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FIU’s COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONOR PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADERS AT ENTREPRENEURSHIP HALL OF FAME EVENT

MIAMI, Fla. – (June 3, 2003) – FIU’s College of Business Administration (CBA) recently paid tribute to local business entrepreneurs who have achieved distinction as founders and builders of new business enterprises at its annual Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Luncheon.

This year’s 2003 Hall of Fame inductee was Anthony Ronconi, founder, principal, chief technology officer and chief strategy officer, StrataSys Group, LLC, a premier provider of high-end information technology services. Ronconi, who received his B.B.A. with an MIS major from the CBA in 1988, was chosen from among the College’s distinguished alumni. Five alumni have been inducted to date. Additionally, for the first time, the CBA also recognized a member of the South Florida business community who is an entrepreneur, but not an alumnus/ae. Howard J. Leonhardt, founder, chairman and CEO, Bioheart, Inc., the leading firm in non-surgical repair of heart muscle using cells, was named the 2003 South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year.

“Entrepreneurship is a core area of emphasis in the College and a vital element of everything the College does – from classroom instruction to faculty research to the school’s annual international business plan competition,” said Joyce J. Elam, executive dean of the CBA and Alvah H. Chapman, Jr., Graduate School of Business, who spoke at the event. “We strive to instill in our graduates the values of innovation and discovery, and this event allows us to honor those individuals who have put these values into practice and been successful.”

The Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame was established in 1999 through a gift provided by SunTrust Bank, Miami, to recognize individuals for their successes and significant contributions to the business community and to promote the
entrepreneurial spirit throughout the CBA. This year’s event was expanded to include media partnerships with *South Florida CEO*, NBC6 and Telemundo. Additionally, news anchors Pam Gigante and Ambrosio Hernandez served as hosts for the event.

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 group with 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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