BY ELIZABETH ROMERO

FIU’s College of Business Administration (CBA) paid tribute to the “stars” who have contributed to the success of the university and the rise in prominence of its business school with an “Evening of Stars” on Thursday, Mar. 10, on the Ryder Business Building’s front lawn.

Hosted by Telemundo 51 anchor and FIU alumnus Ivan Taylor, the occasion was attended by some 500 contributors, students, faculty, staff, alumni, administrators, boards, councils of the university, area business and political leaders, donors and friends.

Dr. Modesto (Mitch) Maidique, president of FIU, and Joyce J. Elam, executive dean of the CBA, delivered the evening’s program. To mark the milestone in the history of the college and university, guests were treated to an exclusive concert featuring FIU’s own Nestor Torres and the FIU Jazz Band along with a buffet dinner sponsored by Outback Steakhouse.

During the celebration, guests received a first glimpse, through a high-tech computer-generated virtual tour, of the new state-of-the-art business building complex that will grace the campus in the near future.

“We are excited and proud of this building project that, once completed, will foster a sense of pride among our constituents,” Elam said. “The structure has been designed to incorporate technology and foster hands-on learning and interaction among students and with professors — important elements to allow us to offer interactive learning and to develop effective business leaders.”

The complex will feature four buildings:

Commons Hall — This structure will house the Executive Board Room that projects out into a pinnacle and overlooks the entire complex, and it will feature student spaces, study rooms and a coffee shop.

Student Hall — The Admissions and Career Services Offices will be located on the first floor and upstairs will be a multipurpose center to be used for both large and small gatherings. The Courtyard features landscaping and student areas for interaction, relaxation, and studying as well as running water integrated into the free-flowing space.

Academic Hall — This structure features 60-person tiered classrooms, collaborative learning classrooms, study rooms, computer and research laboratories, and a 300-seat auditorium that can be converted to a 75-seat tiered classroom.

Faculty and Research Center Hall — This portion of the building encircles a Faculty Courtyard and provides another entrance to the complex on the south side. It will house faculty offices, instructional and technology spaces, and administrative office for the college’s research centers.

In conjunction with the unveiling of plans, the college officially launched its “Building for Business” campaign to raise public funds in the amount of $15 million and also recognized its existing major donors, including lead donor R. Kirk Landon, for whose generous gift the college named the R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business. Alvah H. Chapman Jr. was recognized for his donation in October 2001 with the naming of the Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business. Additional major donors included:

Clips From: O'CONNELL & GOLDBERG
Ocean Bank, whose gift will be honored with the naming of the Ocean Bank Auditorium in Academic Hall.

Bank of America, whose gift will be honored on the new Bank of America Career Services Center, to be housed in Student Hall.

Wachovia Foundation, whose gift will be recognized in Academic Hall by naming a 40-seat Collaboration Classroom the Wachovia Classroom.

Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra LLP, whose gift also will be recognized in Academic Hall by naming a 40-seat Collaboration Classroom the Morrison, Brown, Argiz and Farra LLP Classroom.

Armando Codina, Guarded Networks Inc., Regions Bank Graham Family, Augusto (Gus) Vidaurreta and his wife, Jeanie.

People interested in contributing to the Building for Business campaign and leaving a legacy on the wall of recognition to be displayed in the new building complex are urged to visit <http://cba.fiu.edu> or to contact Annabelle Rojas at 305-348-3339.