PROFESSOR FROM FIU’s COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PUBLISHES INFORMATION ON RECENT STUDY IN MONEY LAUNDERING ALERT
Research Inspired by the Movie, The Sum of All Fears

MIAAMI, Fla. – May 8, 2003 – In its May 2003 issue, Money Laundering Alert published the first of a series of articles that will offer readers a glimpse of the sometimes all too realistic plot behind Hollywood movies.

Dr. John Zdanowicz, a professor of Finance at Florida International University’s College of Business Administration, got the idea for his research on the detection of abnormal weights in U.S. international trade after watching the terrorism-based movie, The Sum of All Fears.

Zdanowicz states in the article that during the movie it dawned on him that the vending machine containing the atomic bomb must have weighed significantly more than a regular vending machine.

Together with his colleague, Professor Donald Chambers of Lafayette College, they focused their attention on the U.S. State Department’s 25 Al Qaeda “Watch List” countries, and after the weight characteristics of every U.S. import transaction from 2001 were studied they developed a computer analysis that allows the determination of normal weight characteristics for all products that reached U.S. soil.

“The greatest value of this analytical technique is that it could be coupled with real time import data to determine which items should be inspected by Homeland Security agents,” said Zdanowicz. “I believe this analysis could be used by U.S. as well as other governments that are concerned about illegal and suspicious imports crossing their borders.”

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Zdanowicz, who has received numerous accolades for his research on U.S. import and exports, is a member of *Money Laundering Alert’s* Editorial Board of Advisors. Recently, he spoke about abnormal prices in international trade and suspicious import weights at the publication’s 8th Annual International Money Laundering Conference in Miami Beach.

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration (CBA), South Florida’s business education leader with unique expertise in international business, entrepreneurship, and information technology (IT), is the largest of FIU’s professional schools. It enrolls approximately 3,400 students in its undergraduate program and more than 1,100 graduate students in its Chapman Graduate School of Business each year. It also is South Florida’s top-rated business research school and one of only 435 business schools in the world accredited by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The College’s Chapman School offers the 6th-largest part-time MBA program among this group. *Business Week* (October 21, 2002) ranked it among the best in the U.S., placing it in the third tier group along American, Fordham, George Washington, South Carolina, Syracuse, Rutgers, Tulane, and others. The August 23, 2002 issue of *America Economia*, a premier pan-regional business journal, rated it among the top 50 international MBA schools for Latin American students. *Hispanic Business* (March 2002) ranked the CBA among the top five business schools for Hispanics. The College also is one of only 30 business schools to have received a Department of Education grant to establish and support an international business center.

For additional information about the CBA and its Chapman School, please call Assistant Dean Sally Gallion, (305) 348-6631.

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