



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Groundbreaking / Miami, Florida

JANUARY 25, 1971



A reception in honor of Secretary-General U Thant and Governor Askew will be held in the Pavilion following the groundbreaking ceremonies. All those in attendance are cordially invited.

Appreciation is expressed to the Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida, Inc., Coral Gables, for providing the United Nations flags.

MUSIC

Carol City Senior High School Band
Mr. Clifford L. Colnot, Director

UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM

Led by Marta Castellanos

INVOCATION

Reverend Canon Theodore R. Gibson
Christ Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Charles E. Perry, President
Florida International University

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR

Honorable David T. Kennedy
Mayor, City of Miami

SPECIAL COMMENTS AND GREETINGS

Honorable Reubin O'D. Askew
Governor, The State of Florida

GREETINGS

The Florida Senate
Honorable Robert M. Haverfield
The Florida House of Representatives
Honorable Richard A. Pettigrew, Speaker
The Government of Metropolitan Dade County
Honorable Stephen P. Clark, Mayor
The South Florida Business and Professional Community
Honorable Frank J. Callahan, President
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
The Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida
Dr. Jerome P. Keuper, President, Florida Institute of Technology
The State University System of Florida
Dr. Robert B. Mautz, Chancellor

AWARDING OF HONORARY DOCTOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS DEGREE TO U THANT, SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS

Honorable D. Burke Kibler, III, Chairman, The Florida Board of Regents

RESPONSE

Honorable U Thant

GROUNDBREAKING

BENEDICTION

Most Reverend Coleman F. Carroll
Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami

*Order
of
Events*

For nine years, U Thant has served as Secretary-General of the United Nations — more than a third of the life of the organization which recently marked its twenty-fifth anniversary. More important is the way he has served — a calming influence on the many-troubled waters of the world. To millions of persons represented by the 127 nations in the UN, he is its living symbol.

U Thant first came to the UN in 1957 as Permanent Representative of Burma. While holding this position, he served as one of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly's fourteenth session (1959). As Chairman of the United Nations Congo Conciliation Commission (1961), he was a key figure in seeking solutions to Africa's problems.

Prior to serving in the UN, U Thant had a varied career, including the headmastership of the National High School in Pantanaw. In 1947, he was appointed Press Director of the Government of Burma, and, in 1948, Director of Broadcasting. The following year he became Secretary to the Government of Burma in the Ministry of Information. In 1953, he was appointed Secretary for projects in the Office of the Prime Minister, and, in 1955, took on additional duties as Executive Secretary of Burma's Economic and Social Board. He has been active in the Burma Research Society, Burma Council of World Affairs, Burmese Historical Commission, and Burma Translation Society.

Also active as a free-lance journalist, U Thant is the author of several books. Signifying his early interest in world order is the book he authored in 1933. It is titled "League of Nations."

For his distinguished service in the UN, U Thant has been awarded twenty-eight honorary doctoral degrees by universities and colleges — eighteen in the United States, five in Canada, and one each in India, the Soviet Union, Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland. The twenty-ninth honorary doctoral degree, to be awarded by Florida International University through the State University System, will be the first granted by Florida International University and the first to U Thant by an American institution of higher learning south of the Mason-Dixon line.



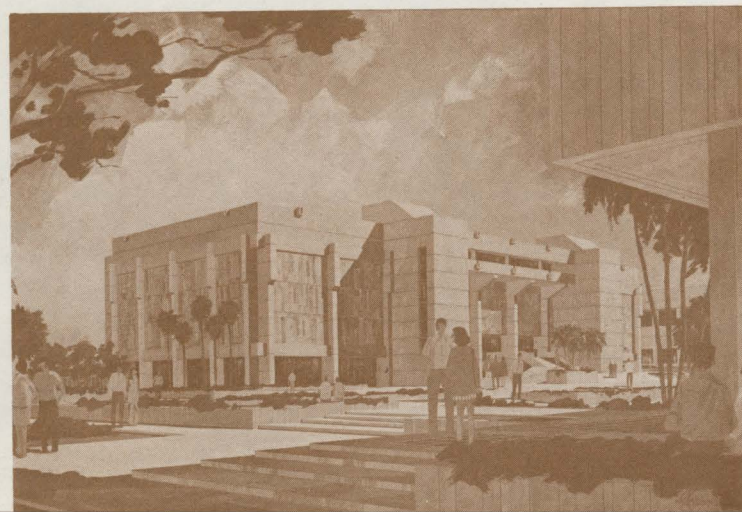
U Thant

*Multi-Purpose
Building —
the
Beginning*

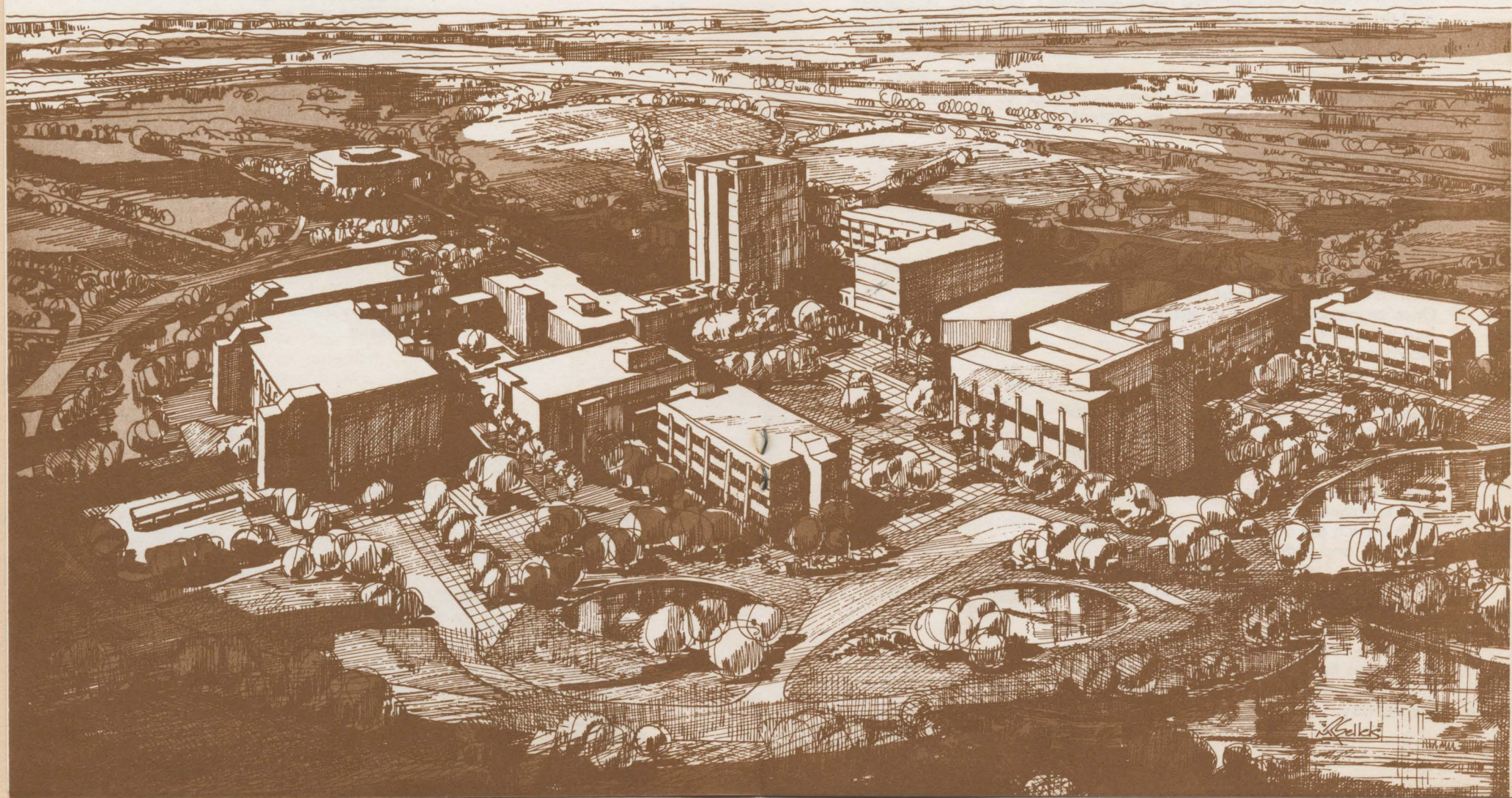
Today's groundbreaking ceremony officially marks the start of construction at Florida International's Tamiami campus. In a broader sense, however, the symbolic turning of Florida soil on the old Tamiami Trail signifies the planting of academic seeds that will grow into a new university.

This first major building, which is being constructed near the ceremonial site, will house the planning activities of the University, and will provide classrooms, laboratories, and faculty and staff offices. Also occupying space in the structure until the fall of 1975 will be the temporary Library. In addition, the building will provide for student services, shipping and receiving, telephone exchange, and other services vital to the operation and development of the University. To cope with changing needs at a minimum cost, the building will include both hard removable walls and flexible walls such as folding partitions.

A five-story structure totaling 200,000 square feet in area, the building will be constructed at a cost of \$5,678,550 by McDevitt & Street of Charlotte, N. C. The architects are Greenleaf/Telesca of Miami. Funds for the facility were provided by the Gross Utility Tax Bond Issue.



The Campus That Is To Be . . .



One of America's goals has long been to bring the maximum benefits of higher education to the greatest number of qualified persons. When a foot is placed on a shovel in the groundbreaking ceremonies today it will be a step in that direction.

Florida International University was created by an act of the State Legislature on June 22, 1965, as the first state university to be established in populous Dade County, linked to other heavily populated counties of South Florida. Serving the area through teaching and research will be the primary mission of Florida International. In addition, the institution will seek to promote greater mutual understanding among the Americas and throughout the world. In brief, Florida International will be both urban and world oriented.

The University will open its doors to baccalaureate and graduate students in the fall of 1972, with the initial enrollment expected to be about 4,250. The student body is anticipated to increase rapidly in number, reaching the 20,000 mark by 1980.

A multi-campus complex including part of the Interama site, is envisioned to meet future needs, with the nucleus erected on the 344-acre Tamiami Trail site provided by the people of Dade County. Once an airport, the site in recent years had become barren except for the old control tower and some small metal sheds, and knee-high grass and weeds growing between pock-marked asphalt runways. It had once been a place of great activity — planes landing and taking off. It will be that again — students coming in quest of knowledge and understanding, and departing to seek new horizons.

To hasten the day through coordinated planning and organizing, the founding corps of the University, headed by President Charles E. Perry, moved into the control tower in September of 1969. Perhaps the more appropriate phrase would be "squeezed into." But many great enterprises have had humble beginnings. That is part of pioneering, regardless of the century.

*Twentieth
Century
Pioneering*

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