FIU naming business school for Alvah Chapman

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Florida International University will name its graduate school of business after former Knight Ridder Chairman Alvah Chapman at a dinner in his honor next month.

The Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business will be formally introduced as part of the kickoff of a $10 million fundraising campaign to build a $30 million graduate business school facility.

Chapman, 80, is chairman emeritus of the FIU Foundation and a member of the university's newly created board of trustees. He has long been a key fundraiser for the business school, endowing a faculty position in business ethics, and for the university as a whole.

Chapman said the naming was an honor and he was "humbled" by the tribute.

``I have long believed that Miami needed a strong public university to meet the needs of the business community and of our people," he said.

The university hopes to raise $1 million at the naming banquet Nov. 1 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 1109 Brickell Ave., Miami. The business facility is slated to open in 2005.

FIU President Modesto Maidique said Chapman was the ideal choice for the honor.
``I think Alvah would be on anyone's list for South Florida's most..."
FIU business dean Joyce Elam said Chapman's career epitomizes the characteristics that she hopes will be instilled in the school's graduates.

A third-generation newspaperman, Chapman came to Miami in 1960 to work for Knight Newspapers, which then had five newspapers in four cities. He helped take the company public in 1969 and was the leading architect of the 1974 merger that created Knight Ridder in Miami.

The company, now headquartered in San Jose, Calif., publishes 32 daily newspapers, including The Herald and El Nuevo Herald, and produces a variety of online products.

Chapman became chief executive officer of Knight Ridder in 1976 and chairman in 1982. During his tenure, corporate revenue tripled and Knight Ridder newspapers won 33 Pulitzer Prizes. He retired as CEO in 1988 and stepped down as chairman the following year, and from the board in 2000.

Chapman has also been a leader in civic and community projects. He co-founded the Non-Group, an influential alliance of Miami-Dade business leaders, chaired a United Fund campaign and Miami Citizens Against Crime, and headed the "We Will Rebuild" effort after Hurricane Andrew.