Dominique Virchaux, managing director of Virchaux & Partners, an executive search firm, was elected to the board of directors of The Beacon Council. Virchaux, who has 20 years in the executive search business, obtained his degree in business science in Fribourg, Switzerland, and is a certified public accountant from the University of the State of New York.

Randy Anderson recently joined Florida International University's College of Business Administration as Ryder Eminent Scholar and Professor of Real Estate/Finance. He will help to enhance the real estate curriculum and develop a master of science in international real estate by this time next year. Anderson previously held concurrent positions as the academic director of the William Newman Real Estate Program at The City University of New York and as chief economist and director of research for The Carus Company and Millichip Company in Palo Alto, Calif.

For the first time, Baker & McKenzie LLP attorneys and staff from 11 offices in the North American region participated in walk-a-thons, office events and fundraisers to help raise money and awareness for breast cancer. The Miami office took part in a walk-a-thon on Oct. 2. In addition to the Miami office, participants were from the firm's Calgary, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, Palo Alto, San Diego, San Francisco, Toronto and Washington, D.C., offices. The firm is also partnering with its clients Jones Lang LaSalle Inc., Anadys Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Open Text in many of the region-wide office events.

Joyce Elam, executive dean of Florida International University's College of Business Administration, recently appointed Josefina Carreno as chair of her Alumni Circle. The Circle consists of a dynamic group of mid- to senior-level College of Business Administration alumni who serve as role models for current and future alumni. The group also lends its business expertise to help enhance the college's curriculum and research efforts.

Carreno earned a master's in business administration from the university and a bachelor's of science in biology from the University of Miami. Throughout her career, Carreno has held various positions with Beckman Coulter Corporation Inc. in the clinical cellular analysis division. She is currently the director and site manager of Program Management/OEM/Reagents Product Development.

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce appointed Nancy Hogan of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate as chair for the chamber's 2004-05 fiscal year.

Gayle Bainbridge of Elliot, McKiever and Stowe Inc. was selected as chairman-elect.

Hogan is an award-winning real estate executive with more than 25 years of experience. She is currently the district manager of Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Inc. and is directly responsible for a workforce of over 140 sales agents and support staff with sales exceeding 400 million per year.

Bainbridge has provided property and casualty insurance to South Florida businesses for over 22 years. In 1986, Gayle was awarded the highest educational achievement in her industry, the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter. Less than 1 percent of insurance agents receive this designation.

Business notes are compiled by Liana Kozlowski. To have items included in this column, e-mail biznotes@herald.com, mail to Business Notes, c/o Neighbors, 7300 N. Kendall Dr., Suite 200, Miami, FL 33156 or fax 305-671-4350. If the item is about an employee award, promotion, award or a new hire, please include the area in which the person lives. Also include a phone number where you can be reached.