FIU’S COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING COMPLEX DURING AN “EVENING OF STARS”

Fundraising Launch Event Recognized Major Donors and Featured Exclusive Concert by Nestor Torres with FIU Jazz Band

MIAMI, Fla. – (March 11, 2005) – 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.” The event was held on the Ryder Business Building’s front lawn on Thursday, March 10.

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 latest bright star in the University – the new state-of-the-art business building complex which 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,” said CBA Executive Dean Joyce J. Elam. “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 three-hundred seat auditorium which can be converted to a 75-seat tiered classroom.

• **Faculty and Research Center Hall** – This portion of the building encases 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 dollars 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. Champan, Jr. Graduate School of Business. Additional major donors included:

• **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](http://cba.fiu.edu) or to contact Annabelle Rojas at (305) 348-3339.

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration, South Florida’s leading business school with unique expertise in international business, entrepreneurship, and information technology (IT) strategy, is the largest of the University’s professional schools. Among the College’s more than 30,000 alumni are some of South Florida’s most successful business leaders and entrepreneurs. Approximately 8,000 students are enrolled in its undergraduate business courses in its R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business and more than 800 graduate students study in its Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Graduate School of Business every year. Another 1,000 participate annually in one or more of its professional and executive education programs.

The College is one of only 482 business schools in the world—about 25% of all business schools worldwide—accredited by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It ranks in the top 10 among these schools in the number of students it graduates each year, and its Chapman School offers the 6th largest part-time MBA program among them. *U.S. News & World Report* (2005) ranked the international business programs in the College’s Landon Undergraduate School of Business the 9th best in the nation and the international business programs in its Chapman Graduate School of Business among the top 25 in the U.S. (*Best Graduate Schools 2005*)—the only Florida business school to make both lists. *Business Week* (October 11, 2004) has again ranked the College among the top 15% in the U.S., placing it in the group with American, Fordham, George Washington, South Carolina, Syracuse, Rutgers, Tulane, and others. For the past three years, *América Economia*, a premier pan-regional business journal, has rated it among the top 50 MBA schools for Latin American students. For the last five years, *Hispanic Business* has ranked the
College among the top 25 business schools for Hispanics. *Hispanic Trends* (Summer 2003) ranked the College in its list of the Top 25 MBA programs for Latinos—the only Florida business school to make the cut. Additionally, in March 2004, *HispanicMagazine.com* ranked the school in its Top 25 colleges for Latinos. The College also is one of only 32 business schools to have received a U.S. Department of Education grant to establish and support a Center for International Business Education and Research.

For additional information about the College, its Landon Undergraduate School of Business, and its Chapman Graduate School of Business, please call Assistant Dean Sally Gallion at (305) 348-6631, e-mail gallions@fiu.edu or visit the College’s website at [http://cba.fiu.edu](http://cba.fiu.edu).

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