sigma Sigma sisters gather during a day of Greek celebration. Coming together was an integral part of the Greek system, which allowed a development of tradition and sisterhood. Photo By Flashback



After a long day of mowing the lawn at a local neighborhood, brothers of a Greek organization make it a point to document and celebrate their participation with a picture. Photo By Flashback



At a pep rally, sisters of the former Omega Chi, now Phi Mu, display their enthusiasm through pom-poms, face painting and cheers. Attending school events is essential to being a Greek.



Rejoicing after grabbing the pass, this SigEp displays his sense of participation through intramural sports. Photo By Flashback



Keeping in synch with each other, members of the formal Alpha Gamma Omega now Sigma Alpha Mu, demonstrate how practice does really make perfect. Photo By Flashback



Showing off their letters with pride, members of TKE make sure their presence is felt at a 1989 Homecoming pep rally. Pride is an important factor as a Greek. Individuals could capture this by wearing their Greek paraphernalia. Photo By Flashback



Getting jiggy with it at a tail-gate party, two D Phi E sisters express their energy driven spirit. Being Greek gave one the opportunity to get involved, most importantly contributing some spirit. Photo By Flashback

Recruitment Week

In the Graham Center, the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha get together for a group shot. *Photo By Lester Thomas*



During Fall Recruitment Week, the brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity held an information session. *Photo By Campus Life Publications*



During Fall recruitment, Melissa Colon from Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, participates in the annual Color Your World party. *Photo By Campus Life Publications*

Intramurals

Huddling up, the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority form a game plan. *Photo*



Running as fast as he can, Brian Smatt of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity hustles to catch his opponent. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Playing softball, the IFC of FIU went against the IFC of the University of Miami in the Cross-Town Challenge. *Photo By Campus Life Publications*

Greek Housing

-By Hatzel Vela

A crowd of about 70 gathered to dedicate the land south of the new 16th Street entrance to Greek Housing on a cool, sunny afternoon Friday, February 4, 2000. The ceremony began shortly after 4 P.M. with a welcome given by Todd Sullivan, assistant director of campus life for Greek Affairs. Sullivan said the event was a "gleam in the eyes of the administration and students" for it was long awaited and a product of much hard work and dedication. Representatives of the administration present at the event said they believe Greek Housing will serve as the bridge into making the University more a traditional college and less a commuter school, therefore enhancing its campus life and spirit. Sullivan introduced Patricia Telles-Irvin, vice president of Student Affairs, who declared the planned fraternity row as "a new chapter in the Greek system." For the past eight years, Greeks have been pursuing this project with the help and support of the administration and its alumni members. Telles-Irvin said each house, "will not only be a house, but a community." Paul Gallagher, senior vice president of Business and Finance, commented on the bravery of the Greeks for taking these steps to making all this happen. He said the event is a momentous first for the students and the University. "We didn't hide the new Greek housing in the back or by the football field, but in our front doors because we're proud of you," Gallagher said. Gallagher speculated on the future by saying, "We will see sorority houses on this campus." Sororities refrained from entering the long procedure when fraternities were given the go-head three to four years ago. Strong support from the administration has played a key role in the development of the project, Sullivan said. "The administration is definitely committed to Greek Life," Sullivan said. However, it is the Greek alumni who have provided the energy involved in pursuing this effort. Peter Dunne, president of the Florida Southeastern Graduate Chapter for Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), said Greek Housing is a crucial addition. "This was something a long time in coming, and it was something that needed to be done in order to complete University life at FIU."



After all the hard work, Dr. John Bonnano speaks about the future of Greek housing. *Photo By Jose Otero*



During the opening ceremonies for Greek Housing, IFC presidents David Diaz speaks about Greek Life at FIU. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Greek Adviser Todd Sullivan told the crowd the ground breaking was long awaited. *Photo By Mario Abril*



The future home of Greek Housing. *Photo By Mario Abril*



Speaking about this historic occasion was the founding father of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Richard LaTorre. *Photo By Mario Abril*

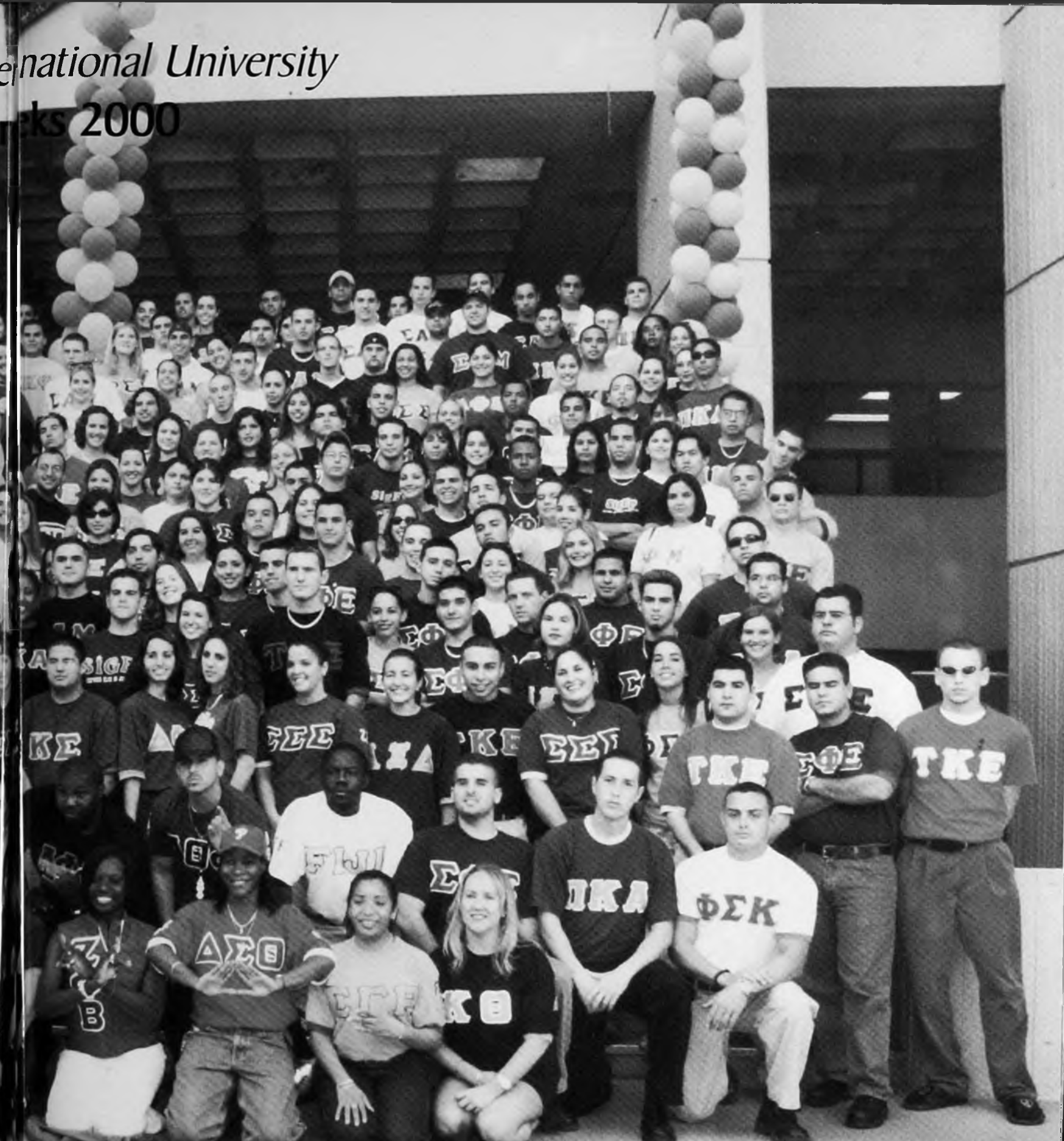


The brothers of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity stand on the site of their future home. *Photo By Mario Abril*



At the Greek housing ceremonies, the layout map of Greek Row is put on display. *Photo By Mario Abril*

Florida International University
 Greeks 2000



ΑΞΔ ΚΘ ΦΣΣ ΑΚΑ ΔΣΘ ΦΒ
 ΔΦΕ ΦΜ ΣΣΣ ΑΦΑ ΖΦΒ

ΚΣ ΦΣΚ ΠΚΦ ΣΦΕ ΛΘΦ
 ΑΨ FIJI ΠΚΑ ΣΑΜ ΤΚΕ ΦΚΣ

Panhellenic Council

The Panhellenic Council is the governing body for all National Sororities. The council strives to develop qualities in friendship, academic excellence, and community service within the sororities at FIU. Currently there are six sororities at Florida International University:

Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Phi Epsilon, Phi Mu, Phi Sigma Sigma, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Kappa Theta (Alpha Omicron Pi). Joining a sorority is taking part in the making of the history of all women.

Sororities began over 100 years ago by women who believed in strength of friendship and womanhood. This strength became the essence of their power to instill qualities of service and leadership in

the lives of women nationwide. Today this tradition still continues, and you are

invited to join the bonds of sisterhood.



Top: During the Homecoming game, Phi Mu Sorority cheer on the Golden Panthers Basketball team. Photo By Jose Otero. Middle: Cheering down 107th avenue. Sigma Sigma Sorority show their spirit during the annual homecoming parade. Photo By Mario Abril



Panhellenic E-Board: Top Row Jennifer Carvalho-Silvia (Secretary), Jessica Leon (Financial Vice President) Front Row: Danielle Jones (Chief Justice), Michelle Castro (President), Luli Samitter (Vice President). Photo By Jose Otero



During the fall RUSH 1999, Rho Chis gather together for a group shot before they reveal their sorority letters to the new pledges. Photo By Campus Life Publications.

ALPHA XI DELTA

The Theta Xi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1893, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "For all the right reasons." ΑΞΔ annually hosts and participates in the Fall Ball, Dance Marathon, and Homecoming. ΑΞΔ has been at FIU for seven years.

President Julie

"This year has been a very successful year due to the hard work and dedication each sister has contributed to the chapter,"

Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as class, leadership and congeniality. "Alpha Xi Delta has been an inspiration in my life. It has taught me the importance of friendship, community service and campus involvement," said Vice President Maria G. Marin.



Figueredo says,

has been a very successful year due to the hard work and dedication each sister has contributed to the chapter,"



Top Row: Gilnett DeLeon, Jill Barrera, Nicole Nuñez, Pam Guerrero, Jennifer Canals, Veronica Alvarez Middle Row: Letty Leon, Jessica Morffi, Ginger Diez, Raquel Lange, Suzette Hernandez Bottom Row: Julie Figueredo, Jackie Fernandez Photo By Vanessa Valencia



Taking a break, the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta sorority relax on the grass after the volleyball tournament during Greek Week. Photo By Jose Otero



During the Homecoming parade, Isabel Rodriguez-Ojea participates in the annual brigade. Photo By Mario Abril

Supporting the FIU Men's Basketball team, Julie Figueredo, Luli Samitier, and Margie Gomez cheer as loud as they can. Photo By Jose Otero

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Alpha Xi, AZD

Founded:
Nationally: April 17, 1893
Locally: Jan. 25, 1990

Colors:
Double Blue (light and dark) and Gold

Flower:
Pink Killarney Rose

Symbol:
The Quill

Mascot:
BetXi Bear

Jewel:
Diamonds and Pearls

Philanthropy:
"Choose Children"

Motto:
"For all the right reasons"

Walking down Flagler Street, the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta sorority carry their homecoming banner. Photo By Mario Abril

Right before going to a Alpha Xi Delta social event, Natasha Merino is escorted by Jose Garcia from Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. Photo By Jose Otero



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
D Phi E, Deephers

Founded:
Nationally: March 17, 1917
Locally: April 16, 1989

Colors:
Royal Purple and Pure Gold

Flower:
Lovely Purple Iris

Symbol:
Equilateral Triangle

Mascot:
Unicorn

Jewel:
Pearl

Philanthropy:
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders

Motto: "Esse Quam Videri" -
"To Be Rather Than To Seem To Be."

After winning second place in the Lip Sync contest with Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon cheer proudly. *Photo By Mario Abril*

During the Homecoming parade, Berta Icabalceta and Gaby Icabalceta wave their spirit sticks. *Photo By Jose Otero*



DELTA PHI EPSILON

The Alpha Gamma chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon ended the academic year at the Chi class. Founded in New York, in 1917, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "To be rather than to seem to be". ΔΦΕ hosts and participates in the Greek Feud, Campus Man and Homecoming. ΔΦΕ has been at FIU for 11 years. President Gisele Braceras says, "Delta Phi Epsilon is an organization in which I am confident lasting benefits in the years to come". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as sisterhood, social, scholarship, self and service. "As an individual you can achieve great things, but working together as sisters our achievements are unlimited and that's what distinguishes Delta Phi Epsilon from all other organizations on campus," Vice President Susy Padron said.

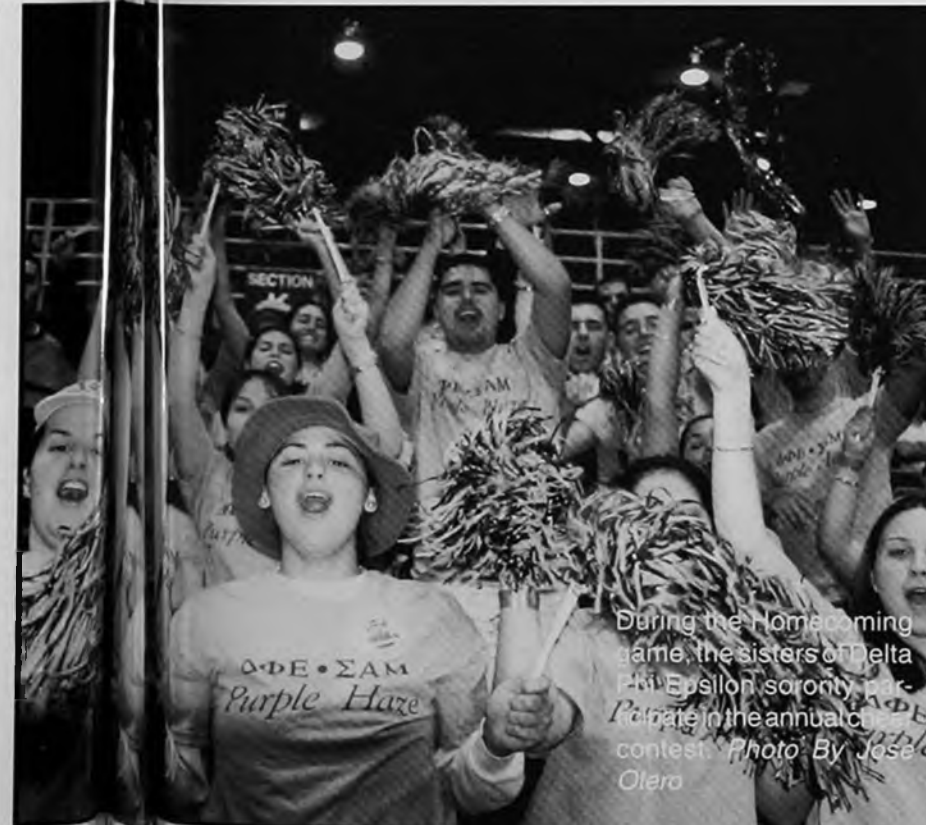


Top Row: Priscilla Cruz, Lety Pradero, Courtney O'Dell, Naomi Nogues, Venus Goicoechea, Karla Reyes, Elena Cuervo, Meredith Fileman, Rosemary Paosada, Diana Ruiz *Middle Row:* Erika Gort, Karen Rendelmen, Maria Campos, Gaby Icabalceta, Ella Elias, Barbara Paez, Angelica Gartan, Beatiz Bruna, Danay Diaz, Frances Lopez, *Bottom Row:* Erika Alvarez, Gisele Braceras, Cristy Bandin, Carmon Roca, Susy Padron, Cristy Padron, Laura Rodriguez, Danielle Jones, Maria Kassab *Photo By Vanessa Valencia*



On Founders Day weekend, the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon went camping as one of their events. *Photo By Betty Bruna*

After the soccer game against Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, Ana Tristian receives a hug from one of her sisters. *Photo By Jose Otero*



During the Homecoming game, the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon sorority participate in the annual contest. *Photo By Jose Otero*

KAPPA THETA

The Alpha chapter of Kappa Theta ended the academic year at the Epsilon class. Founded in Miami, in 1998, this, Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "service, scholarship and sisterhood." KΘ annually hosts and participates in Homecoming, Greek Week and fundraising for its philanthropy. KΘ has been at FIU for two years. President Phoebe Moll says, "The proof of our glory is in our efforts and our future by Alpha Omicron Pi international fraternity in Fall 2000". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as original to FIU, scholarship and unity. "Kappa Theta is made up of strong, hard working ladies and that can be seen through all their accomplishments this year," stated Vice President Jessica Jamanca. Kappa Theta will become Alpha Omicron Pi in the Fall Semester, 2000.



During the homecoming pep-rally, the sisters of Kappa Theta sorority cheer for the homecoming night. Photo By Jose Otero



Bonding together, Rachel Garcia and Priscilla Telon give each other a hug. Photo By Jose Otero

Celebrating Greek life, Camila Takahashi, Phoebe Moll, Priscilla Telon, Karen Khan, Silvia Usategui, Jessie Garcia, Sandra Mira and Cynthia Navea participate in the Greek Toga Party. Photo By Jose Otero



Top Row: Phoebe Moll, Arlene Naranjo, Judy Siu Manchoy, Silvia Usategui, Giselle Won Wong, Debbie Vargas, Nicole Martinez, Andrea Luna, Sandra Mira, Lili Gonzalez, Jessie Garcia, Gigi Gonzalez, Jessica Jamanca. Middle Row: Michelle Nunez, Cynthia Navea, Susan Bigam, Priscilla Telon, Camila Takahashi, Rachel Garcia. Bottom Row: Ana Escobar, Stacey Benedict, Karen Khan, Alicia Vigil Blanco. Photo By Kappa Theta

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Kappa Theta

Founded:
Spring of 1998

Colors:
Black, White, Gold

Flower:
Pansy

Symbol:
Kite

Mascot:
Caterpillar

Jewel:
None

Philanthropy:
Garden at Litm

Motto:
None

Pulling as hard as they can, Rachel Garcia, Giselle Won Wong, Karen Khan, and Arlene Naranjo participate in the Greek Week Olympics. Photo By Jose Otero

Decorating the Graham Center, Yanlee Acosta prepares FIU for Homecoming Week. Photo By Jose Otero



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Phi Mu

Founded:
Nationally: Jan. 4, 1852
Locally: Aug. 27, 1988

Colors:
Rose and White

Flower:
Enchantress Rose Carnation

Symbol:
Quadrafoil

Mascot:
Lion

Jewel:
None

Philanthropy:
Children's Miracle Network/
Project HOPE

At Tropical Park, the sisters of Phi Mu sorority gather together with their Fall 1999 pledge class. *Photo By Griska Mena*

During halftime at the Homecoming game, this member of Phi Mu talks to her sorority sisters. *Photo By Jose Otero*



The Theta Gamma chapter of Phi Mu ended the academic year at the Alpha Zeta class. Founded in Macon, Georgia, in 1852, this Greek organization was bound together by strong beliefs in, "The faithful Sisters". ΦM annually hosts and participates in the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, Grand Slam, and Miracle on 136th Street at the Falls Shopping center. ΦM has been at FIU for 12 years.



President Griska Mena says, "We are a group of women that have joined a bond that will last a lifetime". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as love, honor and truth. "Phi Mu has become a family away from home," Membership Director Elaine Figueredo said.

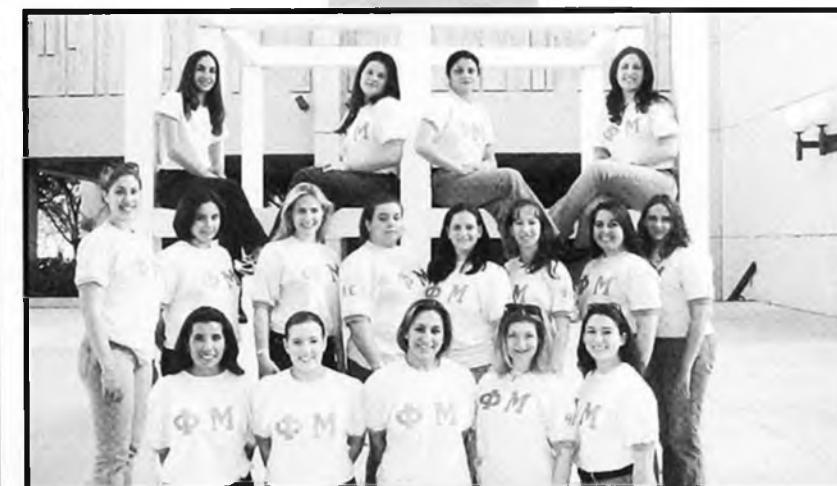


At the Fan Fest barbecue, Suyen Martinez and Iru Bustindui discuss upcoming events over a glass of water. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Waving her spirit stick, Phi Mu sisters cheer on the Golden Panther Men's Basketball team. *Photo By Jose Otero*



On the weekend, the sisters of Phi Mu sorority spend some quality time. *Photo By Griska Mena*



Top Row: Cristina D'agord, Graciela Mendez, Sylvia Mayorga, Lauryn Raphael *Middle Row:* Nicole Castillo, Alejandra Marin, Jamie Friend, Danielle McIntyre, Michelle LeNoir, Barbara Lopez, Lauren Swerdloff, Anne Archa *Bottom Row:* Giuliana Casanova, Carolina Cervera, Griska Mena, Elizabeth Salerno, Danielle Aragon *Photo By Vanessa Valencia*

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Tri-Sigma

Founded:
Nationally: April 20, 1898
Locally: Nov. 3, 1991

Colors:
Royale purple and White

Flower:
Purple Violet

Symbol:
Sailboat

Mascot:
None

Jewel:
Pearl

Philanthropy:
Robbie Page Memorial
Foundation

Motto:
"Faithful Unto Death"

After revealing herself, this Sigma Sigma Sigma Rho Chi reunites with her sisters after the bid announcement. *Photo By CLP*

Sharing a moment, members of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority bond together after a long day of classes. *Photo By Jose Otero*



SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA

The Zeta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma ended the academic year at the Rho class. Founded in Farmville, Virginia, in 1898, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Faithful unto death." ΣΣΣ hosts and participates in Homecoming, Dance Marathon and spring formal. ΣΣΣ has been at FIU for nine years. President Carolina

Bustamante says, "As we enter the new millennium, I wonder what is in store for Tri-

hope to continue to grow and have a positive impact on the FIU campus,". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as diversity, friendship and inspiration. "The greatest privilege of membership in Sigma Sigma Sigma is the right to participate with dignity, knowing that you are valued as an individual," stated Vice President Jennifer Rojas.

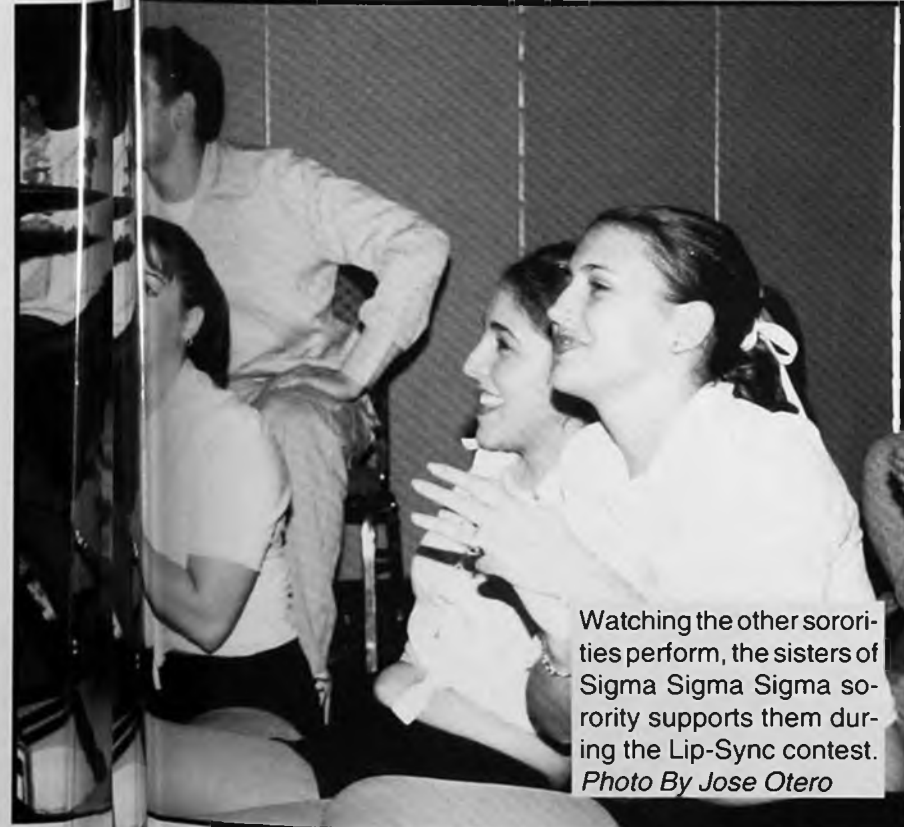


Top Row: Carolina Bustamante, Sorel Cortopassi, Elia Fajardo, Stephanie Pruitt, Kari Farach, *Middle Row:* Jenny Rojas, Becky Escobar, Heather Corey, Maris Ramirez, Elena Crego, *Bottom Row:* Kimberly Qurk, Zonia Salazar, Lisa Malard, Lally Fernandez, Lisa Grossman, Jenny Beard. *Photo By Vanessa Valencia*



After initiation, the sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority take a picture with their new sisters. *Photo By Tri Sigma*

Late at night, the sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority take a break while decorating the DM building for Homecoming. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Watching the other sororities perform, the sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority supports them during the Lip-Sync contest. *Photo By Jose Otero*

National Pan-Hellenic Council

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is currently composed of nine National Greek letter fraternities and sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Seven of the nine members are currently registered at FIU. The bond that unites each organization is its dedication to serve as conduits by which action plans could be formulated and coordinated to address the problems of today. Its continual legacy of promoting unity and social action has moved the African American community forward and has forever changed American society as a whole. Here at FIU, they welcome all men and women who are interested in learning more about the NPHC and its organizations, whether it is service, academic aid or networking.



Time Adline, Robin Leighanne Ellis, and Maskieka Allen show the Greek Hand to me. Photo by Maskieka Allen. Above: During the 1999 Greek picture taking, the National Pan-Hellenic Council stands together. Photo by Todd Sullivan



1999 National Pan-Hellenic Council E-Board: Adeline Lubin, Kevin Tann, Samantha Jacobs. Photo By Todd Sullivan



2000 National Pan-Hellenic Council E-Board: Mawiyah Skinner, Maskieka "Peanut" Allen, Leighanne Ellis Not Pictured: Adeline Lubin. Photo By Jose Otero

THE 2000 NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL



ΑΚΑ

ΔΣΘ

ΖΦΒ

ΣΓΡ

ΑΦΑ

ΚΑΨ

ΦΒΣ

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA



Left to Right: Katrina Davis and Leighanne Ellis Photo By Vanessa Valencia

The Gamma Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha ended the academic year with high enthusiasm. Founded in Washington, D.C. in 1908, this Greek organization was bound together by strong beliefs in, "Service to all Mankind". AKA annually hosts and participates in the

Month, commu- ing drive family can AKA has for six years.

Leighanne Ellis says "Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc. is the epitome of class, grace and finer womenhood". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as distinction, leadership and excellence in every field. "We are the first and the finest Greek letter organization established by black college women," stated Vice President Katrina J. Devis.



nity cloth- and black food drive. been at FIU President

ALPHA PHI ALPHA



Alpha Phi Alpha member Photo By Vanessa Valencia

The FIU chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded in 1906, this Greek organization was bound together by strong beliefs in, "First of all, we shall all." AFA

partici- Project Alpha,

Alpha step show, and the United Negro College Fund annually. AFA has been at FIU for four years.



servants of all, transcend hosts and pates in the Alpha Phi

DELTA SIGMA THETA

The Iota Pi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded in Washington D.C, in 1913, this Greek organization has strong beliefs in, "sisterhood, scholarship and service." ΔΣΘ annually hosts a clothing drive, Thanksgiving drive and citizen masparty. ΔΣΘ has been at FIU for 27 years. President Ava Rene Horton says, "What you have to know to understand Delta is that membership in Delta Sigma Theta Inc. is a lifetime commitment," Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as community service, good moral character and being down to Earth. "Membership in Delta Sigma Theta has been a truly enriching experience. I have treasured my time as a member of Iota Pi," stated UP delegate Masheika "Peanut" Allen.



Masheika "Peanut" Allen Photo By Vanessa Valencia

SIGMA GAMMA RHO

The Omicron Theta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho ended the academic year with determination and dedication. Founded in Indiana, in 1922, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Greater service and progress". ΣΓΡ hosts and participates in the Miami Aids Walk, Habitat for Humanity and Sickle Cell Foundation annually. ΣΓΡ has been at FIU for three years. President Samantha Jacob says, "Our chapter is committed do to the founding principles of our sorority, community service, scholarship and sisterhood."



Left to Right: Mawiyah Skinner and Samantha Jacob Photo By Vanessa Valencia

KAPPA ALPHA PSI

The Iota Chi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi ended the academic year with high expectations. Founded in Bloomington, Indiana in 1911, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Achievement in every field of human endeavor". ΚΑΨ hosts and participates in the Diamonds and Pearls party, sexual awareness forum, Dating Game and Kappa Kruse annually. ΚΑΨ has been at FIU for two years. President David Harrell says, "We as Kappa men will always aid one another whenever, wherever and however needed."



Left to Right: Didier Zepherin, Chaplain Dixon, Greg Stuart, David Harrell Photo By Vanessa Valencia

PHI BETA SIGMA

The FIU chapter of Phi Beta Sigma ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded in 1914, this Greek organization was bound together by strong beliefs in, "Culture for service, and humanity." ΦΒΣ hosts and participates in the NAACP and the March of Dimes annually. ΦΒΣ has been at FIU for 18 years. Phi Beta Sigma was the first Greek organization at FIU.



Phi Beta Sigma member Photo By Vanessa Valencia

Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is made up of voting delegates from each of the fraternities at Florida International University. It serves as the governing body for the fraternities and oversees fraternity life at the University. The IFC provides guidance and assistance to fraternities through various programs aimed at developing academics, athletics, leadership, service and social interaction. This central organization for the fraternity system also provides regulations for the fraternities in order to maintain harmony and balance among the member organizations in reference to rush and social activities. Created only nine years ago, IFC is still a maturing organization. The 10 national fraternities on campus included Kappa Sigma, Lambda Theta Phi, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon. As a group, IFC is moving towards concepts of rushing, new ways of interacting among themselves and encouraging methods of uniting and becoming a family.



1999 Interfraternity Council E-Board: David Diaz (Treasurer), Cedric McMinn (VP Recruitment), Carlos Lopez (President), Camar Jones (Chief Justice), Nick Garcia (Secretary), Todd Sullivan (Greek Adviser). *Photo By Todd Sullivan*



2000 Interfraternity Council E-Board: Nick Garcia, Patrice Wassouf, David Diaz, Tony Gonzalez, Todd Sullivan (Greek Adviser). *Photo By Jose Otero*



Top: During the Homecoming game, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity cheers on the Golden Panthers basketball team. *Photo By Jose Otero* *Middle:* Cheering down 107th Avenue, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity show their spirit during the annual homecoming parade. *Photo By Mario Abril*

KAPPA SIGMA

The Xi Kappa chapter of Kappa Sigma ended the academic year at the Eta class. Founded in Charlottesville in 1869, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in "AEKDB". KΣ hosts & participates in the Brotherhood Barbeque, Homecoming, and Greek Week annually. KΣ has been at FIU for four years. The President of this organization is Miguel Ortiz and the Vice President is Stephen Fareanis. Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as fun loving, very strong brotherhood and dedicated members.



Top: Miguel Ortiz, Robert Gonzalez Middle: Gerardo Alonso, Carlos Navarette, Guy Lichtenstien, F. Carl Marinez Bottom: Stephen Fariñas, Mario Gutierrez Photo By: Jose Otero



Showing the brotherhood of Kappa Sigma members enjoying themselves at a new retreat. Photo By: Kappa Sigma



Having a good time, Kappa Sigma brother enjoy themselves at the Greek Luau. Photo By Jose Otero

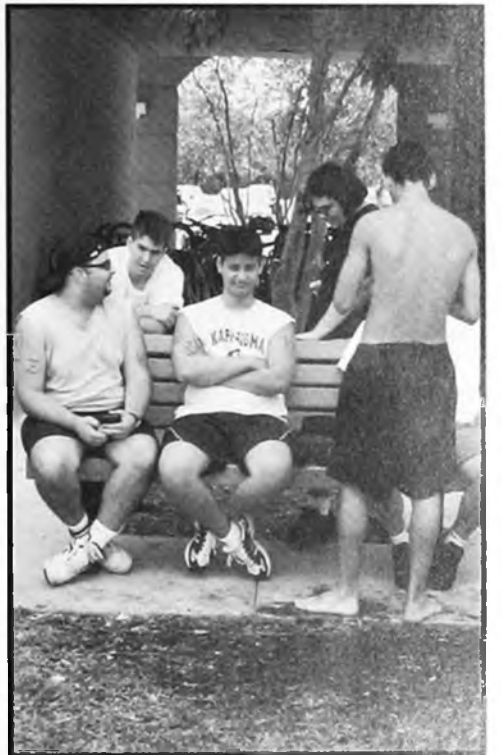
At the University of Miami, Kappa Sigma brothers meet up with other brothers at their fraternity house. Photo By Kappa Sigma

BASIC GREEK

- Nickname:**
Kappa Sig
- Founded:**
Nationally: Dec. 10, 1869
Locally: Dec. 7, 1996
- Colors:**
Scarlet, White and Green
- Flowers:**
Lily of the Valley
- Symbol:**
Star and Crescent
- Mascot:**
Marvin the Martian
- Jewel:**
Pearls, Emeralds and Rubies
- Philanthropy:**
Boys Town of Italy
- Motto:**
A.E.K.D.B.

Welcoming everybody to Fan Fest. Kappa Sigma brothers hang their banner in support of the FIU Panthers. Photo By Jose Otero

During Greek Week, Kappa Sigma brothers take a break after the tug-of-war. Photo By Jose Otero



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Lambdas

Founded:
Nationally: December 1, 1975

Colors:
Brown and White

Flower:
Secret

Symbol:
Secret

Mascot:
El Conquistador

Jewel:
Secret

Philanthropy:
National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, ASPIRA Inc., American Red Cross

Motto:
Secret

During Greek Week, Lambda Theta Phi brothers stand together right before the basketball tournament. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Planning ahead, Lambda Theta Phi brothers talk to each other before the tug-of-war. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Right before the final round of the Greek Limbo Contest, the finalists stand together for a picture. *Photo By Jose Otero*

At the Greek Toga party, Todd Sullivan speaks to Arturo Lara. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Pulling as hard as they can, Lambda Theta Phi brothers work together to win. *Photo By Jose Otero*

LAMBDA THETA PHI

The Alpha Kappa chapter of Lambda Theta Phi ended the academic year at the Beta class. Founded in Union, New Jersey, in 1975, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "En la union, esta la fuerza." ΛΘΦ hosts and participates in the Brotherhood picnic, marching in the national Puerto Rico parade in New York city and participating in the

Letter Organiza-
and confer-
has been at
years. Presi-

Lara says, "Lambda Theta Phi, builds Latino leaders of tomorrow." Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as first national recognized Latino fraternity, biggest Latino fraternity in the U.S and the first Latino fraternity to publish a historical account about its organization. "Although Lambda Theta Phi is Latino by tradition, our brotherhood represent all nations of the world," stated Vice President Hector Florin.



LGLO (Latino Greek Letter Organiza-
tion) banquet
ence. ΛΘΦ
FIU for three
dent Arturo
"Lambda Theta
of tomorrow." Specific to
this chapter are characteristics such as first national recognized Latino
fraternity, biggest Latino fraternity in the U.S and the first Latino
fraternity to publish a historical account about its organization. "Al-
though Lambda Theta Phi is Latino by tradition, our brotherhood
represent all nations of the world," stated Vice President Hector Florin.



Left to Right: Andres Builes, David Johnson, Arturo Lara, Rolando Lara
Photo By Vanessa Valencia

PHI GAMMA DELTA

The Delta colony of Phi Gamma Delta ended the academic year at the Zeta class. Founded in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1848, this Greek organization is bound together by the motto, "Friendship is the sweetest influence." FIJI hosts and participates in homecoming, Greek Week and Dance Marathon annually. FIJI has been at FIU for two years.

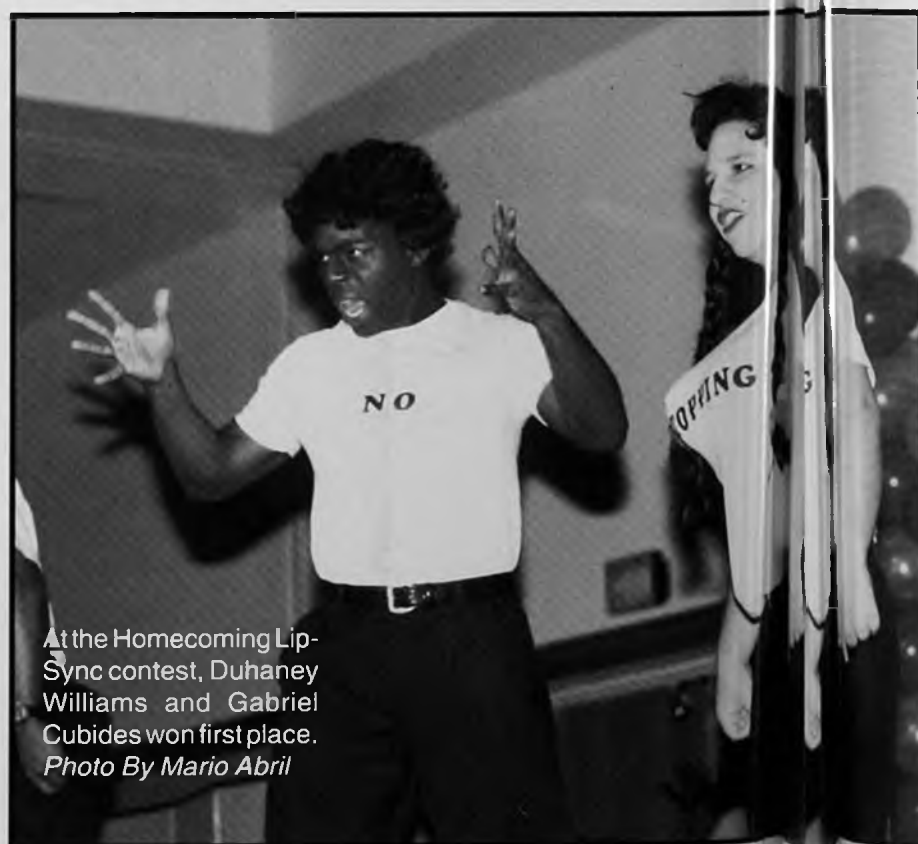
President Camar Jones says, "Friendship is the bases of our brotherhood. Because of it, we accomplish far more than we do as individuals,"



Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as scholarship, brotherhood and morality. "We strive for excellence. It is attained only when we fulfill our total potential. Mankind benefits when each of us becomes all that we can be," said Vice President David Velez.



Top: Bento Arruglia, Camar Jones, Juan Moreno, Brian Smatt, Mauricio Zulega Lester Garcia, Carlos Sanchez Bottom: Humberto Pino, Bryan Macfarland, Mark Martel, Javier Villa, Arturo Aviles Photo By Vanessa Valencia



At the Homecoming Lip-Sync contest, Duhaney Williams and Gabriel Cubides won first place. Photo By Mario Abril



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Fiji or Phi Gam

Founded:
Nationally: May 1, 1848
Locally: Colony Status

Colors:
Royal Purple and White

Flowers:
Purple Clematis

Symbol:
Black Diamond

Mascot:
Snowy White Owl

Jewel:
None

Philanthropy:
None

Motto:
"Friendship is the sweetest influence"

Right before the Homecoming Parade, Camar Jones and Mayron Walsh stand with their mascot the Snowy white Owl. Photo By Mario Abril

On the weekend, The Fiji Swat team goes paintball shooting in the Everglades. Photo By FIJI



Knowledge, service, morality, excellence and friendship are the qualities of a Phi Gamma Delta member. Photo By Jose Otero

Standing on the site of their future home, Phi Gamma Delta brothers stand together with Dr. Patricia Telles-Irvin and other Phi Gamma Delta officials. Photo By Mario Abril

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Phi Sig and Kappa

Founded:
Nationally: March 15, 1873
Locally: March 15, 1991

Colors:
Red & Silver

Flower:
Red Carnation and White Tea Rose

Symbol:
Triangle, Circle, and # T's

Mascot:
Bad Boy

Jewel:
None

Philanthropy:
Big Brothers/ Big Sisters,
March of Dimes

Motto:
Secret

Pulling as hard as they can, the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa go against Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in the tug-of-war. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Phi Sigma Kappa brothers watch the intramural soccer game against Phi Gamma Delta. *Photo By Jose Otero*



PHI SIGMA KAPPA

The FIU chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded, in Amherst, in 1873, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Do unto others as you would have done unto you."

ΦΣΚ hosts and participates in Greek Week, Homecoming and intramurals. ΦΣΚ

has been at FIU for seven years. Phi Sigma Kappa is a well rounded fraternity with members in virtually every college and most organizations on campus.



During Rush week, the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa were seen recruiting new members. *Photo By Phi Sigma Kappa*

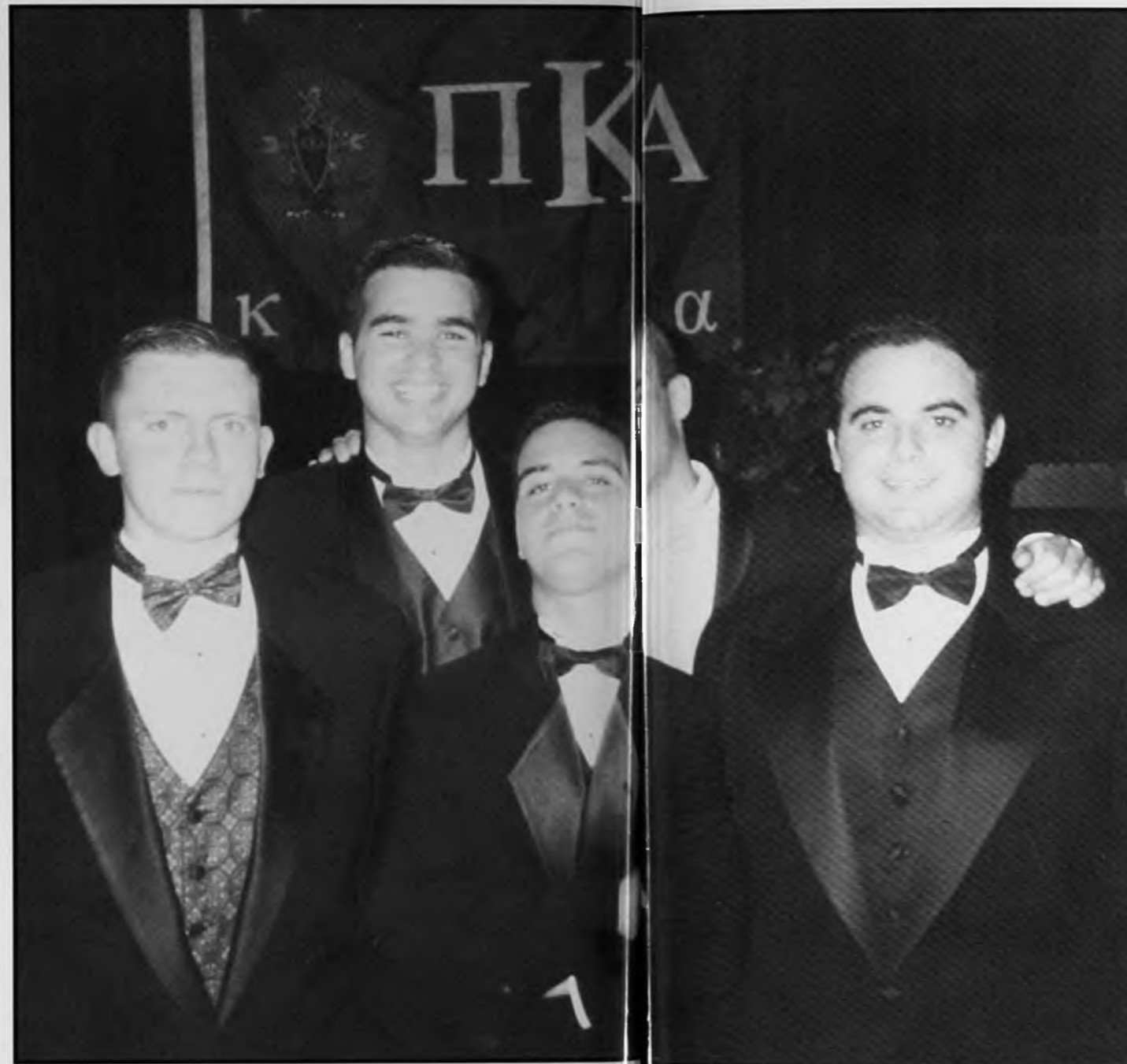
Right before the Homecoming Parade began, the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity put finishing touches on their float. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Top Row: Johann Schmid, Roy Hallak Middle Row: Patrice Wassouf, Armand Souto Bottom Row: Alex Gomez, Jorge Rodriguez, Jeff Reynolds Photo By Vanessa Valencia

PI KAPPA ALPHA

The Kappa Gamma chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha ended the academic year at the Omicron Upsilon class. Founded in Virginia in 1868, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen." ΠΚΑ annually hosts and participates in the rape and domestic violence awareness seminar; Pike Dream Girl and Pike formal. ΠΚΑ has been at FIU for seven years. President Luis Moreno says, "We consistently recruit the best men to insure our continued dominance of the Greek system." Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as well-rounded, athleticism and scholarly. "We are never satisfied and constantly striving for excellence in all areas of programming. Pi Kappa Alpha has won four Intramural cups and four academic cups at FIU," stated Vice President Richard Barbara.



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Pikes

Founded:
Nationally: March 1, 1868
Locally: May 21, 1994

Colors:
Garnet and Old Gold

Flower:
Lily of the Valley

Symbol:
Fire Truck

Mascot:
Dalmation

Jewel:
Ruby

Philanthropy:
American Diabetes Foundation

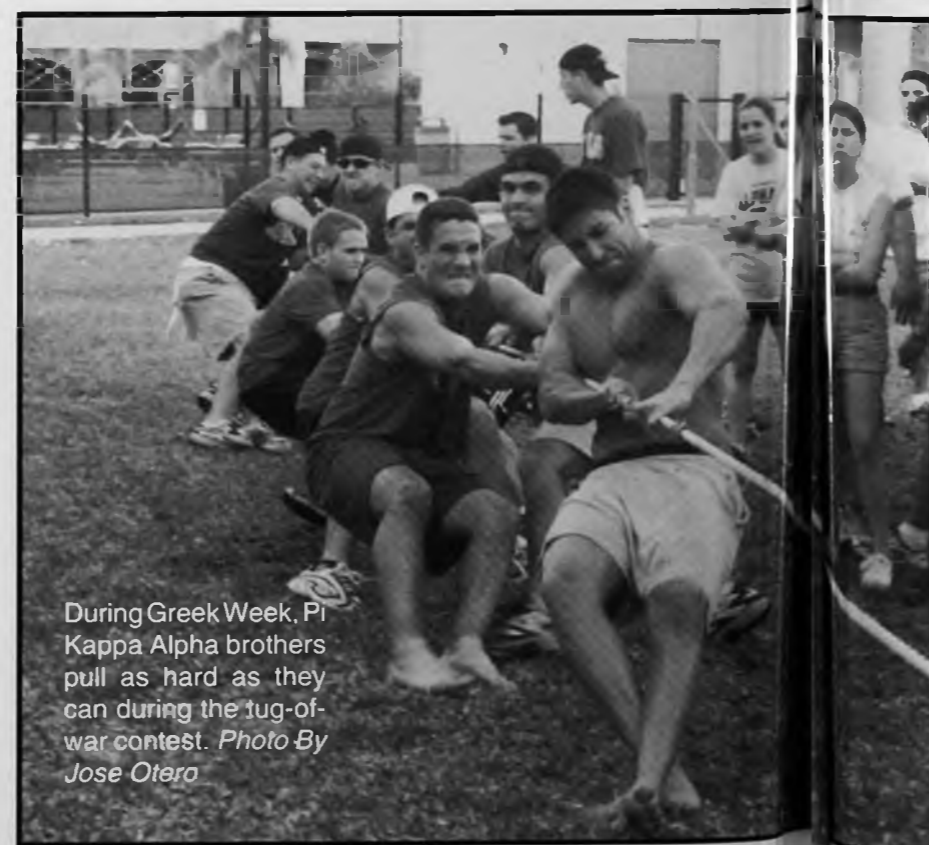
Motto:
"Scholars, Leaders, Athletics and Gentlemen."

Spending time together, these Pi Kappa Alpha brothers stand together at their formal. *Photo By Pi Kappa Alpha*

At the Greek Fashion show, Eric Rojas walks down the runway. *Photo By Lazaro Llanes*



Top Row: Tony Gonzalez, Mike Causadies, Brian Wilson, Matt Marshall
Middle Row: Robert Gonzalez, Damian Bovi, Carlos Gobel, Jonathan Vargas, Carlos Gonzalez
Bottom Row: Eric Rojas, Carlos Gutierrez, Kirk Weiss, Luis Moreno, Benjo Reyes, Eric Pfaeffle
Photo By Vanessa Valencia



During Greek Week, Pi Kappa Alpha brothers pull as hard as they can during the tug-of-war contest. *Photo By Jose Otero*



At the annual Greek awards, Richard Barbara thanks IFC president Davis Diaz after winning the sport cup. *Photo By Jose Otero*

During dinner, Pi Kappa Alpha brothers stand together at the annual Greek awards ceremony. *Photo By Jose Otero*

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Pi Kapps

Founded:
Nationally: Dec. 10, 1904
Locally: Colony Status

Colors:
Gold, White, and Blue

Flower:
The Red Rose

Symbol:
The Star Shield

Mascot:
None

Jewel:
Secret

Philanthropy:
PUSH America

Motto:
" Nothing Shall Ever Tear Us
Asunder"

At the Biscayne Bay campus ropes course, Salo Gorin and Andrew Silvia work together to win the challenge. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Hitting the ball over the net, Tony Landa scores another point for Pi Kappa Phi. *Photo By Jose Otero*



PI KAPPA PHI

The associate chapter of Pi Kappa Phi ended the academic year with the Founding father class. Founded in Charleston, North Carolina, in 1904, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Nothing shall ever tear us asunder". ΠΚΦ hosts and participates in the HugaPiKapp fundraiser and Greek Week. ΠΚΦ arrived at FIU in the Spring, 2000. Archon George Corton says, "The brotherhood that has been formed has exceeded any expectations that were ever set by each of us, or by the FIU Greek community". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as character, leadership, athleticism, scholarship and service. Pi Kappa Phi is currently the newest fraternity at FIU.

ΠΚΦ



First Row: Jeff Pujals, Mike Belaustegui, Robert Martinez, Matt Williams, Lazaro Rodriguez, Tony Landa, Eddie Planas, Rodney Lantos
Second Row: Oscar Grau, Danny Sanchez, Bruno Garcia, Jose Otero
Third Row: Alain Sanchez, Carlos Arriessecq, Fernando Pou, Raul Rodriguez
Fourth Row: Salo Gorin, George Corton, Jose Garcia
Fifth Row: Pedro "Paco" Barrios, Christian Brugal,
Sixth Row: Andrew Silvia
Photo By Vanessa Valencia



Raising funds for their philanthropy, the brother of Pi Kappa Phi gather together during the Hug-a-Pi Kapp contest. *Photo By Danny Sanchez*

During Greek Week, Pi Kappa Phi brother grooves some of their friends gather together for lunch. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Recruiting new members for the Pi Kappa Phi, chapter consultant Jeff Pujals talks to Christian Brugal. *Photo By Pi Kappa Phi*

SIGMA ALPHA MU

The Delta Zeta chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu ended the academic year at the Beta Eta class. Founded in New York in 1909, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "To foster and maintain our brotherhood." ΣAM yearly hosts & participates in the Sammy Spring Fling, the Sammy talent show and their spring formal. ΣAM has been at FIU for 11 years. President Israel J. Thomas says, "We strive for the highest standards of brotherhood and a memorable college experience". Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as brotherhood, determination and manhood. "This has been the best experience of my college days" stated Vice President Carlos Escanilla.



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Sammy

Founded:
Nationally: Nov. 26, 1909
Locally: Jan. 20, 1991

Colors:
Purple and White
Locally: Purple and Gold

Flower:
Purple Aster

Symbol:
Octagon

Mascot:
Yosemite Sam

Jewel:
The Enamel Plate

Philanthropy:
Pediatric AIDS Foundation

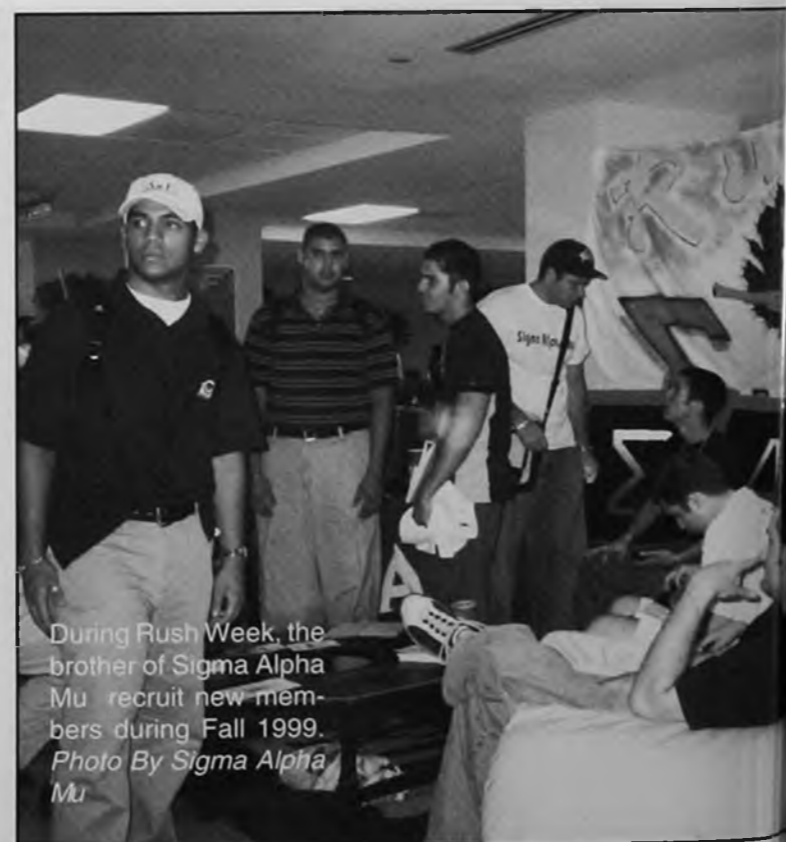
Motto:
"Secret"

At Jillian's Billiards, Sigma Alpha Mu brothers gather for a group shot during Spring RUSH. *Photo By Sigma Alpha Mu*

During Greek Week, this Sigma Alpha Mu brother scores in the game. *Photo By Jose Otero*



First Row: Scott Sklar, Arturo Ortega, Brandon Carrero, Nick Garcia, Carlos Escanilla, Carlos Hernandez, Danny Linares *Second Row:* Dennis Smith, Eddy Nieves, Mark Silver, Kurt Kamrad, Miguel Lara, Carlos Hernandez *Third Row:* Anthony Catrelo, Nobert Joyce, Albert Castro, Nelson Flores, Jose Chamoan, Humberto Martinez, Angel Neyes *Fourth Row:* Greg Trujillo, Orlando Amorin, Gustavo Bello, Mark Colon, Ramon Galu, Noal Juain *Fifth Row:* Ayan Valle, Danny Alvarez, Kime Aguilera, Greg Acevedo, Alex Beatun, Armando Yerol *Sixth Row:* Juan Ramos, Alex Gayol *Photo By Vanessa Valencia*



During Rush Week, the brother of Sigma Alpha Mu recruit new members during Fall 1999. Photo By Sigma Alpha Mu



After winning the tug-of-war against Tau Kappa Epsilon, Brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu celebrate their victory. Photo By Jose Otero

During a men's basketball game, the brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu support the Golden Panthers. Photo By Jose Otero

BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Sig Ep

Founded:
Nationally: Nov. 1, 1901
Locally: Jan. 17, 1987

Colors:
Nationally: Red and Purple
Locally: Blue and Red

Flowers:
Dark Red Rose and Purple Violets

Symbol:
The Balanced Man

Mascot:
The Knight

Jewel:
Pearls and Rubies

Philanthropy:
Nationally: Project America
Locally: United Way

Motto:
"Secret"

During the Homecoming Game, Manny Casmire, Jonathan Gaviria and Cedric McMinn cheer for FIU. *Photo By Jose Otero*

During the Lip Sync contest, Yamil Piedra is performs his routine. *Photo By Mario Abril*



SIGMA PHI EPSILON

The Florida Nu chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon ended the academic year at the Spring 2000 class. Founded in Richwood, Virginia, in 1901, this Greek organization is bound together by strong beliefs in, "Building balanced leaders for America's communities." ΣΦΕ hosts and participate in the Dance Marathon; Diabetes Walk and the Aids Walk annually. ΣΦΕ

has been at FIU

for 13 years.

Juan Molina

formed people

ing Greek is "pay- ing for friends" then SigEp is the best investment I have made," Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as oldest fraternity at FIU, the only college fraternity to receive a federal grant for its development and sport cup champs three years in a row. "You live, you die, and if you're lucky enough somewhere in between you experience SigEp," stated Vice President Miguel Orozco.



has been at FIU

President

says, "If unin-

formed people

think that go-

ing for friends" then



During recruitment Week, Julie Ruiz, Rebecca De Quesada, Jenny Garcia, Vanessa Santana, Mike Barba and Jorge Escobar smile for the camera. *Photo By Sigma Phi Epsilon*

During Homecoming Week, Jairo Villela waits for the parade to begin. *Photo By Mario Abril*



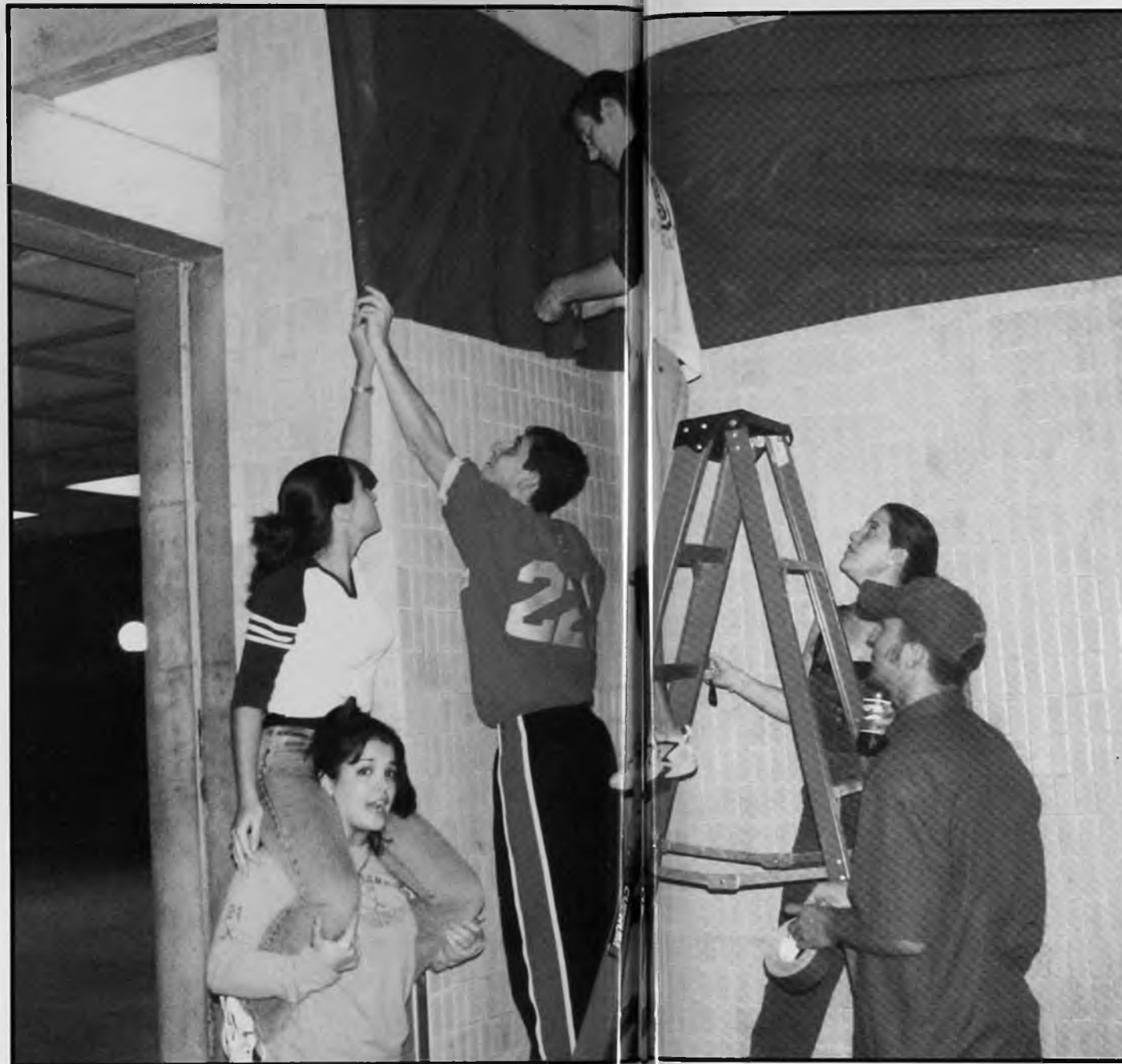
Helping out, David Diaz, Joel Garcia and Victor Garcia clean up the community. *Photo By Sigma Phi Epsilon.*



Top Row: Luis Poveida, JC Alexander, Alex Tabarres, Enrique Cardenas, Manny Casamir, Mike Sequeiros *Middle Row:* Robert Sosa, Jairo Villela, Jose Amaya, James Aguiayo, Cedric McMinn, Lorenzo Arca, David Diaz, Jonathan Gaviria *Bottom Row:* Victor Garcia, Marco Suarez, Steve Lamazaro, Jose Soto, Nelson Alcantara, Gabriel Urrutia, Orlando Martinez *Photo By Vanessa Valencia*

TAU KAPPA EPSILON

The Sigma Alpha chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon ended the academic year at the Alpha Eta class. Founded in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1899, this Greek organization was bound together by strong beliefs in, "To aide men in mental, moral and social development." TKE hosts and participates in Greek Week, Homecoming and intramurals. TKE has been at FIU for 11 years. President Jorge Manjarres says, "TKE is the largest social fraternity in the world," Specific to this chapter are characteristics such as tight brotherhood, commitment to excellence and dominance of the fraternity system. "We're not the best because we're the biggest, we're the biggest because we're the best," stated Vice President Brain Yosef.



BASIC GREEK

Nickname:
Teke

Founded:
Nationally: Jan. 10, 1899
Locally: Nov. 12, 1988

Colors:
Crimson Lake and Pure Silver

Flower:
Red Carnation

Symbol:
Apollo

Mascot:
The Knight of Classic Lore

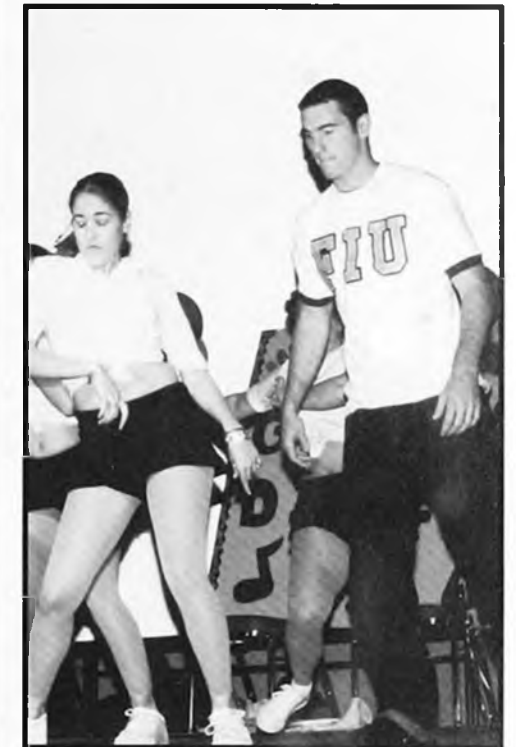
Jewel:
The Pearl

Philanthropy:
Special Olympics

Motto:
"Not For Wealth Rank or Honor;
But for Personal Worth and Character"

Getting ready for Homecoming Week, Tau Kappa Epsilon decorates the DM building with Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. *Photo By Jose Otero*

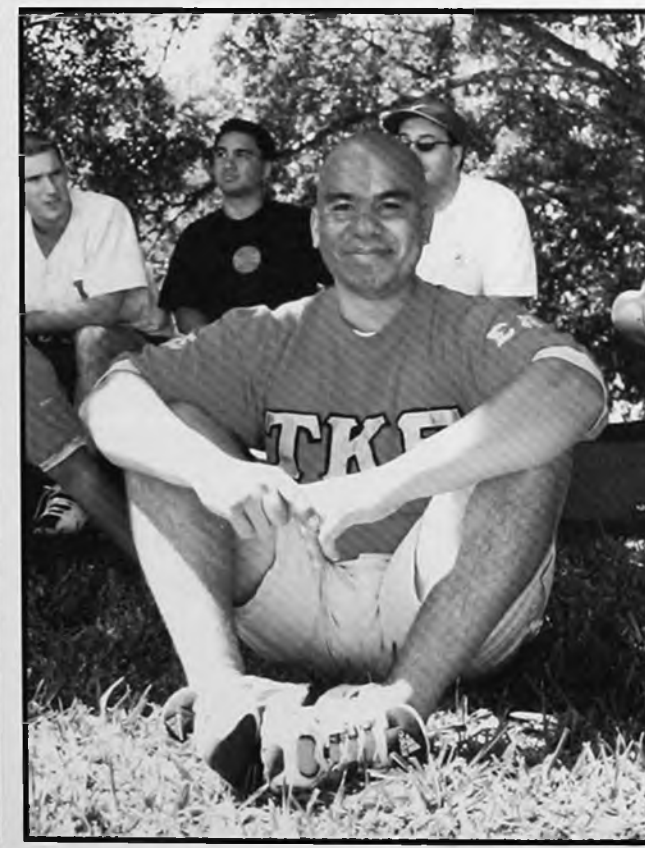
At the Lip Sync contest, John Parmenter dances with a member of Tri-Sigma. *Photo By Mario Abril*



Luis Cal, Brian Yosef, Robert Llana, Angel Garcia, Reynaldo Morales, Brian Brian, Jorge Manjarres, Fabio Pellegrini, Chris Steinmann, Jose Toscano, Carlos Medina, Chino Kan, John Parmenter, Javier Sanchez, Jorge Ramos, Julio Aguilar, Mike Blanco, Gabe Diraddo, Jaime Manjarres, Garry Julien, Jose Gonzalez *Photo By Sharon Caldera*



During Rush week, Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers hold information sessions about their fraternity. *Photo By Tau Kappa Epsilon*



Covered with face paint, Jaime Manjarres supports his brothers during Greek Week. *Photo By Tau Kappa Epsilon*

Standing at the future site of the Tau Kappa Epsilon home, the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon celebrate this historic occasion. *Photo By Mario Abril*

THIS TIME



It was not just in high school that extra curricular activities were beneficial. In fact, numerous employers value a college graduate who decides to get involved at their university. Not only does the experience offer the opportunity to make connections and meet new people, it also offers the immense benefit of learning to work with others. Contrary to popular belief, partnership, communication and group relations are as much a part of our world today as ever before. With 100 different organizations to join at FIU, membership is not only critical in leading a successful college life, but imperative in order to apply the skills learned to real life situations. Heading the mass of student organizations is the council, better known as SOC. SOC is composed of all club and organization presidents or vice presidents. Their meetings are an effort to establish tradition and strong reputations among and within not only each club but the student body as well. As much as the SOC might work as one body, it is in actuality many voices in one. Beginning with clubs like HOSA, (Health occupations Students of America) whose example serves to show the importance of skills acquired through being a part of these organizations. Members of this student organization learned through hands on experience. They gave of their time and knowledge to the community in the form of volunteering at hospitals. The Honors Council represents and enforces the academic integrity maintained by the Honor Code. There are, however, also a number of clubs that do not focus on professional experiences, for example COLSA, the Colombian Student Association. COLSA unites this community of students through cultural and political events. The organization that increases awareness of Japanese Animation, better known as Anime, has recently experienced an explosion of attention because of the incredible success of Japanese Animation among American children in the last year. This organization allows students to share and enjoy special hobbies within a caring and involved community. Other prevalent student organizations that impact the university are honor clubs, which mentor and assist hundreds of students in academic areas, which is after all what college is all about. Still, as significant as the academic experience may be, there is no denying the substantial importance of extracurricular activities in creating and living a complete and successful college life.

-Vanessa Valencia

AROUND...



CLUBS

VISION YEARBOOK

By Jose Otero

What could be the first words out of a yearbook staff member's mouth when asked about this publication? "It's a great responsibility, but in the end it pays off!" said Isabel Garces, Sports Editor. Believe it or not the Yearbook might be the most challenging organization to be involved with at FIU. With over 12 different sections to be covered such as Greeks, Academics, Seniors, Student Life, etc. it is no wonder that the Vision yearbook staff managed to surpass in its quality define. When the yearbook staff is not in a deadline situation it manages to give back to the community such as helping out local schools such as Ruben Dario Middle with Braddock Senior High in their publications. After 11 years of not having a yearbook, The SGA decided to bring back this project as a gift to FIU for the new millennium. Starting off from scratch, Editor-In-Chief Jose Otero managed to recruit Associate Editor Vanessa Valencia, Business Manager Stacy Padron and other editors from local high schools from Miami. "This



"THEY SAID IT
COULDN'T HAPPEN"

-JOSE M. OTERO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Time Around" the theme of the yearbook was chosen to represent the time lost since this last yearbook was printed in 1989 and the birth of a new generation of FIU students. Therefore it was decided that "This Time Around" we were here to stay.



On Veteran's Day, members of the Vision yearbook staff enthusiastically pick up Business Manager Stacy Padron in celebration of being two months ahead of their deadlines. Photo by Lazaro Llanes



On a Thursday evening, Associate Editor Vanessa Valencia teaches staff member Rosy Reyes how to crop and layout pictures for the yearbook. Teaching other staff members the techniques of producing a yearbook was one of the responsibilities of the editors. Photo by Jose Otero



Left to Right Christine Prieto, Vanessa Brito, Vanessa Valencia, Stacy Padron, Jose Otero, Isabel Garces, Sharon Caldera Not Pictured Liz Bello, Dayana Bennett, Betty Bruna, Lou Conrad, Derik Deliard, Natalie Gonzalez, Lazaro Llanes, Dyana Nieto, Yajaira Ortiz, Rey Perez. Photo by Lazaro Llanes

At the Panther Hall Meeting hosted by the Student Government Association held in early October, freshman Derik Deliard interviews Victor Romano about the SGA. Photo by Lazaro Llanes



Sunday's are usually a day of relaxation, but not for the Beacon Editors, News Editor Alex Segura Jr. and Sports Editor Chris Font finish laying out their section for Monday's publishing deadline. Photo By Jose Otero.

BEACON NEWSPAPER

By Derik Deliard

This school year headlined many changes to the Beacon, FIU's official newspaper. Changes such as the jump to broadsheet from tabloid size, the addition of College Grapevine and most importantly a renewed commitment to publish more FIU news, made the Beacon better in many of its readers' eyes. "This new look is truly amazing considering how the paper looked before," freshman Michael Arkin said. "With the change to broadsheet, the Beacon really looks like a college newspaper. By going broadsheet, it gives the paper a chance to be more creative and also allows the paper to put in more hard facts," staff writer Jorge Montes said. The Beacon, which has been running since 1989, still serves as a forum to accept anyone who wishes for the opportunity to write. "The Beacon provided me with the opportunity to do what I enjoy most: write," Montes said.



"THE BEACON'S WEEKLY
FULL TIME WORK PUTS
PART TIME STUDENTS
THROUGH HELL, BUT THE
RESULTS ARE ALMOST
ALWAYS WORTH IT. AS
LONG AS I GET TO KEEP
SOME HAIR ON MY HEAD"
-ALFREDO SOTO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Front Row Bettina Inclan, Steve Coate, Alfredo Soto, Chris Font Top Row Alez Segura Jr., Lou Conrad, Lester Thomas Not Pictured Brad Bauman, Venus Goicoechea, Eduardo Rodriguez-Perez Photo By Jose Otero

WRGP RADIO STATION

By Dayana Bennett

FIU's student radio station began in 1987 by a group of students who wanted to start a station on 540 AM, which eventually got the call letters WUFI. A couple of years later, the slow process began to get an FM station, with the help of former students including Billy Jones and Ian Grocher. The station serves as FIU's main media outlet and welcomes

all kinds of students who are responsible and committed. The station has a \$125,000 budget and the responsibility is great, says General Manager Brian Smatt. The station contributes to FIU- a variety of music, plus FIU sports coverage, while making itself visible to the student body and community. The station presently simulcasts on 88.1 FM and 540 AM so reaching out isn't a problem for WRGP and WUFI. Lou Conrad has been the advisor for the radio station since 1995 and he oversees the executive board members, and when the station went FM in the early part of summer 1999. The E-board and DJ's of the radio station do share different tasks. DJ's are responsible for doing their shows, attending station meetings, and spreading a good recognition of WRGP by DJing dances and special events. The general staff meets every three weeks and the E-Board meets every Wednesday. "I expect 110% commitment from the E-Board and they do have hour requirements to meet. The general staff members must attend their shows and general staff meetings."

said GM Brian Smatt. "The radio station is FIU. I want to see our station compete with noncommercial and commercial stations throughout South Florida. We have the potential and the talent. I think we're slowly getting there because the word is getting out about us now that we're FM," said Brian Smatt.



"THE WORD IS GETTING OUT NOW THAT WE ARE FM AND WE HAVE A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY AND CHALLENGE AHEAD OF US."
- BRIAN SMATT
GENERAL MANAGER

Excited about changing from AM to FM, the FIU radio station shows its first bumper sticker with the announcement of their milestone change. Photo by Lazaro Llanes



For the grand opening of an...
Roberto Graint, Brian Smatt, Kaheill Whittaker, Jaime Crawford, Daniel Diaz, Top row Johnny Rivera, Hikmat Kilzi, Gabriel Couriel, Robertico Satana, Orlando Machado, Lou Conrad Not pictured Ayleen Barbel Photo by Jose Otero



Watching the game with great enthusiasm, some of the FIU hockey fans cheer and support them during their game versus UF. Photo By FIU Hockey



At a competition up state, the FIU Hockey team manages to find time to get together and take a picture. Going to many games is the life of a FIU Hockey player. Photo By FIU Hockey

FIU HOCKEY

By Nicole Martinez

"We started out as a group of hockey players in the PC parking lot," said Francisco Jose Tudelo, President and Captain of the FIU Hockey Club. The FIU Hockey Club is an organization comprised of students who have a passion for this particular sport; not all participate, however, some find their enjoyment as onlookers on the sidelines. And so, in order to please everyone, they have been divided into two major areas: the fans and the players. The fans only meet every few weeks for discussions, while the players enjoy practicing vigorously and must be highly dedicated in order to do well in competitions. The club helps hockey players who attend FIU to compete at a very high level. It also definitely raises school spirit and teaches the students about the sport," said Tudelo. All members are given the opportunity to play in-line hockey in the CRHL (Collegiate Roller Hockey League) and participate in free hockey lessons. They compete against UF, FSU, UCF, UM, Eckerd College, and Erau, within their division; they also compete with other schools across the country. They meet at 4:30 P.M. every Saturday, and at 6:45 P.M. Mondays in Goodlet Park.



"FIU HOCKEY, THE FASTEST SPORT AT FIU"
- FRANCISCO TUDELA
CAPTAIN



Front row Carlos Tudela, David Garcia, Eddie Angelotti, Luis Quitana Top row Paul Shoshath, Ralf Stocki, Daniel Stocki, Uned Correa, Lionel Ruiz, Francisco Tudela, Hernan Santiesteban Photo by FIU Hockey

CAMPUS LIFE PUBLICATION

By Derik Dellard

If you're looking for a teamwork environment, look no further than the FIU Campus Life Publications. Their chief goal is to advertise the FIU campus events the best way possible. Each person in the department has an equal responsibility in accomplishing the publications ultimate goal: advertising activities. From Campus Life Publications coordinator Ronnie Mittleman to Copy Editor Ana Olivares, each position in Campus Life Publications is vital to the overall success for the advertisement of activities throughout the University Park campus. Olivares best surmised the teamwork and dedication that it takes to produce the overall achievement of Campus Life Publications. "The purpose of this department is to market and publicize all of campus life's events. Everyone has different tasks to make this happen. All of us work as a team," Olivares said. Among other responsibilities that Publications oversee is the development of shirts to support activities, the campus life calendar, and the decorations of upcoming events throughout the campus. All of this is done to notify the FIU student body of upcoming events. Freshman Haresh Ahuja finds the reminders useful as she tries to remember various



"WORKING FOR CAMPUS LIFE PUBLICATION IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE EVERYONE IS FULL OF CREATIVE ENERGY"

-YASENNY CAMEJO
DESIGNER

activities. "I think they're very useful, especially for incoming freshmen like me," Ahuja said. "It's nice to know that the university cares about us."



From Left to Right Raul Rodriguez, Ana Olivares, Yasenny Camejo, Ronnie Mittleman, Nadia Fernandez, John Parmenter Photo by Jose Otero

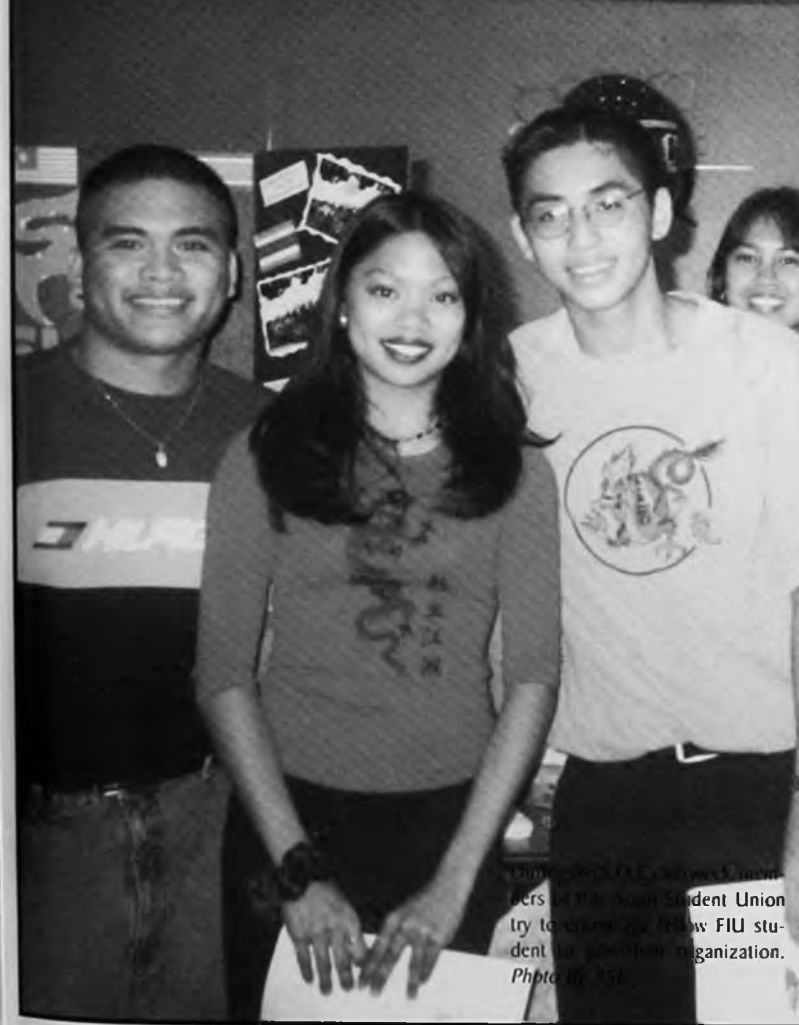


Being pulled back by the bungee cord during welcome week at FIU. Raul Rodriguez gasps for air giving his all with the full game. Photo by Campus Life Publications



After a week of celebration, Freshman Ana Olivares takes a relaxing moment to read her copy of The Beacon newspaper. Photo by Campus Life Publication.

At the 1999 Gator Growl, the Asian Student Union members won second place in the Def Talent Jam contest held at the University of Florida. Photo By ASU



Members of the Asian Student Union try to encourage fellow FIU student to join their organization. Photo by ASU

ASIAN STUDENT UNION

By Isabel Garces

The ASU (Asian Student Union) was formed in the fall of 1998. Up to this time it had been known as the FSA, the Filipino Student Association. So many other Asian students had become interested in the club. This year is it's first year as the ASU. Their president Brian Cui helps to plan many events they hold. Thanks to this they were able to meet the ASU of the University of Miami. They can adjunct with several ASU's on road trips and socials. This group is part of the Asian American Student Association. The AASA has many multicultural events. This year in Gainesville, FL, the FIU ASU and the UM ASU were able to host a weekend that included the Def Talent Jam. UM and FIU both participated and won second place. They made their mark by yelling out "Dirty South" to represent Miami. This club has done a lot in such a short amount of time. They made their own website (www.FIU.Edu/~asu). The amount of members have multiplied. Hopefully this club will continue to grow and prosper as the years go by.



"THIS CLUB HAS IMPROVED SO MUCH FROM LAST YEAR, I AM SO PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR"

-BRIAN CUI
PRESIDENT



Asian Student Union

SIGMA LAMBDA CHI

By Sharon Caldera

Sigma Lambda Chi—The Construction Management Association was founded in 1974 by a group of students who were the first to major in Construction management here at FIU. Sigma Lambda Chi is an international organization that began in 1949 at Perdue University. "The fundamental purpose of Sigma Lambda Chi is to recognize outstanding students in the field of construction membership in a society is an honor and is based upon outstanding scholarship, leadership, character; regardless of color, gender, race or creed," said Andrew Hernandez, president of SLC. SLC is a well-coordinated organization. They are involved from actual work on construction sites to a well-known community service project known as Habitat for Humanity. Students who join the SLC get a chance to network with owners and presidents of big companies. "It's helped several of our members with great job opportunities for the reason that when they go



"MEASURE TWICE
CUT ONCE"

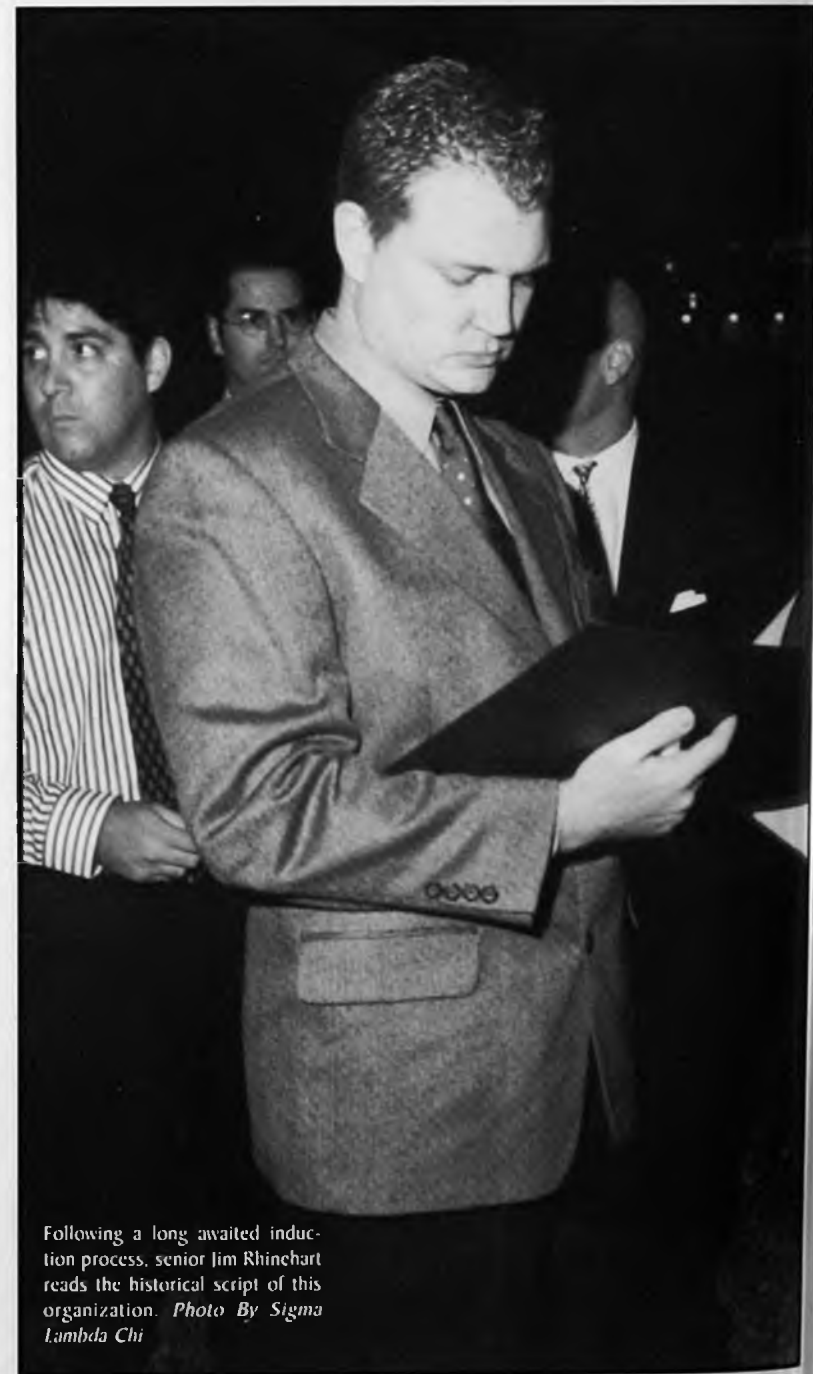
-ANDREW S. HERNANDEZ
PRESIDENT

to job interviews, the interviewer sees on their resume Sigma Lambda Chi, and they know that they are top of the class and are well fitted for the job," said Andrew Hernandez. Sigma Lambda Chi not only serves FIU as an organization, but also as leaders of the future.



Left to Right Brian Powell, Luis Carbonell, John Villate, Andres Del Toro, Jenny Pacheco, Ryan Treco, Andrew S. Hernandez, Pedro Portela, Marcos Ferreira, Jim Rhinehart Photo By Jose Otero

During the Spring induction many students gather together to celebrate this timely tradition. Photo By Sigma Lambda Chi.



Following a long awaited induction process, senior Jim Rhinehart reads the historical script of this organization. Photo By Sigma Lambda Chi



Admiring one of many movie posters posted up throughout the Graham Center, freshman Alex Lobato anticipates the airing of You Got Mail. Photo by Lazaro Elanes



During one of the Movie Critics Society meetings, founding members John Roche Jr. and Alex Lobato explain what their organization is about. Photo By Movie Critics Society

MOVIE CRITICS SOCIETY

By Rosa Elena Reyes

The Movie Critic Society is the brainchild of John Roche (president) and Alexander Lobato (vice president), best friends since high school that share a deep love for movies of all genera. They have come together to form a new and entertaining club at FIU. This club gives members the opportunity to view movies when they are released and sometimes as sneak previews as long as they provide the club with a critique of the movie. This critique, if chosen, will be published in the school's newspaper *The Beacon* or will be posted in other forms of media like the organizations web page and club letters. "Anyone can join because everyone is a critic," Alexander Lobato responded when asked who could join this club. The only requirement the members have are to participate in some of the club activities like the Miami Film Festival and when attending a screening of a movie, they must write a critique on the movie. "The purpose of this club is to aid in the preservation of critically acclaimed movies as well as present them to the student body so that they become aware of the rich history movies have contributed to our society,"



"EVERYBODY IS A
CRITIC"

-JOHN ROCHE JR.
FOUNDING PRESIDENT

John Roche answered when asked the purpose of this new organization that is striving to be the best. Also this club is just one of the stepping stones for FIU students are hoping to receive a grant to start a film school.



Left to Right John Roche Jr., Alex lobato, Monica Velazquez, Lisa Garces Nol pictured Cindy Cu Photo By Jose Otero

ALPHA KAPPA PSI

By Isabel Garces

Alpha Kappa Psi was founded at FIU in June of 1992. This isn't a club, or just some organization, it's a fraternity. This fraternity isn't once every semester, it's forever. Alpha Kappa Psi is a business fraternity. This

involves leadership retreats and Alumni mixers which allows the fraternity to meet someone in their profession. This fraternity isn't just about partying or just having fun. This fraternity was created for students seeking a degree in Business, Hospitality Management, and/or Economics. When one becomes a member of this nationwide brotherhood, one has the opportunity to attend professional speakers from all areas in business. "What we do is develop well trained, ethical, skilled, resourceful business leaders," said Jeremy Baker. "We do this because life is a competition and we want to be on the winning team." This group

serves as a training for when these students go out into the professional world.



"WHAT WE DO IS DEVELOP WELL TRAINED, ETHICAL, SKILLED, RESOURCEFUL BUSINESS LEADERS"

-JEREMY BAKER
PRESIDENT



Bowing themselves into the professional world, members of Alpha Kappa Psi gather together to play basketball. Photo By Alpha Kappa Psi



Alpha Kappa Psi



During one of the Alpha Kappa Psi late night meeting. E-board members gather around after a long night of studying business. Photo By Alpha Kappa Psi

After a long day helping out the Miami-Dade community, members of Alpha Kappa Psi eat a delicious meal brought to them by the people who they help out. Photo By AGC



Helping out in the community, Pedro Portela begins to place the new glass front of a reconstructed house. Photo By AGC

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

By Sharon Caldera

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) provides students with the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the profession of construction. Students that join the AGC are students that are involved, or going to be involved in the construction industry and related fields. Students who join the AGC receive many benefits from joining the organization. "Benefits that our members are contact with other students of similar interests and career goals, closer contact with the construction faculty and contacts with nearby AGC state chapter staff, and access to their experience and services. Opportunities to visit and learn from local construction projects and possibilities of meeting and working with AGC contractors, etc." said Marco A. Ferreiram, president of AGC. Membership in one of AGC's 150+ nationally chartered student chapters offers an extraordinary opportunity to learn more about construction: to further develop their abilities, and to observe at close quarters the industry in which they will work after graduation.



"A FIRST STEP TOWARDS BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTOR"

-MARCO A. FERREIRA
PRESIDENT



Left to Right Andrew S. Hernandez, Jim Rhinchart, Jenny Pacheco, Andres Del Toro, Luis Carbonell, Marco Ferreira, Pedro Portela, Ryan Treco, Frank Stout, Brain Powell, John Villate, Joseph Johnson Chennoor Photo By Jose Otero

A.A.R.T.

By Sharon Caldera

The purpose of Association for the Advancement for Recreational Therapy's is to help other students know more about the field of therapy, know what they are going to experience out in their field. AART

works with professionals in their field. "We do community service, things that help us in our field. We work with a state chapter which is called Gold Coast." Said Elizabeth Gongora, president of AART. Members receive experience from interacting with those already in the field of therapy. Members get to go to conferences; positions are raffled to a student, in which they get a day to experience the actual work of a professional. "Here at FIU we hold many conferences, bringing many professionals to talk to our students, even those who aren't majoring in therapy." said

Elizabeth Gongora. Students have a chance to internship with those in the field. The students who get selected have a chance to work one on one with a therapist and have the experience of a lifetime.



"I FEEL THAT EVERY RECREATIONAL THERAPIST SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER BECAUSE THEY WOULD BENEFIT A LOT FROM IT"

-ELIZABETH GONGORA
PRESIDENT



Front Row Elizabeth Gongora, Ivette Perez, Zulay Castro, Ania Gonzalez Middle Row Martha Laboriel, Darlene Acevedo, La Toya Spells, Kaywana Simpson, Lizveth Pimentel, Lisa Chong Top Row Christel Griffin, Diana Chiong, Timothy Grumbly, Jessica Zamora, Salema Razack

During the annual club fair hosted by S.O.C, Ivette Perez and Elizabeth Gongora try to recruit more FIU students for their organization. Photo By A.A.R.T.



Helping out Habitat for Humanity. Diana Bondy and Ivette Perez help build a house for unfortunate people who don't have a home to live in. Photo By A.A.R.T.



Meeting in one of the FIU gazebo members of the Christian Bible Fellowship can read different types of literature to inspire and uplift. Photo by CBF



Every Spring, the Christian Bible Fellowship manages to go on their annual retreat to Sebring, Florida. Photo By CBF

CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

By Sharon Caldera

Campus Bible Fellowship is a national organization working on various campuses all over the U.S.A. (and in some foreign countries). "When we saw the need for such an organization on the campus of FIU, CBF staff was sent here to begin this work"

said Evelyne Metzler a staff member of CBF. The purpose of CBF is to encourage the understanding of the Christian faith through Bible study, discussion and counseling. CBF believes the Bible is the Word of God without error. The CBF is an organization not only for the disciplinary learning of God but also a group that promotes the personal beliefs and interest of its members. The time spent as a group doesn't only consist of reading out of the Bible but by going on various outings such as picnics, retreats, going to the Zoo, Parrot Jungle, airboat rides, Malibu Grand Prix, etc. Campus Bible Fellowship works with Campus Life when they need help with special activities like barbecues (first day of new semesters), handouts, etc. They also helped the International Students Organization with their Spring Culture Fest and with "moving in" day. "We also have individual Bible studies at various times throughout the week

for those who can't attend the regular meeting due to schedule conflicts. At least once a month we have some type of social event. "They CBF is not only together for the study of God but to reach out to those who seek the love of God.



"CBF IS THE NICEST GROUP I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE"

-ISAACSON BUTEAU
PRESIDENT



Christian Bible Fellowship

SKY DIVING CLUB

By Sharon Caldera

Being thousands of feet above the ground and all you see are clouds covering the ground below. The person behind you is counting while many thoughts run through



"YOU GOT TO TRY IT AT LEAST ONCE"

-HELENA POLEO
PRESIDENT

your mind. The last number is yelled and you are pushed out of the plane door. As you fall you get a feeling of ultimate adrenaline running through you. Sky diving has been a sport that's gained wide acceptance in the past few years. The FIU Sky Diving club gives students the opportunity to enjoy this exciting sport. The members are given many classes before the actual free fall. If you want to become a skydiver, they have a nine level student program or a seven level Accelerated Free-fall program, designed to teach you to jump with members. Although the sport is very dangerous the FIU Sky Diving club offer's the best

equipment and instructions on what not to do when free falling. The FIU Sky Diving club offers its members a good time in the sky.



Top Row: Nick Perdomo; Maria Andro; Dimitriy Ekht; Deboraah Kramp Bottom Row Victor Sutter; Helena Poleo; Camila Gonzalez Photo By Jose Otero



Nothing can be more exhilarating then jumping off a plane and diving toward the earth. As two members of the Sky Diving club demonstrate. Photo By Sky Diving Club



When reaching ground, three of Sky Diving Club's members showed their excitement to the camera after just reaching earth. Photo By Sky Diving Club

During club week, The president of anime accompanied with two other members promote their club to those who want to belong to an organization.



Every Thursday members of ANIME screen videos of new Japanese animation brought to FIU directly from Japan. Photo By Jose Otero

ANIME CLUB

By Sharon Caldera

The awareness of Japanese Animation, anime for short something which until recently was kept in the dark. At FIU, members of Anime hope to change all that.

Anime was started in hopes of finding more people that were into anime like their members. They want the club to be a place where people can come, relax and just enjoy a night full of anime. Also, a place where people can come to chat and share their interests and just experience new things. That is the club's main concern, they just want it to be fun! There are a lot of things for one to be stressed out in life, however, anime wants the club not to be one of those things. Founded in 1997, Anything Goes Anime's purpose is to promote awareness to Japanese animation. Weekly meetings are held in a laid back and enjoyable atmosphere where members can come and meet others that share their interest in anime.



"ANIME CLUB GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW JAPANESE CARTOONS"

-WENDY LO
PRESIDENT



The ANIME Club Photo By Sharon Caldera

COLOMBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

By Sharon Caldera

The organization of the Colombian students of FIU is a group of friends, a majority of whom are Colombians dedicated to different activities in which they have the opportunity to live up the culture and the customs that make up the identity of

Colombia. This organization reunites those who are interested in living an experience of Colombia while living in the United States. Those who recognize the importance of Colombia, also recognize that those of their background carry with them a pride like no others and will learn to carry with them the same pride wherever they are from. CSA helps those who join to evaluate the importance of the Colombian culture by reminding them of their dances, foods, clothing and especially the pride that the Colombian people carry with them. CSA joins in many activities that FIU hosts. For instance the homecoming parade each year, CSA has their bus which is painted in

many luminous colors which carries the colors of the Colombian flag. CSA is a club of not only importance but gives their members a sense of family.



"NOT ONLY BEING COLOMBIAN MAKES ME PROUD BUT BEING PRESIDENT HAS BROUGHT MUCH MORE PRIDE TO ME"

-CAROLINA PALACIOS
PRESIDENT



Colombian Student Association Photo By CSA

Everyone in the Homecoming parade got excited when the time came to drive the bus away for the ending of Homecoming Week. Photo By Mario Abril



Angela Bonilla, Andres Campo and Natalia Ortega stand in front of their bus for the annual Homecoming parade. Photo By CSA



Right before the meeting begins, Mark Martell and Yamilet Hurtado prepare the calendar of events on the computer. Photo By Sharon Caldera



Maron Toscano and Venus Garcia enjoy each other's company during one of their Stone Wall meetings. Photo By Sharon Caldera

STONE WALL

By Sharon Caldera

Stonewall Columbus is a human rights organization serving central Ohio through advocacy, community building and education. Its done in pursuit of equality, fairness and safety for the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. As an innovator in the area of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender (LBGT) student issues, the Stonewall Club has been a model for many other colleges and universities throughout the country. Currently there are more than 50 clubs of Stonewall on campuses nationwide. The Stonewall organization took its name after an incident that happened at Stonewall a couple of years back. A boy who was not open in his sexuality was found out by a group of students who were not receptive of homosexuality and cornered him and beat him up, killing him. Because Stonewall's aims are political, Stonewall receives no funding from local government and little support from charitable trusts. Nearly all the income comes from people of the community who want Stonewall to achieve its objectives.



"IF EVERY GAY PERSON IN THE WORLD TURNED PINK, THE WORLD WOULD BLUSH"

-YAMILET HURTADO
PRESIDENT



Left to Right: Yamilet Hurtado, Mark Martell, Daisy Aguilar, Maron Toscano, Venus Garcia Photo By Sharon Caldera

FREE CUBA FOUNDATION

By Sharon Caldera

Our goal is to serve as a catalyst and assist in speeding up the end of the Castro era and thus minimize the suffering of the Cuban people on the island and in the

diaspora. The Free Cuba Foundation shall compile and provide documentation of the crimes committed by the Castro regime against the Cuban people and those of other countries. Furthermore the Free Cuba Foundation shall work to: counter the network of Castro supporters in North America with accurate information on the true nature of the Castro tyranny, support measures to decentralize the Cuban economy and provide information on how to operate a market system. Finally the Free Cuba Foundation aspires to do its part among the myriad

of exile organizations and exile leaders that have fought the good fight these past 30 years.



"THE FREE CUBA FOUNDATION, IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT STANDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS"

-JOHN SUAREZ
COORDINATOR



On January 28, 1998 the Free Cuba Foundation hosted a retrospective on the documentary "Nobody Listened," which dealt with the lack of human rights in Cuba. Photo By FCF



July 13, 1999 marked the 5th anniversary of the massacre of 41 men, women, and children by Cuban government agents. Members of the Free Cuba Foundation held a 5 minute moment of silent reflection. Photo By FCF



Left to Right John Suarez, Robert Linares, Jose Raul Photo By FCF

HISPANIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

By Sharon Caldera

The Hispanic Student Association was established to promote recognition of

Hispanic Heritage amongst students and teachers. Members of this club become involved in the community and fill the gaps between ethnicities and nationalities. The club and its members also volunteer hours, putting together dinners for the less fortunate. Some other forms of charity which the Hispanic Heritage was active in, included an organized toy drive. Along with their holiday giving to the community, the club gives and supports year round and worldwide charity functions. Spreading knowledge, culture and love is one of the club's greatest missions.



"BEING THE FOUNDER OF THIS CLUB HAD MADE AN IMPACT ON MY COLLEGE CAREER"

-ANGEL GARCIA
PRESIDENT

During a general Hispanic Student Association meeting, President Angel Garcia discuss an upcoming service project. Photo By HSA



Having a good brand is very important in every club. Here the Hispanic Student Association smile for the camera while having fun bowling. Photo By HSA



Left to Right: Gustavo Rodriguez, Nelfi Coello, Jorge Castillo, Carlos Medina, Nick Perdomo, Adina Lossceyk, Angel Garcia. Photo By HSA

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

By Sharon Caldera

The FIU chapter of NOW is dedicated to social activism within the community as well as representing the interest of women within the FIU community and educating

the University community on women's issues. Some of our issues include opposing racism, advocating for reproductive rights, supporting the rights of the disabled, supporting lesbian and gay right, and ending violence against women. An important element of NOW is comprehensive leadership training. NOW holds a series of workshops to empower young feminists and give them the tools and knowledge to become leaders on our campuses and in our communities. Those who join, learn the organizing skills from leaders of the most prestigious feminist organization in the

world. Becoming a NOW intern is a commitment to apply the skills learned during the internship and to become, or continue to be, an activist leader.



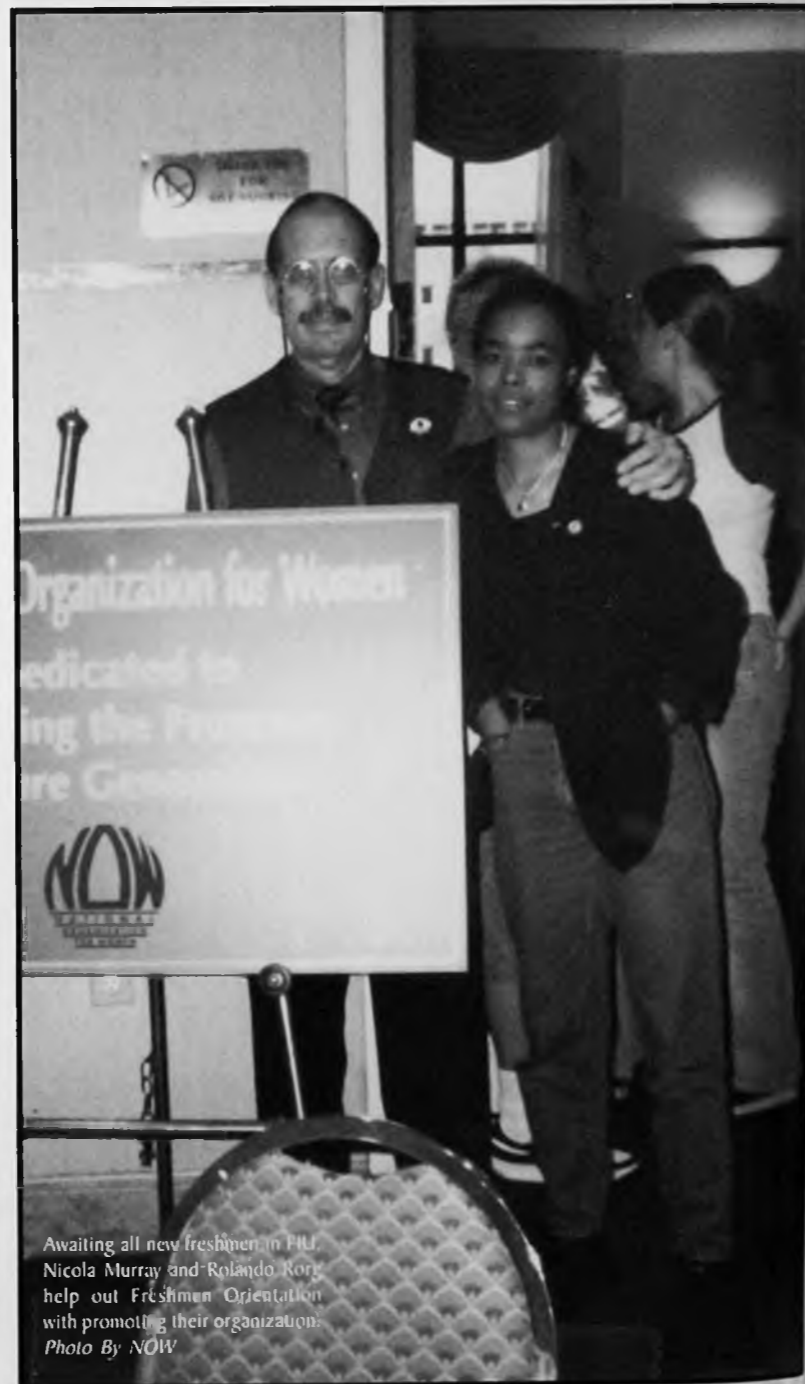
"THE FIU CHAPTER OF NOW IS DEDICATED TO SOCIAL ACTIVISM, PROMOTING WOMEN'S ISSUES AND REPRESENTING THE INTEREST OF WOMEN WITHIN THE FIU COMMUNITY"

-NICOLA MURRAY
PRESIDENT

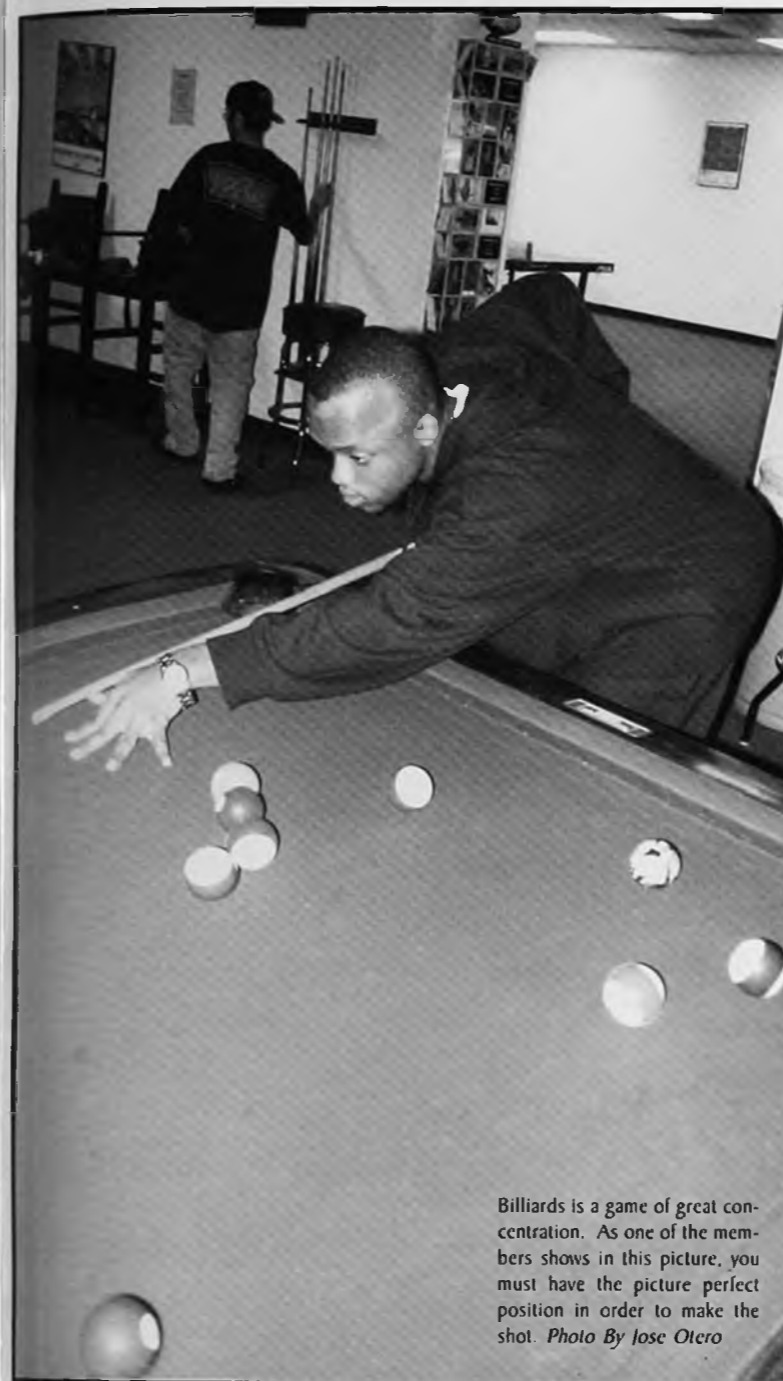


National organization for Women Photo By Sharon Caldera

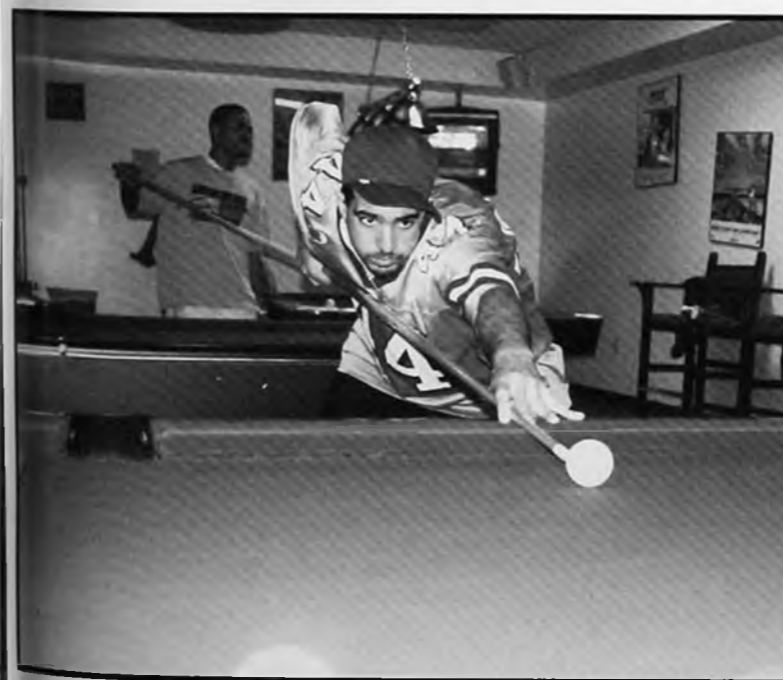
Each year, the National Organization for Women participate in TRAC: Team Ropes Adventure Challenge at the North Campus Ropes Course. Photo By NOW



Awaiting all new freshmen in FIU, Nicola Murray and Rolando Romo help out Freshman Orientation with promoting their organization. Photo By NOW



Billiards is a game of great concentration. As one of the members shows in this picture, you must have the picture perfect position in order to make the shot. Photo By Jose Otero



The hand position is everything in billiards. In order to make a specific shot the hands are spread out in a position that lets only the fingers touch the table. Photo By Jose Otero

BILLIARD CLUB

By Sharon Caldera

A table with six pockets is topped with 15 balls. One player must move the white ball with the stick in order to break up the 15 that are together. The position of your hand to the position of your feet counts in order to make a perfect shot. The winner must have gotten rid of all his balls and must make the last one which is the 8 ball. Sounds like a good game with much concentration. The game of billiards is a fun game for fun and relaxation. At FIU it was decided that not only is it a good idea to play it but to make a fun organization out of it. There is group of students here who instead of having weekly meetings, have play time. The organization teaches the players all the tricks and rules of the game. The game not only is played for fun but gives those who play a feeling of achievement by learning subjects while they play. Geometry is used while playing which teaches them math while having fun. Billiard Club has many competitions which helps students improve concentration.



"CONCENTRATION IS THE KEY"

-RENE GARCIA
PRESIDENT



Billiard Club Photo By Jose Otero

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

By Sharon Caldera

From lip sync to pie eating contests the Student Programming Council always has a surprise for FIU students. SPC is a student-run organization funded by the student



"SPC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STUDENT BODY AND STAFF FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION. YOU MADE THIS AN UNFORGETTABLE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING YEAR"

-NELLY LINARES
VICE-CHAIR SPC

government council, providing social and cultural activities and entertainment for the University community. The council is comprised of several committees such as: Comedy Connection, Luau, Movie mania, Cinema Wednesday, Midday Breaks and Welcome Week. Student Programming tries to provide students with activities to keep them active but with a little twist of excitement. Programming is also provided for the following ethnic and specialty themes: American Heritage, Disability Awareness, Hispanic Heritage, Pan-African Celebration, Spring Culture Fest and Women's History. Students plan and implement the activities and programs

along with the assistance of Campus Life professional staff members and various departments within the University.



Back Row: Lawrence Srail, Sanjay Dhawan, Jocely Feliz, Wendy Fernandez, Phillip McLeish, Sharda Rampersad, Shirley Quitana, Jonathan Buteman, Luis Mejia. Front Row: Armando Rodriguez, Nermari Faria, Nelly Linares, Lisa Demetrius, Maya Rodriguez, Adriana Linares. Photo By Liz Bello



One of student programming councils events this year was the pie eating contest. Here we have Zayre Ferrelr asking for the name of one of the contestant. Photo By Jose Otero



During Homecoming week, comedian Bill Belamy was brought to FIU by Student Programming Council. Photo By Jose Otero

Helping out the community is the main purpose for VAC Members of VAC take time to bring smiles to sick children in Miami Childrens hospital. Photo By VAC



Making sure the cake is perfect for the homeless brings a great joy to the members of VAC knowing that they will be feeding those who cannot afford it. Photo By VAC

VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTER

By Sharon Caldera

The Volunteer Action Center is an organization, which helps out students and their community. They are the people who enjoy helping those around them and their

community. The problem is they don't know where to start. VAC puts them on the right path and helps them help others. One of the great activities that VAC hosts for FIU students is Habitat for Humanity. Those who seek to help out their community do different activities, which help out. One of their many duties in Habitat for Humanity is building homes for those less fortunate.

There students help construct homes from the ground up. Being part of VAC helps out those with big hearts that care for the people around them. "The one time I can actually say that I have done something other than myself and feel really good about myself," said freshmen Rosemary Roncal when asked about her experience at Habitat.

"It's easy doing things for yourself but much more easier doing it for someone else, but the best part is that you also gained something, the sense of giving without receiving."



"THE STUDENTS AT FIU MAKE SUCH AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY. FOOD DRIVES, DISASTER RELIEF COLLECTIONS, AND SERVICE AT AGENCIES THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR STUDENT BODY CONTRIBUTES TO THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SOCIETY"

-JILL BARRERA
V.A.C REP



Volunteer Action Center Photo by VAC

HONORS COUNCIL

By Sharon Caldera

The FIU Honors Council is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the FIU Honor code, established to protect the academic integrity of FIU, encourage ethical behavior among undergraduate students and fostering a climate of fair competition. Utilizing both regulation and education, the members of Honors Council are selected each year by the Selection and Appeals committee. Honors Council members ad-

judicate Honor Code infractions and educate members of FIU on the importance of academic integrity.



"BEING A PART OF THE HONOR COUNCIL WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE"

-LORAIN DE DIEGO
PRESIDENT



Honors Council Photo By Jose Otero

During November, Honors Council takes part in the Thanksgiving Network Reception. Photo By Honors Council



Clubs week is a time when all organizations from FIU gather in the GC building in order to promote their organization as does Honors Council. Photo By Jose Otero



For the kids, the Dance Marathon club sells food in order to give money for the kids of Miami Children's hospital. Photo By Jose Otero



Dance Marathon which raised a record of \$30,000.00 in February, 2000 was in full swing in the Golden Panther Arena. Photo By Jose Otero

DANCE MARATHON

By Sharon Caldera

Those who cannot dance get the opportunity to do it. Those who enjoy dancing have the opportunity to show it. Dance Marathon is an organization, which holds many events to collect money for certain charities, and other organizations. Mainly their events are held by students who come and do all the work. One day a year, Dance Marathon holds an event where students who want to help out charities get together and dance all night. The fun part starts when all the students are competing for first place. The couple who lasts the longest dancing is the couple who wins. Those who do dance must find a sponsor so the longer they dance, the more money is donated. Being part of Dance Marathon is a great opportunity for students to join and have fun while making a difference in their life and community.



"IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THE FIU COMMUNITY JOIN FORCES TO RAISE OVER \$33,000.00 FOR MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. DANCE MARATHON WAS A SUCCESS BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATED STUDENTS THAT WORKED YEAR ROUND TO MAKE IT HAPPEN"

-JILL BARRERA
PRESIDENT



Dance Marathon Photo By Jose Otero

PEER ADVISERS

By Sharon Caldera

Not only do Peer Advisers learn more about themselves but help those with their new lives, as college students. Two weeks before school starts, those who are

attending FIU, see all around campus a group of people that seems to be as if there's a tour guide with tourist. As funny as it looks, it's not the typical tourist of Miami, but FIU's own Peer Advisers. The first job and main job of the Peer Advisers is that during Freshmen Orientation a peer counselor is in charge of freshmen and answers any questions that they might have of FIU. The Peer Advisers help give new students a sense of comfort by telling them that they themselves are students and were freshmen once. Peer Advisers help freshmen readjust and show them that they are not alone in their new transition. One of the Peer Advisers priorities is to show the students around the campus and show

them all that FIU has to offer. Becoming a Peer Adviser is not as easy as it might seem. Those who join must learn all about the campus, all the offerings, and must learn how to deal with people.



"PEER ADVISING HAS GIVEN ME THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO HELP INCOMING FRESHMEN. IT HAS ALSO GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY FIU EXPERIENCES AND SPIRIT"

-MICHELLE CASTRO
PEER ADVISER



Going to camp is very fun for peer advisors because it helps them work with other students. Photo By PA



Playing games is half the fun when at camp, as shown here the peer advisors are moching each other in the game. Photo By PA



The 1999-2000 Peer Advisers Photo by PA

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA

By Sharon Caldera

One of the most worthwhile benefits that the medical services program provided for students was the opportunity to acquire a solid understanding of the daily functioning of a large medical center and also help them develop the "human touch" so important in medicine. Being part of AED helps pre-meds have a hands on experience in the medical world, by associating with patients and bonding with fellow pre-meds. A pre-meds honor society, whose mission includes both education and active participation, Alpha Epsilon Delta, promoted such activities as shadowing programs.



"IF ONLY WE HAD 2 LIVES, ON TO MAKE MISTAKES & THE OTHER TO LEARN FROM THEM"

-KEN GUIE
PRESIDENT

Taking time to feed the homeless. Susan Callejas, Ken Guie, Lis Esteves and Ximena Rojas cut bread to bake cruton squares. Photo By AED



Awaiting to be inducted are Fadi Kablawi, Dean Ghouralal, Gonzalez Cortes and Rafah Abdelmonem share a few moments of anticipation. Photo By AED



Left to Right: Robert Castellanos, Ignacio Badiola, Debbie Urraca, Ken Guie, Jahanzeb Khan Photo By AED

HEALTH OCCUPATIONAL STUDENTS OF AMERICA

By Sharon Caldera

Health Occupational Students of America is a student run organization that



"HELPING OUT OTHER IS WHAT I ENJOY DOING"

-KWESI ROSE
PRESIDENT

involves nursing assisting the community. Students in the program developed their skills by attending different hospitals and serving the community. Students gained hands on experience by treating patients and performing daily tasks, which helped them to learn proper procedures and techniques.



Health Occupational Student of America Photo By Jose Otero

Deep in thought at a HOSA meeting, the members discuss old business in preparation for new business to be discussed. Photo By HOSA



At the beginning of each match, Rey Perez and his opponent, out of respect, must bow down and always have eye contact. Photo By Jose Otero

KARATE CLUB

By Sharon Caldera

Sansei Goju Ryu is an organization founded by Manny Saavedra, Hanshi. A superior form of physical exercise and self-defense, Sansei Goju Ryu also includes meditation exercises for the development of the mind, body and spirit. Sansei Goju Ryu strictly translated is third generation Goju Ryu. These art features the traditional circular and semicircular moves incorporated from Okinawan-te and various kung-fu styles. The style ultimately seeks harmony and balance through strength and gentleness. Since the establishment of the World Sansei Goju Ryu Organization in 1980, the organization has grown to 15 regions and over 220 schools worldwide. The W. S. G. K. O. now has over 400 black belt instructors integrating new ideas into the worldwide organization. Sansei Goju-Ryu founded in 1980 has chartered 220 dojos throughout the world.



"THE MISSION OF THE FIU KARATE PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN THEIR MEMBERS"

-MANNY SAAVEDRA
HANSHI



Karate Club Photo By Jose Otero

PANTHER RAGE

By Sharon Caldera

Panther Rage is one of FIU's newest organizations that Fiu has to offer. Panther Rage is a club that supports student life as well as athletics. Panther Rage lets it

known that there still is school spirit and likes to show it. Sergio Tigera is the founder of FIU. Sergio believed that there was a lack of spirit and wanted to let the students know that there was still time to help. Panther Rage promotes many of the games and sponsoring activities for students to enjoy during and after games. Panther Rage is an well-organized club that not only offers the students school spirit, but also gives opportunities to those who involve themselves with the club. Panther Rage offers its members the opportunity to learn and grow as individuals. The members learn time management and ability to balance school and outside

school events. Being part of Panther Rage gives all the opportunity to feel at one with others as well as with themselves.



"PANTHER RAGE IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT ENHANCES SCHOOL SPIRIT"

-SERGIO TIGERA
PRESIDENT



During Welcome Week, Panther Rage members pump up the crowd and make them show their Panther Pride. Photo By CLP



Right before the bonfire, George Corton, Bettina Inclan, and Sergio Tijera, pour gas and add more paper to the wood. Photo By Mario Abril



Panther Rage Photo By Jose Otero

At the Mentoring Partnerships Program, Analorena Barba, Peter Canino and Heatherlee Finn relax after having lunch. Photo By WC



Melissa Tapanes and Nicola Murray enjoy a nice conversation while eating at the 5th Anniversary Reception of the Women's Center. Photo By WC

WOMEN'S CENTER

By Sharon Caldera

The FIU Women's Center has been one of the best centers and organizations that FIU has to offer women. The Women's Center offers young ladies understanding of

whom and what they are. The center offers them support as well as comfort. Walking into the center you immediately are treated with care and there is always someone they're waiting with a smile to offer help. Any type of help is offered to women who have troubles, whether it is emotional or physical. Those who work at the center try to offer the best that they and school can offer. Problems range from discrimination to pregnancy. Help is offered for those who seek help and find nowhere else for comfort. With many members, the center along with NOW, is the largest feminist organization in the United States. The center has struggled to end injustice and inequality that women face daily.



"THE WOMEN'S CENTER SUPPORTS SYSTEMATICS CHANGES THAT WILL IMPROVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND MEN. WE EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES AT FIU"

-DR. KAREN GARNER



Women's Center Photo By Sharon Caldera

STUDENT ORGANIZATION COUNCIL

By Sharon Caldera

Florida International University is very proud of the selection of co-curricular opportunities available to its students. Among these are well over 100 registered student organizations at the University Park Campus, which provide meaningful experiences to members and the community-at-large. These societies enhance student creativity and personal growth, affording students the opportunity to augment their formal education with experiences outside the classroom.



"BEING A PART OF THE SOC HAS SHOWN ME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY"

-SUGHEY RESTITUYO
PRESIDENT

The Student Organizations Council is the governing body of all clubs and organizations, and can guide students in finding the extracurricular activities that might be of interest them. Once a month, the SOC meets with all presidents or representatives of each club who give an update on what is happening with their club. SOC's purpose is to insure all students of FIU with good clubs to keep students involved with the university.



Student Organization Council Executive Board Photo by: Jose Otero

At an SOC meeting, Sergio Tigera sits down and interacts with other fellow club representatives. Photo by: Jose Otero



SOC always have papers to hand out in order to have all their representatives updated on the university's events. Photo by: Jose Otero

CATHOLIC STUDENT UNION

By Sharon Caldera

The Catholic Student Union exists to foster the holistic well-being of all students by providing religious, social, recreational and community service opportunities within the framework of the Catholic tradition. The Catholic Student Union endeavors to provide a climate in which everyone is accepted as a unique and unrepeatably image of God and where living for others is recognized as the path of authentic human existence. CSU is a great opportunity to help out the community. The members of CSU have many activities that their members participate in. For example every other month the students of CSU go visit the elderly at a nursing home. There, the students get to interact with the elders, showing the elderly a great time. Music and others activities are provided for the elderly. CSU is a great way to show others the ways of God and help them experience the Catholic tradition in an exciting and fun way.



"BEING A PART OF THE CATHOLIC STUDENT UNION HAS ENHANCED MY LIFE"

-KARINA CONRAD
PRESIDENT



At a nursing home, a member of CSU pulls a chair for an elderly person. The members of CSU pull a chair for the elderly faces by taking photos, animals and hats for the elderly. Photo by: Sharon Caldera



Every week, the CSU members have meetings where they interact and talk about their feelings and cover the Bible at St. Agatha's church. Photo by: Sharon Caldera



Catholic Student Union. Photo by: CSU

SALSA KINGS

By Sharon Caldera

In hispanic roots it's only natural to dance. What comes more natural of course is to SALSA! Here at FIU the Salsa Kings bring that talent out to the students. The



"LET'S SALSA"

- ELBA DIAZ
INSTRUCTOR

Salsa Kings is a group of instructors who brought up the idea of putting part of the hispanic dance into an International school. Students who have crossed the ocean to attend FIU get to enjoy the music and culture of the hispanic world. "Dancing Salsa is one of the best things that our culture has to offer" says freshmen Rosemary Roncal. Salsa Kings gives students a chance to get their mind off of school for a while and just party. Salsa Kings get involved with many events here at FIU. During Homecoming, Salsa kings performed on the lot where all the floats were waiting to leave. Families and friends got to experience the dance while eating and

chatting. Many clubs have much to offer to their students, but Salsa Kings gives them a little bit more Salsa!



Salsa Kings Photo by Sharon Caldera



During Homecoming week, Salsa King members show off their moves in the parking lot awaiting for the floats to move. Photo by: Sharon Caldera



In the Pit in GC, Salsa King Instructor Alain Sanchez yells out to the members to make their first turns to change partners. Photo by: Sharon Caldera

Members of Motor board along with the members of Marine Mammals rescue unit help out needy children with their annual toy drive. Photo by: Mortar board



E-board members of Motor board Debbie Urraca, Arazais Oliveros, and Jacqueline Allonso stand outside the ballroom before initiating their new members. Photo by: Mortar board

MORTAR BOARD

By Sharon Caldera

Mortar Board has existed for many years. Mortar Board original name is the National Senior Honor Society which was established in 1918. In the beginning, Mortar Board was only for women. By the 1950s, Mortar Board was opened to men and women becoming co-ed. The National Senior Honor Society was founded in FIU about four years ago. Mortar Board recognizes the distinguished ability and scholarship leaders and service and provides the opportunity for continued leadership development. Mortar Board promotes services to the university which encourages life contribution to the global community. The club is open to students of all majors for Juniors and seniors. Among the types of events that Mortar Board provides is when a student runs for office, they are sent off to Ohio for a conference. There the students are given training for their year of service. They also learn how to serve the community in different ways. Mortar Board is a very dedicated organization which helps not only its community but themselves as individuals.



"MORTAR BOARD IDEA ARE TO SUPPORT THE IDEALS OF THE UNIVERSITY. TO ADVANCE THE SPIRIT OF SCHOLARSHIP. TO RECOGNIZE AND ENCOURAGE LEADERSHIP AND ESTABLISH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A GROUP."

- INESSA KOGAN
PRESIDENT



From Left to Right: Chris Robinson, Judith Morales, Inessa Kogan, Shahabudeen Khan, Debbie Urraca. Photo by: Mortar board

WEST INDIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

By Sharon Caldera

The West Indian Students Association is a student organization that seeks to showcase the Caribbean culture, promote cultural interaction, provide a student support network, encourage school pride and provide leadership development opportunities for students and as such, helps to complete the university experience at FIU. WISA takes part in many activities in school. WISA took part in Welcome Back Week at FIU: some of their club members enjoyed and participated in the activities that took place. Being a diverse group, WISA gets to learn and explore all the different backgrounds not only of other cultures but those of little exposure. WISA gives their members the opportunity to go examine in depth their culture and give more pride to



"WEST INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, IS THE LIFE OF THE PARTY, EXCELLENCE AND UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY."

- LATOYA JACKSON
PRESIDENT

the members. Being a member of WISA is extremely important not only for those who are of these cultures, but also for those who want to learn more about themselves.



West Indian Student Association Photo by WISA

At a conference at FAMU, the members of WISA enjoy a day outdoors at a picnic hosted by the University. Photo by: WISA



Having a great workout at the gym, climbing during Welcome Back Week is Karen Musick. Photo by WISA

JUDO CLUB

By Sharon Caldera

Judo is many things to different people. It is a fun sport, an art, a discipline, a recreational or social activity, a fitness program, a means of self-defense or combat and a way of life. It is all of these and more. Judo comes to us from the fighting system of feudal Japan. Founded in 1882 by Dr. Jigoro Kano, Judo is a refinement of the ancient martial art of Jujutsu. Dr. Kano, President of the University of Education, Tokyo, studied these ancient forms and integrated what he considered to be the best of their techniques into what is now the modern sport of Judo. Judo was introduced into the Olympic Games in 1964 and is practiced by millions of people throughout the world today. The FIU Judo Club travels and competes nationwide. Being part of Judo not only helps the members find confidence but also helps them defend themselves if they ever find themselves in a bad situation, in which they have no other choice.



"JUDO NOT ONLY HELPS MEMBERS FIND CONFIDENCE BUT ALSO HELPS DEFEND THEMSELVES"

-NESTOR BUSTILLA



Practicing with a peer, this student demonstrates his Judo skills. Photo By Sharon Caldera



During Judo class, these students practice their skills on one another. Photo By Sharon Caldera



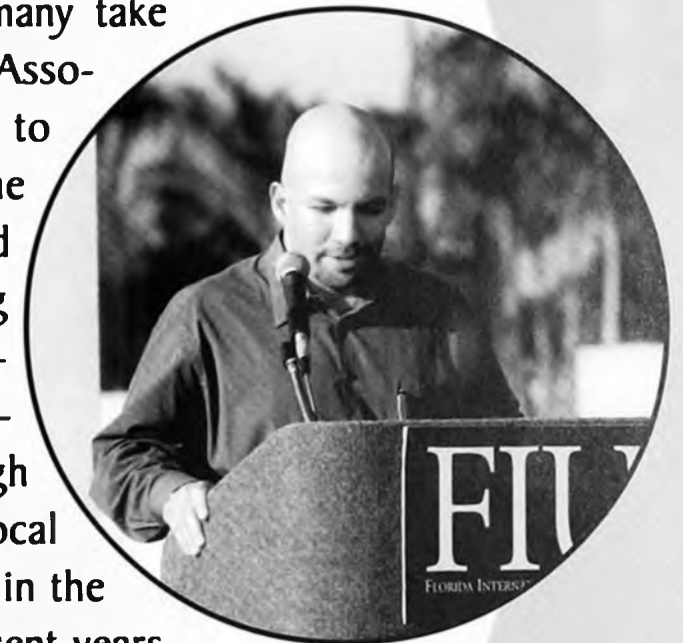
Judo Club Photo By Sharon Caldera



A university community is not composed solely of students and professors. The alumni of any university are of great importance. Funding for new programs and buildings come many times from alumni. Where would the tradition be without them? They are after all the ones who have paved the way. The Alumni Association was founded in 1974. The associations' main purpose is to cultivate and maintain a lifelong relationship between alumni and FIU. Out of 90,000 alumni, the association currently maintains a member roster of 4,200 nationwide. The essential idea is to provide a place of memories to return to and to offer opportunities to the current student population, as many take advantage of through the Student Alumni Association. Here many events are open to students and community friends alike. Some of these events, which both alumni and students part take in, include networking events, career seminars, athletic promotions, an annual golf tournament and holiday festivities. Alumni can be seen throughout the community. The presence of a local public university has been a key element in the development of this expansive city in recent years. Not only is the success of these educated individuals felt throughout the professional communities, but also within the community of students who will follow in their steps. Offering experience and contacts within this professional community is what many alumni bring to the university as an asset and unpassable opportunity. This organization is just another example of people pulling together in making dreams a reality, another example where thanks is past due. Thank you on behalf of the students and community at FIU.

-Vanessa Valencia

AROUND...



ALUMNI

Alumni Affairs

By Ana Olivares

Every student body needs their alumni for support, to increase school spirit and to keep traditions alive. Here at FIU, Alumni Relations works with alumni to provide mentorship programs for students and to raise money for major University events. The Student Alumni Association works hand in hand with Alumni Relations and Career Services to provide students with the opportunities of a lifetime. Students involved in this Association are able to interact with alumni at events that take place during the school year such as Welcome Back Week, Homecoming, the FIU Film Festival and much more. Any student can be part of the Student Alumni Association by filling out an application and paying a \$10.00 fee. "FIU is expanding as we speak, this is the time to get alumni involved in all student activities. The football team and the law school are going to need of alumni support. We are going to try our best to reach out to them and make them part of the Student Alumni Association," Interim Director Carlos Bacerra said.



During Homecoming, a banner hangs in the Graham Center forum. Photo By Jose Otero



During Homecoming 2000, Alumni Affairs has an evening of Art and Culture. Photo By AA



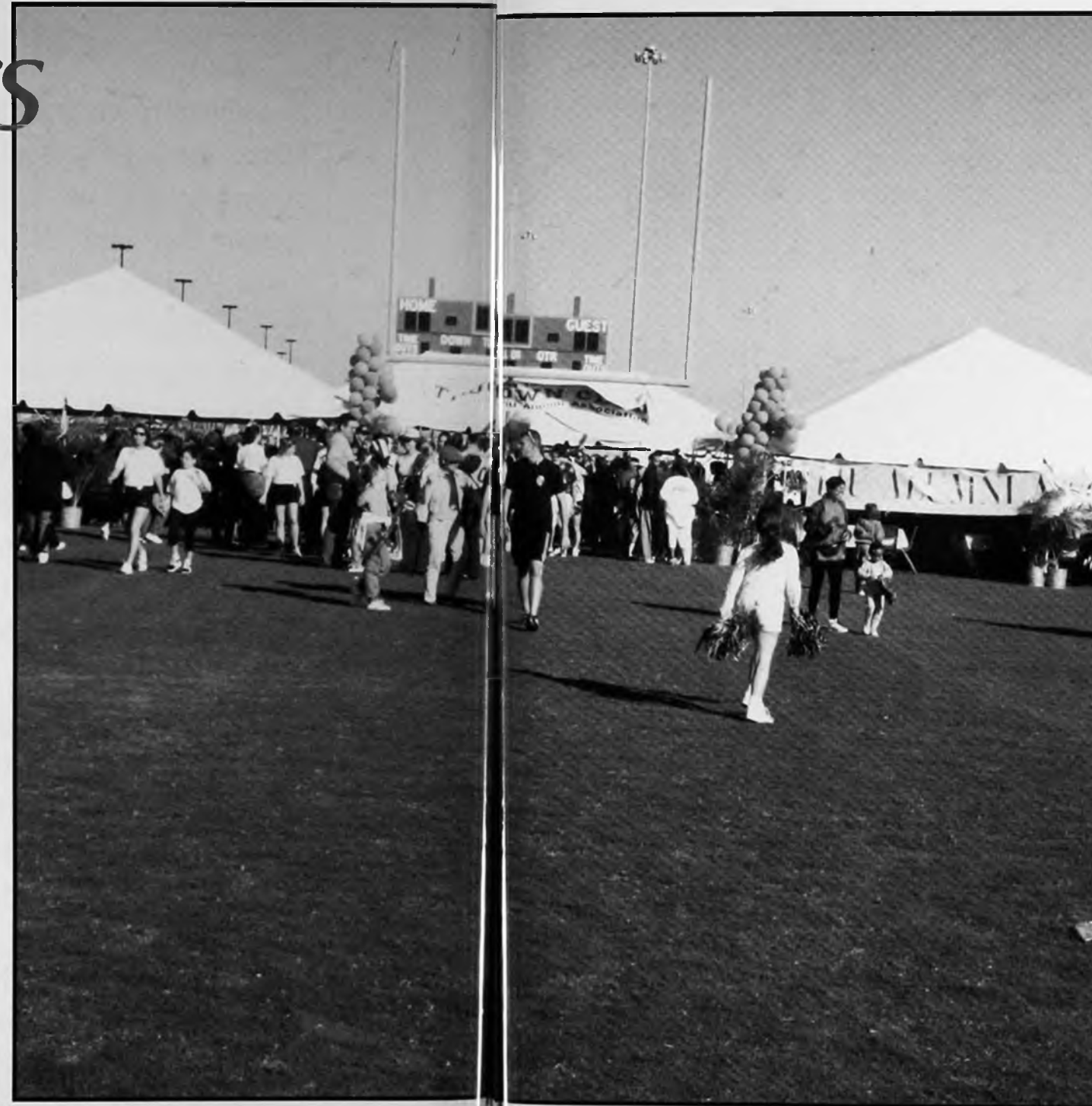
At the Downtown gallery night, guests enjoy the FIU alumni art exhibition. Photo By AA



The FIU women's pregame reception is sponsored by Alumni Affairs. Photo By AA



Celebrating new traditions, Alumni Affairs kicks off the Alumni Association Mentor's program with a reception. Photo By AA



At the FIU Homecoming Golf tournament, FIU's Women's Golf team stands with Don Strick. Photo By AA



At a recruitment event in Hialeah, Alumni Affairs gathers for a group shot with the Hialeah Police department. AA

At Night at the Film, President Modesto Maidique and Architecture Associate Dean Jaime Canaves join others for a photo. Photo By AA



Touchdown Club barbecue presented by Alumni Affairs at Fanfest Day. Photo By AA



Career Connections seminar sponsored by Alumni Affairs and the office of Career Services. Photo By AA

Alumni Association

Left to Right: Carlos Becerra, Emmy Arguelles, Wil Lash,
Karen Siegall, Sandra Utset.



During the Homecoming Alumni golf open, members of the Alumni Association gather for a group shot with the FIU Football staff.

Homecoming Golf Open

Presented by the

FIU Alumni Association

Tournament Sponsors:

TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

CENTURY HOMEBUILDERS ANGEL BUICK OLDSMOBILE

USA, INC. PEPSI COLA

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

"Buenos Dias! Come on in!" Those words and an open door are signature characteristics of FIU Alumna Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's Miami office and the hallmarks of her political career. For someone who once thought she would never end up in politics, Ros-Lehtinen's supporters enabled her to achieve several political firsts. They elected her as the first Hispanic woman to the Florida state legislature in 1982, and in 1989 they helped her become the first Hispanic woman ever to be elected to Congress. "Ileana is beloved by her constituents because she connects with them," said colleague Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart. "She is concerned about the issues that matter most of to them, and they appreciate that greatly." Perhaps Ros-Lehtinen's popularity stems from her love of community and the formative experiences she has shared with so many South Floridians. Ros-Lehtinen's family fled Cuba to the United States when she was seven years old, and at a tender age she learned about the rigors of life as a refugee. However, her early career interests focused on education rather than politics. "If you had asked me about my goals for the future when I was a high school senior, I would have answered that I could see myself in front of a classroom," she said. "I always wanted to be a teacher. Ros-Lehtinen attended Miami-Dade Community College, then earned her bachelor's degree from FIU, majoring in education and minoring in English literature.



Cesar A. Becerra

As Miami's youngest rising historian and FIU alumnus, Cesar Becerra has defied the stereotypical profile of an introspective historian by taking on a voyage across the 50 states to document the American spirit psyche. On January 1, 1999, Becerra and his wife, Maud Dillingham departed from the FIU University Park campus for a one-year journey to all 50 states into the eve of the 21st century. The trip was called "Motoring Into the Millennium," and was funded by various corporate sponsors. For Becerra this was not the first time he involved himself in some sort of historical mark. He has helped to officially commemorate a number of recent anniversary celebrations, such as Miami's centennial, Everglades National Park's 50th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American war.



Patricia Cohen

The power of education changed her life. Alumnus Patricia Cohen, 39, a Miami native received the highest award in her field when she was awarded Miami-Dade County's Teacher of the Year. According to Cohen, who attended local public school, she was not a model student growing up. The youngest of five siblings, she recalls childhood spent caring for a disabled father and rarely seeing her mother, who worked day and night to support the family. "Education was not fostered," said Cohen. "It wasn't emphasized." However, education was something she never planned in doing. Although she recognized her talent for working with young people when as a teen she'd made money serving as a gymnastics instructor. She never dreamed she would one day have the credentials to step into the classroom. In light of economic troubles during her years at Miami-Dade Community College, her schooling suffered and Cohen discontinued her attendance. However, marriage brought change in her life. "Because of him [husband] I went back to college," said Cohen, who credits her husband's encouragement and willingness to support her decision financially for making it possible. Cohen earned a bachelor's degree in education from FIU and later won a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at another institution. Now a reading specialist and mother of two, Cohen stresses education in her home and boasts a passion for sparking the interest of kids in her classroom at Wesley Matthews Elementary School. "Children want to learn," she explained. "We need to tell them that they can be successful."



Jorge Corzo

Jorge Corzo has gears and sliderules in his blood. From his childhood fascination with toy cars and his life-long interest in roads, the man has had one goal. "Engineering has always been my first love," Corzo said. "I basically had a dream to become an engineer." Getting there, though, posed a few challenges. Today a founding partner in the Coral-Gables-based architectural planning and engineering firm of Corzo, Castello, Carballo, Thomson, and Salman - C3TS for short - Corzo, 46, has to overcome setbacks that had little to do with ambition or talent. Early on he excelled in drafting classes as a student in Hialeah High School, and later he earned a two-year degree at Miami-Dade Community College. With his parents still in Cuba, however, and with little money for local private universities - newly founded FIU did not yet have an accredited engineering program - Corzo sidestepped further formal education in favor of a technician's position and on-the-job training with a firm in Broward County. His decision to enroll at FIU would have tremendous consequences for both Corzo and a number of others associated with the university. At the time working as a project manager with a private company, he recruited and hired a couple of fellow students he had met in class. "I recognized that they were good," he remembered, "even though they were about 10 years younger than me." Those classmates - Ramon Castella and Robert Carballo - eventually became part of the threesome that in 1988 established a new firm in Corzo's garage. The group so impressed one of their professors, Dr. Leroy Thomson, that he approached them about a possible merger with his own company. More than a decade later, C3TS has under its belt dozens of major civil, environmental, structural, and transportation engineering projects in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The company has created the plans and provided construction services for a variety of commercial, residential, and governmental structures an site enhancements, including an arched walkway and the recently opened 107th Avenue entrance at University Park Campus. "It very satisfying to have the opportunity to put something back into the campus," Corzo said. "We take pride [in that]. We also keep in touch with the school." The company regularly recruits on campus, and currently as many as 25 percent of its 80-some employees hold engineering, architecture, and other degrees from FIU.



All stories in this section were donated by Alumni Affairs.

Glynis Bryan

Glynis Bryan makes success look easy. A 1985 graduate of the College of Business Administration's MBA program, she has risen steadily through the ranks of Miami-based Ryder System, Inc. Today she is senior vice president and chief financial officer for the company's largest division, which accounts for \$3.5 billion in revenue annually and implies 14,000 nationwide. Bryan came to Miami from her native Jamaica via Toronto, Canada, where she attended York University. After earning her bachelor's degree with honors, she spent a year traveling around Canada to promote Jamaican products on behalf of the Jamaican Trade Association. With a sheltered upbringing behind her, she reveled in the chance to be completely on her own and not dependent upon her parents for financial support. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," she said of her independence. However that changed when Ryan moved back home with her parents here in South Florida, where she came in touch with FIU and finally with the Ryder System. In short term Bryan was hired as a full-time financial analyst and moved into increasingly better positions. She has served as pricing manager and eventually landed the position of vice president and treasurer for the parent company, during which time she was responsible for all finance-related activities. Bryan never dreamed she would go so far. "When I started, if someone had told me one day I'd be CFO, I would have said, 'absolutely not,'" she said. "There were so many good people ahead of me."



Bettina Rodriguez-Aguilera

Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera's life story reads like a cross between a Spanish-language telenovela and a manual on How to Succeed in Business. On the one hand, she has rebounded from personal hardships that include her father's political imprisonment in Cuba and childhood poverty in a New York tenement. On the other, she has started her own companies, established a non-profit organization to assist aspiring businesswomen, worked in developing countries at the request of the U.S. government and received numerous awards for her efforts. Despite having to overcome great odds, the 1979 FIU alumna relies on the most down-to-earth of philosophies to explain her triumph. "I'm a very positive person," she says. "The bad things I go through I use as learning experiences." The "bad things" began with Fidel Castro's rise to power in Cuba. Little Bettina, her mother and her older brother moved into the family's apartment in New York City in the late 1950s while her father tried to sell their businesses back home. Attempting to leave the country for the last time, he was arrested and sentenced to prison. "For 14 years my mother dressed in black and waited for my father," remembers Aguilera, who didn't see her father again until the age of 17. In the intervening years, Aguilera and her family went from well-off to "dirt poor." They moved out of their own place into a run-down section of New York, scraped by on public assistance and, when gangs started causing problems for her brother, relocated to Miami. The hardships only made her stronger. "I've always felt that there are no limits," says Aguilera, 42, who began working at age 13. Four years later, in need of money to attend FIU, she devised a clever business idea and began selling picture frames door-to-door. She eventually expanded the operation, hiring six employees. After graduating from FIU with a bachelor's degree in social work - a field she entered due to the poor treatment she endured during childhood visits to the welfare office - Aguilera, now married and a mother, began a career with Miami-Dade County. She started working with clients at the Caleb Center, the district courthouse in the Liberty City neighborhood. For the next 17 years she served as a government spokesperson and trained county employees in the areas of customer service, marketing and crisis management. Managing a personal crisis of her own, however, would have the greatest effect on Aguilera's professional life. Following a medical leave without pay and going through a divorce, she set up shop as a professional troubleshooter. "I can solve anything," she told doctors, lawyers and business owners who paid her to secure loans, write business plans and do their leg work. She contacted accountants and other professionals for guidance when necessary, but primarily relied on "common sense." Today, Aguilera conducts training sessions on team building, conflict resolution and effective communications for executives at companies such as Lucent Technologies and Hewlett-Packard. She also leads grassroots advocacy programs, which teach people how to organize and effect change, in countries including Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lithuania. "All my life I wanted to do exactly what I'm doing now," says Aguilera, who in 1994 was honored as one of the nation's top 22 Hispanic leaders by the National Hispana Leadership Institute. "I'm living my dream."



Dennis Davis

Dennis Davis was selected as Miami-Dade County's 2000 Principal of the Year. He attributes his success to the influence of both humble beginnings and the power of education. Davis, 53, the middle of three children, also had a rocky start. "I was raised in a home with one parent. We weren't middle class by any means. We were poor," he recalled. However, despite the tough early years, Davis found his niche in education. "It was always an educator that in every interval in my life played an important role." The influence of those teachers convinced Davis to pursue teaching as a profession. Davis knew early on that he wanted to work with youngsters. "I've always wanted to be an educator," he said. "The whole idea was to give back." After attending Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 12 years, Davis went to Savannah University in Georgia on an athletic scholarship. A member of the track team and the captain of the football squad, he was mistakenly pegged by one of his professors as a physical education major - an assumption Davis took as a personal challenge. "That's when I decided to become a math major," he said. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1968, Davis returned to Miami-Dade County to begin teaching math and physics and pursue a master's in administration and support at FIU. Although he enjoyed his years instructing students, he eventually moved into an assistant principal position and then as principal of Sunset Senior High, where he remains today. "I felt I could make a larger impact," he said of the decision to go into administration. "That was my only reason for leaving the classroom."

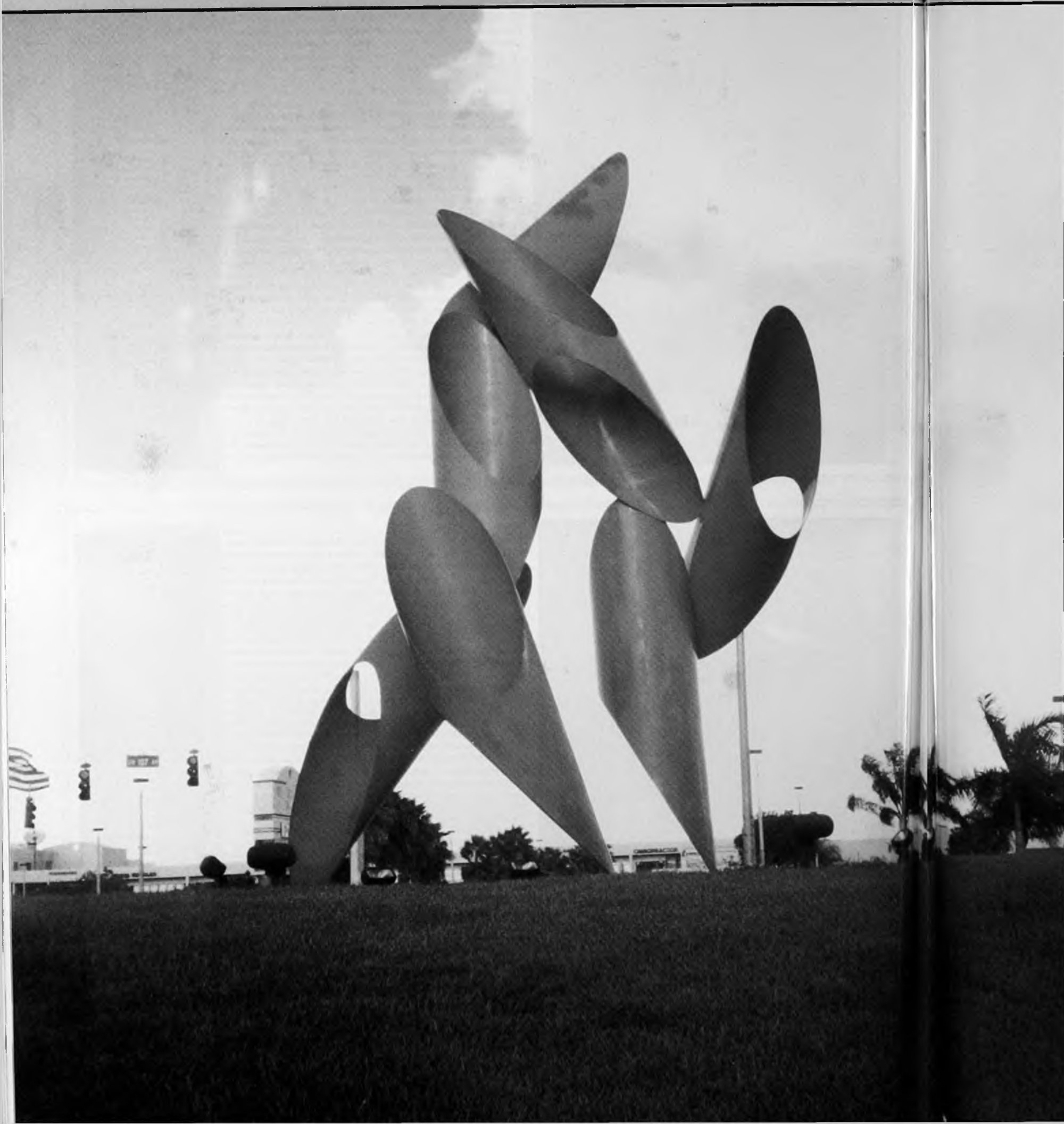


Alan Susser

If Allen Susser 78 had become an artist instead of pursuing a culinary career, his inquisitive and adventurous approach undoubtedly would have led to innovative combinations of colors and textures on canvas. Susser, the chef and owner of Chef Allen's in Aventura, approached food the way a painter chooses oils from a palette, delicately blending pigments to give his work a distinctive character. Susser was instrumental in the creation of New World cuisine, one of the most acclaimed styles of cooking today. Susser's roots are strictly Brooklyn. He was born and raised in the New York City borough, coming from a close-knit family in which celebrations and good food were synonymous. "I started cooking with my grandmother," Susser recalled. "Family and food and holidays all went together. People always got together for the holidays, and it was all centered around food. I realized that food was a very important part of family, and I enjoyed that." By 1976, Susser graduated at the top of his class from the New York City Technical College Restaurant Management School. He has also worked at Kutschers, a large resort hotel in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, where he learned the realities of a full-production kitchen and assembling recipes. But he yearned for experience in a world-class kitchen and managed to land an apprenticeship at the esteemed Bristol Hotel in Paris. "The fine French restaurants were where master chefs really strut their stuff, where they were really showing their talents and abilities from a creative and technical sense, using an exotica of ingredients," Susser said. "In Paris my eyes lit up with what was going on with food." After completing the apprenticeship and traveling throughout Europe, soaking up more culinary influences, Susser moved to Miami to attend FIU's School of Hospitality Management. He graduated from FIU with honors and returned to New York to work at Le Cirque, then and still one of the finest French restaurants in the city. In 1986, Susser finally opened Chef Allen's. The 100-seat restaurant has won local, national and international accolades, helping to put Miami in the gourmet limelight. A Miami Herald review printed earlier this year, noted: "Chef Allen's remains among the cream of South Florida dining, at or near the top of the list, managing to package A-1 quality ingredients in ever-interesting ways." In addition to his business and family (wife, Judi, and daughters, Deanna Rose and Liza), Susser finds time for philanthropic work. He is the South Florida chairman of Share Our Strength, which sponsors an annual April event to raise funds for hunger relief. He also donates his time, talents and staff to FIU's annual Florida Extravaganza, which benefits the Hospitality Management program. Over the years, he has taught and lectured at numerous institutions, including FIU (which presented him with an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award), Johnson & Wales University (which awarded him an honorary doctorate) and Nova University. He has received numerous honors and awards from leading culinary organizations and publications.

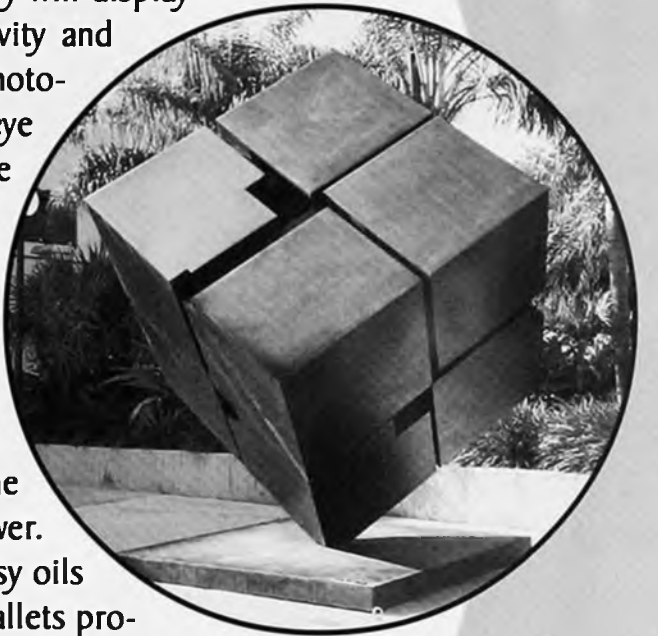


THIS TIME



Art has always been a way of depicting beauty, form, abstract, color, ingenuity and most of all, individualism. With the next Millennium here, art has taken a new turn toward the future. The "X" and "Y" generations of today are no longer thinking conservatively. Barriers are broken, and restrictions on what is or is not art have long dissipated. People are looking ahead, predicting and conceiving new interpretations of what will be considered as art in the future. Whether through sculpture, photography, painting or drawing, the creative mind is inundated by futuristic influences. The latest trends in music, movies, fashion and history in the making, have developed a nontraditional way of self-expression. New materials are used as means of construction, dimensions are created and the laws of gravity broken. Self-expression itself has a new meaning. Among young and old, inspirations are conquered by a new wave dominated by one word: uniqueness. This year, the FIU Gallery will display student work chosen because of unique creativity and unusual perspectives. Looking at an artistic photograph will never be the same. As you let your eye wonder over the detail, you will realize how simple the subject really is. And if you thought the definition of a sculpture is defined by the material it is made of, or what it represents, think again. No longer is the mind going to look at art work with the same objectivity. Architecture and design go hand in hand to bring to life new forms so bizarre, that no one person may see the same thing. Interpretation will be left to the viewer. Painters no longer have to worry about the messy oils and watercolors. Instead, computerized color pallets provide them with a myriad of new colors and neon shades. The usual landscape design is replaced by psychedelic kaleidoscopes, which are far more intriguing and eye catching than before. The art world, not to mention the world itself, as we know it is changing. Envision new mediums to be put to use and expect unpredictable outcomes. Imagination is the key word. Anything goes as long as it has originality molded into context. As you flip through the pages, feast your eyes to some artistic treats. Let your mind wonder as you make an attempt to analyze what the artists are trying to express. And imagine the circumstances and events that might have influenced each artist to produce their own masterpieces. For without causes, the effect of any art would be meaningless. Discover new styles and uncover the still moments captured in the craft.

-Roxana Cozma



AROUND... GALLERY

Dyana Alvarez
"Unknown Women"
Sophomore
Visual Arts



Dyana Alvarez
"Untitled"
Sophomore
Visual Arts



Dyana Alvarez
"Camila"
Sophomore
Visual Arts



Behind the Blinds

I prefer you from a distance,
out of focus, unreachable.
Watching your clothes fall
In descending order, slowly,
teasing the walls and all that looks upon.
I am merely a spectator;
A spy hiding behind my Persian blinds
viewing the eighth wonder of the world.
Thinking, where will it end?
How far will it go?
I try not to think about it
when you are not around,
but I always see myself there on time.
When it is either to change your clothes,
or enter the shower,
As I hide behind my persian blinds.
Concealing our relationship
Distant lover of mine.

Adrian M. Romaniuk
"Behind the Blinds"
Junior
Criminal Justice

Ode To Violin

As I make love to you
Melodic Sounds exit
Gently swaying to persuade you
touching you ever so gently.
My rough hands;
Silk when placed upon your body,
I've been with you for so long
I've seen what you can do,
to those limits I wish to take you.
Time is endless when you're with me,
enveloping me with your hypnotic voice.
No one else matters.
Our desires;
the same.
Our love;
endless.
You are my passion, my joy,
my fear.
Ever so clear my intentions were.
Love.
The sweet sound of love
You are my life, my sound,
my true
Violin

Adrian M. Romaniuk
"Ode to Violin"
Junior
Criminal Justice



Jose M. Otero
"Sands of Time"
Freshman
Journalism & Mass
Communications

Jose M. Otero
"Neverending Tale"
Freshman
Journalism & Mass
Communications



In the Future

In the future....
Let there be one of me.
Not another taken from hair, bones or teeth
As I read let fuzzy pages
slide beneath my fingers
instead of cold glass.

Let me breath
without the taint of man or machines
or antifreeze.
Let me find envelopes in my mail box
heavy with perfume or damp with tears.

Let my pet be my pet
A real one with fur and
a damp nose and tongue
No gigas, no megas, please no...

Let me see my friends
See their eyes and their wrinkles
As we grow older together
Year after year.

In the future...
Let me live
Let me be me.

Dixie-Anne Belle

"In the Future"

Sophomore
English

A Bragging Housewife

Child, we don't need the lamp and oil
They catchin spark with wire.
Forget wire lines in the scorchin, hot sun
Clothes is heat in a dryer.
Don't put clothes in well water
In that steel tub with tide to clean
We is wash in fresh water
In auto wash machine
Soapy water, funky dishes
Crack your finger nail
Thank God for dish water
Pots and pans...you shame.
I'm movin forward
Or backward? Things ain't just the same
Auto dis and auto dat
Hard work has lost its name.

Wife today, don't have to cook
If she aint in the mood
Give hubby plastic out the box
Good microwave food
We don't need to take no trips
To say hello to the neighbor
Call em up on the cordless
And still ask them for a favor.
Don't need to sweep the blessed rug
So old, it break the broom
Try hard but one vaccum to clean
The carpet in your room.
Don't need to phone the hubby to ask
When he coming home
Just beep him on the voice mail
"Honey, I'll see you soon"
Tired of watchin TV
Reading house magazine and Jet
Switch on the computer
Play games or search the net
Am I movin forward or backward?
Things aint just the same
Auto dis and auto dat
Forward my newest friend.

Vanasha Shearer

"Bragging Housewife"

Senior
Management/ Marketing



Walking On Water

Taking part in the School of Architecture's Walk on Water event in the fall of 1999 was one of the most interesting experiences of my career at FIU. It began with research, design and recognition of a pair of shoes that would allow walking across the lake located behind the ECS Building at UPC. After careful calculations and many tests, the contraption was finished. Next came practicing the walk many times. This process took approximately three months. Finally, the day of the event came and I stood ready at the lake's east edge in line with the other 74 entries with assorted contrivances of all shapes, sizes and materials powered by the user's own walking motion.

The word was given and the first few scary steps were taken towards the other side, the finish line, possible award, prizes and a passing grade.

Chantel Caraza-Garcia

"Walking on Water"

Senior
Interior Design



Cassandra Caballero
"The Realms of Wonder"

Junior
 English

Illustrations by
 John Otero

Excerpts taken from the forthcoming fantasy series for young adults:
"The Realms of Wonder"

Bri Anna Misst, is a unique fourteen year old, pre-adolescent girl who is teetering on the edge of tomorrow, as her future is calling upon her to act today. Her life and dreams divide her destiny between two worlds, one is fantasy, the other reality, but both are in need of her. Her guide is Celeste, an angel who claims to be Bri Anna's guardian and tutor. They meet in "Wysteria's belly," the bridge between both these worlds, where Celeste informs the girl that she must be trained for a destiny that is beyond her comprehension. When she is initially introduced, to what she later dubs the "Wonder Realms," she is shocked to learn that not only has her geography changed but, so has she. Her mind and body have aged seven years to that of a twenty-one year old, young woman, whose inhabitants of this land respectfully, refer to as "Bryanna Mist, princess of all Wonder." Still reeling from shock, she barely has enough time to register that Celeste has placed a wooden talisman hanging on luminescent strands around her neck. Princess Bryanna is then informed that the time has come for her to finally meet her family and prepare for the many trials she must face before her coronation, as Queen of Wonder.

Her highness's journal: "Bookmarked: Lessons learned"

Bri Anna Misst's notes on the Wonder realms:

Entry one:

"The pen will be ready when the hand is steady," is the newest jewel to come out of Celeste's mouth this morning, in regard to my obvious displeasure at starting a journal! (Ugh! open mouth, insert finger). Now, the question is where do I begin? Well, since I'm already on the subject of my one and only angelic bodyguard, guess I'll start with her.

Celeste's Quote:

"Do what you must to survive, but, when faced with impossible odds, never fail to laugh. Death has always had such an odd sense of humor."

My designated guardian angel:

Just like about every other Yoda, Confucius, cliched ancient being, Celeste is my own personal fortune cookie personified, complete of course with an annoying tendency to speak in dizzying riddles. But, unlike her fabled, crinkly predecessors, she does not come equipped with their usual accessories, such as signs of severe scoliosis, magic wooden cane, not even the slightest hint of a wrinkle for that matter. Still, if we had met under circumstances not so unusual, I'd have believed her to be nothing less than well, celestial. Her beauty is breathtaking. Hmm. Now, I don't mean pretty, like the supermodel-anorexic type that dwell in "Vogue" and you spend all your money gaining tips from. Its just that "Cosmo," could never dream up the spread that would quite fit Celeste's otherworldly characteristics.

Like for instance, her eyes. When you look into Celeste's eyes, you don't only discover just what she's feeling and why, you learn the "how." Celeste is very guarded about her feelings, and it wasn't until recently, that I became thankful for her discretion instead, of wary of it. I have only borne witness to Celeste's anguish once and that was enough to last me a lifetime. Even now, in my mind's eye, the images of that time still delight in haunting me with their permanent residency in my memories.

"I had walked into Celeste's quarters without knocking. This had never been a problem before. She always seemed to sense my presence long before my curved fist, meeting the wood of her door's frame, announced it. But, that day things were different and no one met my greeting as I turned the knob. Celeste stood in the middle of the room, as if in a daze. She looked as radiant as always but, I felt that her essence was far from this room. When a familiar serene expression, began to dominate her features once again, I spied a lone tear suddenly, betray her face. As it spiraled downward, the sorrow that Celeste was enduring reflected off that singular drop and onto the mirror of my soul. I saw so many. So many ...of what, I'm not so sure. I can't think of a word that encompasses thought, sound, love, hate, light and desperation all in one, except for life. I saw so many "lives" in a state of flux. They were at a crossing but, they were as lost in death as they had been in life and now, they hungered for freedom from a self-imposed prison they would never see fit to release themselves from."

From this vantage-point, I knew Celeste, had been responsible for some of these wayward beings and now, that they had passed on, her duty for better or worse, was complete. Yet, even though she knew her intervention would prove no more useful here, she was finding it excruciatingly difficult to abandon them to their own personal hell. She told me then, that in my lifetime, I would see many things, some which would only serve in bringing me great sadness. But, the worst of these fates she mentioned, was to stand by and watch helplessly as someone is consumed by the shadow of their own personal devices, thus drowning out the light that gives them hope and saves us all.

Queen of Wonder, Books of Wonder, Wisteria, & all characters within are the copyright 2000, Me Manga", and Cassandra Caballero

Que Noche la de anoche

Que noche la de anoche,
cuando te tuve entre mis brazos
y no te podia soltar
Que cuando te besaba,
No pensaba en nada mas que
en volverte a besar

Que tenia miedo que al irme
no te pudiera volver a ver
Que cuando me fuera de tus brazos
no me quizieras que te
abrazara otra vez

Que tengo miedo de seguir regando
este jardin de flores
y que no floresca.

Tengo miedo de regar la flor
equivocada, tengo miedo
de regar una flor, la cual
no me de el placer
de verla florecer

En fin tengo miedo
de que cuando yo te diga
te amo, tu no me respondas
de la manera que yo esperaba

Eddy Pujol

*"Que noche la de
anoche"*

Freshman
Physical Therapy

Jose Otero

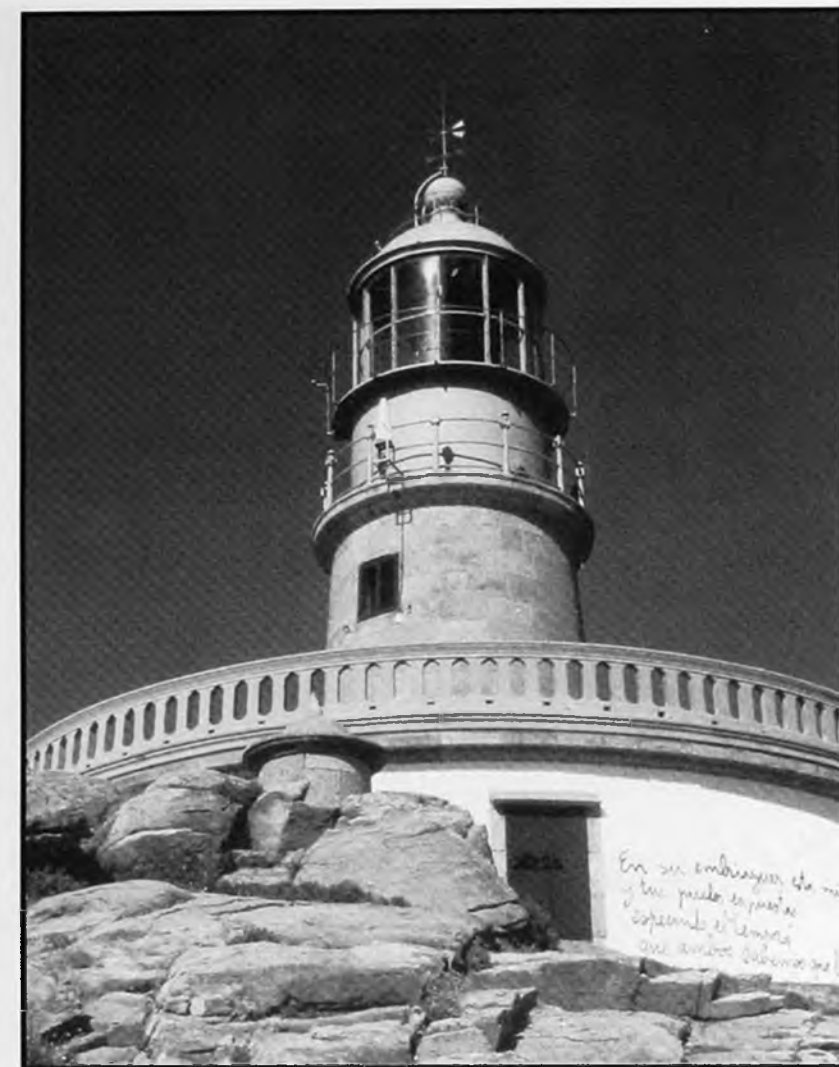
"Graduation"

Freshman
Journalism & Mass
Communications





Begona Seijas
"Untitled"
Alumni
Visual Arts



Begona Seijas
"Untitled"
Alumni
Visual Arts

Begona Seijas
"Untitled"
Alumni
Visual Arts

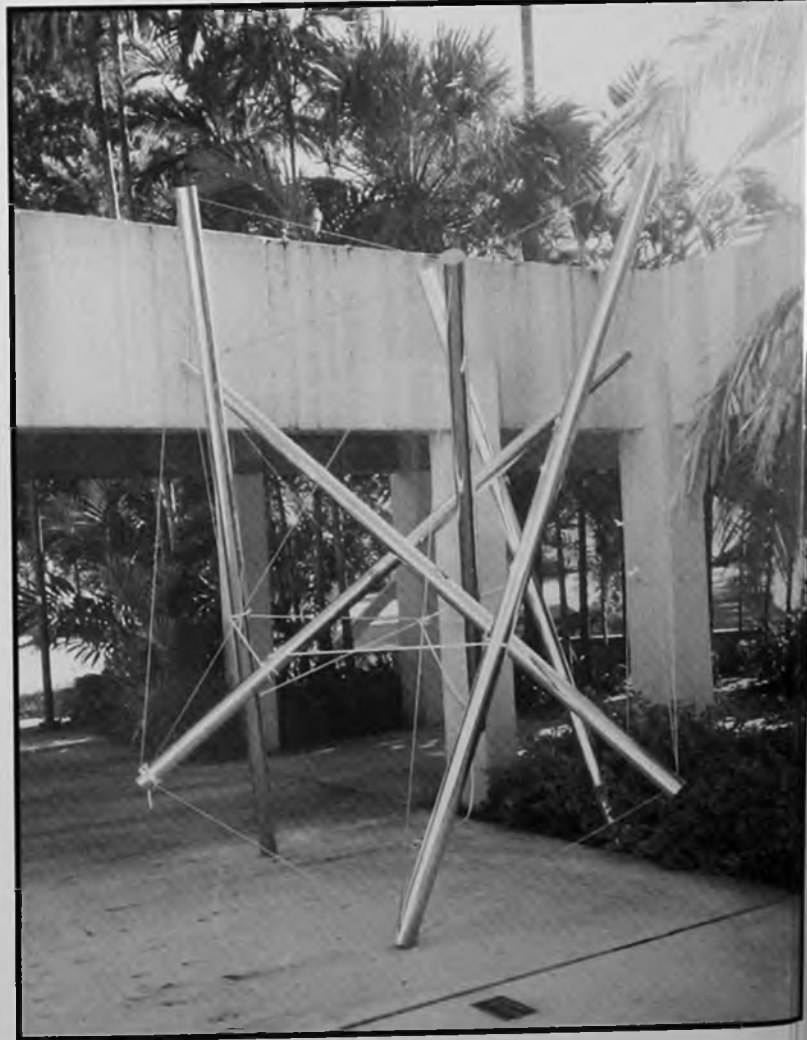




Voyage to unknown places,
Imagine creations of colorful faces
Sing songs of like able tones
Incredible celestial planets and moon
Orient thy self in silence
Never in dark, never in violence

Roxana Cozma

Junior
Gallery Editor



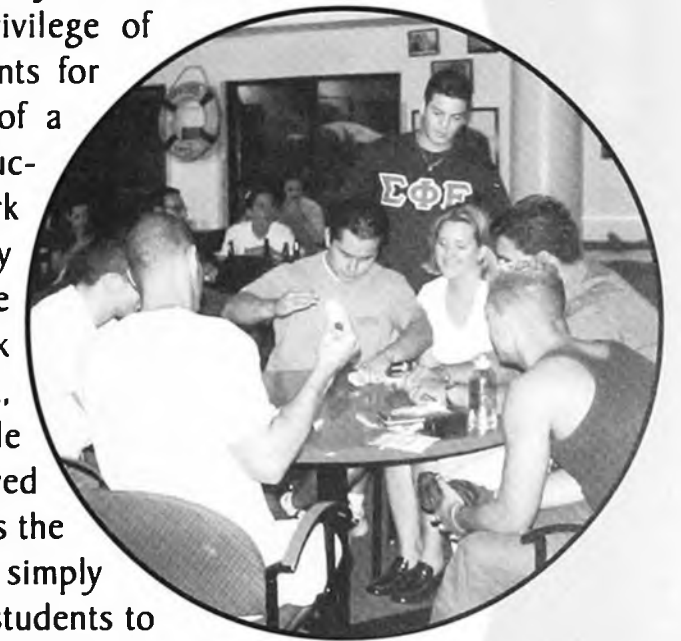
THIS TIME



With time comes change. One aspect of living in time is collecting precious memories and experiences, which remain imprinted in our minds indefinitely. Beginning with a first stroll through the Graham Center; experiencing a Greek brotherhood or sisterhood; living an adrenaline filled athletic event; acquiring knowledge from countless rigorous academic courses; and finally achieving graduation are elements that have composed many a student's time at Florida International University. The completion of any journey, be it physical or abstract, brings about growth to an individual, and in this case to an institution of higher learning. As a university, FIU has completed a journey through transition and betterment far beyond the dreams and hopes of late founder Charles Perry. Besides educating a mass, these grounds have become something of a second home to all who have initiated a stay as a student, employee or member of the community. Still, for the past decade or so FIU has not had the privilege of producing a yearbook to capture these moments for future generations. Finally, the publication of a yearbook has become a reality. Like any production, behind the scenes is where all the work begins. From the funding of the yearbook by SGA, to recruitment, planning and design, the details necessary for the completion of the book is overwhelming. Still, one main ingredient, which is indispensable in the process, is the sale of advertisements. The revenue, which is derived from the support of any advertiser, is what keeps the organization afloat. Because the yearbook is not simply a student organization, but an opportunity for students to experience business transactions, it is imperative that the section and method of selling advertisement be impeccable and scrutinized to perfection. The following pages may recount achievements of individuals that are being recognized by family, friends or coworkers. They will also include classic advertisement of businesses that are prevalent in our community. It is important to in return support those that have contributed financially in the making of the yearbook. The effort and dedication that has created this book is the same kind that has led the class of 2000 to walk to the beat of the unmistakable "Pomp and Circumstance" on the day of graduation. Incredibly, these memories that have been so carefully collected in this publication can be displayed with a personal touch in the advertisement section. Here seniors and other students alike choose to make their mark for an eternity.

*-Vanessa Valencia &
Marlene Sato*

AROUND...



ADVERTISEMENT



Paul Gray

Account
Manager

800-903-9048

www.jostens.com

JOSTENS & I ARE PROUD TO BE THE PUBLISHER OF THE 2000 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY YEARBOOK, VISION. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATION ON A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR AND THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE YEARBOOK TRADITION TO YOUR SCHOOL.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MR. LOU CONRAD, JOSÉ OTERO, AND THE YEARBOOK STAFF FOR ALL THEIR TIME AND EFFORT TO PRODUCE THIS GREAT YEARBOOK. CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE NATIONAL SAMPLE YEARBOOK AWARD.

BEST WISHES TO ALL GRADUATES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

where everybody's a

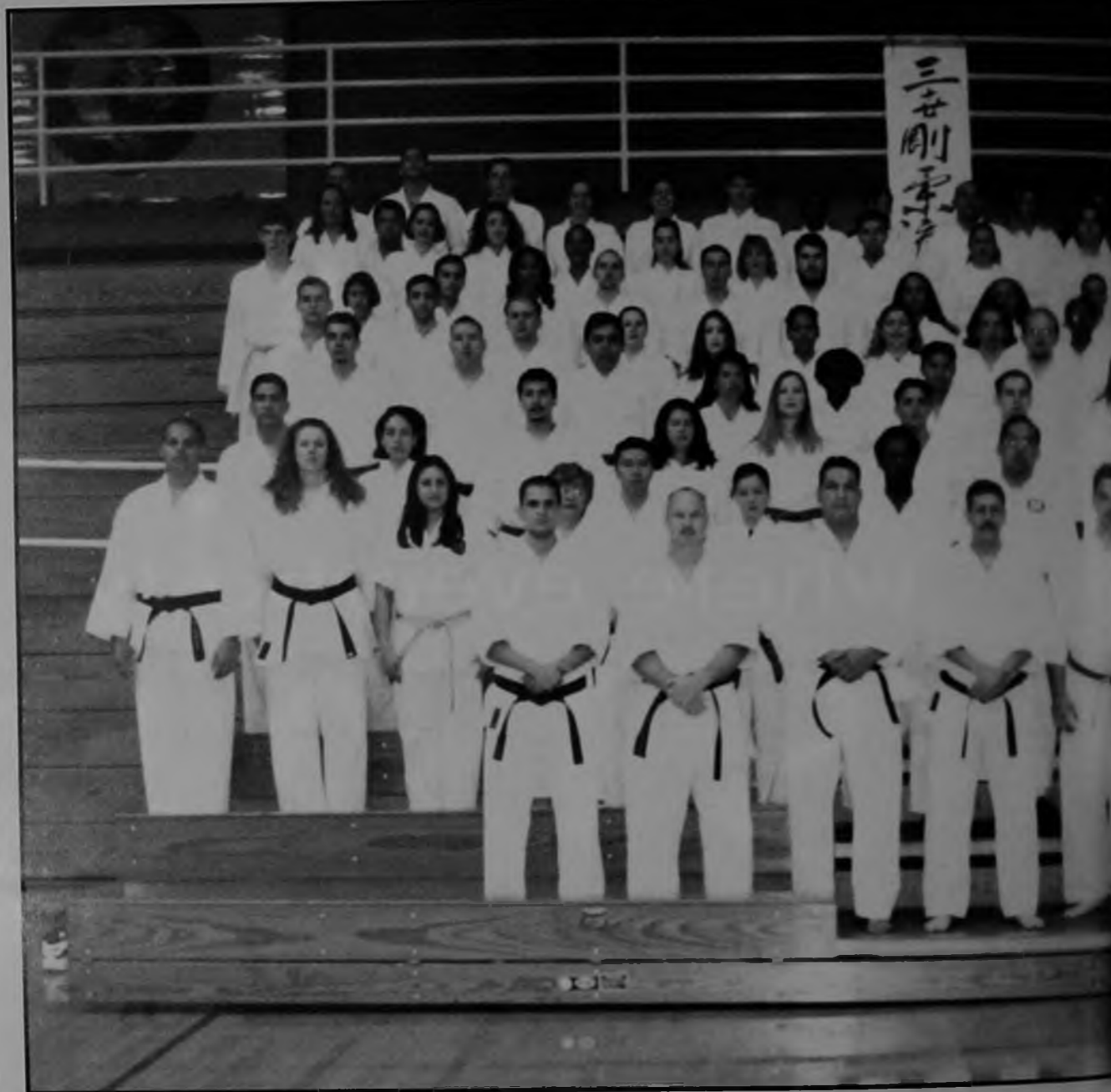
STAR



Wolfe University Center 305.919.5800 or 305.919.5500

三 世 剛 柔 流

WORLD SANSEI
GOJU RYU KARATE
ORGANIZATION
GPA 241
(305) 313-6205
HOMEPAGES:
www.fiu.edu/~saaved
E-MAIL:
Saaved@fiu.edu



Our Founder

Professor Manny Saavedra is the founder of the World Sansei Goju Ryu Karate Organization. Professor Saavedra began his Martial Arts training in 1966 and continued studying in Chinatown, New York City under the direction of grand Master Peter Urban, in what later became one of the most famous martial arts academies in the United States (Chinatown Dojo). In 1970 he opened his first school of karate in New York City, where he continued to study and develop his teaching and practical skills. In 1975 Professor Saavedra moved to the state of Florida, at which time he brought with him ideas of the Sansei Goju-Ryu Organization. In 1980 the Organization was founded and since then has grown to encompass schools in the U.S., Venezuela, Spain, Israel, Germany, Chile, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Mexico. Professor Saavedra has been an instructor in the university system for the past 16 years in both Florida and New York. He has developed many new techniques and ideas in the art of self-defense and has expanded his method of training to cover the present day American form of living, thinking and training. Additionally, Professor Saavedra has done active research in China and has written extensively about the art. He is the founder of the American Intercollegiate Karate Organization representing 120 universities and colleges in the United States.



Self Defense

Sansei Goju Ryu is one of the most effective and efficient forms of self defense available. This form of karate teaches students how to use their entire body as a weapon against assailants much larger and stronger than themselves. Sansei goju Ryu is a practical solution to the dangers of increasing crime and violence.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of the FIU karate program is to promote excellence in its members. Students entering the program will grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. Karate provides knowledge that will last the lifetime of the student. Discipline and preparedness learned in the classes will allow the student to perform at a higher level, giving the student a competitive edge, both in school and in the work place. The student that accepts the karate way sets himself or herself forever on the path to excellence.

Sansei Goju Ryu

Sansei Goju Ryu is an organization founded by Manny Saavedra, Hanshi. A superior form of physical exercise and self defense, Sansei Goju Ryu also includes meditation exercises for the development of the mind, body, and spirit. Sansei Goju Ryu, strictly translated is third generation Hard and Soft Style. This art features the traditional circular and semicircular moves incorporated from Okinawan-te and various kung-fu styles. The style ultimately seeks harmony and balance through strength and gentleness.

Since the establishment of the World Sansei Goju Ryu Organization in 1980, the organization has grown to 220 schools in 15 regions and six universities worldwide. The W.S.G.K.O. now has over 400 black belt instructors integrating new ideas into the worldwide organization.

Training

The training includes combative warm up exercises (building the weapon) center body alignment, combative entry methods, grappling, manipulative and striking techniques including groundwork, kata interpretation and many more technical and practical explanations of body movement, a total understanding of the movements and applications that you perform, historical discussions and lectures. Sansei Goju Ryu will help you step by step to a better understanding of these fundamental core principals and concepts.

Physical Fitness

Sansei Goju Ryu provides you with a complete program in physical conditioning. The exercises are safe, effective and tailored to your individual needs.

- *Sansei is aerobic
- * Sansei builds strength
- * Sansei develops flexibility & coordination
- *Sansei helps in weight loss
- * Sansei provides overall conditioning
- *Sansei improves mental health



FIU Alumni Association

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Welcomes the *Vision Yearbook*

OUR MISSION is to foster a lifelong relationship with our alumni and students by making FIU an integral part of their lives. We aim to be a viable resource to FIU alumni and the communities we serve by offering member benefits, services and programs that will foster loyalty and commitment to each other and the University.

THE FIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is an organization of people whose lives have been enriched through their educational experience at FIU. By joining you will be part of an incredibly diverse and talented group of alumni who are making quite an impression on the professional community.

WE ARE EXPANDING EVERYDAY with new regional and college chapters. Our most recent additions are in Washington D.C. and Tampa/St. Pete. Our college chapters include The Colleges of Health Education, Business Administration, and Executive MBA, and The School of Architecture.

OUR SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS encourage professional relationships between fellow alumni. The contacts, friendships and networking opportunities that these private gatherings provide are an invaluable resource to our members. And it's FUN!

TAKE ADVANTAGE of the continuing opportunities FIU has waiting for you. As a member of the Alumni Association you will play a critical role in shaping the future of your alma mater.

**Become a member today by calling
(305) FIU-ALUM**

HARPERPARTNERS, INC.

ARCHITECTURE · ENGINEERING · PLANNING · INTERIORS

550 BILTMORE WAY, SUITE PH II
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
ph 305/476-1102
www.harperpartners.com



David Harper, Bill Brown and the Staff of Harper Partners, Inc. are proud to be serving Florida International University.



The Student Council Interns
Coming Fall 2000

SANTI INTERNATIONAL

YOUR HAIR, NAIL, & WAXING SALON
LOCATED AT F.I.U. SOUTH CAMPUS
GRAHAM CENTER GC-169

(305) 225-0707



Summer Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-7pm Saturday 9am-5pm
Fall & Spring Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-9pm Saturday 9am-5pm

W R G P 8 8 . 1 F M

RADIATE 88

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



Radiate 88.1 FM

<http://wrgp.fiu.edu>

REQUEST Line: (305) 348-3575

Office: (305) 348-3071

NOW HIRING!!!



Congratulations

FIU Peer Advisers



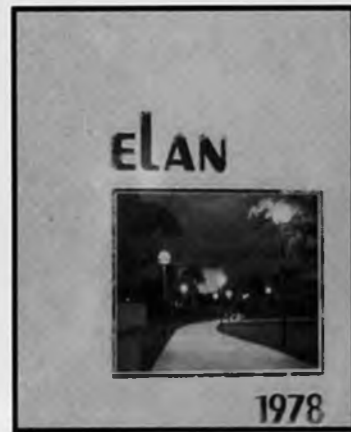
FIRST Place

Spirit Winners at the 25th Anniversary

South Regional

Orientation Workshop

at Mississippi State University



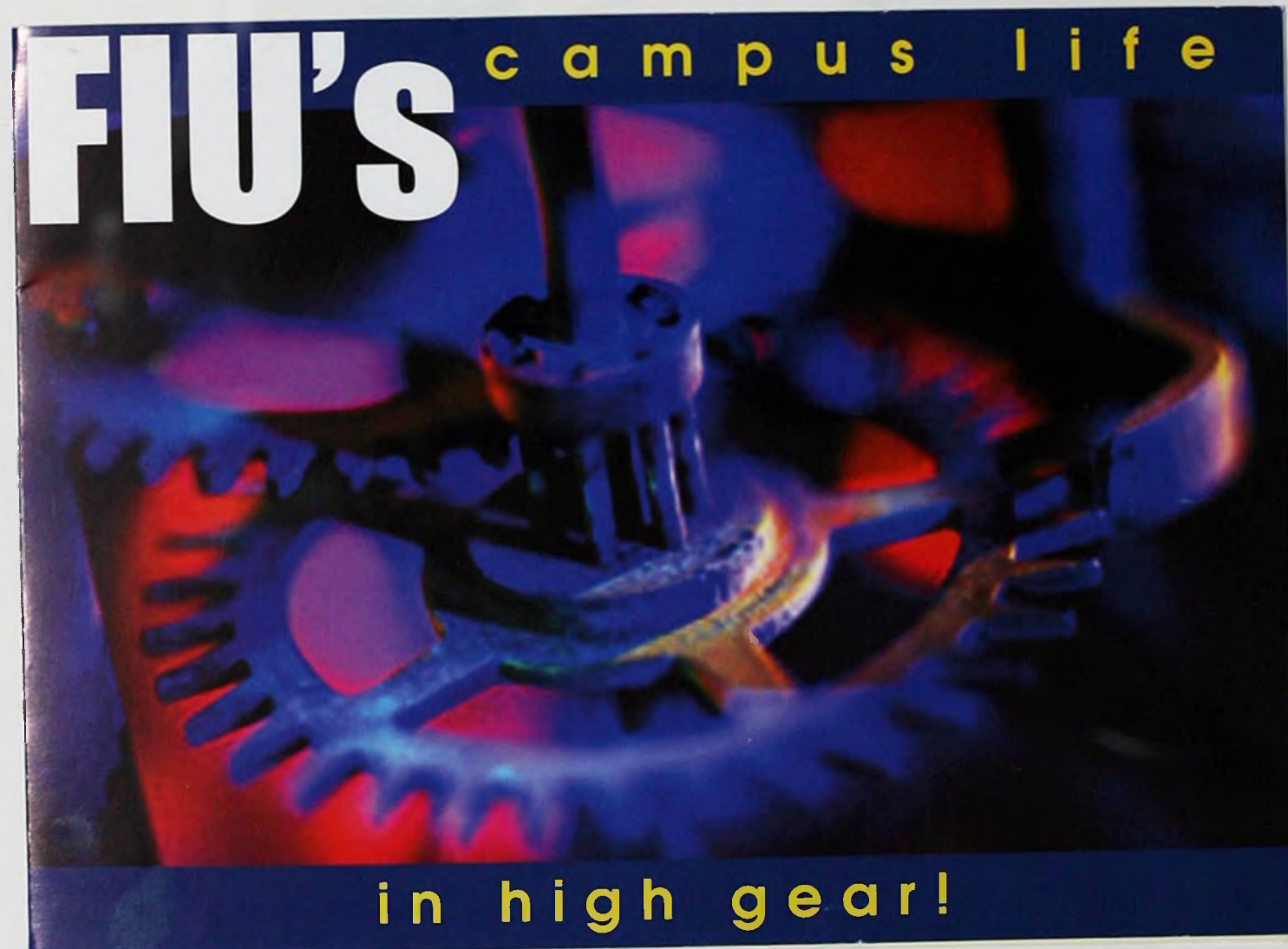
Florida International University Past Yearbooks

"Remember the Past Celebrate your Future"

Join the Yearbook Staff



Graham Center



is in high Gear!

CAMPUS LIFE

Campus Life provides programs, activities and leadership opportunities to develop caring and effective leaders, as well as responsive citizens who embrace diversity.

Administrative and Support Staff



SPC



Student Programming Council
Provides opportunities to plan a variety of educational, cultural, recreational, social and entertainment programs.

Campus Ministry



Seek your spiritual leader and find faith.

VAC



Volunteer Action Center
Invest in yourself by serving your community.

Greek Life



Twenty-three fraternities and sororities provide outstanding opportunities for students in the areas of leadership, scholarship, service, athletics, and social relations. Greek students are involved in nearly all aspects of campus activities.

Leadership



Center for Leadership Development and Civic Responsibility
Provides all students with exciting and interactive leadership, skill-building opportunities.



RHA



Residence Hall Association
Serves residents with any issues or concerns and it gives students the opportunity to participate in various housing programs.

Panther Rage



Builds the Golden Panther spirit and supports FIU Athletics.

SGA



Student Government Association
is the voice of the student body at FIU.

SOC



Student Organizations Council
Comprised of over one-hundred clubs and organizations to choose from.

GSA



Graduate Students Association
Facilitates and enhances the graduate student experience by advancing the University's academic goals; assists in the expansion of graduate programs; promotes quality teaching, and expands research efforts.

Honors



Honors Council
Further the academic mission of the university by serving as the governing body of all honor societies.

For further information, please stop by the Campus Life Office located in GC 340, or call the Campus Life Hotline, 305-348-2137. TDD via FRS 1-800-955-8771.

Presented by Graham Center • Campus Life • Funded by Student Government Association • Division of Student Affairs
Florida International University • University Park, Miami, FL 33199

Panther CARD

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Miami, Florida



Your Official FIU ID

Gives you ACCESS to services and programs at all FIU campuses.

Libraries • Health Clinics • Nautilus & Recreation Centers • Student Government elections • Computer Labs • Athletic events • University & theme events • Book Loans • Campus Life: lectures, comedy shows, concerts, movies, dances, etc.

Is a DEBIT CARD (NO SERVICE FEES!) for purchases/payments on campuses of food, books, tuition, parking, incidentals at:

Cafeterias • Gracie's Grill (UP) • Bookstores • Cashier's • TicketMaster (UP) • Vending Machines • Parking & Traffic • Health and Wellness Centers • Convenience Store • Pollo Tropical • Miami Espresso • Smoothie Time • Edy's Ice Cream Parlour • The Oasis (NC) • Computer Store • Game Rooms • Panther Hall Laundry Machines • Fitness Center (UP)

Is also a long distance calling card (PANTHER CALL) which you may use anywhere, nationwide. Your Panther Call offers:

- no monthly service
- no connection fees
- charge
- low rates
- speed dialing
- several billing options
- voice message system
- and more...

campus **MCI**

For any questions regarding your campusMCI/PANTHER CALL service, call Customer Service number at 1-800-313-FIU1 or (305) 348-6358 or stop by the MCI Panther Call Office located in the Graham Center room 102.

University Park

Place: Graham Center 104E
Days: Monday through Thursday
(Closed Fridays)
Times: 10:00am - 2:00pm and
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Phone: (305) 348-3910 or (305) 348-2297



North Campus

Place: Wolfe University Center 143
Days: Monday through Thursday
(Closed Fridays)
Times: 10:00am - 3:00pm and
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Phone: (305) 919-5406

Note: For appointments during non-office hours, contact the Photo ID Office at your respective campus. The Photo ID Office also offers lamination and passport picture services.



Fox-Mar Studios
Congratulates F.I.U.'s

CLASS OF 2000

-Graduation Portraits

-Family Portraits

-School Photography

-Commercial photography

-Special Events Photography



North Studio
(305) 558-6891
6043 N.W. 167 St. #A-7
Hialeah, FL 33015



South Studio
(305) 596-1750
10535 S.W. 109 Court
Miami, FL 33176

Fox-Mar Studios

"We are Quality Photography"



Interested in joining *The Beacon?*

Dear Student,

The Beacon is the student newspaper of FIU. Our job is to keep students informed on events pertaining to the university. By joining *The Beacon* you're giving yourself the opportunity to participate in the world of journalism.

The Beacon has opportunities for everyone. From writers to advertisers, *The Beacon* can provide students with the opportunity to learn hands-on skills and gain experience in their chosen fields.

Currently *The Beacon* is looking for writers, editors, cartoonists, photographers, ad salespersons, layout and design experts and people proficient in using Macintosh computers. If you fall into one or more of these categories, or would like to learn more about them, JOIN *THE BEACON!*

Drop by our University Park office in GC 210 or our North Campus office in WUC 320. If you're not up for taking a walk, give us a call at (305) 348-1582 and get ready for the best experience of your college career!

The Beacon Staff



Welcome To the Greek Community



Pi Kappa Phi
Phi Kappa Sigma
Lambda Chi Alpha
Alpha Omicron Pi

Coming Soon

FIU Law

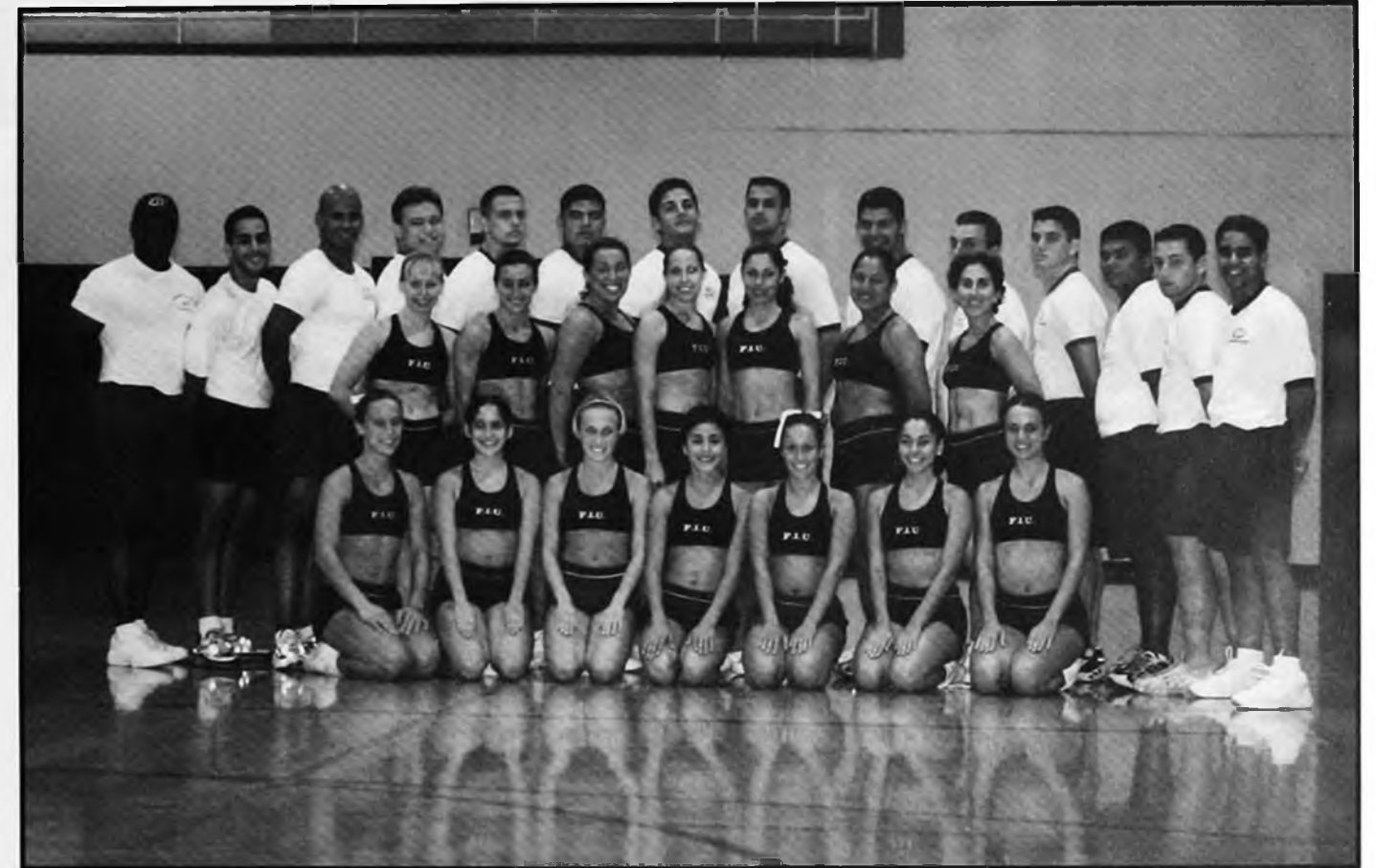


...and FIU
Football in
2002!



Congratulations

FIU Cheerleaders



Third Place

In the National Cheerleading
Competition



Student Government Council North Campus



The VISION Yearbook Editors



Would Like to Congratulate



Penny Melville and
Alistair MacDonald
on their marriage!



With Love Always,
Jose Otero, Vanessa Valencia,
Stacy Padron, and Isabel Garces



The VISION Yearbook Staff

Staff Writers,
Photographers,
and
Community Service Interns



Evelynn Battillo



Eddie Barrios



Vanessa Brito



Mayling Chow



Maribel de los Rios



Norvin Jarquin



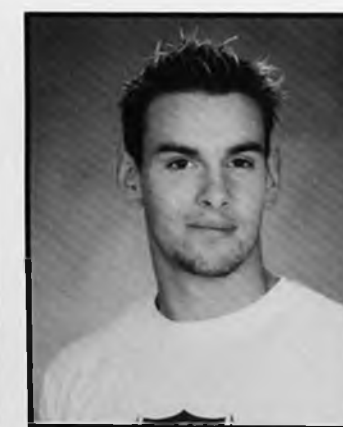
Lazaro Llanes



Nicole Martinez



John Otero



Rey Perez



Alexis Rodriguez



Marlene Sato

The Graham Center
Custodial Staff
"Night Staff"



Kappa Delta Pi



Phi Alpha



Future Educators of
America



Our Blurred VISION



"We have a yearbook?"



"Guys don't worry about it, the meter maid does not work on holidays. If anything I'll cover the parking tickets!"



"Where is Ms. Melville"



"I'm only going to use the cell phone for a second"



"Sharon, you never know who could be behind the door"



"Orlando...Bahh! Oh \$#@! my bumper fell off, oh no I got a flat"



"Guys, I got to go to practice"



"Guy's am I falling...Bahh!"



"I love the new addition to GC"



"Welcome to CHO 1101, I'm your professor"



"Evie what next on your issue list"



"We are doing the homecoming float no matter what"



"Alexis don't touch anything"



"Hatzel what are you doing this weekend?"



Hello, our deadline is tomorrow"



"Finally we made it to New York, Where's Jose?"



"It's 1:30 a.m, do you know where Rey is?"



"What do your letters stand for???"



The VISION Yearbook Staff would like to thank our Millennium fashion show models for the time and dedication they put into this project.

We apologize again for the unforeseen circumstances of the show.

Thank You,

Jose Otero, Vanessa Valencia, Stacy Padron, Lazaro Llanes and the rest of the VISION yearbook staff

Congratulations to the Class of 2000



www.davor.comTM

654 Street Road, Bensalem, PA 19020
1-800-334-1531

The 2000 Student Life Awards



Congratulations Shinning Stars

Outstanding Freshmen

Adrian Carter
Max Gauthier

Outstanding Sophomores

Geroge Corton
Angel Garcia

Outstanding Juniors

Cedric McMinn
Linda Lubin

Outstanding Seniors

Orlando Amarin
Elvira Chang
Arazais Oliveros
Dannielle Boyer

Outstanding Graduate Student

Mark Martell

Outstanding Service Individual

Jose M. Otero

Outstanding Service Group

PRSSA

Diversity

Shelly-Ann M. Rawle

Kaplan Award

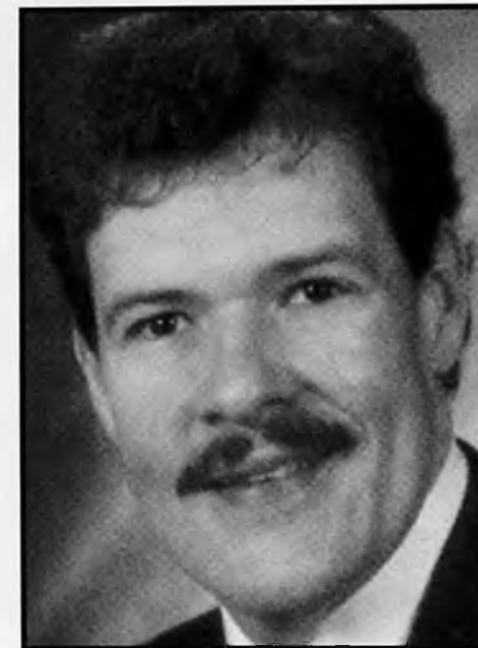
Orlando Amarin

Ramon A. Cue

Shinning Star

Sergio Tigera

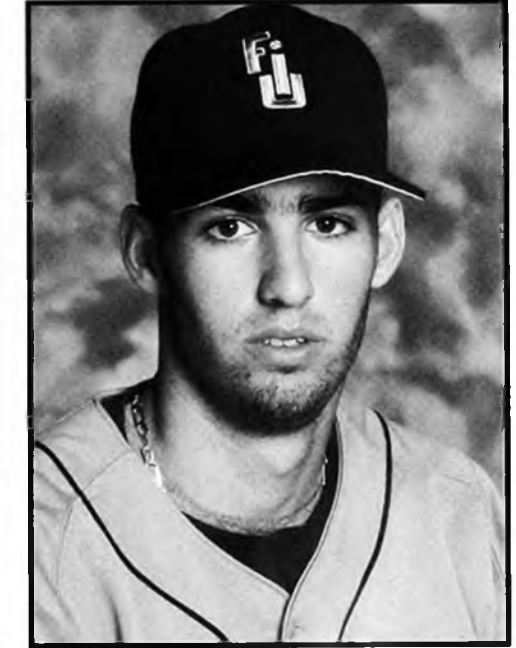
In Memory Of



Scott
Fraser



Mariano
Marina



Ramiro "Toti"
Mendez

Our condolences go out to the
family and friends of these
individuals.

Next.

It is usually the tendency of a writer or designer to add his or her own personal touch to a piece of work. As difficult as it may be to restrain oneself, the task is usually accomplished without the presence of an inclination towards personality or individualism. However, once time passes the written word becomes a symbol of the epoch, in which this silent artist, the writer, lived and thrived. Let this book be no exception to this rule. The time will continue to pass, as it has through out these 400 pages. In fact not only have we entered the next Millenium in this book, but we have initiated a tradition commemorating the accomplishments of this



At the annual Homecoming dance at North campus, many students gather together and celebrate tradition. *Photo By Mario Abril*

Running as fast as she can, Ranada Danrols keeps on sprinting until she wins for FIU. *Photo By Mario Abril*

The story of Elian Gonzalez spread across the world quickly. Here at FIU. Night line hosted a town meeting for citizens to come and speak out their opinions about this news event. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Performing at a basketball game, the Golden Dazzlers entertain the audience during half time. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Time...

institution. It will not be solely the uniqueness of the writer seen within, but the style of a generation, the trials of a society and the pride of a nation. What students and professors alike have lived on these campuses will become the instincts and judgements used to carry this world into the future. That is what this is all about, educating and creating sufficient if not expert individuals that will competently achieve new heights. *This Time Around* has been, literally, a product of people reflecting on what has been and what is to come. What has been; a successful attempt at constructing a community thriving on betterment and expanding education. What is to come; continued success for



Standing together. Dr. Telles-Irvin, Tito Omogani and Orlando Amorin celebrate with archbishop Desmond Tutu. *Photo By Jose Otero*

After winning their positions in SGC, new lower division rep Alejandro Diaz, rep at large Victor Romano and president Sergio Tigera jump into the lake to celebrate. *Photo By Jose Otero*

During the basketball game against Louisiana, the FIU Panthers took over their opponent to win. *Photo By Jose Otero*



Walking out of the Chemistry and Physics building, students dash out into the Graham Center to avoid the rainy Miami weather. *Photo By Jose Otero*

Around

future generations of pioneers, and tremendous growth. The time is here, the time is now because every event in ones life can not be viewed as a pinnacle waiting to be reached. If life is lived day to day as each is offered, imagine what a difference it will be when reflected upon. Time is all we have to govern or restrict us. Yet, it is a tool that has led many greats to their dreams and goals when embraced. Through us, time has shown its presence again. Do not let *This Time Around* be your last. Make your time count.

-Vanessa Valencia



Finally after four years of hard work, FIU friends and family hold up a banner at their son David's graduation. Photo By Lester Thomas



During Greek week celebrations, the ladies of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority pep up the audience with their spirited cheers and choreography. Photo By Jose Otero

During the annual homecoming parade, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Bryan Bentancourt, and Edgar de la Calle walk together down West Flager street. Photo By Mario Abril

At the FIU Wolfsonian located in South Beach, Alexis Rodriguez, Liz Bello and Roxana Cozma watch with amazement at the different types of art work. Photo By Jose Otero



- Kaywana 131, 298
Simpson, Rodolfo 133
Sines, Wendy 167
Siregar, Elly 133
Siu, Jimmy 133
Siu, Judy Manchoy 252
Skeete, Bridgette 133
Skinner, Mawiyah
133, 261, 265
Sklar, Scott 280
Slaugenaup,
Heather 188
Slavtcheva,
Gergana 197
Smatt, Brian
15, 133, 242, 272, 290, 399
Smith, Dennis 280
Smith, Kathia 133
Soltau, Nicole 133
Sosa, Nadializ 133
Sosa, Robert 283
Sotil, Adolfo 133
Soto, Alfredo 289
Soto, Iose 283
Soto, Lisandra 133
Soto, Reuben 133
Sotolongo, Iose 236
Srail, Lawrence 308
St, Girlande
Hubert 133
Stafelbach, Paul 235
Starr, Stevie 23, 52
Steinmann, Chris 284
Stella, Adriana 236
Stimpson, Scan 166
Stocki, Daniel 291
- Stocki, Ralf 291
Stuart, Greg 264
Stuart, John 236
Suarez, John 304
Suarez, Julia 133,
145, 147, 148, 397, 398
Suarez, Marco 283
Suarez,
Mariaelena 236
Suarez, Susan 133
Sullivan, Todd 236,
243, 267, 270
Sund, Katherine 188
Sutter, Victor 300
Suvillaga, Jose 158
Swerdloff, Lauren 255
Sztam, Saul 236
- T**
Tabarres, Alex 283
Tachibana,
Shinichi 133
Takahashi,
Camila 252, 253
Tann, Kevin 261
Tate, Amy 135
Taylor, Kimberly 236
Taylor, Mercedes 135
Tazoe, Yoko 135
Tejera, Jessica 135
Telcide, Gemima 135
Telles-Irvin, Patricia
273, 383, 399
Telon,
Priscilla 252, 253
Teran, Sonya 135
Thomas, Chris 158
- Thomas, George 135
Thomas, Lester 289
Thomas, Loydel 135
Thompson,
Jeraldine 135
Thompson,
Nicoyas 135
Tigera, Angelina
236, 398
Tigera, Sergio
18, 41, 53, 55, 45, 146,
148, 316, 318, 383
Tigera, Tania 135
Tobenas, Eduardo 135
Tocco, Ben 187
Todd, Gregory 135
Tomeny, Tracy 135
Tomlinson,
Claudine 135
Toro, Gwendolyne 135
Torre, Marsha 188
Torre, Michelle 188,
189
Toscano, Jose 284
Toscano, Maron 303
Toya, La Spells 298
Trecio, Ryan 137
Trinh, Nam 137
Trinidad, Melicent 137
Tristian, Ana 42
Trujillo, Greg 280
Trull, Elida 137
Trumbly, Melissa 137
Tudela, Carlos 291
Tudela, Francisco 291
Turcios, Cynthia 22
- Turner, Cristin 137
Turner, Mitzi 236
Turner-Oglesby,
Marteda 236
- U**
Ugarte, Hazel 236
Ulloa, Gladys 137
Unger, Julie 188
Urbino, Rafael 137
Uredland, Russell 187
Urraca, Debbie
137, 313, 321
Urrunaga, Cesar 160
Urrutia, Gabriel 283
Usategui, Silvia 252,
253
- V**
Valbuena, Mario 237
Valencia,
Vanessa 288, 396
Valero, Alina 137
Valle, Ayan 280
Valqui, Omar 137
Valverde, Javier 137
Vanegas, John 137
Vanessa, A Inno-
cent 230
Vargas, Debbie 252
Vargas, Jonathan 276
Vazquez, Lissette 137
Vedrine, Martine 139
Vela, Eva 157
Vela, Hatzel 15, 397
Velasquez,
Monica 295, 319
- Vera, Claudia 139
Verbel, Yanira 139
Verne, Adema 139
Vidal, Nicole 139
Vidal, Ralph 139
Vieito, Jill 139
Vigil, Alicia 252
Vila, Janice 139
Vilas, Malena 237
Villa, Javier 272
Villasuso,
Alejandro 16
Villegas, Illian 256
Villega, Jairo 282, 283
Viquez, Maritza 139
Virginia, H McCoy 232
Vitalis, Lincoln 139
Vrancheva, Ivelina 197
- W**
Wade, Juliene 139
Walker, Christa 139
Walsh, Mayron 273
Walters, Lana 188
Wansley, Theodore 139
Wassouf, Patrice 267,
275
Waters, Simona 139
Watson, Donald 159
Watt, Matthew 139
Watts, Rosa 139
Weiss, Kirk 145, 276
Wells, Saddle 201
Westcott, Doug 140
Whitt, Yeny 140
Whittaker, Kaheill 290
Whyte, Najwa 140
- Whyte, Sandra 140
Wilkins, Gregoro 237
Wilkinson, Osalee 141
Williams, Andria 141
Williams, Caroline 141
Williams, Duhaney 145
Williams, Matt 279
Williams, Novel-
ette 140
Wilson, Brian 276
Wilson, Geraldine 237
Wilson, Sandra 140
Winkle, Stephen 237
Won, Giselle
Wong 252, 253
Wong, Ann-Juliet 140
Wong, Meefun 140
Woodroffe, Kwesi 141
Wright, Betty 237
Wulf, Susan 141
Wyche, Paulette 141
Wynter, Kaydene 141
- X**
Xu, Huixian 140
- Y**
Yanich, Asher 25
Yaya, Carolina 140
Ycikson, Liana 140
Yerol, Armando 280
Yiana, Melissa 190
Yosef, Brian 284
Young, Sharon 140
- Z**
Zahedi, H 237
Zaldivar, Kathleen 141
Zamora, Jessica 298
Zapata, Rafael III 237
Zarate, Andrea 141
Zepherin, Didier 264
Zuazo, Ximena 140
Zulega, Mauricio 272
Zuniga, Maria 140

Special Thanks

The Vision yearbook staff would like to thank the following individuals for their help with the rebirth of the FIU yearbook. Without these individuals we would have not accomplish this task. Thank You,

The VISION yearbook Staff

Lou Conrad & Tere Perez
Media Adviser &
Media Ad Coordinator



Monica Miguel, Julia Suarez, Vanessa Santos
Founding VISION Staff members



Paul Gray
Iostens Factory Representative



Dr. John Bonanno
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs



Campus Life Staff



Angie Tigera, Maria Reyes, Marisa Rodriguez
SGA Accounting



Orlando Amorin
SGA President (UP)



Rich Kelch
Athletics Media Relations



Dr. Patricia Telles-Irvin
Vice President of Student Affairs



Ruth Hamilton
Director of the Graham Center



Doris Lopez & Zory Hernandez
SGA Secretaries



Dr. Larry Lunsford
Ombudsman/ Student Affairs



Brain Smatt
General Manager of WRGP



COLOPHON

The VISION yearbook is published annually by the students of Florida International University with coverage from August 1999-May 2000 and distributed in August to students, faculty and staff who pre-ordered their book.

Jostens Publishing Company in Clarksville, Tennessee printed 1,000 copies of the 400-page book. The book trim size is 9 x 12 inches, using 100-pound Bordeaux paper. The 2000 VISION consists of 84 pages of color and 316 pages of black and white. The cover consisted of a black Cordova material with both silver and rainbow foil. The image on the cover was design by the VISION staff, but created by the art department at Jostens. Our South Florida Representative was Mr. Paul Gray.

DaVor Studios in Bensalem, Pennsylvania photographed the senior portraits. Local representation in South Florida was Mr. Ira Fox from Fox-Mar Studios.

The VISION yearbook was published under the supervision of the Florida International University Student Media Board, Student Government Association, media adviser Lou Conrad, and Editor-In-Chief Jose Otero.

VISION Yearbook-Florida International University
University Park Campus
Graham Center 317
Miami, Florida 33199
Telephone: (305) 348-1049
(305) 348-2562
Fax: (305) 348-2563
E-mail: visionyearbook@hotmail.com

A variety of postscript fonts were used for the 2000 VISION "This Time Around". The font chosen for all body copy was Baker Signet. Other fonts used were Impact, Times New Roman, Aerial, Symbol, and Orator.

The VISION staff relied on two DELL 100mhz computers, One IBM 300GL, and One Omega 100 zip drive. The following software was used in the production of this volume: Adobe PageMaker 6.5 plus, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point, and Microsoft Excel.

Kodak film was purchased and developed by Publix Supermarket for the first deadline. All other photographic materials were supplied by DaVor photography. The following cameras were used for the production of this yearbook: one 200 lens Canon Rebel, one 300 lens Canon Rebel, two 35mm Canon sure shot.

The VISION staff would like to thank everyone who was so kind in helping bring back our yearbook tradition.

Photo By Vanessa Valencia

