



The entrepreneurs behind internationally-known Zumba Fitness, LLC and the Tortuga Rum Cake Company, both Florida International University (FIU) College of Business Administration alumni, will be inducted into the College's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at a ceremony on May 19, 2011 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Westin Colonnade in Coral Gables.

Benjamín Leon Jr., chairman and founder of Leon Medical Centers, will receive the South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year award at the event, "The Magic of Entrepreneurship." Alberto Aghion (BBA '99), co-founder and COO of Zumba Fitness, LLC, and Monique Hamaty-Simmonds (BBA '96), CEO, Tortuga Rum Cake Company, will be honored in the 12th annual ceremony, presented by the College of Business Administration and the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center.

"We look forward to honoring the accomplishments of these three dynamic entrepreneurs as we celebrate the contributions that FIU Business alumni have made to our local, national and international communities," said executive dean of the business school Joyce J. Elam.

Hamaty-Simmonds will receive the "Builder Award," recognizing her achievements in growing Tortuga Rum Cake Company into a multi-million dollar company named by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest growing private businesses in the United States for four consecutive years. Alberto Aghion will receive the "Founder Award" for his work with Zumba Fitness, LLC, which has a worldwide following of over 10 million people.

Benjamín Leon Jr., South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year, is a visionary in the healthcare field whose company has made a difference in the lives of seniors and families in Miami-Dade County for more than four decades. A generous donor to FIU, Leon's gift to the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine established the Benjamín Leon, Jr. Family Center for Geriatric Research and Education.