

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, CREATING OPPORTUNITY:

A HISTORY OF

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



By
Thomas D. Riley

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE.
CREATING OPPORTUNITY.

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Excellence, Creating Opportunity: A History of Florida International University chronicles FIU's phenomenal development from an abandoned airport to one of America's most dynamic young public universities.

It tells the story of the University's earliest beginnings—a dream held by a state senator who attempted to create a public university in Miami in the 1940s—through its formal establishment, opening in 1972, and the rapid growth and development of its first twenty-five years. The book is filled with archival black and white and contemporary color photographs that illustrate the FIU story.

In addition to reporting the major accomplishments and milestones of FIU's history, it relates the lives and visions of the individuals—as well as the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community supporters—who made the University a reality and built it into what it is today. *Celebrating Excellence, Creating Opportunity* captures the spirit of Florida International University as it enters its second quarter-century and claims its place among the nation's leading public research universities.



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FIU

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Hope, Knowledge and Opportunity



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FOREWORD

A silver anniversary is a special milestone. For a couple, twenty-five years is a major portion of both partners' lives. Yet in the life of an established university, twenty-five years may be just a fleeting chapter in the institution's life.

But in the case of Florida International University, twenty-five years has been a lifetime. Given our relative youth, our record of achievement has set national records from the day we opened our doors. Enrollment has already exceeded thirty thousand, placing FIU among the nation's twenty-five largest colleges and universities. We offer nearly 250 baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. There are now nine hundred full-time faculty, many of whom are receiving national and international recognition for their work. Annual sponsored research is now \$37 million, up from \$7 million just ten years ago. We're completing a \$175 million construction program, the largest in the University's history. And our first major fund-raising campaign has exceeded \$140 million after two years, which has included the acquisition of the \$75 million Wolfsonian Museum and its extraordinary collection of seventy thousand artifacts.

There are many accomplishments throughout FIU's history, and you will find them in Tom Riley's account in the following pages. Most importantly, the history of FIU is best captured in the lives and visions of all those who made the University a reality: people like Ernest Graham, whose initial dream gave

impetus to the birth of the University; our founding president Chuck Perry and his three co-founders who built a university out of thin air; Presidents Hal Crosby and Greg Wolfe, who steered the University through its early formative years; Superintendent of Grounds Charles Hennington who turned an abandoned airport into a campus with lush, exotic foliage; and the thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community supporters whose commitment and spirit have made FIU what it is today. Looking back on the achievements of the past twenty-five years and the impact FIU has made throughout South Florida, it is clear that our silver anniversary slogan—"Celebrating Excellence, Creating Opportunity"—will continue to guide the University into the future.

As we approach the millennium, we remain committed to advancing the noble mission FIU unveiled on its opening day. The twenty-first century will bring a new age of progress, a period in which FIU will be recognized as one of the nation's finest public urban research universities. My colleagues and I are aware of the profound responsibility with which we are entrusted, and we will endeavor to enable the University to realize its virtually unlimited potential during the next quarter-century.

Modesto A. Maidique
President
Florida International University



INTRODUCTION

By Charles E. Perry

The Mission: FIU in '72.

Impossible? Yes, according to most observers.

In September of 1969, Butler Waugh, Don McDowell, Nick Sileo, and I arrived in Miami on an abandoned airport with a vision, a dream, a commitment, combined with youthful energy, enthusiasm, and excitement. We faced the awesome task of creating a new state university to serve Greater Miami and South Florida, the largest metropolitan region in the United States without a public baccalaureate-degree-granting institution. And from the very moment that the Board of Regents named me the founding president of Florida International University, I never doubted that it would be accomplished.

As Tom Riley so beautifully narrates in the following pages of this anniversary book, the mission was achieved and the dream became reality in the fall of 1972.

This remarkable achievement was the result of the hundreds of individuals who made this institution possible—in particular, the founding members of the faculty and staff and their families, the Miami-Dade County government, the business and professional community, the Florida Board of Regents, the Florida legislature, Governors Claude Kirk and Reubin Askew, Miami-Dade and Broward Community Colleges, a vast number of interested citizens, the South Florida media, especially *The Miami Herald*—and most importantly, the initial 5,667 students who joined this exciting, new and “long overdue” state university on opening day.

We were fortunate to attract a diverse group of exceptionally talented and hard-working faculty and staff to FIU since its conception. I shall be forever grateful to each and every one of them for making “FIU in '72” a dream come true.

The twenty-five years since the official opening of FIU have been filled with significant accomplishments on our campuses and beyond. The tenures of each of my successors (Hal Crosby, Greg Wolfe, and Modesto Maidique) brought unique progress to the University. In particular, President Maidique, who, with the solid support of the growing and ever-changing South Florida community, has established the leadership to make Florida International University one of the most remark-

able success stories in the history of American higher education.

Now the challenge is to focus on the future of this institution that has proven itself in its youth and will improve on its road to maturity. What will FIU be like in the next twenty-five years? Fifty years? President Maidique and the present faculty, staff, and students will focus on the future while reviewing and learning from the past. I believe that the “people issue” will again become the key ingredient in determining the University’s future. This is a “people’s university.” It always has been and should always be so. Programs, buildings, and funds will follow talented, creative, energetic, bright, and honorable individuals who are committed to meet the changing and growing needs of the served. The road map to the twenty-first century is clear—and achievable!

FIU and its communities will reach for the stars. Florida International builds on its experience, and it will continue to maintain the standard of excellence that has been fundamental for its existence. The next critical stage of growth and development will take a rededication to FIU’s basic goals: Education of Students, Community Service, and Greater International Understanding.

Florida International University believes in its “roots” and will challenge its people to plan for its future. The next several years will be a glorious time for this institution to lead, to inspire, to set new standards as it claims its place among the world’s great universities. The success achieved to date humbles me. The future inspires me because the University has a vision for the next millennium.

God bless Florida International University and all who labor on its behalf. Betty, Tom, Lynn, and I send our love and best wishes to President Maidique and his family and to all of you as you pursue the unlimited opportunities which will flourish at this crucial time in the history of this young and dynamic institution.

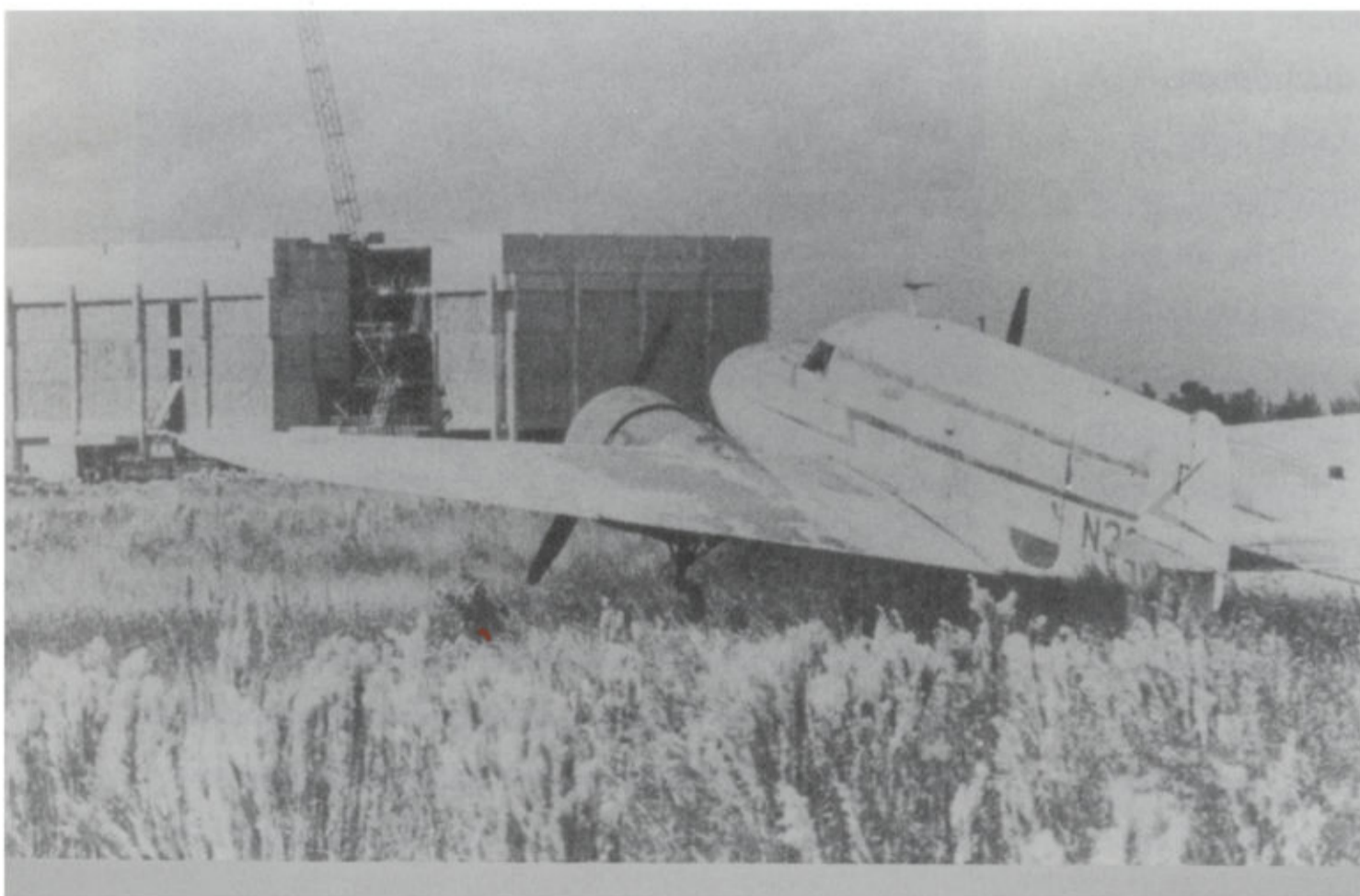


The transition from airport to university: abandoned Tamiami Airport would become the site of FIU's first campus.

THE EARLY YEARS

Chapter 1

It was summer of 1969, and four young men gathered at an abandoned airport on the edge of the Everglades in southwest Miami-Dade County. The meeting was filled with the ambition, determination, and love of these four visionaries. It was a historic moment. In that desolate site the four men would create Florida International University, today one of the fastest growing universities in the United States. It was a dream that would require the hard work and sacrifice of thousands. But it happened.



The University had auspicious beginnings. On the first day of classes, September 19, 1972, Florida International University, a member of the State University System of Florida (SUS), enrolled 5,667 students. It was, and still is, the largest first-day enrollment in the history of American higher education. Enrollment was limited to juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Still ahead was the challenge of adding a lower division in the next ten years.

Ninety-three bachelor's degree programs and thirty-six master's programs were offered. The infrastructure was basic: Primera Casa, the only major building at the time, housed the library, a media center, food services, bookstore, academic advising, registration, financial aid, and athletic programs, among other services.

The four founding fathers of the University had been given the task by the Florida Board of Regents (BOR) to build an institution that would serve the expanding South Florida urban population. In very little time they accomplished the mission. Just three years prior to the opening, the "university" consisted of an abandoned airport control tower and a few dilapidated airplane hangars.

Over those three years, the founders worked continuously to develop a master plan, hire faculty and staff, and build the first major building on the 344-acre campus. The scheduled opening date of September 1972 always loomed on the horizon.

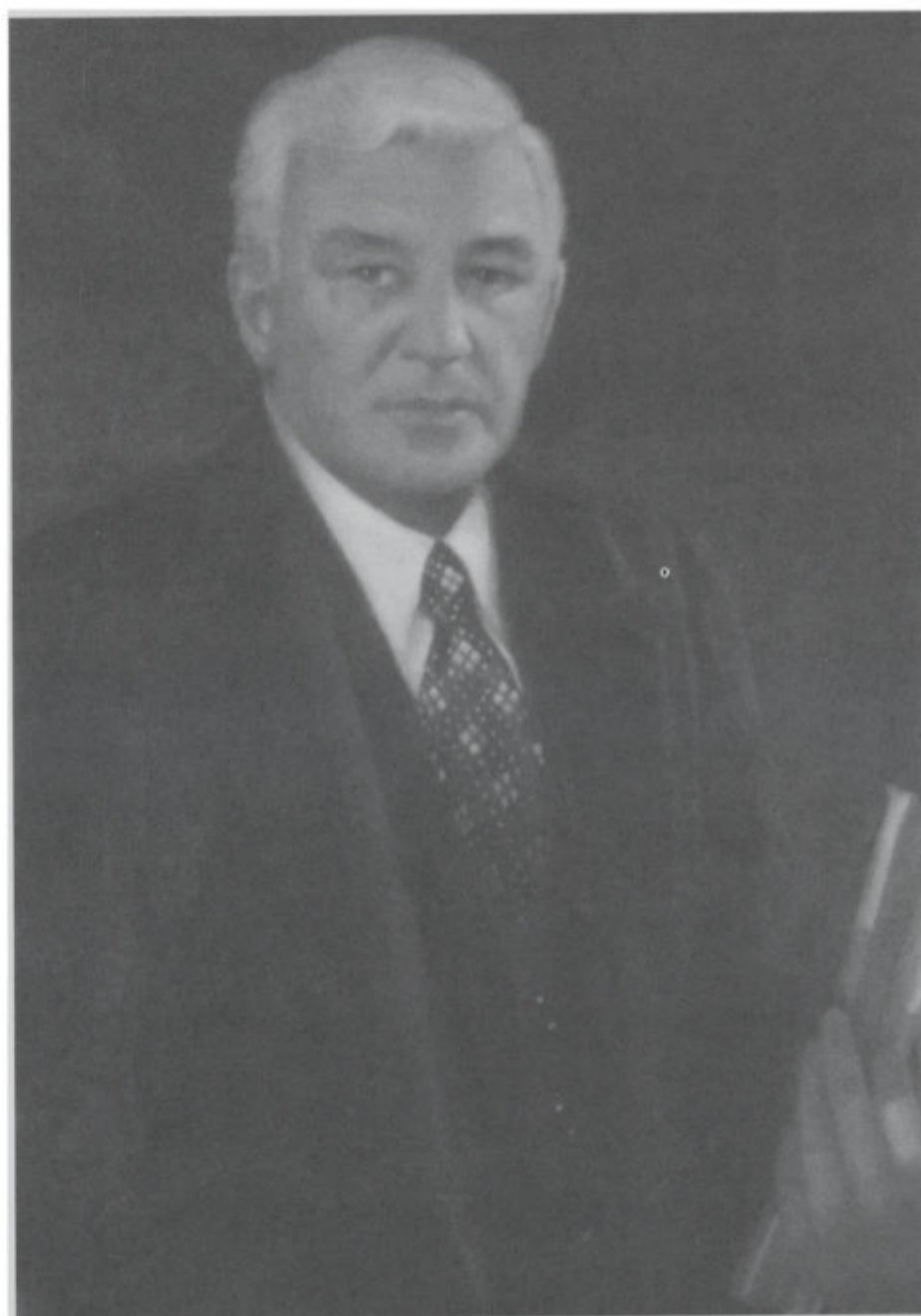
Twenty-five years is a relatively short time in the life of a university and perhaps insufficient to effectively judge the success or failure of the founding fathers. But in those twenty-five years, incredible goals were achieved.

In September 1997, FIU celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its opening, the University boasted a student population of over thirty thousand students, seventy-seven thousand alumni, faculty and staff of four thousand, and a physical plant valued at nearly \$300 million.

FIU's rapid development stands as one of the most remarkable accomplishments in modern higher

education. Although the University opened in 1972, the idea for a state university in South Florida dated back some thirty years earlier.

Located near the Charles E. Perry building (formerly Primera Casa) on the University Park Campus is a torch dedicated to the memory of Senator Ernest "Cap" Graham, who presented the initial proposal to the Florida legislature in 1943 to establish a state university in South Florida. While his bill did not pass, the senator persisted in presenting his proposal to his colleagues, warning them that Miami needed a state university.



State Senator Ernest R. "Cap" Graham presented the initial proposal to the Florida legislature in 1943 to establish a state university in South Florida.

In 1954, the state of Florida's nine accredited private colleges and universities and three state universities enrolled thirty-six thousand students, with a total capacity for thirty-eight thousand. The state universities (University of Florida, Florida A&M

University, and Florida State University) lacked land for expansion and could barely accommodate modest enrollment growth.

The Board of Control (forerunner to the Board of Regents), which coordinated planning and policy decisions for the three state universities, initiated a comprehensive planning study in 1954. Late in 1956, the Florida Council for the Study of Higher Education delivered “Higher Education and Florida’s Future,” the report that laid the groundwork for the expansion of Florida’s community colleges and universities. The Council urged the Board of Control to “immediately seek legislation to establish public universities in the Tampa Bay area and the lower east coast.” The University of South Florida was authorized in 1956, but the Board paid no heed to the recommendations for the “lower east coast.”

By the mid-1960s, Greater Miami had become a burgeoning trade and commerce center. The need for a public institution of higher learning, to provide affordable education and spur economic development, had become acute.

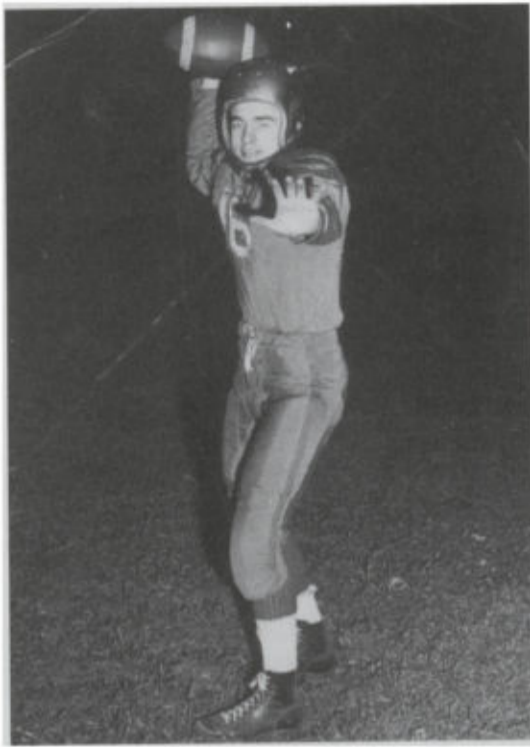
In 1965, Florida Senator Robert M. Haverfield introduced Senate Bill 711, which became known as the “Haverfield Bill.” It instructed the state Board of Education and the Board of Regents (BOR) to begin planning “with all dispatch” for the development of a state university in Miami. The governor signed the bill into law in June 1965, and Florida International University was on its way—though no monies had been appropriated for the University to begin operation.



State Senator Robert M. Haverfield introduced Senate Bill 711, which led to the establishment of FIU in 1965.

FIU founding President Charles E. Perry had his first encounter with the newly approved state university in late spring of 1968 when SUS Chancellor Robert Mautz solicited his interest in the presidency. Perry, then special assistant to the governor for education, was not even sure he wanted to stay in Florida let alone assume the reins of a non-existent university. Nevertheless, he told the chancellor he was interested.

But an offer was not forthcoming because the SUS was not ready to hire presidents for the new universities planned in Miami and Jacksonville.



FIU founding president Charles E. Perry excelled on the gridiron as well as the classroom.

Meanwhile, BOR Chairman Chester Ferguson offered Perry the position of SUS vice chancellor. Perry accepted in August 1968.

On July 11, 1969, after a nation-

wide search, the BOR convened in Jacksonville and appointed Charles E. Perry to lead the new university in Miami.

In “Chuck” Perry, the regents of the State University System had chosen one of their own. His year as assistant to Governor Claude Kirk had instructed him in the politics of Tallahassee, and as



Charles E. Perry, founding president of FIU, was just thirty-one years old when he accepted the position to create the new university.

SUS vice chancellor, Perry had come to understand the workings of the state system. Perhaps most important of all, he had earned the respect of the governor and the chancellor.

Just thirty-one years old, the new president was the youngest in the history of the SUS.

Perry’s first task was to recruit a talented team with whom he would create the new university.

For his executive assistant, Perry needed a liaison to the academic community, a good writer, and a quick and eager learner. Butler Waugh fit the job description to a “T.”

With a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University and Phi Beta Kappa honors, Waugh was a scholar who often dressed in sport shirts, jeans, or cutoffs. FIU’s second employee was by nature thoughtful and contemplative, but words flowed when a critical decision needed to be articulated.

Donald L. McDowell, previously a controller at the University of Florida and at the time director of management systems at the Board of Regents, was selected as the next member of the founding team. Endowed with a precise mechanical mind, yet fond of writing and poetry, McDowell was an accountant by trade and understood computer systems as well as anyone in the country. He had a thorough knowledge of the SUS and BOR, and managed expenditures at the new university. McDowell was the conservative influence—in manner, speech, and dress—for the group.

Perry also needed an effective liaison for the Miami community. Nick Sileo was a warm and personable man who had received his Ph.D. in sociology and served as coordinator of social sciences for the SUS. A Baptist minister by training, Sileo had graduated from the Colgate Rochester Seminary. His task was to coordinate University efforts in the Model Cities program and economically depressed areas of the county. Liberal in his thinking then and now, the first dean of students was a quintessential rebel and nonconformist.

Though different in their outlooks, the members of the founding corps shared common background traits. All were from middle-class families and had graduated from public higher education institutions.

No discussion of FIU's founding would be complete without noting the contributions of Dan D'Oliveira, Bill Jerome, and Glen Goerke. In the development of a new university, the architect/planner is crucial. Perry recalled that several architects with fine reputations were considered, but their options were limited due to financial restraints. A friend of Perry's suggested Dan D'Oliveira, a campus planning officer for the Ohio Board of Regents. Today, his handprint is found throughout the landscapes of both the North and University Park Campuses.

"Dan D'Oliveira did more for FIU than any other person involved in the development of the institution," President Perry noted. "He was a very special person and played a very special role."

Perry convinced William T. Jerome III, the president of Bowling Green State University (where



An early rendering of how University Park (then Tamiami Campus) was projected to look in 1980; this was the goal of the university planners.

Perry once worked), to resign and relocate to Miami to assume the post of "special consultant." The president at Bowling Green for seven years, Jerome became FIU's first vice president of Academic Affairs and worked with Perry on the early development of the University.

Glen Goerke joined FIU in April 1970 as dean of the Division of University Services and Continuing Education and was soon promoted to associate dean of Faculty, number two in the academic hierarchy. Goerke was a troubleshooter charged with satisfying egos and soothing tempers of the growing number of FIU faculty members. He also worked with the deans and Vice President Jerome to develop the overall academic program. As the first North Campus provost, Goerke was responsible for development of FIU's second campus, slated to open in 1976.

Having formed a corps group, Perry now sought to designate a planning headquarters. On a sweltering July morning in 1969, he and Don McDowell met on the site of what was to become FIU's main campus.



Campus planner Dan D'Oliveira (right) left his handprint throughout the landscapes of University Park and North Campus. Elaine Bloom (center), a future state representative, served as assistant director of the FIU Institute for Women.

“It was an old abandoned airport in the boon-docks,” Perry said. “We drove an old state car out there two miles from the nearest life, bumping on the dirt road out to the control tower. We worked our way up to the top of the tower, and, as I looked out over the site, I had a flash of what was going to be.” He told McDowell, “This tower will be the site of our first offices. This is where the university will have its beginnings.”

Upon hearing his revelation, McDowell scanned the landscape that would later become the University Park Campus. Then he looked at Perry, thinking him a bit deranged. “I wondered to myself what the hell I was doing there, why I’d left a secure job in the BOR office, and if there was any chance I might get it back,” he said.

Perry decided to begin operations at the old airport (land donated by Miami-Dade County); he believed that the savings from not renting a downtown office would be put to good use on other university projects. He also proposed that the old “airport tower” remain a permanent landmark on the campus site. Every university needed its “Old Main,” Perry stated.

The founders moved into the building on September 2, 1969, and the control tower became the University’s nerve center. They painted it ivory, calling it “The Ivory Tower” at first in jest, but the nickname stuck. Furniture was minimal, and filing cabinets, phones, air conditioning, and drinkable water were hopes for the future. An old platform served as a desk and there were a few creaking chairs, but what was lacking in furnishings was outweighed by the four men’s fervor to create a university.

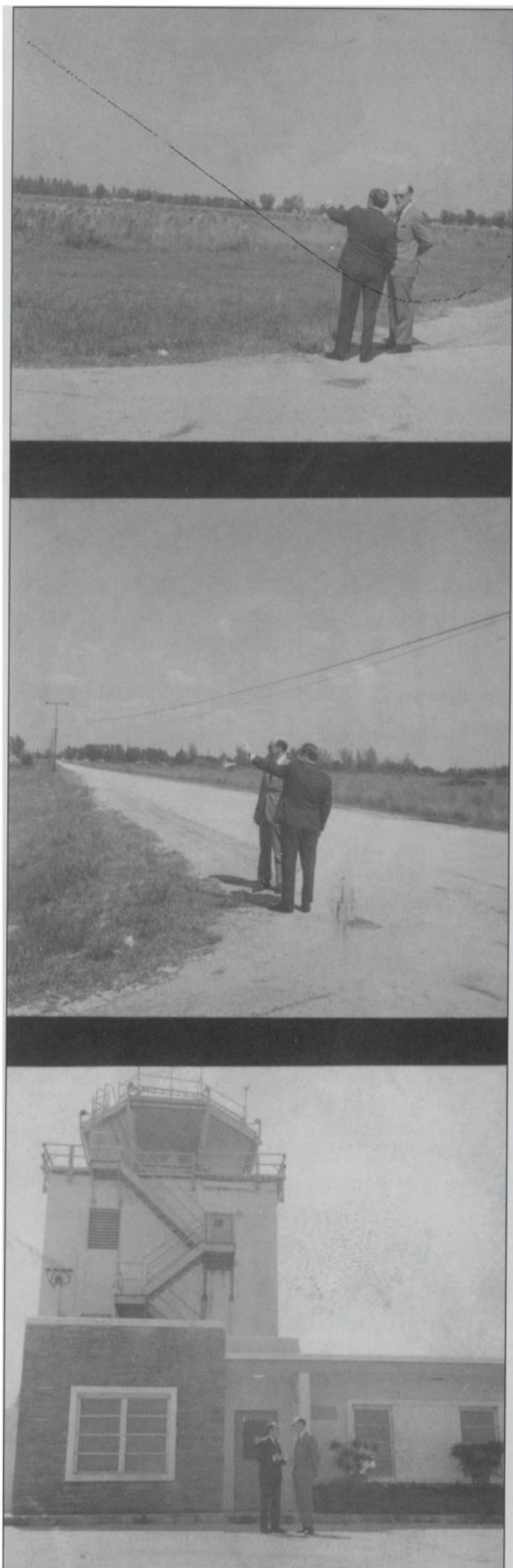
The new president’s responsibilities were as enormous as they were varied. He supervised the development of academic programs and handled public relations; assisted in installing a burglar alarm and purchased furniture; helped with landscaping; haggled with the architects; and monitored the budgets. Perry was already concerned about the future student body and the activities they would be



In September 1969, the four founders of FIU came to the old Tamiami Airport tower to start to build a university. Shown in ascending order are Nicholas G. Sileo, Butler E. Waugh, Donald L. McDowell, and Charles E. Perry.



Chancellor Robert Mautz and Vice President Donald L. McDowell survey the campus-to-be from the vantage of the airport tower.



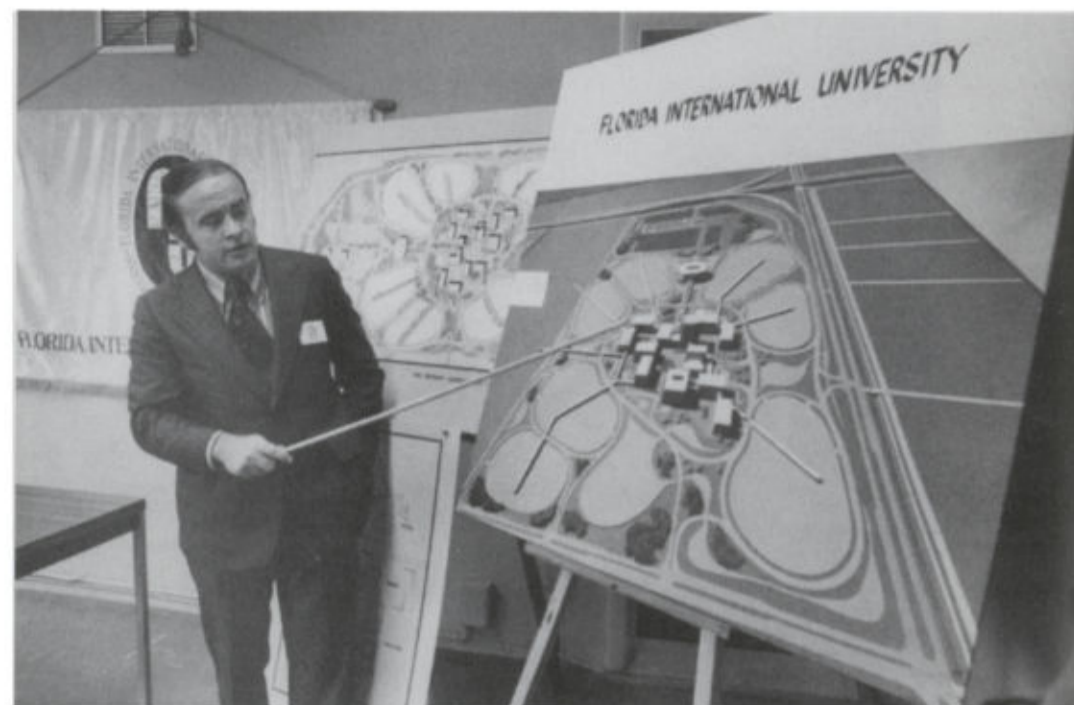
offered. He also was the ever-smiling fund-raiser. In these first years, the founders often worked seven days a week, twelve to sixteen hours a day.

A foundation or president's house? There was no "president's" anything. At Florida State or the University of Florida, a new president was provided with a lovely, well-furnished home. Betty Perry was just twenty-six years old when she moved into a plain, modest house that would serve as FIU's first "president's house." In addition to her homemaker tasks and care of their two children, she prepared meals several times a week for a cadre of visitors that included the mayor, chancellor, and governor. With no University foundation yet established, the Perrys often personally footed the bill.

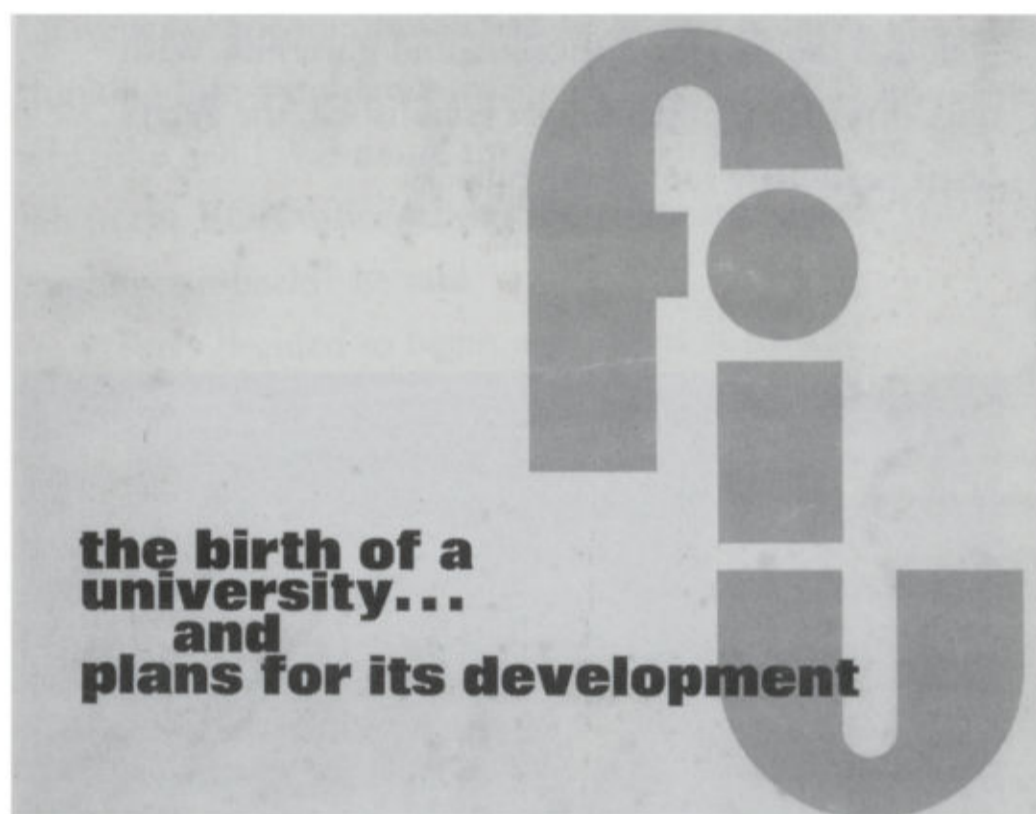


President Perry and his wife Betty at FIU's first Christmas party, held in their home in December 1971. Betty played an active role hosting early visitors to the University.

A master plan was still needed to provide a framework, a plan of action, on which to build the University. The Duck Key Planning Conference was convened in April 1970 to bring such a blueprint into being. President Perry presided over the conference by day and worked through the night to reconcile opposing viewpoints and smooth bruised egos. The meeting yielded the basic plan for the University, a 138-page document titled “The Birth of a University and Plans for its Development.”



President Perry officially introduced FIU to the community on September 24, 1970, at a luncheon of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.



In spring 1970, the basic plan for the new university was developed: a 138-page document titled “The Birth of a University and Plans for its Development.”

On September 24, 1970, at a luncheon held in downtown Miami, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce sponsored “Florida International University Day” and officially introduced the University to the community. By that time, the founders were already planning a second FIU campus in North Miami.

As 1970 drew to a close, the University had forged an identifiable role in the community. Perry wrote: “FIU is not going to be just another university, but instead an institution for a new era—the future. Florida International University will be differ-



FIU’s first logo emphasized the institution’s international theme.

ent, not just for the sake of being different, but to meet new challenges.”

The intention to develop an alternative university engaged with the local community led to one of the most significant decisions of the planning stage. The University activated its Division of University Services and Continuing Education in early 1970 and offered a broad spectrum of programs—still two and a half years before the arrival of the first students. FIU sponsored more than twenty-five major conferences in the community on topics ranging from drug education to Latin American literacy to ecology.

Another community program, the first “Urban Agent” program in the nation, was started. The novel

program, linked to Miami's "Model Cities" area, sought to identify community needs and problems so the University could target its resources and influence revitalization of the inner city.

There were other fresh ideas for the new university. Faculty members met over hamburgers and pizza to analyze innovative position papers they had prepared. At one of these noon-hour conferences, the College of Arts and Sciences decided students would no longer need foreign language credits to graduate. Probably the most controversial proposal regarded the grading system. The University implemented a dual system of grading which did not include an "F" grade. An ABC/NC (No Credit) system was established for the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Hotel, Food, and Travel, and the School of Technology. The School of Education, School of Social Services, and School of Independent Study adopted a system with Honors Credit (HC), Credit (C), and No Credit (NC).

Another alternative practice held special appeal for older students: one could receive academic credits for life and professional experience. FIU received approval to establish the first external degree program in Florida; students unable to attend regular classes could earn a "Bachelor of Independent Studies" degree. At this true "university without walls," a degree could be earned with combinations of off-campus independent study, media programming, testing, seminars, and short courses. By 1974, FIU had more than twelve hundred students enrolled in these off-campus credit courses.

By then the University had expanded from a single "Ivory Tower" to five trailers housing forty-nine employees. All of the structurally sound buildings at the old airport had been renovated and put to use. The original library in the tower became so overcrowded it was relocated to one of the hangars. Howard Cordell, who joined the staff in 1969, was named first director of the library.

One hangar became the Physical Plant Building, another the Physical Education and Recreation building, and a third the Fine Arts Department. The University purchased a two-story, ten-thousand-square-foot modular building that was erected on the west side of campus. The new facility accommodated sixty-two employees and included the president's office, the deans' conference room, a staff conference room, and a mail room. Butler Waugh, Paul Gallagher, Barbara Schultz, and Bill Jerome, who were still employees in 1997, had offices in the modular facility.

On January 25, 1971, groundbreaking was held for the first major campus structure: Primera Casa (First House), named by Mrs. Perry. A high-level dignitary was sought to participate in the ceremony, and the somewhat wishful choices included either President Richard M. Nixon or United Nations Secretary General U Thant. To emphasize



Early planning sessions were held with FIU's staff and the architects and engineers hired to develop the Comprehensive Master Plan for the University.

Vice President Donald L. McDowell (left) and campus planner Dan D'Oliveira (right) are seen in the fall of 1970 with the team of architects who designed the multi-purpose building, which would be known as Primera Casa.



the commitment to become a truly international university, President Perry extended the invitation to U Thant. When it was suggested the Secretary General's busy schedule would never permit such a visit, Perry persisted. He learned that U Thant was an aficionado of good cigars, sent him a box, and included a note graciously requesting three minutes of his time. By the time their telephone conversation had concluded, U Thant was eagerly awaiting his Miami visit.

Handling shovels at the groundbreaking ceremonies on January 25, 1971, were (from left) Reubin O. Askew, governor of Florida; U Thant, secretary-general of the United Nations; President Perry; and D. Burke Kibler III, chairman of the Board of Regents.



President Perry and U Thant, secretary-general of the United Nations.



More than three thousand persons attended groundbreaking ceremonies. The Carol City High School Band provided music and the Coral Gables Girl Scouts carried the flags.





On the morning of the ceremony, while President Perry helped arrange chairs, a police escort appeared in the distance down Tamiami Trail. With sirens wailing and red lights flashing, the caravan bearing the U.N. Secretary General proceeded toward campus. A communications snafu meant U Thant was arriving three hours ahead of schedule.

The president hurriedly dispatched Glen Goerke to the Miccosukee Indian Reservation to arrange a morning of activities for the dignitary, including alligator wrestling, an airboat ride, and lunch. The Secretary General was intrigued by the Native American culture and the biologically diverse Everglades. The excursion seemed like an outing planned weeks in advance, not a bare few minutes. U Thant was effusive in his appreciation.

Noted *Miami Herald* columnist and University friend Charles Whited wrote this dispatch for the paper the next day:

Spread out on all sides were the acres of weeds, some of them newly burned off, and the empty runways with their cracks and chuckholes; and at the construction site itself, pile drivers and digging machines waited, their engines stilled until all the speeches had been made. Brooding down on the scene was the old control tower. Once the nerve center of Tamiami Airport, it now provided temporary offices for Florida International University—a paper college about to become real.



Al Vrana (right) was the sculptor who created *Las Cuatro Razas* ("The Four Races"), which was installed on the facade of Primera Casa.

BIRTH OF A DREAM

Chapter 2

U Thant received the first FIU degree. It was his attendance at the ceremony, according to Perry, that “put FIU on the map.” Media around the nation and world covered the event.

Plans for the \$5.7 million Primera Casa multi-purpose building emphasized serviceability and flexibility. At five stories high and with more than two hundred thousand square feet of floor space, the facility at the time was the largest structure in the State University System (SUS).

To enhance it aesthetically, noted artist Albert Vrana was offered a \$40,000 commission to create a massive sculpture mural for the building’s facade. When the Board of Regents (BOR) refused to approve the project, Perry threatened to resign. The president remained in office, and today Albert Vrana’s “Las Cuatro Razas” (“The Four Races”) stands as a constant and dramatic reminder that Florida International University is committed to serving people of all backgrounds.

While preparations proceeded for the “first house,” Perry and others developed their ideas for a “second house.” Deuxieme Maison, a four-story classroom and office building, was projected to cost some \$3.7 million. When the construction bid came in \$500,000 over budget, Perry cast an eye around campus, viewed the critical need for space, and, ignor-



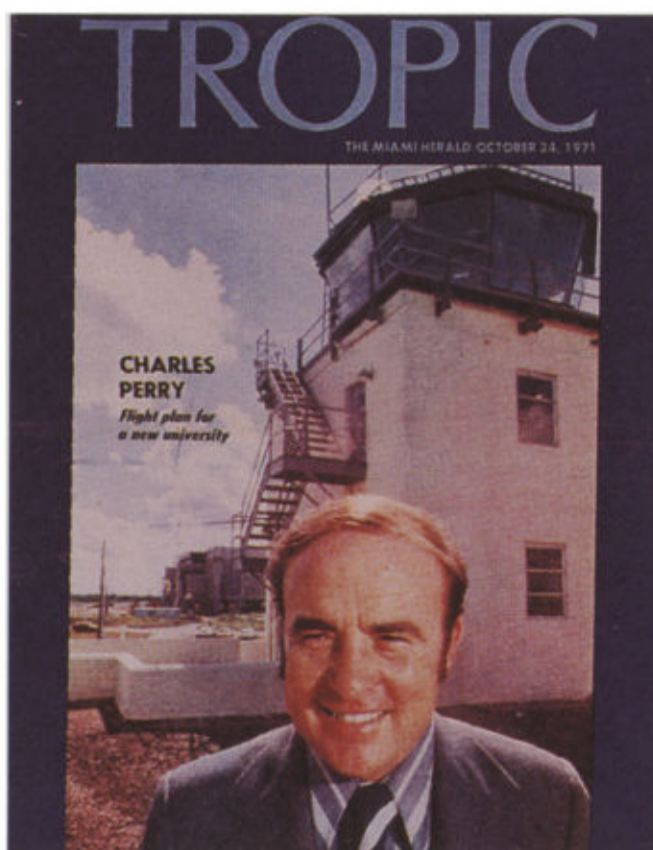
The University’s faculty and staff circa February 1971.

ing legal advice, issued the green light for construction without BOR authority.

Perry was censured by the governor, the legislature, and the chancellor. Deuxieme Maison opened two months ahead of schedule.

In the twenty-month period between the Primera Casa groundbreaking and the University's official opening in 1972, no issue was more critical than student involvement. Perry insisted that students be participants in the decision-making processes of the University.

As early as 1970, the president sent out a letter to prospective students, inviting them to meet with him. Perry solicited their input for the University's master plan. Students would sit on curriculum committees, search committees, budget committees, ath-



President Perry and his "flight plan" for the new university made the cover of *The Miami Herald's Tropic* magazine in October 1971.

letic committees, food service committees, etc.

President Perry recognized that community contributions would build financial strength and encourage additional support from FIU alumni and other friends of the University. With his pledge of \$500 on May 1, 1970, Gui Govert made the first donation to the FIU Foundation, yet the donation created a dilemma—there was no Foundation bank account. One was promptly opened. To secure outside resources, a Board of Trustees was

convened in February 1972. The first fund-raising campaign goal was set at \$75,000.

According to President Perry, the University could not have successfully opened without the support of the local media—and no media outlet was



Construction for Primera Casa, the University's first major building.



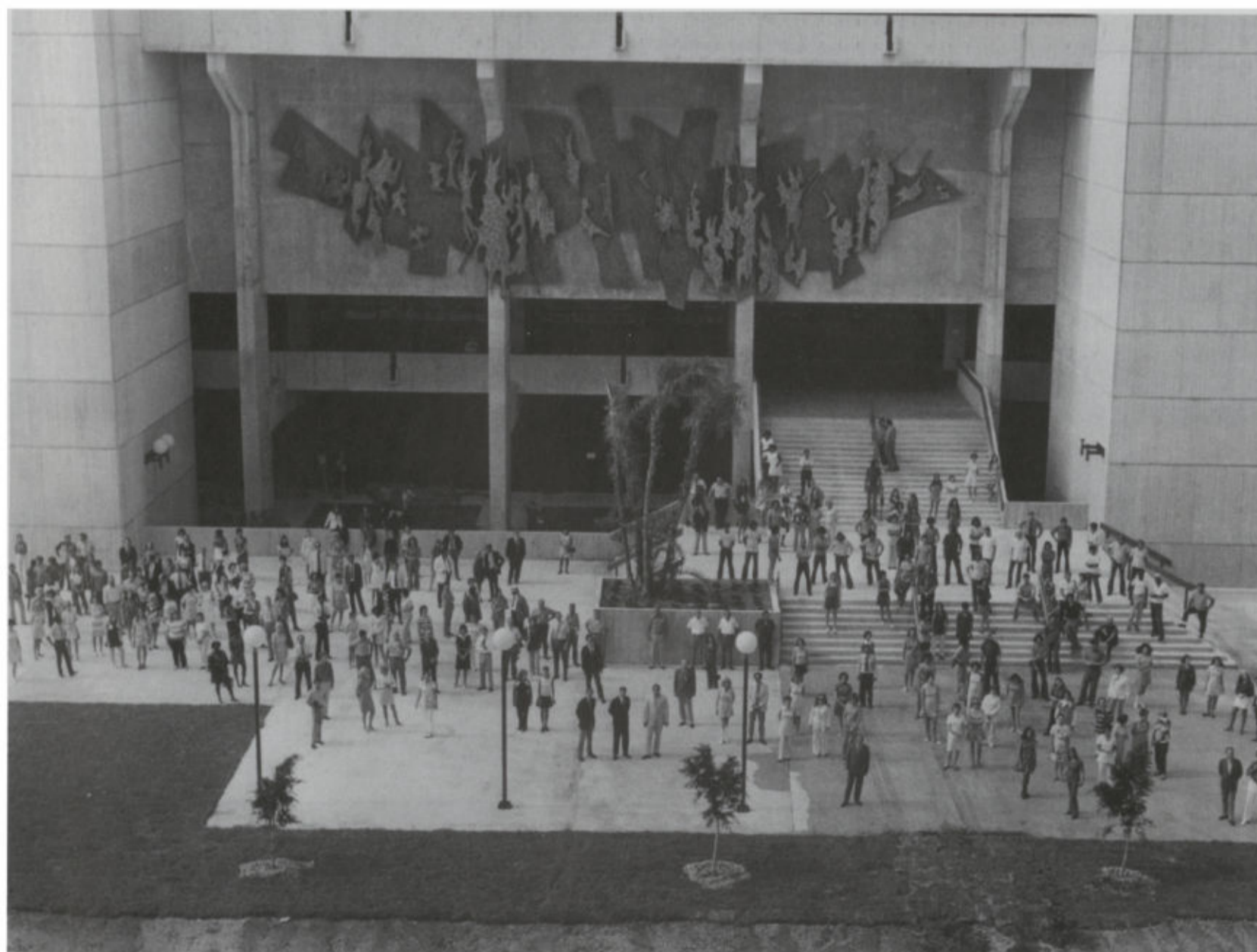
Deuxieme Maison, a four-story classroom and office building that would become the second major structure on campus, was projected to cost some \$3.7 million. When the construction bid came in \$500,000 over budget, Perry cast an eye around campus, viewed the critical need for space, and, ignoring legal advice, issued the green light for construction without Board of Regents authority. Perry was censured by the governor, the legislature, and the chancellor. The building opened two months ahead of schedule.

more supportive than *The Miami Herald*. Perry reserved special credit to two members of the *Herald* staff: Editor Don Shoemaker and especially Publisher Alvah Chapman. It was Chapman who realized the importance and need for a public university to serve the citizens of South Florida, and he used his considerable civic influence and the power of the press to bring the FIU story to the community. Chapman and Perry became close friends early on and worked together to bring FIU into being; in the 1980s Chapman would assume a leadership role at the University as chairperson of the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees. In 1994, when Primera Casa was renamed the Charles Perry Building, the founding president honored Chapman as one of the five people who helped FIU survive in its early days.

The groundwork for the opening of the University had been completed. Academic programs were in place, faculty had been hired, student services were operational, and the major building was completed and awaited the onrush of students.

Six months before opening, more than five thousand applications had been received. More than fifty-five hundred students were registered by the first day of classes. The first undergraduate student was Richard Nicosia, and the first graduate student was seventy-six-year-old Leon J. Ell.

At the opening day ceremony, held in front of Primera Casa, President Perry greeted more than eighteen hundred who turned out. On September 14, 1972, at 10:57 a.m., Perry declared the University officially inaugurated and announced: "It is the nature of a university always to be building—the mind, the body, the spirit. This is a proud and joyful moment in the life of this institution of higher education, but our work to date is only the beginning. Florida International was conceived to serve mankind by constantly searching for truth and a better life." To these ends, the president outlined the University's three basic goals: Education of Students, Service to the Community, and Greater International Understanding.



On September 14, 1972, FIU's opening day ceremonies were held. A *Miami Herald* photographer snapped this picture of faculty and staff in front of Primera Casa on the momentous day. Primera Casa, the only major building on campus, was designed to house the library, media center, food services, bookstore, academic advising, registration, financial aid, and athletic programs.



"FIU in '72" bumper sticker.

The family of the late Ernest R. Graham, the state senator who first introduced a bill to establish a state university in Miami in 1943, was honored at the opening day ceremonies. Bob Graham (standing left), Ernest's son, would become Florida governor and U.S. senator.



Board of Regents Chairman J. J. Daniel presents President Perry with a Founder Award plaque at opening day ceremonies.



The ceremony featured the lighting of the Torch of Knowledge, Service, and Understanding, in memory of the late Ernest R. Graham, the senator who had first introduced legislation to establish FIU. It also included the unveiling of the University's Goals Plaque, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Ell, which had arrived less than two hours before the ceremony.



The Torch of Knowledge, Service, and Understanding, in memory of the late state Senator Ernest R. Graham, was lit at the opening day ceremonies.

Blanca Bello-Riley, a student who attended the ceremony and the first day of classes on September 19, recalled the excitement: “The sun was shining, and people were so happy and smiling. We only had one building, but it was ours, and we knew more were coming. We were a part of something new and wonderful. The teachers were as excited as we were. I was so proud.”

Clair McElfresh, a member of the music faculty who was still serving twenty-five years later, recalls: “There was something very intriguing about giving birth to a university. It’s a rare opportunity in a lifetime. I came to FIU and taught an 8 a.m. class the first day they opened the doors. It was like seeing a baby being born and hearing its first cries.”

Carmen Brown, director of Admissions in 1997, was an FIU student and employee in 1972.

The excitement was tremendous that first day. When she moved into her new office in Primera Casa she discovered a thank-you letter and a red rose from President Perry on each desk. Twenty-five years later, when the University commemorated its silver anniversary, President Modesto A. Maidique would have a certificate of appreciation placed on every employees’ desk.

Just as President Perry had hoped, students wasted no time getting involved in university life. On November 17, 1972, the first school newspaper hit the stands (or, more accurately, was placed in classrooms). *Action*, four typewritten pages measuring 6” by 9”, was a modest beginning, but it was available just two months after opening ceremonies.

For the University mascot, students suggested five choices: the Ambassadors, Diplomats, Globes,

The view from the runway: construction on Deuxieme Maison (right) which nears completion and Primera Casa, the only major structures at the young university.



Suns, and Sunblazers. “Sunblazers” was selected for the FIU sports teams in a universitywide vote on April 27, 1973.



The first student government election was held on May 14–16, 1973, with forty-two candidates running for office. A presiding board was elected with each school and college represented.

The first student handbook, *The Source: A Guide to Student Life*, was an eighty-eight-page effort inspired principally by Griselle Rodriguez and Joseph Kaplan. From the beginning, student activities played an important role in University life and tradition. The first major organized student event, the “Orientation Festival of Activities,” was held on September 19, 1973, and was followed by the first Fall Festival in October. This festival quickly became one of the University’s first traditions. Hispanic

Heritage Week, Homecoming Week, International Week, and Black History Week would be instituted thereafter.

With its opening in 1972, FIU fielded five men’s athletic teams: baseball, golf, tennis, wrestling, and soccer. In the first athletic contest, FIU defeated the University of Miami 2–1 in soccer in September 1972. A basketball team would come later. A football team was deemed redundant by President Perry given the existence of the Dolphins and University of Miami Hurricanes.

Judy Blucker, the current executive vice provost for Academic Administration, was responsible for launching women’s athletics programs. On her arrival in 1972, she initiated volleyball, softball, and golf, then referred to as “club sports.” In just a few years, the women’s volleyball and softball teams would compete in championship play-offs. The 1975–1976 volleyball team won the state championship and went on to the nationals.



Selected by students in a universitywide vote in April 1973, the Sunblazer was FIU’s first athletic mascot.



The opening of FIU in September 1972 was soon followed by the start of the University's intercollegiate athletic program. In the first contest, FIU defeated the University of Miami in soccer, 2-1.



FIU also fielded its baseball team, seen here on opening day, during the University's first year.



In 1974, the women's volleyball team was launched. Judy Blucker (top right), the current executive vice provost for Academic Administration, was responsible for launching women's athletics programs.

The 1976 Sunblazer baseball team earned a berth in the NCAA Division II Regional playoffs. Two Sunblazer pitchers that year hurled consecutive no-hitters, a feat rarely, if ever, matched in intercollegiate play.

The early 1970s was a time of changing roles for women in a wide range of fields, including academia. To address the specific concerns and interests of women at FIU, Charlotte Tatro was appointed director of the newly established Institute for Women in May 1973. Few women held administrative posts in these early years; among the first were Ruth Weiner, chairperson for the Department of Chemistry; Betsy Smith, assistant dean for the School of Health and Social Services; Phyllis Cartwright, assistant director of Libraries; Florence Yudin, chairperson for the Department of Modern Languages and the first woman named a full professor at the University;

Nancy Goodwin, director of the Office of Institutional Research; and Doris Sadoff, purchasing agent. Sandra Clark and Marie Anderson were the only women serving as deans. In 1976, Judy Merrit was appointed vice president of Student Affairs, the first woman to hold a post at that level.



Sandra Clark, the first woman appointed dean at FIU, enjoys a cold one with President Perry on the first day beer was sold in the University House cafeteria.

On the evening of June 16, 1973, the vision of legislators Graham and Haverfield and that of the founders was fulfilled with the first graduation. President Perry insisted that the ceremony be held on campus, and the only space big enough to accommodate the event was the library reading room on the ground floor of Primera Casa.



On June 16, 1973, 191 students became FIU's first graduates. The first Commencement was held in the ground-floor library of Primera Casa, the only space large enough to accommodate the event.

Fifteen hundred people braved a summer downpour to fill the area to standing-room-only capacity. As the 191 graduates donned in caps and gowns marched beneath the covered walkway from Deuxieme Maison to Primera Casa, lightning flashed and thunder cracked overhead. Then the skies opened. One graduate remarked that the "exciting weather" was "right in tune" with the graduation. "It would take a hurricane to dampen the spirits around here," the graduate commented.

By the end of 1974, over twenty-two hundred degrees had been conferred and alumni totaled five thousand. The 1975 graduation was the last over which President Perry would preside. Terry Spence, assistant to the president, had pressed Perry for a copy of his speech to distribute to the press. Perry hedged, saying only that he had "something differ-

ent" planned for this graduating class. As he approached the lectern, the president grabbed the microphone and jumped off the stage. He wanted to be with the students, and they loved it. The speech was their speech. Perry thanked them for attending FIU, and heartily congratulated them and their families for their accomplishment.



Wayland Slayton, director of Physical Plant (from left); Celina Taylor, director of Library Media Resources; Dan D'Oliveira, director of Facilities; and Howard Cordell, director of the Library, at groundbreaking for the Athenaeum (Library).

By the end of 1975, more than 10,000 students were attending classes. The campus was valued at \$50 million. There were five major buildings and a sixth being planned. Students could choose from more than 134 degree programs, while an additional 250 off-campus courses reached 6,500 students. Faculty and staff numbered 1,250, and the University had earned full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Charles "Chuck" Perry resigned in October 1975 to become president and publisher of *Family Weekly*, then the nation's fourth largest magazine with a weekly circulation of eleven million. While the decision startled many, Perry never regretted



In its early days, 43 percent of FIU's students were married, and the typical student entering the University was twenty-five years old and attending school full time while holding down a full-time job.

stepping down when he did. "Florida International University and Chuck Perry were the same," he said. "I couldn't divorce myself from the institution. I slept, ate, drank, talked about, and lived this university twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A university can't be planned, brought to life, and developed unless you have that kind of dedication. If such an individual stays too long, he could destroy all the positive things he has done. Quit when you're ahead."

In his mind and in that of so many others, President Perry sensed he had accomplished his mission. Perhaps Terry Spence summed it up best: "In the very beginning Chuck was the leader of a one-man band, blowing his trumpet everywhere he went. It was often loud and off key, but people began to listen and the size of the band began to grow. The people began to believe."



President Perry resigned from FIU in October 1975 to become president and publisher of *Family Weekly*, then the nation's fourth-largest magazine.



Harold Crosby, selected in 1964 as the founding president of the University of West Florida, was named FIU's second president in December 1975.

A PERIOD OF TRANSITION

Chapter 3

Filling Perry's void would prove to be one of FIU's most difficult challenges. Harold Crosby, then the regents professor for the State University System (SUS), offered to become "interim president" until the Board of Regents (BOR) could find a replacement. The Board sought a candidate with international experience and, after eight months and over 450 applicants, recommended that Harold Crosby be made permanent president of FIU. Crosby agreed to the appointment, on the condition that he only serve for three years. He was named interim president in December 1975, then president in August 1976.

In his first public statement as president, Harold Crosby announced, "The Miami community needs every service that this university can provide and has every right to have these services as soon as possible. . . . To proceed, we need energy, aggressiveness, and diplomacy."

Unfortunately for Crosby, he assumed leadership at a time of economic recession and revenue shortfalls for the state. Warned that FIU faced a \$1.8 million budget cut, outgoing President Perry had alerted the University community of the "disastrous consequences" such a budget reduction would wreak.

Crosby faced budget cuts at a time when resources were already stretched. Rumors circulated

that the BOR was considering a reduction of State University System enrollment. These economic restrictions would retard prospects of growth for the new institution.

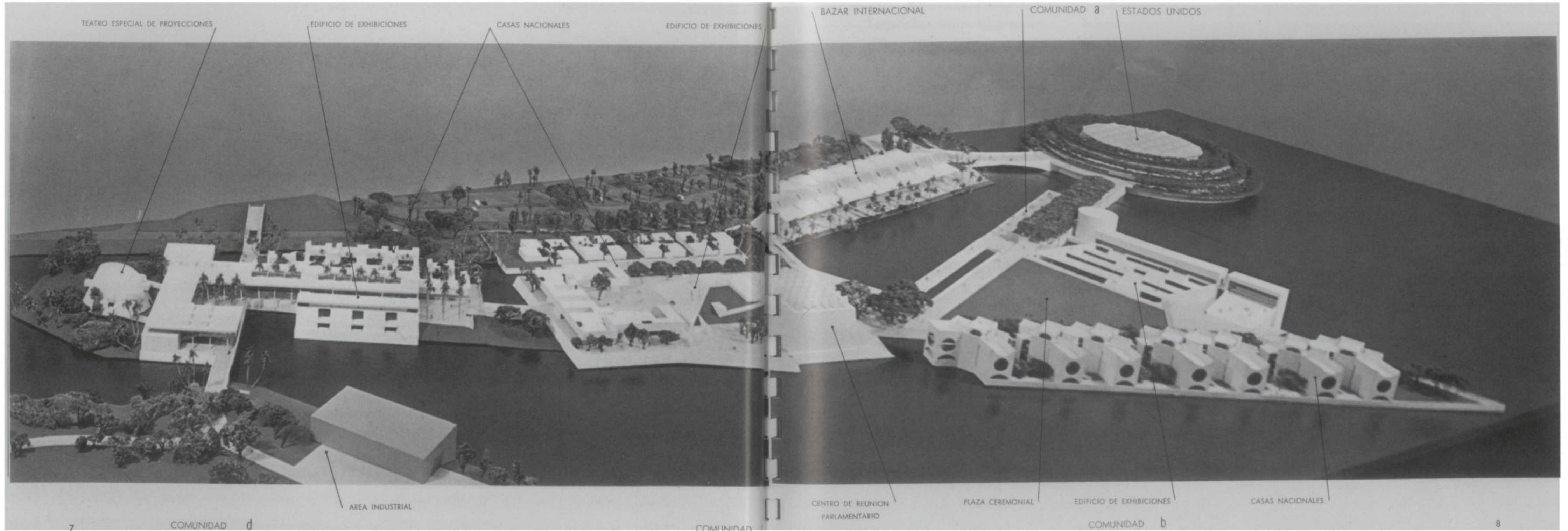
Perry had left a legacy of dynamic leadership. The new president faced a demanding public, an institution accustomed to rapid growth, and a severe budget crunch. Harold Crosby's leadership was immediately tested from day one and throughout his tenure.

While Perry had been vibrant, enthusiastic, and sometimes rash, Crosby's administration was that of a Southern gentlemanly judge. Tall and distinguished, Crosby spoke softly in a distinct Southern drawl, flashed a contagious smile, and offered an air of stability, maturity, and strength.

Crosby reorganized, reassigned, and replaced top administrative staff. Departments and personnel were downsized, a process that was continuous and painful.

The most notable contribution of the Crosby administration was the development and eventual opening of the North Campus on the former Interama site in North Miami. Conceived in the mid-1920s, Interama (Inter-American Cultural Trade Center), a seventeen-hundred-acre tract of

mangroves and fallow farmland located on the northern stretch of Biscayne Bay, was designed to showcase Miami's role as a hemispheric center.



FIU's North Campus was developed on the former Interama site in North Miami. Conceived in the mid-1920s, Interama (Inter-American Cultural Trade Center), a seventeen-hundred-acre tract on Biscayne Bay, was designed to showcase Miami's role as a hemispheric center. Seen above is a model of Interama from a brochure promoting the project. Photo courtesy of the Myrna and Seth Bramson Collection, Miami, Florida.



An aerial photo from the early 1950s looking east from 160th Street and West Dixie Highway. FIU's North Campus would be developed on the tract of land along the bay in the upper right portion of the photo. Photo courtesy of the Myrna and Seth Bramson Collection, Miami, Florida.



President Crosby worked with the North Miami City Council and the Dade delegation to the legislature to ensure the future of North Campus. In 1976, the legislature allocated \$3.85 million in special funding for operating expenses, a major breakthrough for the project. The BOR also approved \$12.7 million to construct Academic I, destined to house classrooms, laboratories, office and work space, and a student center.

SUS Chancellor E. T. York offered valuable support that enabled the North Campus's partial opening in January 1977, and its full-service opening the following June. State Senator Jack Gordon of Miami Beach played a significant role securing funding for the campus and its library. The University would honor him by naming one of its centers the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies. State Senator Gwen Margolis was another longtime champion of FIU; she was instrumental in securing resources in the early 1990s to construct the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center at North Campus. In 1997, the University named a street in her honor at the campus.

On June 12, 1977, more than eleven hundred persons attended the North Campus dedication ceremony. The investiture procession of faculty, staff, students, and special guests proceeded from the Trade Center building to a large tent near the edge of Biscayne Bay. In his remarks, Interim Provost Robert W. Ellis

Jr. said the ceremony marked "the first public use of this site, which has been promised for many years."

Less than five years after the inauguration of University Park (which was then called the Tamiami Campus), on June 21, 1977, the North Campus celebrated its opening day. Some 1,332 upper-level students enrolled for study in twenty-two different sub-



State Senator Jack Gordon, a longtime champion of the University, was instrumental in securing funding for the development of the North Campus.

ject areas. By 1978, the campus had swelled to over 1,600 students, with about 25 percent from Broward County.

The North Campus' sole major building was the Trade Center left over from the Interama days. It



FIU's North Campus was dedicated on June 12, 1977. When it opened it consisted of four trailers and the Trade Center Building, which was converted and served the North Campus as Primera Casa had served the Tamiami Campus.

housed classrooms, the library, a bookstore, a media center, a computer center, student services, admissions and registration, business and financial services, and offices for faculty and administration. The library offered a collection of 20,000 volumes and access via the shuttle to the 250,000 volumes at University Park.

A \$4.5 million student services building had been funded and was in the advanced planning stage. Additional buildings would be forthcoming in accordance with the master plan approved by the BOR in October 1975. In 1978, Florida International Transit System (FITS) was introduced to provide transportation between the North and University Park Campuses.

By 1978–1979, noncredit special interest seminars were offered by the University Department of Conferences at the North Campus. A Council of Elders, composed of community representatives, was established to coordinate special educational programs. The University's Women's Institute formed a North Campus branch. A Vicinity Citizens Committee was formed to stimulate interchange between the community and the campus. In addition, art exhibits and student activities were developed. For many FIU staffers, it was like the old days all over again. A small campus, a new start. A sibling was birthed.

Although there was considerable focus on getting North Campus up and running, the "I" in FIU was not ignored. In 1977, a national search was initi-

ated for a new dean and associate dean of the International Affairs Center, which was established in 1972. William Leffland, formerly of the University of Southern California, was appointed dean, and Thomas A. Breslin, formerly of the University of Virginia (and acting vice president of Research and Graduate Studies in 1997), was named associate dean. Under their dual leadership and with the assistance of key faculty members, the existing international programs were reviewed and the center reorganized to enhance resources for international education.

Although there was a renewed emphasis on international concerns, faculty were also addressing local issues. In 1976, reports prepared by FIU faculty members were highly critical of Miami-Dade County's potable water quality. The legislature responded by creating the Drinking Water Research Center. In 1978, the center was awarded a federal grant totaling \$747,000 to be used over three years; it was the largest received to date and greatly enhanced the young university's prestige. Research evaluated chemical contaminants in drinking water, and experiments developed new techniques for water treatment and disinfection.

After a five-year wait, the visual arts at University Park Campus received a boost in the form of the Fine Arts Gallery. When the library relocated to its new building, The Athenaeum, a portion of the first floor of Primera Casa was reserved for this new facility. Professors Frank Wyroba, the Art Department's first chairperson, and James Couper collaborated with the architects to design the ample and well-lit space. When the gallery opened in May 1977, Mellen Edwards of *The Miami Herald* declared the gallery "one of the better places" for exhibitions in the area and "definitely the best of any of the campus spaces."

The athletics programs and teams had continued to build and improve. In 1977–1978, all five FIU women's teams competed in postseason state, regional, and national tournaments. The men's soccer

team was invited to the NCAA regional tournament, and, in 1977–1978, FIU hosted the NCAA Division II national soccer championships. The baseball team finished runner-up in the region to the national champions.

President Crosby announced his resignation effective January 1, 1979. Senior Dean Gerald Lattin headed the Search Committee to seek a third university president and received applications from 142 candidates. The in-house candidate for the position, Executive Vice President Joe Olander, enjoyed the support of state Senator Jack Gordon, Miami Regent Murray Dubbin, and, reportedly, then Governor Bob Graham. However, Chancellor E. T. York did not support Olander and threatened to resign rather than name a person he could not "in good conscience recommend." York preferred Gregory Wolfe. York told the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, "I've never reviewed a candidate whose credentials and qualities better qualified him for the job he's to fill."

President Crosby left behind a university that experienced a period of transition. Dramatic changes in personnel, the opening and expansion of programs at the North Campus, and a slight increase in enrollment most notably marked his administration. Enrollment exceeded twelve thousand, there were ten thousand alumni, and new academic programs had been added. Despite this progress, however, FIU still lacked a lower division and doctoral programs, there was no student housing, and graduate offerings were limited. These would prove to be central issues for the University's next leader, who would preside during a period of growing maturity and identity.



The old welcoming the new: Gregory Baker Wolfe, FIU's third president, served from 1979 to 1986.

FROM ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD

Chapter 4

The son of a Russian immigrant, Gregory Baker Wolfe was fifty-four years old when he was named the third president of Florida International University. He was unanimously selected at a February 1979 meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR), and his appointment stimulated the international commitment of the University. A diplomat by profession, Wolfe portrayed the statesmanship of a Kissinger, exuded the wit and charm of a Churchill, and effused the charisma of a John Kennedy. The University welcomed him and his wife, Mary Ann, with open arms.

As a statesman, Wolfe had served on the White House staffs of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. In the U.S. Foreign Service, he had acted for four years as chief of the State Department's Latin American Office of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Wolfe had headed a mission to Brazil to inaugurate major reorganizations in American diplomatic missions in the hemisphere.

During the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War, Wolfe served as president of Portland State University in Oregon. The campus unrest that rocked colleges nationwide during the late 1960s and early 1970s provided insightful and valuable lessons for the university president. Wolfe added a lower

division and doctorate programs at Portland State, as well as on-campus housing.

Wolfe arrived at FIU in early March 1979, following his departure from American University in Washington, D.C., where he had served as dean of the School of International Services. He soon outlined a new statement of purpose for the University.

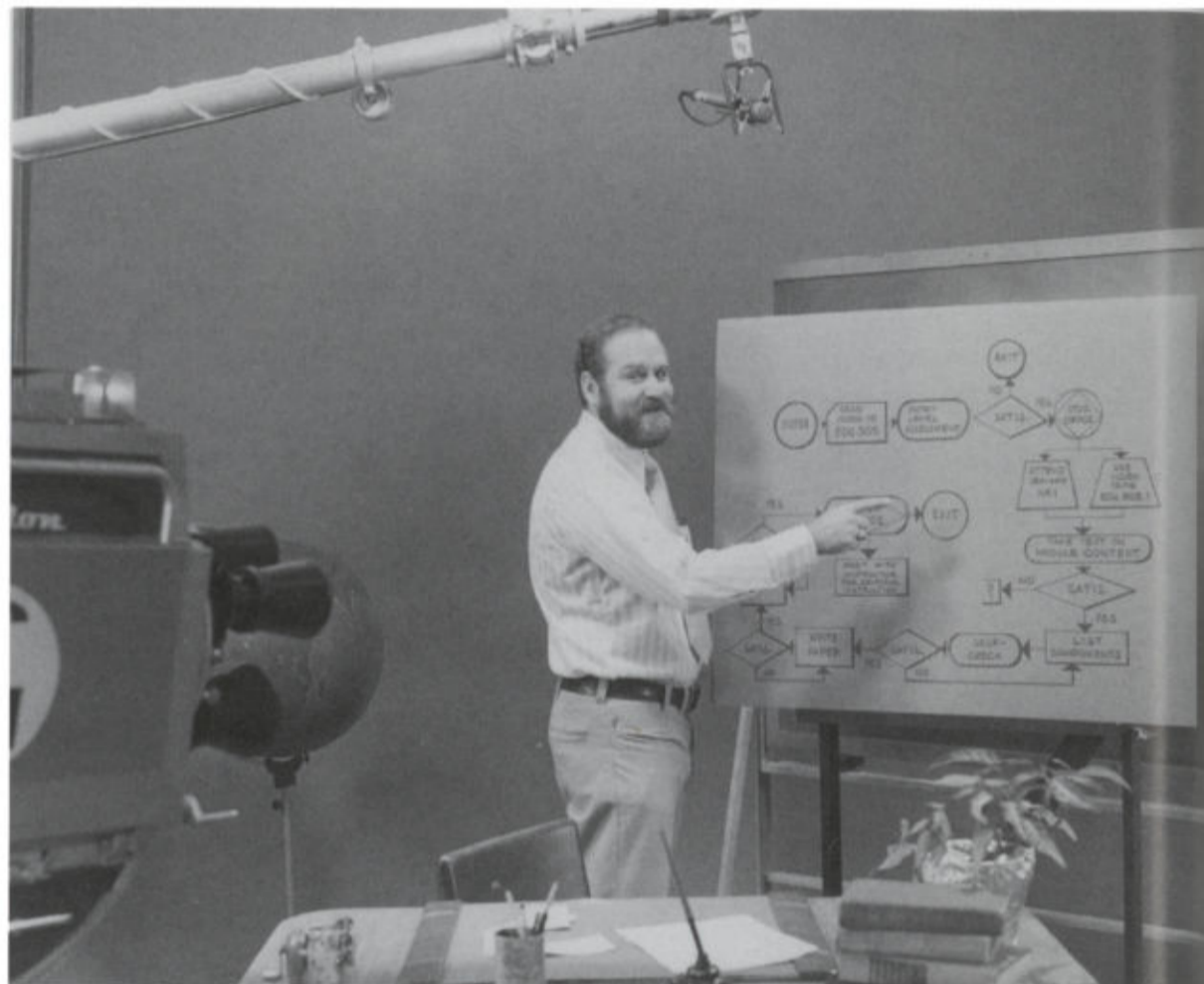
"To be higher education's beacon in Greater Miami," he wrote, "our mission must encompass imaginative teaching, skilled research, and innovative service activities both on and off our campuses." Wolfe stressed that the University should offer a full range of master's degree programs and introduce doctoral programs.

One of his first duties was to oversee the University accreditation symposia held at the North Campus (which he renamed the Bay Vista Campus). Three extensive planning sessions were arranged with faculty and community representatives to debate the University's focus and future. In a speech at the final session, President Wolfe challenged University employees to strive for quality and integrity in their duties and urged faculty to upgrade academic standards.

Wolfe set the tone of his new administration when he issued a challenge to the SUS. Wolfe told



Adam Herbert—who was appointed the chancellor of the State University System of Florida in 1997—came to FIU in 1979 as dean of the School of Public Affairs and Services. He subsequently served as the first vice president of FIU’s North Campus before being named president of the University of North Florida.



Longtime professor of education Steve Fain directed FIU’s first self-study, a prelude to the University’s reaccreditation and a framework for future curricula decisions.

The Miami Herald that the University was going to cast off its “‘tugboat’ status.”

“South Florida will no longer settle for a mere ‘tugboat’ university while the smaller North Florida communities of Gainesville and Tallahassee continue to be the proud ports of ‘flagship’ institutions,” Wolfe said. “FIU’s expectations for the next ten to fifteen years should be to become the ‘flagship’ in urban professional education.”

Soon thereafter, the University self-study initiated by President Crosby and shepherded by Professor Steve Fain was completed. The resulting document provided the basis for the University’s reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and offered a framework for future decisions on curricula in both upper and lower divisions and student services.

The report recommended the establishment of graduate programs in Economics, Computer Science, International Studies, Management Information Systems, Social Work, and Multicultural and Bilingual Education. In addition, it proposed the creation of doctoral programs in Educational Leadership, Adult Education, and Community College Teaching in cooperation with other state universities.

President Wolfe’s enthusiastic support of the arts helped strengthen ties between the campus and community. Under Dahlia Morgan’s direction, the Visual Arts Gallery presented over thirty exhibitions, earning a reputation as one of the best in South Florida. A grant from the Miami Art Council funded a new Critics Lecture Series.



Dahlia Morgan (center) developed the Visual Arts Gallery into one of the best art venues in South Florida, and she founded the popular Critics Lecture Series. Under her direction, The Art Museum at FIU became one of the nation's leading university art galleries.

The music program also received a boost. Some two dozen concerts were held throughout Dade and Monroe Counties, in addition to more than eighty recitals and concerts on the FIU campuses. The annual International Music Festival featured leading student-artists from around the world. Plays produced by the Theatre Department attracted large audiences from the community.

In 1979–1980, six of the University's ten athletic teams finished in the top ten nationally. Seven athletes received All-American honors, and two teams—baseball and women's volleyball—finished in the top four in the nation. Their outstanding performance sparked additional community interest in the school.

In 1980, soccer Coach Karl Kremser guided his upstart soccer team in the NCAA Division II national championship finals, losing 1–0 in overtime to Lock Haven College. In 1981, Rich Walker became FIU's first men's basketball coach.

It was a time of rapid growth and change for the FIU Libraries. Larry Miller was hired as director, and by 1981 there were 489,250 volumes. New services, such as computerized searching and a new circulation system, were added. Plans were also begun for a freestanding library building on the North Campus.

A proposal to merge FIU and FAU was reintroduced in 1980, the third time in twelve years the legislature had debated the possibility. FIU President Gregory Wolfe opposed the merger, and the issue ran into a major roadblock from the Dade and Broward legislative delegations. The South Florida lawmakers generated an alternative proposal that preserved the autonomy of each school. FIU would expand to become a four-year university and would limit its growth to Miami-Dade County. FAU, based in Palm Beach County, would expand its operations in Broward County. Both university presidents supported the idea, and Senators Jack Gordon and Ken Jenne co-sponsored the bill in the Senate. The merg-

er issue was rejected, and groundwork for FIU's lower division was laid.

Like his two predecessors, Wolfe emphasized community service. The University operated a number of community-oriented institutes and centers, and Wolfe was instrumental in developing new ones such as the Women's Study Center, Center for Labor Research and Studies, Southeast Florida Center on Aging, Holocaust Documentation and Education Center, and the Small Business Development Center. In addition, the University's reach was broadened through the Latin American and Caribbean Center, International Banking Center, and Drinking Water Research Center. Some three hundred senior citizens from all walks of life attended FIU's Elders Institute (North Campus) in 1980. Today, over three thousand persons a year register for the non-credit courses and lecture series offered by the Institute.

By 1981, approximately 2,800 students were enrolled at the quickly expanding North Campus. The Academic I classroom building (65,000 square feet) and Student Center (41,000 square feet) had been completed and were operational, and construction had begun on the Academic II building. The library was under construction, and student housing was planned.



Congressman Claude Pepper and President Wolfe at the dedication of Academic II on the North Campus.



An explosive dedication: President Wolfe christens the new North Campus Student Center.

The president's stated goals for the period 1981–1983 included the development of a lower division, the reestablishment of the nursing program (terminated in 1978), the enhancement of "programs of emphasis" (Hospitality Management, International Banking, Multilingual/Multicultural Center) and reduction of the student/faculty ratio.

By the early 1980s, student life was a tapestry of activities ranging from concerts to cultural festivals and from homecomings to sporting events. In 1983,

over eighty student organizations were offering a wide gamut of activities. Prominent public figures such as Dick Gregory, Coretta Scott King, Madam Sadat, Henry Kissinger, and Ted Koppel lectured on campus. On one special evening during the Culture-Fest at North Campus, Ella Fitzgerald was singing when it began to rain. Rather than cancel, President Wolfe jumped on stage, umbrella in hand, to give the classic "Singing in the Rain" new meaning.



Mrs. Mary Ann Wolfe (center right) enjoys American Heritage Week, 1982.

Barbara Taggart and Joe Kaplan helped establish the FIU Alumni Association in the early 1980s.





All-American Ben Collins (left) and head soccer coach Karl Kremser (center) are presented with a proclamation from Miami-Dade County Mayor Steve Clark in recognition of FIU's first NCAA national championship, when it defeated Southern Connecticut State in December 1982.



Culture Fest, October 28, 1983: As renowned jazz diva Ella Fitzgerald began to sing, it began to rain. President Wolfe jumped on stage, umbrella in hand, to give the classic "Singing in the Rain" new meaning.



Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel, who received an honorary doctorate from the University at the Convocation in October 1983, and President Wolfe.



The steps of Primera Casa provided a central stage for concerts presented as part of the University's many cultural heritage celebrations.



Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (right), who presented a lecture on campus during the 1984 International Festival, is seen with President Wolfe (left) and Student Government Association President Michael Bromfeld.



The Rathskeller, which served up cheap beer and lively entertainment, was a popular hangout on campus. Today, the space of the former haunt houses the Computer Center in the University Park Graham Center.

One of the best loved and most frequented haunts on campus was the “Rat” (short for

Rathskeller). The Rat (today the Computer Center in the University Park Graham Center complex) became a favorite hangout on campus. The dark and musty Rat had a sticky floor and reeked of cheap beer and even cheaper wine. The Rat was the place for theme nights and live entertainment.

A simple hamburger grill set up on the new patio area soon became known as “Gracie’s Grill.” Ron Martin, a faculty librarian for twenty-five years, described Gracie



Gracie DiStefano of “Gracie’s Grill.” For ten years, Gracie made it her business to make sure that FIU students didn’t go hungry.

DiStefano: "She had a smile that was as big as she was, and she had a heart to match."

Gracie worked the hamburger stand at the Rat for over ten years. In her honor, a sign was erected near the stand with the name "Gracie's Grill," and though the sign disappeared mysteriously, the name stuck. When University House renovations started, Gracie's Grill closed.

Theme weeks became a feature of campus life. Events such as Family Day, Copacabana, Black History Week, Hispanic Heritage Week, and Cabaret helped create a sense of tradition. A homecoming with an elected king and queen was sponsored on both campuses. Greek societies were being chartered and attracting student members.

FIU's diversity has been reflected in annual events such as Hispanic Heritage Week.



An International Week event in the Graham Center Forum (popularly known as the "pit").

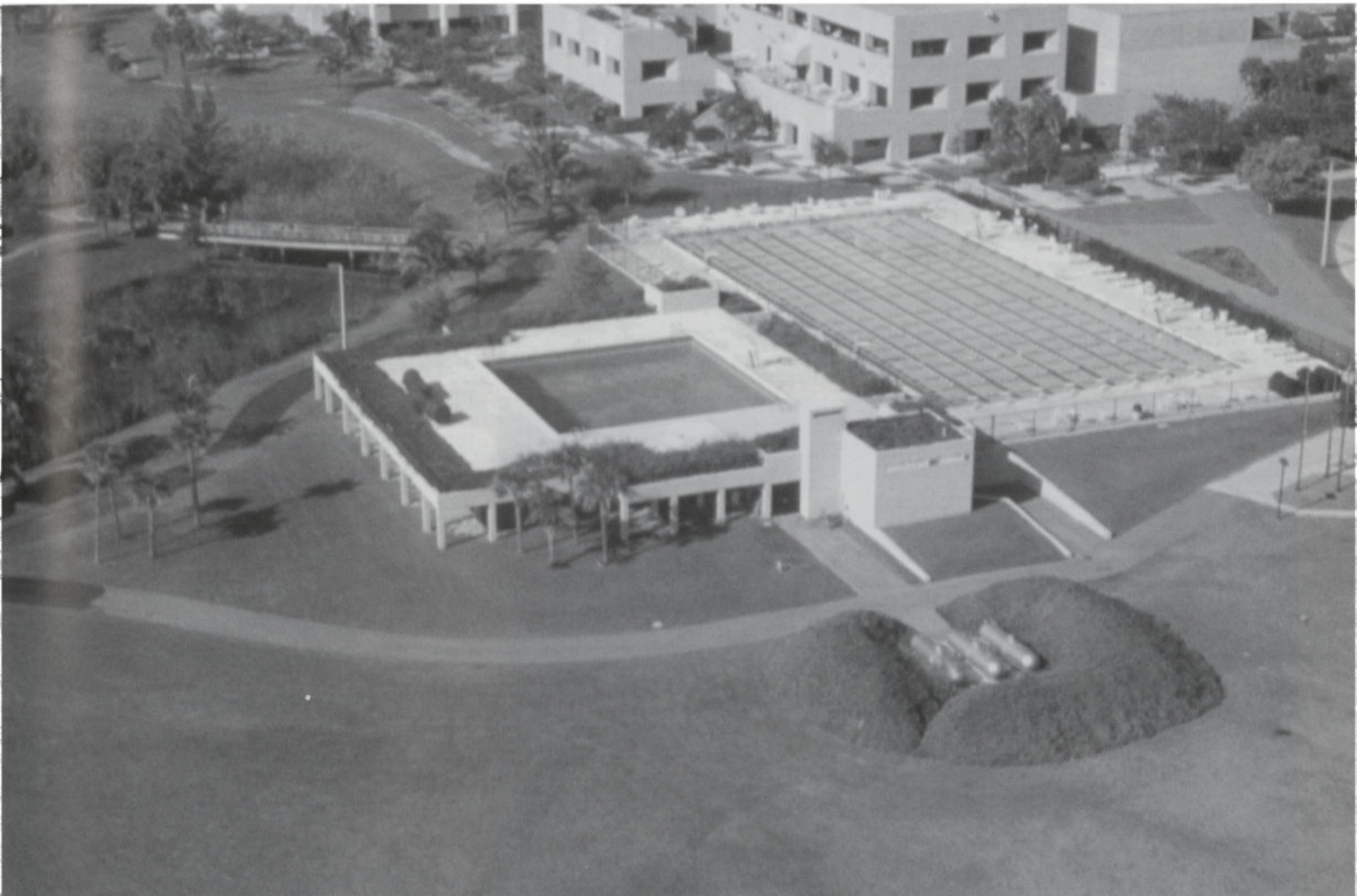


Vendors hawk their wares during International Week.

FIU's soccer team, under Coach Karl Kremser, won the national Division II championship in 1982. In 1983, the women's basketball team, coached by Cindy Russo, sported a 19–7 record and was one of twenty-four national teams to receive a postseason bid. That same year, new lights were installed on the baseball diamond. With Coach Danny Price at the helm for the third year, the team competed for the first time in the NCAA Division I and notched a 21–5 season.



The Aquatic Center at North Campus, which includes an Olympic-size pool and a diving facility, opened in 1985.



The University was committed to enhancing its international mission, and the International Affairs Center, under the direction of Bill Leffland, formulated policy and objectives toward this end. Enrollment of international students rose by 132 percent, from 373 to 865 students. Study programs in business were established in Panama, the Netherlands Antilles, and Peru, and seminars in Hospitality Management were held in Aruba, Brazil,

Bumper stickers, t-shirts, and a slogan heralded the arrival of FIU's first freshman class in the fall of 1981.



Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, and Canada. International Banking and Finance established strong relations with centers in France, Switzerland, and Britain. The International American University Council for Social and Economic Development, with Wolfe as its founding president, was housed at FIU.

At a 1981 hearing before the Joint Legislative and Executive Commission on Post-Secondary Education, Wolfe argued forcefully for the creation of a lower-division program at FIU. That same year, the legislature authorized the founding of a lower division and appropriated \$1.3 million to implement its development.

August 26, 1981, marked another major milestone in the University's history. Freshmen and sophomores were finally attending classes at the University, and FIU entered the ranks of four-year institutions. Faculty, staff, and upperclassmen waited on the front steps of Primera Casa to honor the arrival of FIU's "first-class first class."



President Wolfe introduces Laura Metscher, FIU's first official freshman.

The creation of the lower division altered the mission of the University. The new division signified that FIU could now compete for freshmen with other schools in the State University System.

The class of 1985 was destined to be among the movers-and-shakers of the next century. Freshmen who entered in 1981 offered an excellent track record of scholastic achievement. The average GPA for the class was 3.4 and twenty-four freshmen had a perfect 4.0. The coursework was more demanding than most lower-division programs. Students were required to study both physical and biological sciences, acquire competency in computational skills, achieve high-level proficiency in written expression, and demonstrate foreign language abilities. Clair McElfresh, director for the lower division, called the requirements "the most stringent in the

State University System" and suggested the whole University would be enhanced by the academic excellence required of the freshmen.

The excitement inspired by the freshman class led up to the tenth anniversary celebration in 1982. In its first decade of operation, FIU had evolved to become an integral part of the community. Over seventy-eight thousand students had taken courses in academic and outreach programs and more than twenty-five thousand degrees had been conferred. A Tenth Anniversary "Founders' Day Celebration" was held on September 14, and founding President Charles Perry and his wife Betty attended. President Wolfe remarked that day, "No great city is without a great public university. . . . I see the emergence here of a strong, powerful state university, one with unusual contact with the hemisphere and the world."



A birthday cake and a celebration in 1982 marked FIU's tenth birthday.

With a decade of phenomenal growth under its belt, the University turned its collective eye toward the future. An expansion of graduate programs was expected, as well as new Nursing and Engineering Schools. Student housing at both campuses was planned. But in the spring of 1982, a financial crisis again interceded.

Board of Regents Chancellor Newell ordered a "pause" in the development of new programs until January of 1983. Each university president would have to negotiate program approval directly with the chancellor. This ruling stalled eight in-progress programs and threatened to halt the reintroduction of the nursing program and the stand-alone doctoral programs planned in Psychology and Public Administration. President Wolfe and Provost Altman petitioned the chancellor for exceptions.

The president announced to the faculty: "We are building a sturdy vessel for genuine higher learning, not a helicopter to rescue hostages on sandy foreign soil. We are prepared to steer through high seas whether calm or stormy."

Wolfe's ambitious and energetic efforts were rewarded when the Florida legislature funded all individual FIU projects that year, including the nursing program, one of only two new programs approved for the entire State University System. FIU received more funds for construction than all but one other university. The success demonstrated the growing respect the University and its president commanded.

On Thursday, October 28, 1983, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first on-campus dorms at North Campus. On the occasion, President

Wolfe said: “We are not just building housing or a university. Essentially we are building a community, and if we keep at it, it might one day become the international metropolis we dream of.” The new facilities, constructed near the library, housed 550 students in 228 apartment-style dwellings.



The late famed environmentalist Marjorie Stoneman Douglas (left) pays a visit to the University's English Department.

President Wolfe and Mary Ann Wolfe, who moved into student housing at North Campus the first week it opened in fall 1984, are seen helping prepare breakfast for the residents.

A \$10 million housing facility for 738 students opened at University Park in 1985. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget.

In 1984, the University received the authority to begin offering degree programs at the doctoral level. But the legislature still had to be persuaded to address the exceptional needs for additional graduate program funding for South Florida. To that end, the “Southeast Florida



The first residence halls at University Park opened in August 1985.

Comprehensive University Presence Plan” (CUP) was sponsored that year by state Senators Ken Jenne and Harry Johnson and passed by the legislature.

Implemented in 1985, CUP was a ten-year, \$170 million plan to fund additional master’s and doctoral programs at FIU and FAU to increase University access at all levels to residents in Southeast Florida. The plan was a compromise that ended the demand by various legislators to create a tenth state university to be situated in Broward County. It also ended the calls for a FIU-FAU merger. By 1997, CUP funding had helped create thirty master’s and sixteen doctoral programs at FIU that were not funded through other appropriations.

FIU’s expansion into Broward County followed the dictates of the State University System master plan. A cooperative relationship was developed with FAU and Broward Community College (BCC), and the universities received \$10.3 million to construct a downtown Fort Lauderdale college center. From 1985 through 1987, FIU requested legislative funds to expand and add program offerings to complement those offered by FAU and BCC. FIU sought to add programs in Nursing, Construction

Management, and Engineering in Broward County.

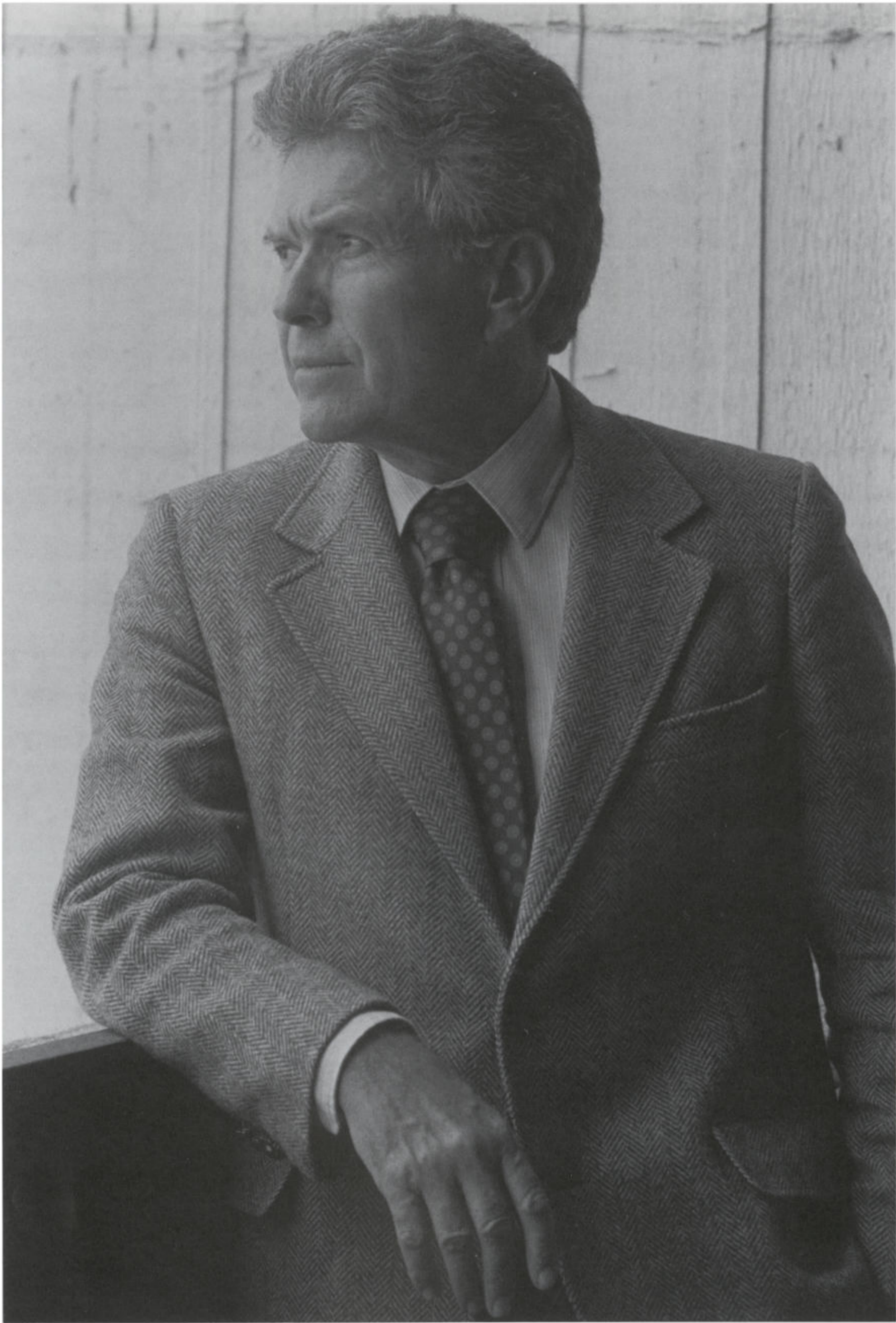
Under President Wolfe’s seven-year tenure, the University grew from a two-year commuter college of 11,500 students to a four-year university exceeding 16,500 students. A new lower division was added, with admission standards for freshmen among the most rigorous in the state. Support for CUP established new master’s and doctoral programs and expanded the University’s mission and scope. Facilities mushroomed during Wolfe’s presidency,

including the construction of the first dormitories. At University Park, the Golden Panther Arena was completed, and planning began on the Engineering and Computer Science Building and Graham Center. The nursing, business, and engineering programs received accreditation, and the University was featured in the “Top 200 Best Buys in College Education” by *The New York Times*. President Wolfe continues to serve on the faculty to the present day as professor of international relations.



Jordan and Edna Gene Davidson, early donors and members of the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees, established the University’s first endowed chair—an Eminent Scholar Chair of the Humanities in the College of Arts of Sciences.

An editorial in *The Miami Herald* at the time summarized the progress: “President Wolfe was the right man for FIU. This young institution gained a new sense of identity and direction under his leadership, and Dr. Wolfe was especially adept at articulating a vision of FIU as a truly international, multicultural institution serving Florida’s most populous region and beyond.”



In August 1986, President Wolfe retired as president of FIU. During his seven-year tenure, the University grew from a two-year institution of 11,500 students to a four-year university exceeding 16,500 students. The lower division was added, and new master's and doctoral programs expanded the University's mission and scope.



Modesto A. Maidique, FIU's fourth president, had extensive academic experience at some of the nation's top universities and business experience as an entrepreneur in high technology enterprises.

BUILDING A WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY

Chapter 5

After a period of intense speculation as to the qualities sought in a fourth FIU president, on August 24, 1986, the Search Committee recommended Modesto A. “Mitch” Maidique to the Board of Regents (BOR). The forty-six-year-old Maidique received the unanimous approval of the Search Committee and the Board of Regents.

The change in leadership styles was again dramatic. Founding president Perry had been the young visionary, an idealist, and risk-taker who had nurtured an infant university to its early adolescence. Harold Crosby, in his reserved, sometimes aloof manner, had provided stability and guided the teen years of FIU’s development. Seasoned diplomat Gregory Wolfe contributed his strong background in international relations and flair for the dramatic, and steered the school through to adulthood.

Maidique, a former Harvard Business School professor with extensive professional experience in business, was as comfortable in a boardroom as in a classroom. In his tailored blue suits and dark ties, Maidique could have been featured on the cover of *Business Week*. With his focused, logical, and direct manner, Maidique was regarded as a no-nonsense problem-solver.

Maidique was born to a family of teachers and educators. At age eighteen, he moved to Boston, where he was admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). From the world’s leading scientific and technological university he earned bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering. Maidique also graduated from Harvard’s Program for Management Development. He had taught both at Harvard and Stanford. As an educator, he boasted more than twenty years of teaching and research experience.

In the private sector, Maidique was co-founder of a semiconductor company that merged with Analog Devices, a manufacturer of integrated circuits. He also served as general partner for the San Francisco-based Hambrecht & Quist Venture Partners, responsible for the firm’s Southeast region. At the time, H & Q was the largest venture capital company in the world. His qualifications might have led him to head a major corporation rather than a university.

In his acceptance speech, delivered both in English and Spanish to a standing-room-only crowd at the University, Maidique said: “A university president is, above all other things, the custodian of society’s greatest treasure, its storehouse of knowledge. . . .

I pledge to you that I will work with undivided energy, attention, and enthusiasm to make FIU a paragon of both academic and administrative excellence—a model for similar universities in the state, across the nation, and around the world.”

Shortly after becoming president, Maidique established some of his primary goals for FIU. They included growing the institution; increasing sponsored research and adding doctoral programs and professional schools; enhancing academic quality and achievement; and increasing local and national recognition and support.

Despite its achievements, Maidique was not convinced that FIU had lived up to its potential. He believed the University needed more exposure.

In an effort to broaden the University’s identity and expand its recognition, Maidique called for discussion regarding the possibility of a new name for FIU. He stated, “A lot of people believe our emphasis is primarily and perhaps even exclusively in the international area.” Maidique said that FIU’s strengths, among them engineering, accounting, finance, and hospitality management, are germane to Florida, and particularly Southeast Florida. International concerns “are very important at FIU,” Maidique said. “But they’re not the only thing.” Discussion about a name change had been ongoing since the university was named in 1969.

Soon after his appointment, the new president also redefined FIU’s importance to the Miami community. In a speech before the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Maidique related the importance of the University to the growth of Miami.

“At the core of the development and maturation of any great metropolis are its educational institutions. In many ways, they are the very core of society. A university has one fundamental role, and that is to preserve and disseminate knowledge through research and teaching.” The president repeated this theme constantly at a variety of meetings throughout the area.

In 1987, FIU notched a victory when the BOR approved a new School of Computer Science and the master plan to guide the University’s development through the year 2002. The plan predicted student population would double at the University, and recommended new construction valued at \$140 million, including twelve new buildings and a “fraternity row.” The BOR’s approval cast a vote of confidence for both the new president and the University. Concurrently, Maidique received approval from the BOR to change the name of “Tamiami Campus” to “University Park,” and to return “Bay Vista Campus” to its former “North Miami Campus.”

Popular political columnist and commentator William F. Buckley Jr. (left) is seen with Provost James Mau at a 1986 lecture.





In September 1987, Pope John Paul VI celebrated Mass at FIU during his visit to South Florida.






Prominent international dignitaries continued to visit FIU for lectures sponsored by the Student Government Association. U.S. President Jimmy Carter (right) is seen with President and Mrs. Ana Maidique.

In remarks at his first commencement ceremony, President Maidique celebrated FIU as “the best young university in America.” He told the graduating class: “You are graduating from a university that is at the take-off stage of its development, a university that is achieving new heights in academic standing and in every other area of university endeavor.”

State dollars and private contributions were needed to meet the ambitious goals set forth by the president. In 1987, the University launched the “Cornerstone Campaign,” its first major private fund-raising campaign, and set a three-year \$10 million goal. The funds were earmarked for facilities, scholarships, and endowed professorships. At the time, of the 154 fully endowed chairs in the State University System, FIU had only two compared to University of Florida (fifty-six) or even FAU (ten).

In May 1988, Alvah Chapman, chairman of Knight-Ridder, became chairman of the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees. His presence helped attract other prominent civic and business leaders to the board.



the 
Cornerstone
campaign
Florida International University

In 1987, FIU launched the \$10 million Cornerstone Campaign, its first major private fund-raising campaign; the effort raised a total of \$17 million.

U.S. Senator Bob Graham was the keynote speaker at the campaign's kickoff event. He stated, "This institution is like a child that comes late in a family's life. . . . There was a major effort to establish this university in the 1940s (led by his father, Senator "Cap" Graham). That did not come to pass for more than twenty-five years. . . . Therefore, this institution came into being at a time that South Florida was undergoing major transitions: to an international community; a more cosmopolitan community; a more prosperous artistic community. FIU, as this special late child, has been able to be in many ways a catalyst for much of the new Miami. . . . One of the things in this new era is recognition of the necessity for a public-private partnership for public higher education."

Maidique promoted another campaign: to replace the school's "Sunblazer" mascot and replace it with the "Golden Panther." The Sunblazer theme had served the young University for some fourteen years, but the president sensed the school needed an image that better characterized FIU's growth and maturity and its ties to Florida's natural environment. The FIU Golden Panthers were born.

President Maidique's first full year, 1987, was a time of considerable administrative changes at the senior level as he put in place a new team that would enable the University to achieve its next level of success. He appointed Judith Stiehm as provost, who became the first woman in the State University System to hold that position. Paul Gallagher was named acting vice president for Business and Finance, and Richard Correnti the vice president for Student Affairs. Walter Strong became vice president for University Relations and Development, and Adam Herbert the vice president of the North Campus. Judith Blucker was appointed assistant provost for Broward County Programs, Thomas Breslin the associate vice president for Academic Affairs, and Richard Young the new athletic director.

That same year the BOR approved the implementation of several new degree programs, including

doctorate programs in Economics, Business Administration, and Biological Sciences.

The School of Health Sciences was renamed the College of Health, William J. Keppler was named its new dean, and master's programs were initiated in Occupational Therapy and Medical Laboratory Sciences.

By year's end, the Cornerstone Campaign had raised 50 percent of its \$10 million goal. Maidique credited the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees leadership, headed by Knight Ridder Chairman Alvah Chapman, with securing the local business community's support.

Athletics continued to play a major role in the University's development. On January 23, 1987, the BOR authorized FIU to elevate its entire intercollegiate athletic program from NCAA Division II to Division I the following fall. The men's basketball team was in the media spotlight when they played the renowned Georgetown University Hoyas at Golden Panther Arena. Also that year, the women's basketball team defeated Florida A & M University, giving Coach Cindy Russo her two-hundredth career victory. Soccer star Robin Fraser was selected as the University's first-ever Division I men's All-American.



President Maidique presented Florida Governor Bob Martinez (right) with a Golden Panthers t-shirt in September 1988 when the state's chief executive visited University Park and the College of Engineering robotics laboratory.

After seven years of planning and eighteen months of construction, the new \$7.95 million library at North Campus opened in early 1988. The facility housed 232,000 volumes and accommodated over five hundred patrons.

To encourage a sense of continued tradition, the FIU Alma Mater, composed by Clair T. McElfresh, was rededicated in November 1988 at a ceremony where the University unveiled its first official seal. Designed to reflect the ideals and goals of



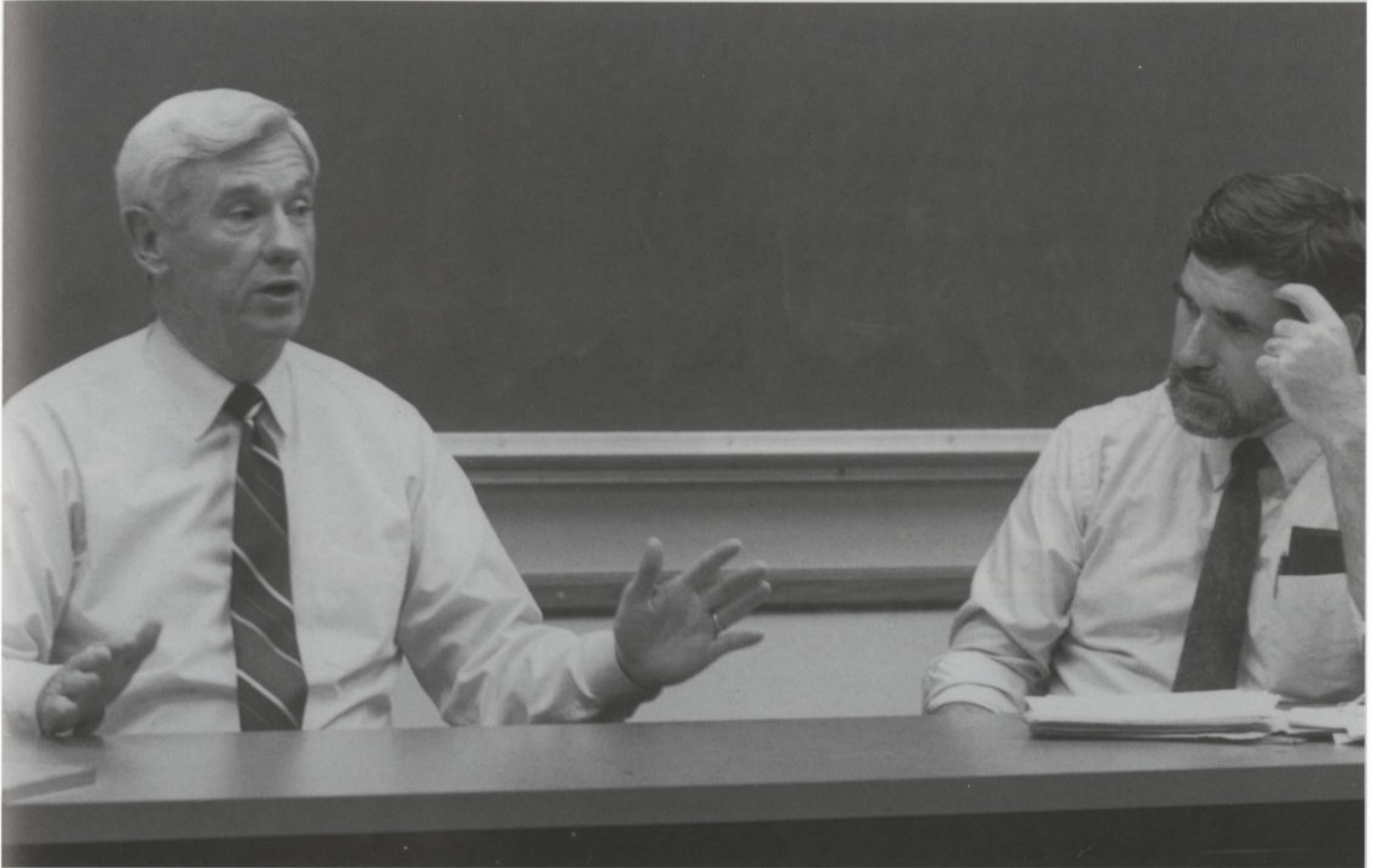
Provost Judith Stiehm (at microphone) presides over the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new College of Engineering Building in early 1988. Also on hand for the event were a robotic assistant and (rear, from left) SGA President Fred Jorgenson, President Maidique, Engineering Dean Gordon Hopkins, Regent Joan Ruffier, and State University System Chancellor Charles Reed.

In 1988, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication launched the Latin American Journalism Program, a nine-year, \$12 million project to train journalists from Central America. In 1997, with its task completed, the school handed over operations of the project to a center in Panama financially supported and run by the news media in Central America.

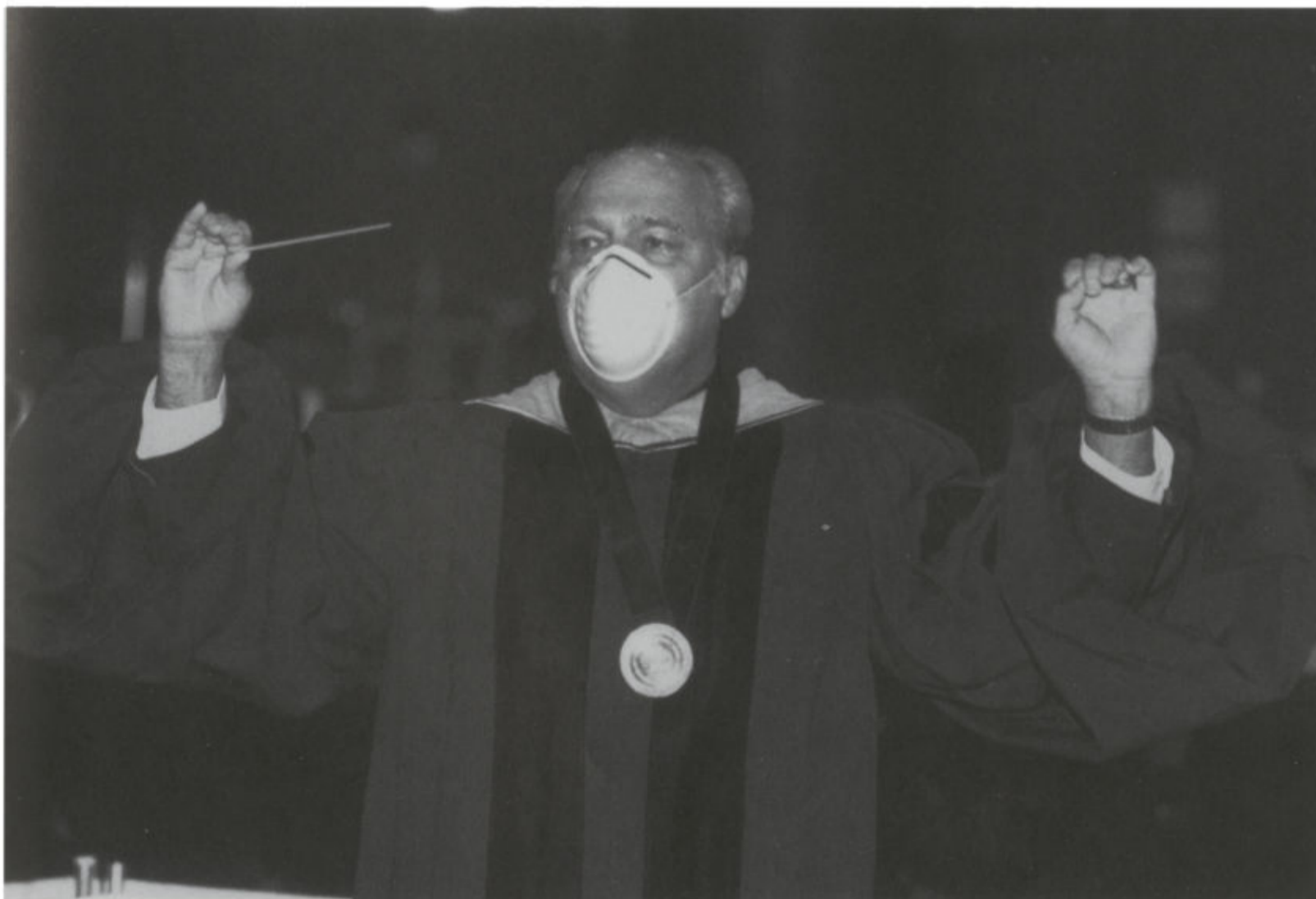
the institution, the seal included “The Torch of Knowledge, Service, and Understanding” and the University motto “Spes, Scientia, Facultas,” Latin for “Hope, Knowledge, and Opportunity.” The “Wall of the Presidents” in the Primera Casa lobby, with the images of FIU’s first three presidents—Perry, Crosby, and Wolfe—also was dedicated that day.

The evolution of tradition: FIU unveiled its official seal on November 3, 1988. At the same occasion, three of FIU's presidents were on hand for the dedication of the Hall of Presidents.





Former Florida Governor Reubin Askew (left) taught a course in public administration with Allan Rosenbaum (right), dean of the School of Public Affairs and Services, in 1989.



Clair McElfresh, a founding member of the faculty and composer of the FIU alma mater, led the FIU orchestra at convocation ceremonies shortly after a heart transplant.

In 1989, another important member of the FIU community was honored: Charles Hennington. By the late 1980s, the University Park Campus was a garden of exotic trees, plants, and flowers. The careful and artistic landscaping was due mostly to the eye and green thumb of FIU's first and only superintendent of grounds, Charles Hennington, who died at the age of forty-two. "Hennington Island"—a unique man-made island with rare and beautiful tropical foliage on the north rim of University Park—was dedicated in memory of the school's super groundskeeper in a ceremony on September 29, 1989.



In 1989, Hennington Island—a unique, man-made island with rare tropical foliage on the north rim of University Park—was dedicated in honor of the late Charles Hennington, FIU's first and only superintendent of grounds who created the campus's lush landscape.

Right: CAUTION WILDLIFE (Yield to ducks): In addition to being a major center for higher education, the University is home to flocks of muscovy ducks.



Charles Hennington, FIU's first and only superintendent of grounds.



Donn Ashley, the director of Physical Plant who worked with Hennington for twelve years, remembered him as the man who turned ideas into reality. "People would come to him with landscaping plans, and he was the guy who did the work," Ashley said. "We often talked of trying to put an island in the middle of the lake by the dorms. He'd be proud of the concept of Hennington Island."

By the 1990s, FIU had changed nearly as much as the urban center around it. Miami, with its wide spectrum of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures, was a living laboratory for faculty and students to learn ways of promoting greater cooperation among different nations and people. By 1997, FIU was a microcosm of the Miami community, with more than two-thirds of student enrollment from minority groups: 50 percent Hispanic, 14 percent black, and 3.5 percent Asian. In addition, the University had become home to more than 1,700 international students from 114 countries.

The spectacular growth of the school was accompanied by rising academic standards. Some 90 percent of the full-time faculty held doctorates or other terminal degrees, and the figure rose to 95 percent for tenured faculty. By 1990, students in the incoming freshman class commanded Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores one hundred points above the national average, and their grade point average—3.4—was one point above the national average for college-bound students.

In a number of areas, FIU students remained unique. Because FIU had started as an upper-division school, the student population was older than "traditional" institutions; more than half (11,755) were students twenty-five and older. About 58 percent of the students attended school part time while holding down jobs. By 1990, the North Campus accounted for 26 percent of total enrollment of the University. Students on both campuses received University news through the student newspaper. However, the paper had been idle in 1988–1989. In April 1990, it received a \$50,000 grant from the

Student Government Association and a computer donated by President Maidique. The newspaper again hit the stands. The new paper was called *The Beacon*. It has had a long list of predecessors dating back to 1972, including *The Action*, *The Sunblazer*, *The International*, and *The New International*. Since its introduction, *The Beacon* has received prestigious awards from the American Scholastic Press Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and Society of Professional Journalists.

In the summer of 1988, President Maidique made Tony Marshall, the dean of the School of Hospitality Management, an offer that he could not refuse. Maidique promised that if the school moved

from University Park to the North Campus, it would have its own building. The school had been located in Deuxieme Maison since its inception in 1972, with its kitchen and one small dining room in the Owa Ehan building. The faculty agreed to the move, and, in the summer of 1989, the school began its relocation. The kitchen equipment, dining room furnishings, pots, and pans were moved lock, stock, and wine bottle to their new home on the North Campus by 1990. The former Trade Center Building, which once served as the campus library, was subsequently completely remodeled for Hospitality Management.

The Beacon

Vol. 10, No. 1

The Student Newspaper at Florida International University

August 25, 1998

HERE WE GO AGAIN!!!

BRIAN MARCUS
Staff writer

UP Welcome Back Week is traditionally one of the most exciting and memorable events at FIU.

This year, the university went all out in an effort to invigorate "Panther Pride."

Funding has been provided by the UP Student Government Council (SGC) and the Office of Campus Life under the auspices of SOC Advisor Sharon Hart.

"What we wish to achieve is to welcome students back, for them to make new friends. We are trying to create an atmosphere of university spirit and an overall feeling of inclusion and participation," said Hart.

On Monday, a multitude of rides and programs greeted returning students while over 1,200 people enjoyed a free bar-b-que.

For Tuesday, a game show is scheduled to take

See WELCOME BACK, page 3



Sean McCloskey/Photo editor

Students take advantage of Welcome Back Week frills, like free food.



Operation Bookstamp
protects students'
books

3



Counseling Center opens
its doors for new students

10

FIU ranks 18th best value in the U.S.

The Beacon, the new student newspaper introduced in 1990, has received prestigious awards from national organizations, including the Society of Professional Journalists and the American Scholastic Press Association.



In 1990, the nationally renowned School of Hospitality Management moved from University Park to its new building at North Campus, the former Trade Center, which once served as the campus library.



In 1990, a new \$14.5 million Chemistry and Physics Building was constructed at University Park to help accommodate the growing programs in the physical sciences.

In 1991, Ron Arrowsmith, an employee since FIU's first day and seemingly a permanent fixture, retired as vice president of Administrative Operations. In his remarkable career, Arrowsmith had worked closely with each of the four presidents. During his tenure, at one time or another, he was responsible for Auxiliary Services, Physical Plant, Physical Facilities Planning, Public Safety, and Purchasing. Arrowsmith had hired and supervised the original Business and Administration staff of the University.

Chuck Tinder, current assistant vice president for Budget and Planning, remembers seeing Ron (wearing his hallmark bright polyester jackets and

occasionally matching ties) walking around campus every morning picking up paper and trash and removing signs and posters. Ron was very proud of the campus.

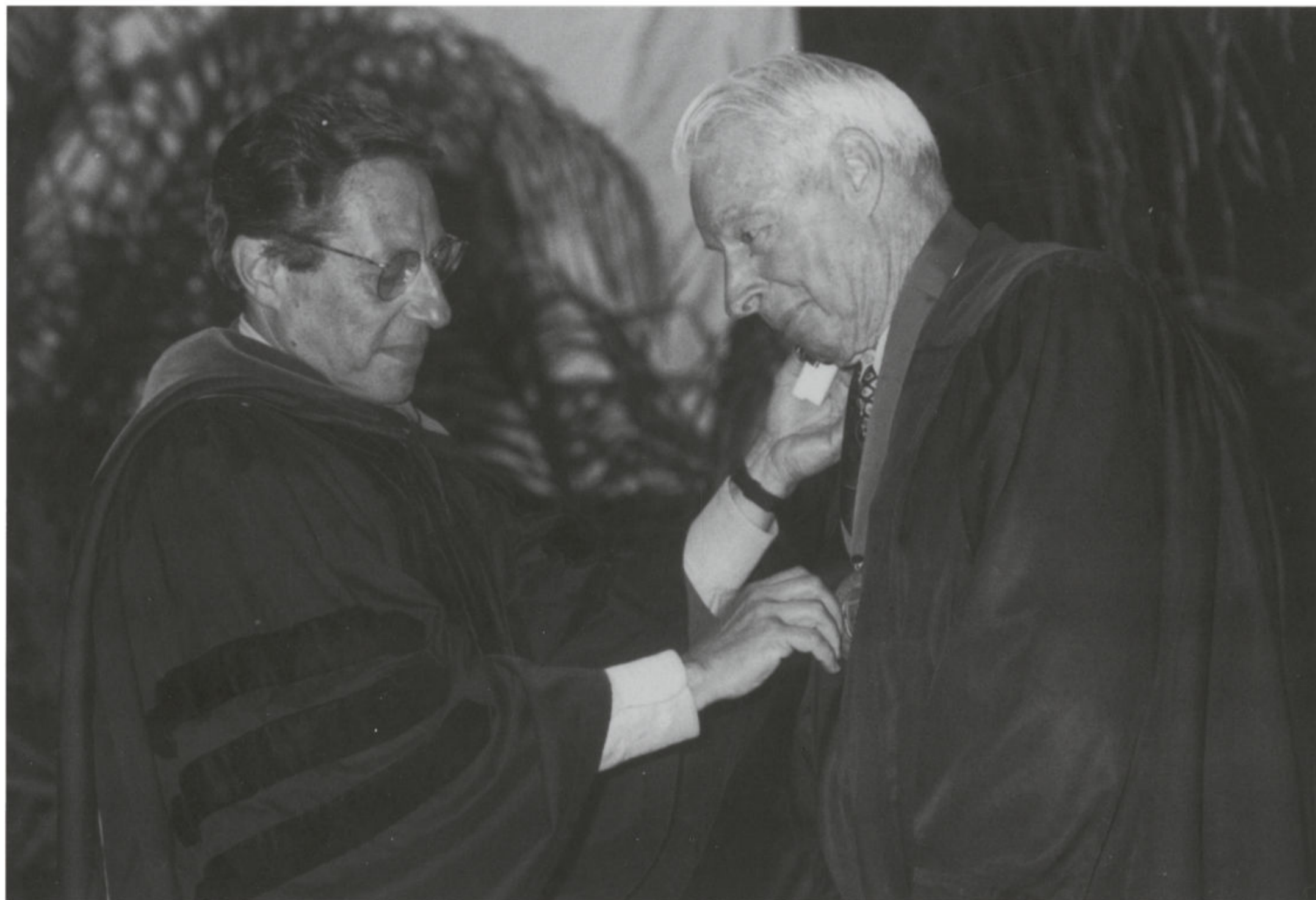
When Arrowsmith retired, budgetary constraints prompted the president to redistribute responsibilities among senior administrators. Among the changes, Judith Blucker was appointed executive vice provost. Blucker, the school's first women's volleyball coach in 1974, has held a wide range of administrative positions, including acting vice president, vice provost, and academic dean, and supervised operations at University Park, the North Campus, and Broward Center.



Alumna Pat Bradley, one of the most successful players in the history of women's professional golf, received a distinguished service award at the spring 1991 Commencement. Joining her at the podium were President Maidique and Paul Jones (right), president of the FIU Alumni Association.



Two graduates of the College of Engineering get ready to receive their diplomas.



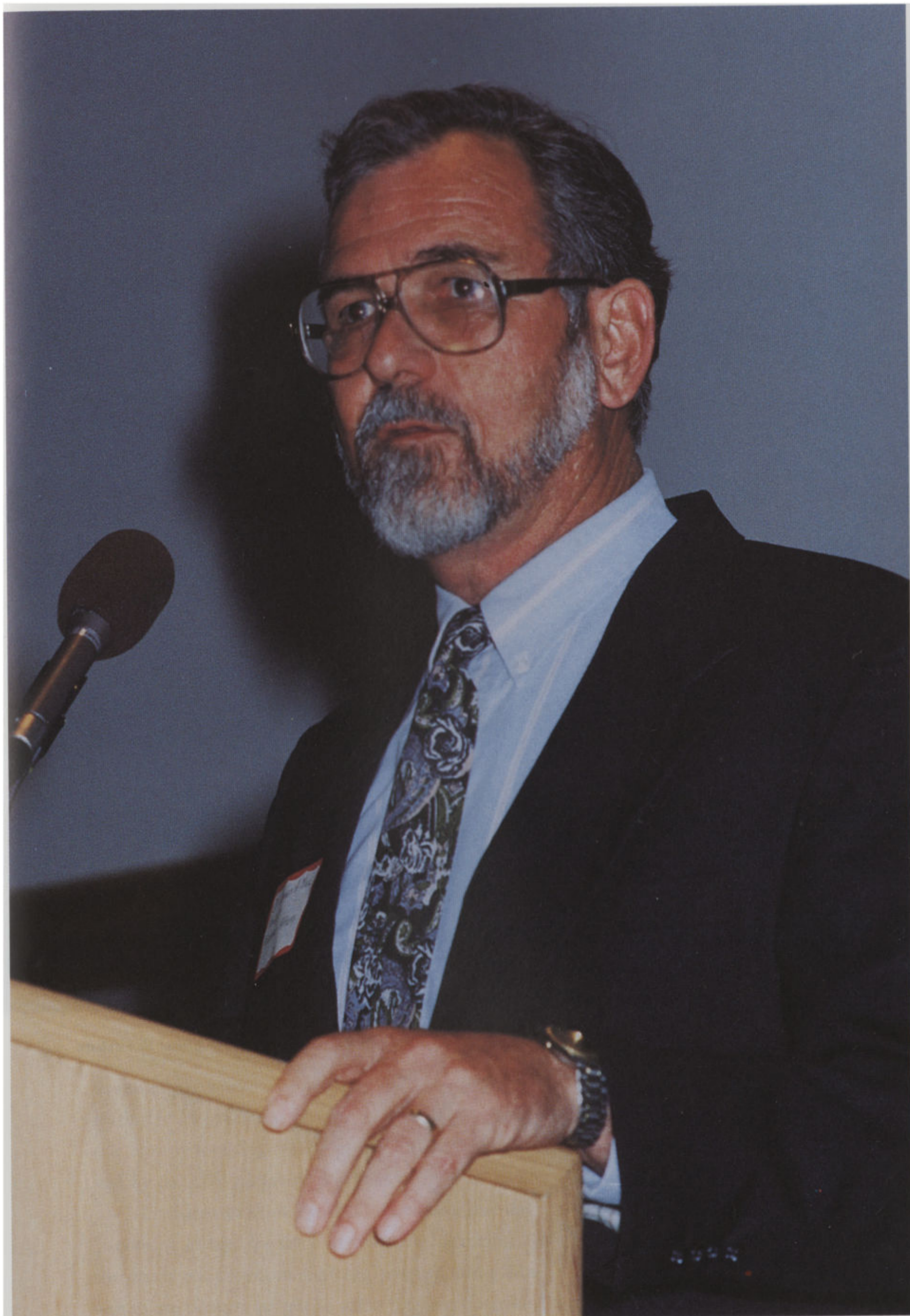
Joe DiMaggio (right), “The Yankee Clipper,” with Education Dean I. Ira Goldenberg at 1993 Commencement. DiMaggio was honored with a Distinguished Community Service Award for establishing the Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, Florida.

After an eighteen-month search, James Mau, a veteran of nineteen years at the University, twelve years as dean of Arts and Sciences, and a one-time interim university president, was named provost in 1992. Acting provost since 1990, Mau replaced Judith Stiehm. A former associate dean at Yale University, Mau offered a high degree of professionalism, experience as an academic administrator, and a keen understanding of FIU’s present and future role.

On September 30, 1991, FIU paid tribute to one of its founding pioneers when it dedicated the new \$9.6 million, 143,000-square-foot Ernest R. Graham University Center (formerly University House). The significantly expanded Graham Center complex offered dining facilities, ballrooms, auditoriums, meeting rooms, study areas, bookstore, a ticket

outlet, and a travel agency, in addition to office space for the Student Government Association, Student Affairs, the radio station, *The Beacon*, and the newly refurbished Faculty Club. It also housed the replacement to the Rathskeller (closed earlier that year) which was dubbed “Gracie’s Grill.”

The Graham Center was the work of many people, including Vice President of Student Affairs Richard Correnti, Executive Vice Provost Judith Blucker, and Director of Business and Auxiliary Services Juan Argudin. Ruth Hamilton, director of the Graham Center, recalled that they intended to construct a building that would serve as the campus living room, a place where faculty and students would intermingle.



In 1992, after an eighteen-month national search, James Mau, who had served twelve years as dean of Arts and Sciences and one-time interim president, was named provost.



State University System Chancellor Charles Reed and U.S. Senator Bob Graham exchange greetings at the dedication of the Ernest R. Graham University Center at University Park.

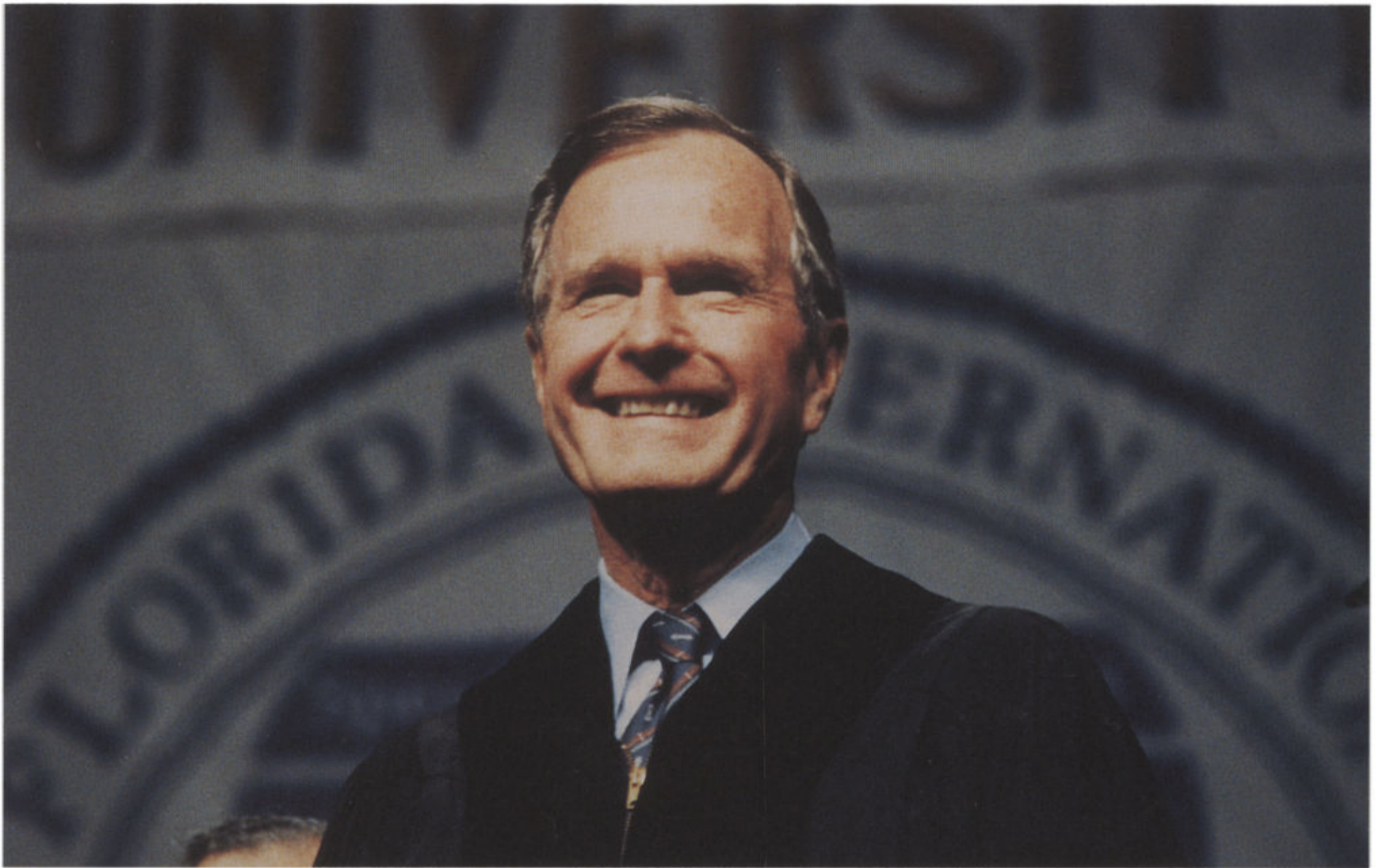


President Maidique and U.S. Senator Bob Graham at the Graham Center dedication.

Early in 1992, a very special guest was invited to the spring commencement: President George Bush. He accepted the invitation, and FIU became one of only four universities in the United States visited by the U.S. president that year.

President Bush declared the ceremony that day “a coming of age” for the University. In his address to the nearly ten thousand students, parents, and graduates in attendance, he put to rest a nagging question:

“I can tell you this: They won’t be asking ‘FI-Who?’ any more. Never again.” The President’s remarks that day were recorded for posterity by the 150 journalists who attended the ceremony—although he was practically upstaged by salsa queen Celia Cruz, who was also honored that day with an honorary doctorate.



President George Bush was keynote speaker at the spring 1992 Commencement. FIU was one of only four universities in the U.S. visited by the president that year; Bush was only the second president to speak at a Florida university commencement while in office. “I can tell you this: They won’t be asking ‘FI-Who?’ any more. Never again,” he remarked at the ceremony.



Salsa queen Celia Cruz—exclaiming her trademark “azucar”—shared the stage with President Bush and was also honored that day with an honorary doctorate.

President Bush was only the second U.S. president to deliver a keynote address at a Florida university commencement; the other was President Richard Nixon at the University of Central Florida in 1973.

“Having the president of the United States deliver the keynote address at our commencement ceremony was truly a great honor for such a young university,” said President Maidique. “It was an honor that our students, our faculty, and our alumni will never forget.”

Barely three months after the momentous ceremony, Hurricane Andrew blasted its way through South Florida. In the early morning hours of August 24, 1992, one of the worst hurricanes in history wreaked damage and destruction on the community. Physical damage to the University was estimated at \$6 million. The fall semester was delayed by two weeks, as students, faculty, and staff struggled to put their lives back in order—and many to get a roof over their heads. The storm left a legacy of collective tragedy in its wake.

FIU responded. Olga Magnusen, director of Career Planning and Placement, and Karl Magnusen,

associate professor of Management and International Business, spearheaded a volunteer movement that was activated one day after Andrew struck. Hundreds of staff and students delivered food and water to needy families around the county. Under Ruth Hamilton’s direction, the Graham Center became a warehouse and distribution center for supplies. Over 350,000 pounds of food, clothing, and supplies were processed and delivered over a span of days. Some 150 employees received low interest loans totaling \$450,000 through the University Credit Union and secured by the FIU Foundation.

“The storm left thousands of students, faculty, staff, and alumni homeless,” Maidique said at the time. “While Hurricane Andrew was a natural force that exceeded all expectations, I was most impressed by the human response. At FIU we mobilized an emergency response program to assist members of the University community, as well as the overall community. We reached out to our alumni. I believe that in the storm’s wake, we have emerged as a stronger and more unified University and community.”

August 24, 1992: Hurricane Andrew, the most costly natural disaster in U.S. history, caused \$6 million in damage to the University Park Campus but united the FIU community in relief efforts.





Public Safety Officer Luther Cox was the first recipient of the FIU Presidential Award of Achievement and Excellence. He was honored for his continuing outstanding service to the University community and, in particular, his exemplary efforts during the tough times following Hurricane Andrew.



Jack Parker, chairperson of Environmental Studies, was instrumental in establishing the academic unit and played an active role ensuring environmentally sound design in several local Habitat for Humanity projects.

Minority attendance increased dramatically during the Maidique years. The May 1993 edition of *Black Issues in Higher Education* ranked FIU as the fourth largest producer of minority graduates with baccalaureate degrees in the country. FIU was in the company of the University of California at Berkeley and UCLA, which topped the list. By 1997, it was estimated that FIU had advanced to become the number one producer of minority graduates with bachelor's degrees in the country.



A first! FIU defeated crosstown rival University of Miami for the first time in Division I men's basketball on December 2, 1992.

“Universities such as FIU deserve to be praised because they show a conscientious effort to serve their local communities by providing a quality education, as well as accessibility to that education,” wrote Frank Matthews, publisher of the journal. FIU graduated more Hispanics than any other institution in the country, and, among traditional universities, ranked twenty-eighth as a graduator of blacks. During the Maidique years, black enrollment more than doubled through active recruitment, scholarships, outreach, and minority services support.

An outstanding library was paramount for the University to continue its development and attain Research University status. Howard W. Cordell, FIU’s first library director and recipient of the school’s first book in 1972 (appropriately, a gift volume on Florida hurricanes) would have been proud to note that in 1993 the one-millionth book was added to the collection.

For the occasion, President Maidique unveiled a model for an expanded new library, which included five new floors on top of the existing three and would cost \$40 million. The completed library would seat 2,062 readers, its collection would include 1,080,750 volumes, and the building would incorporate state-of-the-art information technology.

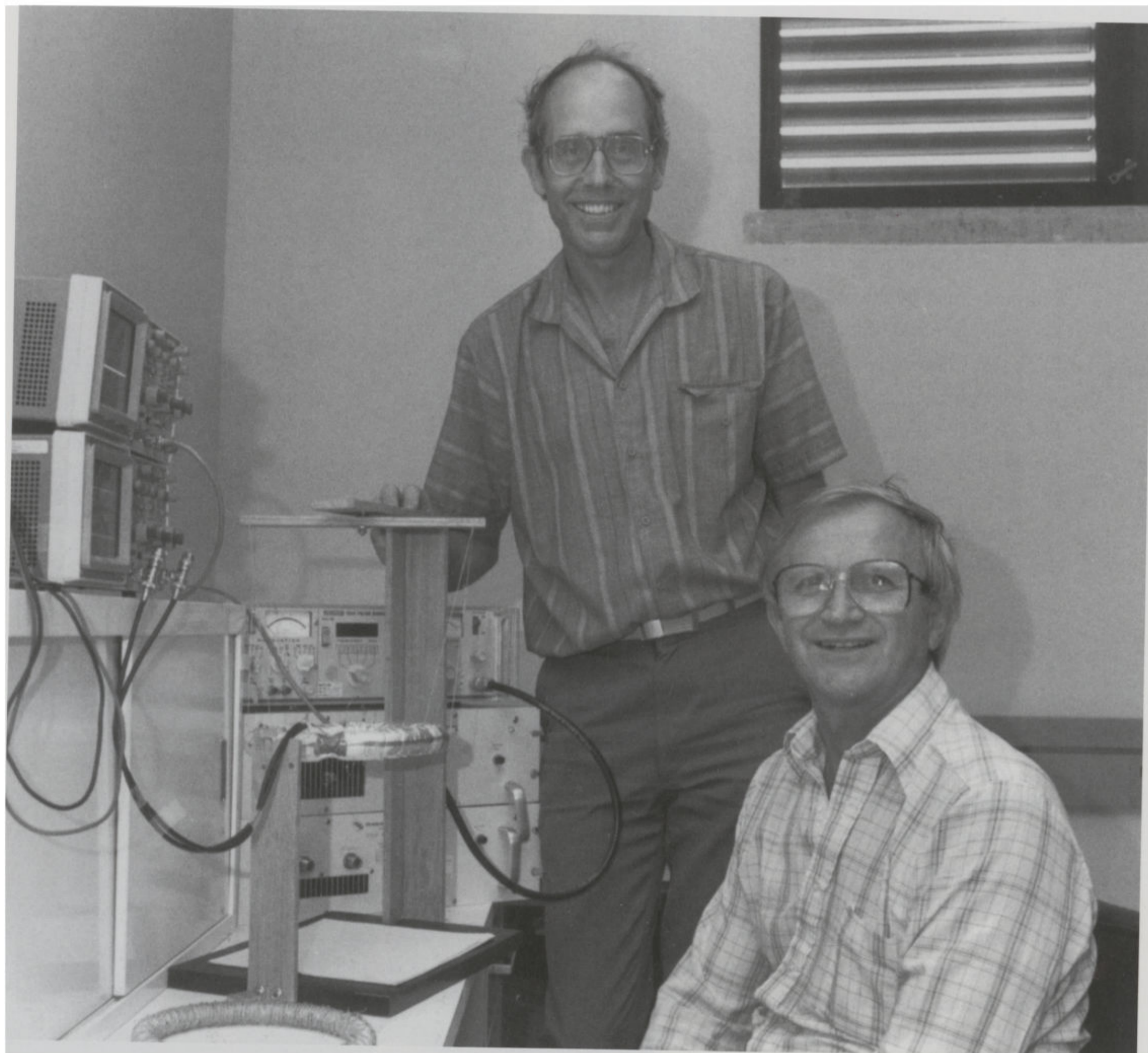
As 1992–1993 drew to a close and the pain of Hurricane Andrew faded, a number of events emerged to highlight the year. Arthur Herriott, an FIU employee since 1973, was appointed dean of FIU’s largest college, Arts and Sciences. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication, which had become a free-standing school under recently named Dean Arthur Heise, settled into new quarters on the North Campus. The University became a proud member of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the nation’s most prestigious association for public higher education.

Research conducted by faculty resulted in the first patents issued to the University. In 1990, Mark Hagmann and Tadeusz Babij of Electrical and



Renowned civil rights leader Jesse Jackson spoke to an audience of more than eight hundred at the Graham Center Ballroom in November 1993.

Computer Engineering received the first patent issued to FIU, No. 4,897,600 for a high frequency ammeter. In 1993, a patent was issued for “Panther Skin,” a product invented by Milton Torres, research scientist of Industrial Engineering, that could extend the service life of airplanes by making their metal skins stronger and more fire resistant, thereby reducing casualties in airplane accidents. After the tragic crash of ValuJet Flight 502 in the Everglades in 1996, Panther Skin received considerable media attention as a process that might have prevented the fiery disaster.



In 1990, Mark Haggmann (left) and Tadeusz Babij of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received the first patent issued to FIU, No. 4,897,600 for a high frequency ammeter, the first device capable of noninvasively measuring levels of electromagnetic current in human tissue.



Simon Pak (left) and John Zdanowicz of the FIU Center for Banking and Financial Institutions received widespread recognition for their research on international price discrimination—possible evidence of massive international money laundering.



One of the first patents issued to FIU was for “Panther Skin,” a product invented by research scientist Milton Torres that could extend the service life of airplanes by making their metal skins stronger and more fire resistant, thereby reducing casualties in airplane accidents.

In 1993, the University established the Southeast Environmental Research Program under the direction of Ron Jones, professor of Biological Sciences. The program conducts basic and applied research on the myriad environmental challenges confronting South Florida, with an emphasis on the sensitive and unique ecosystem of the Everglades. The results of its research reveal solutions for problems and steps to prevent future degeneration.

our faculty,” he said. “FIU is expanding beyond its walls and into the corporate boardrooms and community centers.”

At a groundbreaking ceremony on March 31, 1994, the North Campus Student Center was renamed the “Gregory B. Wolfe Center,” in honor of FIU’s third president. In April, groundbreaking ceremonies were also held for the North Campus



The Southeast Environmental Research Program, established in 1993 under the direction of biology professor Ron Jones, conducts research on environmental problems facing South Florida, with an emphasis on the Everglades.

Distance Education began at FIU with the FEEDS program in the College of Engineering (and in 1997, the first three students graduated from the program). Patrick Wagner and Blanca Riley used microwave and ISDN technology to expand the University’s educational reach. Wagner, former associate dean of University Outreach, explained that new distance learning technologies present the opportunity to bring FIU to the community. “It’s no longer necessary to physically attend one of our campuses in order to take advantage of our programs and

Conference Center, a 28,000-square-foot, \$7.2 million state-of-the-art outreach facility.

Academically, 1994 was full of successes: the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching elevated FIU from the Master’s (Comprehensive) University to the more prestigious Doctoral University II category; it was also the sixth consecutive year that *U.S. News & World Report* listed FIU as one of the best colleges in the South.

Year’s end was highlighted by a visit to campus by “Chuck” Perry. FIU’s first campus structure,

Primera Casa, was renamed in honor of the University's founding president. At the dedication, President Maidique called the renaming "a fitting tribute to the fact that Charles Perry spun the dream that has become FIU."



The Martin Z. Margulies Family Collection, one of the world's finest private collections of modern outdoor sculpture, was relocated to FIU in 1994. The long-term loan of the fifty works elevated FIU's ArtPark—"a museum without walls"—on the list of the nation's finest university outdoor collections. Martin Margulies is seen with *Eight Unit Cube* by Sol LeWitt.

In September 1994, President Perry returned to campus for the dedication of the Charles E. Perry Building; Primera Casa, FIU's first major structure, was renamed in honor of the founding president. On the occasion, President Maidique (right) presented him with a painting of the campus site (by education professor David Chang) as it looked before the founding team started building the new University.





In 1994, Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim presented a \$1 million gift to complete the furnishing of the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center at University Park. The complex includes a six-hundred-seat auditorium with superb acoustics, two theaters, and faculty offices. Seen at the construction site are (from left) Herbert and Nicole Wertheim, President Maidique, and Fredrick Kaufman, director of the School of Music.



The concert hall in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center and a view of the finished facility (right).



That same year, Mary Pankowski, a top administrator at Florida State University, came down south to become FIU's vice president of North Campus and University Outreach. Under her leadership, the North Campus Conference Center was opened.

Also that year, Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim presented a \$1 million gift, a record donation from an individual, to complete the furnishing of the 53,600-square-foot Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center at University Park. The complex—which established FIU–University Park as the major cultural center in West Miami–Dade—includes a six-hundred-seat auditorium with superb acoustics, two theaters, and faculty offices. The University's neighbor, the Dade County

Youth Fair, made a gift of \$1.5 million (which was matched by the state to total \$2.6 million) to help build the facility, which it uses for its talent competitions.

The new facility was a reflection of the University's commitment to and investment in the performing arts. Under the leadership of Chair Fredrick Kaufman, appointed in 1993, the Music Department experienced substantial growth: the number of music majors significantly increased, full-time faculty doubled from twelve to twenty-four, and a student orchestra was created with renowned conductor Carlos Piantini at its helm. The department attracted distinguished new faculty, including pianist Susan Starr, trumpet player Arturo Sandoval, flutist

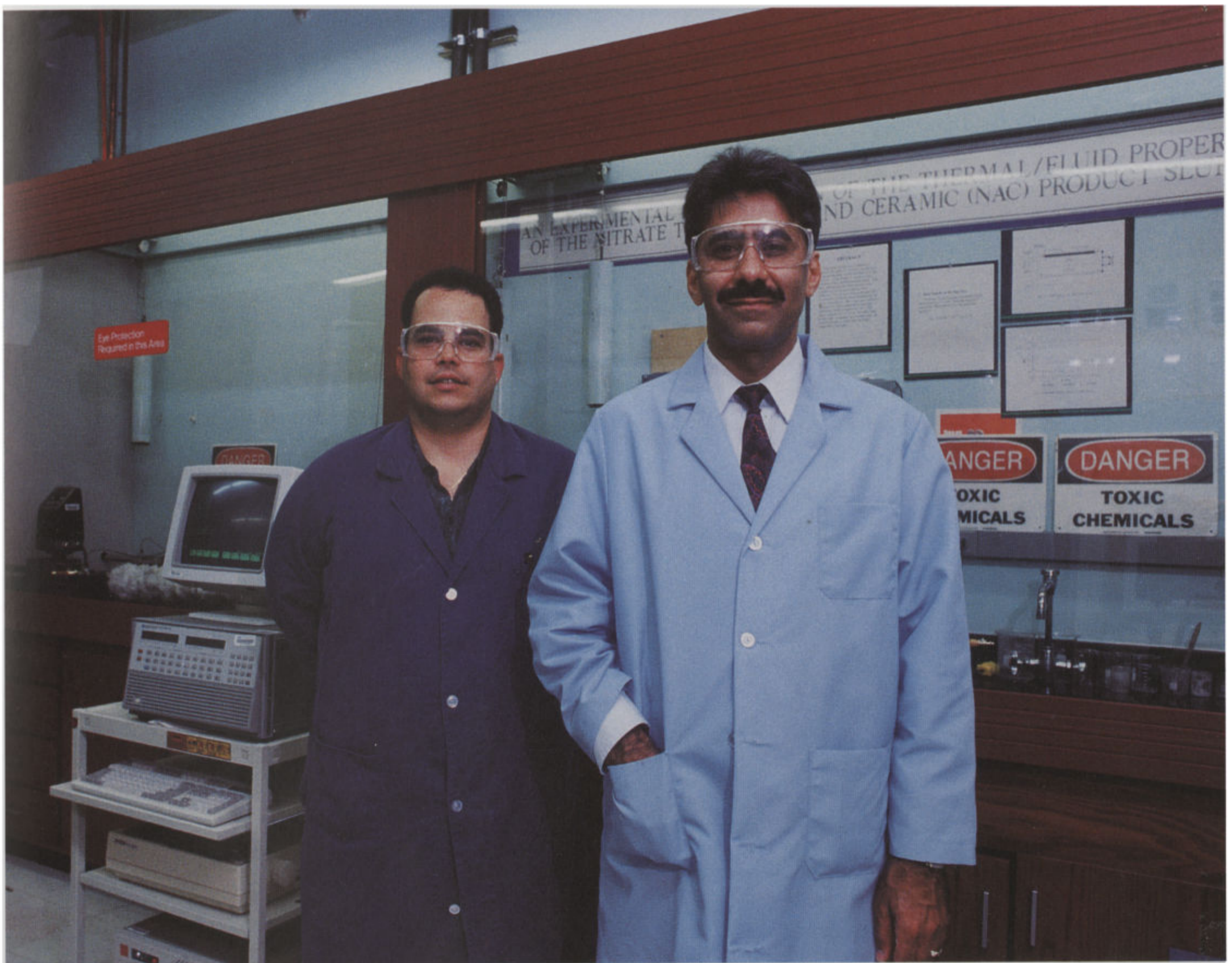


The National Hurricane Center opened its new \$4 million headquarters—the leading facility for hurricane tracking in the nation—at University Park in 1995. (There are current plans to construct a connecting building for the FIU International Hurricane Center.) President Maidique is seen here with Bob Sheets, former director of the Hurricane Center.

Nestor Torres, and the Miami String Quartet. Just days before the Festival of the Performing Arts at FIU in November 1996, which officially inaugurated the Wertheim Center, the Board of Regents approved the elevation of the department into a School of Music within the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1995, the University forged a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct research on one of the most deadly environmental hazards: radioactive waste. FIU established

the Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology (HCET) to research, develop, and demonstrate innovative environmental technologies and facilitate their transfer to commercial and government users. HCET, under the direction of Mechanical Engineering Professor M. Ali Ebadian, is an international leader in the evaluation and demonstration of new technology for decontaminating and decommissioning of nuclear facilities.



The FIU Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology, under the direction of Mechanical Engineering Professor M. Ali Ebadian (right), is an international leader in the evaluation and demonstration of new technologies for decontaminating and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The Center, established in 1995, is a cooperative enterprise with the U.S. Department of Energy.

That same year, a longtime veteran of Miami-Dade government joined the University as its new vice president for Business and Finance. Cynthia Curry had worked with the county government for more than eighteen years in a number of capacities leading up to her role as assistant county manager for seven years. Under her leadership, the University's building program accelerated and the appearance of the campuses markedly improved. In recognition of her extensive knowledge of the workings of South Florida government and her fiduciary skills, Curry was appointed in 1997 by Governor Lawton Chiles to serve on the city of Miami's Financial Emergency Oversight Board.

In early 1996, Harold Crosby, the University's second president, passed away at the age of seventy-seven. "There were considerable changes during the three years that he was president," recalled Vice President Paul Gallagher. "Hal settled things down and kept the ship steered on the right track."

October 1996 marked the tenth year of the Maidique administration, not a small feat considering the average tenure for a public university president is less than five years. When President Maidique assumed office, he predicted that by the year 2000 FIU's operating budget would be \$400 million, a capital campaign would raise \$100 million, and the University's economic impact on the South Florida community would exceed \$1 billion. Ten years following that prediction, the University operates on a budget of \$250 million, has an economic impact exceeding \$1 billion, and has achieved nearly twice the \$65 million goal of The Campaign for FIU launched in February 1996.

President Maidique expected that by the year 2000 "a full range" of Ph.D. and master's programs would be available. His expectations have been exceeded. In 1986, the University offered fifty-nine master's programs and eight doctoral programs, and by 1997 it offered ninety-three master's and twenty-one doctoral programs (out of a total of 222 programs). When the Carnegie Foundation for the



Susan Waltz, professor of International Relations, was elected chairperson of Amnesty International in 1996. She was the first American ever elected to the position.



Madeleine K. Albright (right), then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and now U.S. secretary of state, visited FIU in October 1996 to deliver a lecture and receive an honorary doctorate.

Advancement of Teaching updates its classification of U.S. colleges, FIU will have advanced three spots from a Comprehensive to a Research II institution. Out of some 3,600 colleges and universities in the U.S., only 110 universities are classified as Research institutions. From 1986 to 1996, sponsored research increased five-fold, from \$6 million to more than \$30 million. In its 1997 survey of "America's Best Colleges," *U.S. News & World Report* ranked FIU among the nation's top one hundred public national universities.

Today, FIU has eight federal research centers and awards more than five thousand degrees annually, including more than eighty doctoral degrees.

At the January 1996 BOR meeting, nine new degree programs were approved. In addition, after considerable lobbying by the students, the BOR approved a master's degree program in Architecture. The Board's vote established "a milestone, a coming

of age for us," according to President Maidique, since the decision resulted in FIU's first traditional professional school. William McMinn, dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning at Cornell University, was recruited as dean of the new FIU School of Architecture, which was formally established in 1997.

To accommodate the continued enrollment and programmatic growth, construction has been a constant companion at the University. Closed walkways, detours, construction barricades, warning signs, and the pounding of pile drivers serve as incessant reminders of the growth and expansion that have characterized the University since its inception. In recent years, FIU has conducted the most ambitious construction program in its history, an undertaking that was nearing completion by the end of 1997. More than \$175 million has been

spent for new facilities and the renovation and expansion of existing structures.

In addition to increasing capacity, construction has transformed the University's appearance through the use of a common architectural "vocabulary." Arches, rotundas, and more vibrant colors have begun to replace the gray concrete block architecture characteristic of the original campus facilities.

"About five years ago we began to establish a unique FIU architectural style," President Maidique said. "We began to use colors that are more typical of the Mediterranean and Caribbean, arches and archways, which are classic design elements common to Northern Africa and Southern Europe."

At the North Campus, a new entrance was completed. A four-lane road leads off busy Biscayne Boulevard into the campus. New signs with the FIU Golden Panther motif are clearly visible. The raccoons and sand crabs that once sauntered across the potted two-lane road have now moved on. The Gregory B. Wolfe Center was completed in the summer of 1996. Enclosed and air conditioned, the facility includes additional ballrooms, game rooms, and meeting rooms.

The former Student Health and Wellness Center moved from crowded facilities in the Hospitality Management Building to its own three-thousand-square-foot separate facility. The Roz and Cal Kovens

Conference Center—named in honor of the community philanthropists and developers who made a major contribution to complete the facility—was opened. Mr. Kovens, who served on the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees and chaired its Development Committee, passed away in 1995. By 1997, some eight thousand students attended North Campus, which offered a full array of academic programs, a full-service library, student union and activities, and its own Student Government Association.

At University Park, a tree-lined entrance was constructed from Tamiami Trail, and arches appeared



Roz Kovens (pictured) and her late husband made a major contribution to FIU to complete the state-of-the-art facility at North Campus that bears their names: the Roz and Cal Kovens Conference Center. Mr. Kovens, who served on the FIU Foundation Board of Trustees and chaired its Development Committee, passed away in 1995. The facility opened the following year.



In recognition of a \$2.5 million gift from Sanford and Dolores Ziff in 1996—for scholarships in Education and Arts and Sciences, an internship program in The Art Museum, and materials for the library—the new College of Education and the plaza of the Library Tower were named in their honor.

the site of the new FIU Center for Engineering and Applied Science. The 243,500-square-foot complex, situated on thirty-eight acres of property, will enable FIU to greatly expand its research and engineering capacity. The acquisition was made possible by the Board of Trustees of the FIU Foundation, which committed \$16 million to bridge the purchase until state funds became available. State Senator Mario Diaz-Balart spearheaded legislative efforts to acquire \$23 million in state funds for the purchase.

seemingly everywhere on campus. A fraternity row and campus presidential residence are being planned. Another addition to the Graham Center was also completed in 1996. A new twenty-thousand-square-foot bookstore was opened, as well as a mini-mall with a gourmet coffee shop, food court, travel center, and new facilities for the University Credit Union.

Panther Hall, a four-story housing complex with four hundred beds, opened to a long waiting list of students. The new dormitory complex resembled a modern motor inn with its swimming pool, volleyball court, laundry room, and game rooms. A sophisticated card key system offered computerized security.

The University acquired Cordis Corporation's former headquarters and R & D laboratory complex, one-half mile from University Park, which became

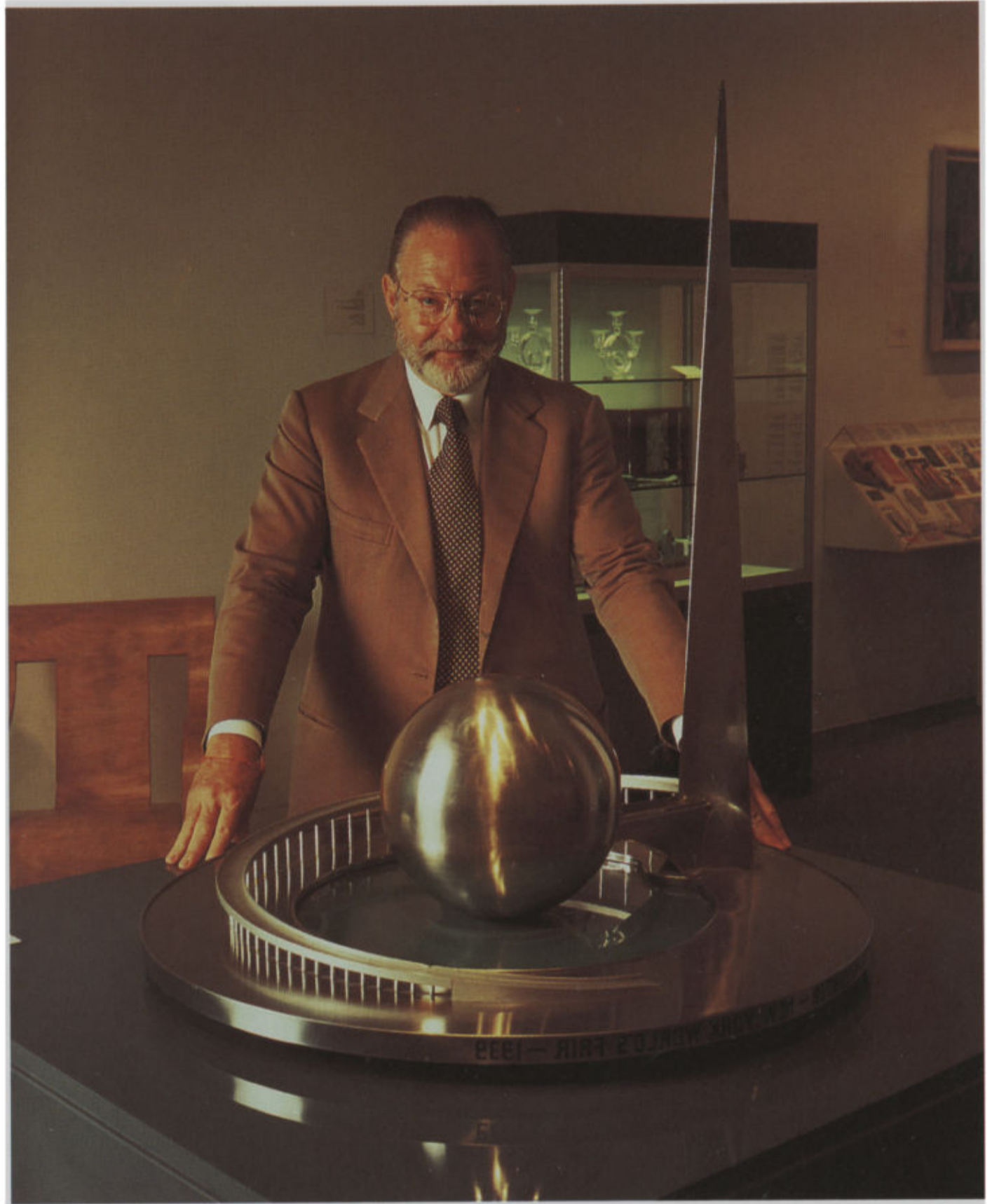
In 1997, thanks to a gift from Mitchell "Micky" Wolfson Jr., the University acquired the Wolfsonian Museum on Miami Beach and its collection of more than seventy thousand artifacts, worth an estimated \$75 million. This was the largest philanthropic gift in the history of FIU and the entire State University System and the fifth largest gift in the history of public higher education in America. The Wolfsonian's unique collection includes objects ranging from high art to ephemeral examples of popular culture from 1885 through 1945. State Representative Rudy Garcia and Senators Ron Silver and Mario Diaz-Balart played leading roles securing \$2 million in recurring operating funds for The Wolfsonian-FIU, as the new entity is officially known.

In 1996, the University acquired Cordis Corporation's former headquarters and R & D laboratory complex, one-half mile from University Park, which became the site of the new FIU Center for Engineering and Applied Science. Future expansion is planned on the thirty-eight-acre site.





William McMinn was recruited as dean of the new FIU School of Architecture, which was formally established in 1997.



In 1997, thanks to a gift from Mitchell "Micky" Wolfson Jr., the University acquired the Wolfsonian Museum on Miami Beach and its collection of more than seventy thousand artifacts, worth an estimated \$75 million. Wolfson is seen with a model of the Theme Center at the 1939 New York World's Fair.



The Wolfsonian-FIU, as the new entity is officially known, is located in the heart of the art deco district in Miami Beach.



In 1997, South Florida philanthropists Steven and Dorothea Green made a \$2.5 million gift, the largest cash gift in FIU history, to establish endowments for The Art Museum and library. President Maidique (from left), Dorothea and Steven Green are seen at the ceremony where it was announced that the recently expanded library tower at University Park would be named in the Greens' honor in recognition of their gift. Mr. Green is now serving as U.S. ambassador to Singapore.

In 1986, FIU was classified in the NCAA Division II for most sports. Although the possibility of a football team was discussed ten years before, President Maidique rejected the possibility then and told *The Miami Herald*, "We have enough to do without playing football." However, by 1996, times had changed. In an interview, the president told *The Beacon*, "Football is king. If you're going to be a major academic power, a big state university, I think a football team is one of the tools a university should have at its disposal." In 1997, students voted to

increase fees to help raise funds to launch a team, and a football task force was appointed. By that time, eight varsity men's and women's teams were classified Division I, the highest rank for athletic competition.

Many of the predictions made ten years ago had become a reality by twenty-fifth anniversary time. Florida International University had emerged as an academic powerhouse and a major state university.

The new \$30 million eight-story Steven and Dorothea Green Library was completed in 1998.





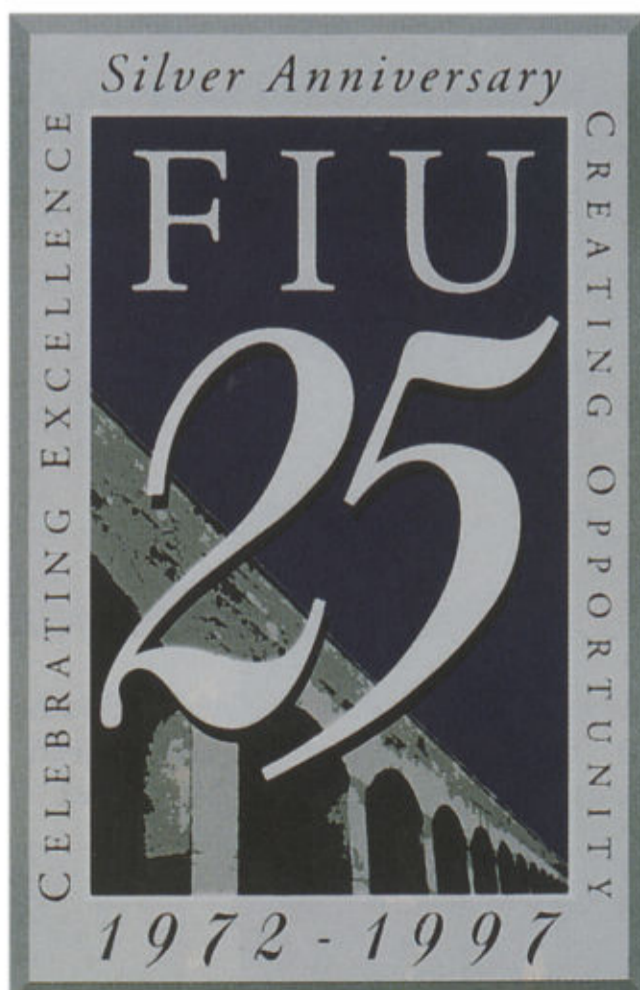
Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez, who played in the FIU Basketball Club in the early 1970s and graduated from the University in 1975, returned to his alma mater in 1995 as head coach of the men's basketball team. The former Miami Senior High coach, considered one of the best high school coaches in the country, would lead the Golden Panthers to new heights.



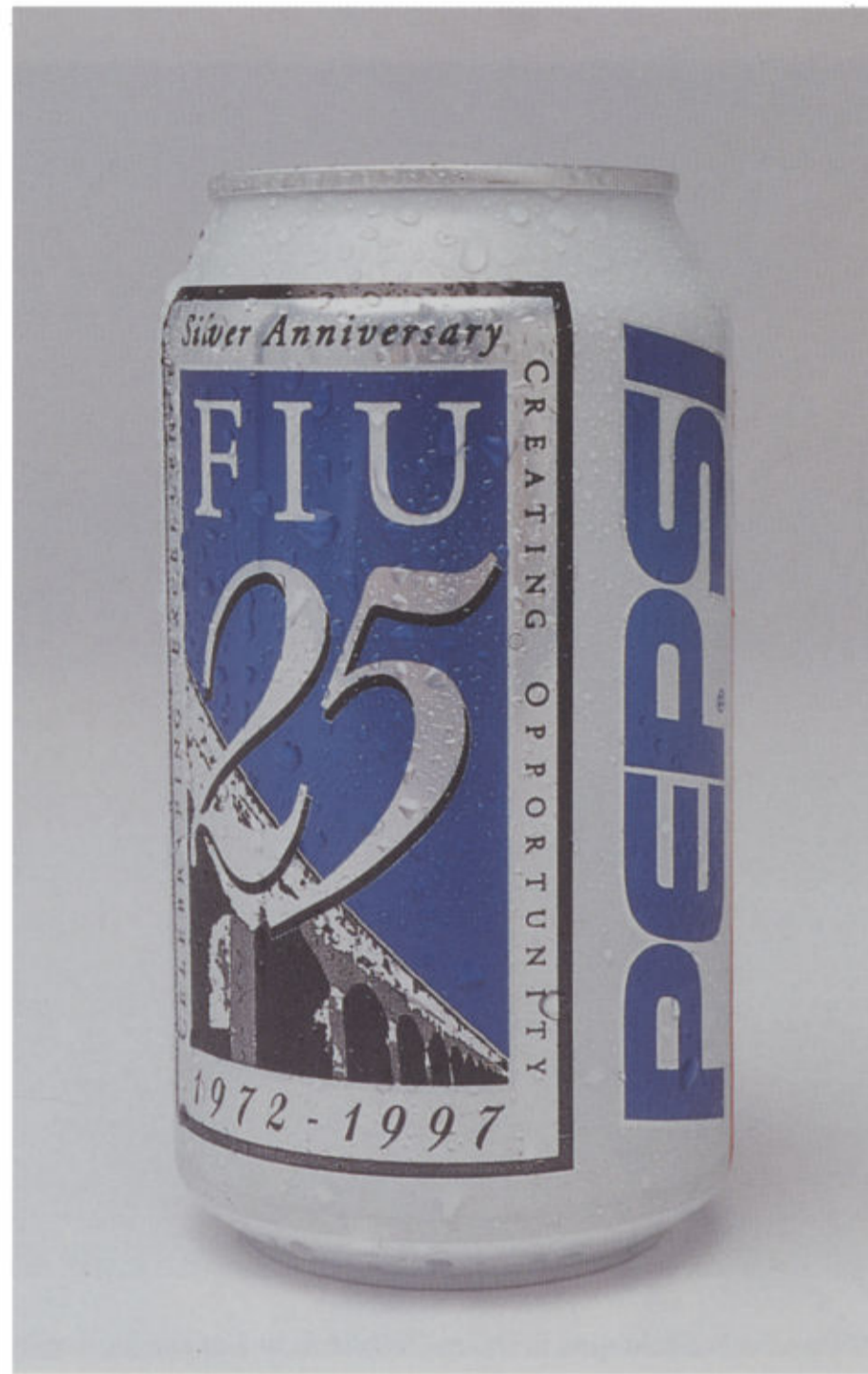
Women's basketball head coach Cindy Russo won her four-hundredth game at FIU in January 1997; by the end of the season, her twentieth season leading the team, she had compiled a 411-163 (.716) record.



Danny Price, head baseball coach, has been at the helm of the team since 1980 and has led them to nineteen winning seasons.



A special logo designed for FIU's twenty-fifth anniversary highlighted an architectural motif that had become a familiar feature around FIU's campuses and included the year's slogan—"Celebrating Excellence, Creating Opportunity."



The University's twenty-fifth anniversary logo adorned cans of Pepsi-Cola throughout South Florida in fall 1997. Pepsi donated beverages for the University's opening day ceremonies in 1972.



A special commemorative issue of *Florida International University Magazine* was published to mark the University's twenty-fifth anniversary.



Presidents past and present: Presidents Maidique, Perry, and Wolfe at one of the University's twenty-fifth anniversary events.





The Golden Panther cheerleading squad entertained the crowd at the home-opening soccer game during twenty-fifth anniversary week. The following spring, the team won the National Cheerleaders Association Grand National Championship.



One of the highlights of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration was a torch run from North Campus to University Park that included students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Views of the twenty-fifth anniversary torch run between North Campus and University Park.







The torch run concluded with President Maidique rekindling the Torch of Knowledge, Service, and Understanding at the twenty-fifth anniversary rededication ceremony.



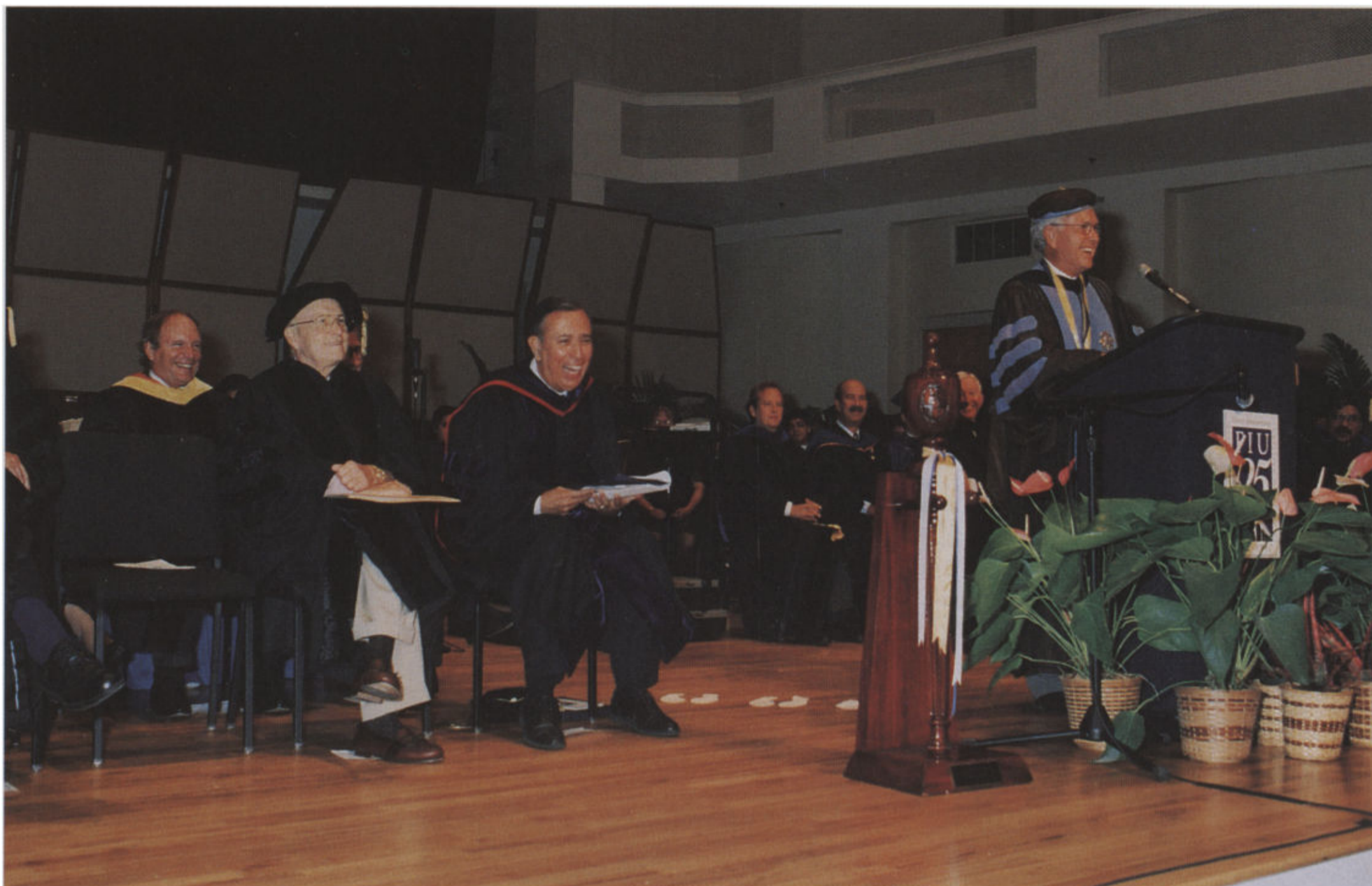
A daylong "birthday party" featuring the University's rededication culminated with a fireworks display.



President Perry dances into the night with a student after the University's rededication ceremony.



Founding President Perry was honored with the conferral of an honorary doctorate at the University Convocation held during twenty-fifth anniversary week.



Former President Gregory Wolfe shares a few words at the twenty-fifth anniversary Convocation.



Adele and U.S. Senator Bob Graham were on hand at the twenty-fifth anniversary festivities for the dedication of the new mini-mall in the Graham University Center and the unveiling of a portrait of his father, Ernest Graham, who presented the initial proposal to the Florida legislature in 1943 to establish a state university in South Florida.



U.S. Senator Bob Graham and founding president Charles Perry.



The University's Executive Council at the time of the silver anniversary: (front row from left) President Maidique; Mary Pankowski, vice president for University Outreach and Athletics; James Mau, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; (back row from left) Paul Gallagher, vice president for Advancement and Student Affairs; Cynthia Curry, vice president for Business and Finance; Steve Sauls, vice president for University Relations; and Richard Correnti, vice president for North Campus and Enrollment Management.



From abandoned airport . . . to one of the nation's leading public urban research universities.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, CREATING OPPORTUNITY

Chapter 6

What does the future hold for FIU? Perhaps a look back might offer a glimpse of the University's coming years. When FIU was established in 1972, President Perry knew that as the institution grew, matured, and developed the school's mission and goals would change accordingly. The founding president couldn't have been more right. By 1982, under the guidance of Gregory Wolfe, the University was transformed from an upper-division commuter school into a comprehensive university replete with lower-division students, master's programs, and doctoral students.

President Maidique again reshaped the focus of the University. FIU began to actively pursue the status of a research university. By 2010, Maidique expects FIU to accommodate forty-five thousand students, be awarded Research I status, have a law school, field a football team, and be on its way to establishing a medical school with FAU.

In 1972, FIU began with fifty-six hundred students in one building on one campus. In many ways, the school was an experimental university with the idea of offering an education in a wide variety of ways. Digital technology was on the horizon, telephones would never fit in a pocket, and even the thought of a computer on your lap made one wince. The University's three goals—Education of Students, Service to the Community, and Greater International

Understanding—were cast in bronze and set in concrete.

At twenty-fifth anniversary time, over 30,000 students were being taught by 1,350 faculty at two major campuses and three centers. The Physical Plant alone was valued at nearly \$300 million. The University's goals appeared on an Internet web page. They were as dynamic and flexible as technology and circumstances demanded. We had become a mature university.

Looking back, we might remember a sweltering day in September of 1969 when Donald L. McDowell, the newly appointed dean of Business Affairs at the still nonexistent new university, walked out of the weathered airport tower onto the runway. McDowell climbed inside one of two state cars assigned to the new school and made his way down Tamiami Trail. He was to bring back some supplies for repairing the old tower. A few miles down the road, he entered a hardware store, found his materials, and proceeded to the cash register.

"Where are all these things for?" the clerk inquired.

"For Florida International University," McDowell replied.

"Florida Inter-what?" the puzzled clerk asked. "What's that and where is it?"

Twenty-five years later, that question has been answered.

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