

Florida International University's College of Business Administration Hosts Ribbon-Cutting

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MIAMI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--February 12, 2008--Saturday, February 9, 2008, marked a significant milestone in the history of Florida International University as it celebrated the opening of its new business building complex at University Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

We now have a beautiful, state-of-the-art business building complex that can serve as a home not only for our current students, faculty, and staff, but South Florida and around the world, said Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. This facility, which extends our business campus beyond the Ryder Business Center, would not have been possible without the support of the university, particularly President Modesto A. Maidique, of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and the community.

What she noted started as a dream and a drawing on the back of a napkin in 2005, when the Building for Business Campaign was launched - the first of its kind ever undertaken, one component of which is its Building Complex Fund, culminated in its grand opening today.

The day's events began with a complimentary breakfast in the building complex's courtyard. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in front of the Grand second floor of Student Hall. The formal program, held in the Ocean Bank Auditorium in Academic Hall and which included introductory remarks by Elam, a speech from Steve Odland, Chairman and CEO, Office Depot, Inc. Following the program, guests were treated to a lunch, again in the courtyard, and

Our new Business Building Complex is indeed a symbol of how much our College of Business Administration has grown from its early days more than the perseverance and dedication of our faculty, staff, and community supporters who believed our world-class business school deserved a world-class

Maidique noted that Elam has been the driving force behind the college's rise to one of the nation's leading business schools with an international reputation. The same determination that she has demonstrated throughout her years at FIU, Dean Elam tackled this immense and important project to build the business school complex and followed it step by step - from the pouring of the concrete

The College of Business Administration's Building Complex

The new business building complex consists of three distinct buildings in a diagonal design of interlocking forms at the heart of the University Park campus. The design complements the climate and unique features of South Florida's landscape.

Spiraling upwards, the buildings rise in gradient fashion from two to three stories, highlighted by a 65-foot main entrance lobby and connected by external walkways. Access is available to students and faculty as they move from building to building.

I believe our new facility captures the spirit of the business school. Its dramatic design, contemporary style, innovative structure, student-friendly spaces, and green design reflect the sense of community, momentum, and entrepreneurial leadership that permeates the college today, Elam said.

In January, 2008, the new business building complex won the 2008 Award of Merit at the State of Florida's Conference of Facility Planners the only Florida-based recognition. The complex includes:

Three-story Commons Hall, which houses the college's administrative offices, an executive board room, Chapman Graduate School program manager's office, Student Center, Student Learning Center, Preferred Care Partners, Inc. Student Organization Room, the Kaufman, Rossin & Company and IKON Office

Student Hall, a two-story building that includes a Special Events Center, offices for Executive and Professional Education and MBA Programs, the Boardroom with the Egon Zehnder International, Inc. Conference Room, Graham Family Resource Library, Alumni Circle Recruiters Lounge, and ten interview rooms

Academic Hall, also two stories, which features the Ocean Bank Auditorium, a two-level, 300-seat auditorium; three 60-seat tiered classroom rooms; a computer lab; and a Capital Markets Lab with financial databases and software.

Major Donors

Major donors to the Building Complex Fund include:

R. Kirk Landon, former president and CEO of American Banker's Insurance (now Assurant Group), hence the Landon Undergraduate School of Business; Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. and Betty Chapman, former CEO and chairman, Knight Ridder, Miami, hence the Chapman Graduate School of Business with

Ocean Bank

Office Depot, Inc.

Armando Codina and Margarita Codina

Bank of America

Regions Bank

Wachovia Bank, N.A.