A salute to those who strengthen community

Three community leaders and three prominent companies received honors at the third annual Gold Medal Awards dinner, highlighting the best of those who had already been selected for top awards in other local, state and national awards competitions.

The trophies were recently presented at an open-air dinner surrounding the swimming pool at The Cloisters residences in Coconut Grove. Leaders in business and civic organizations from throughout Miami-Dade County attended.

Miami Today established the Gold Medal Awards to honor the best of the best, choosing among only persons and organizations that already had received significant honors in the past year, said Michael Lewis, editor and publisher, and competition was more intense than ever before.

The winners for 2002 are:

- **Gold Medalist Individual**: Patricia A. Redmond, partner in the law firm Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff Sitterson.
- **Silver Medalist Individual**: Michael S. Goldberg, senior vice president and area executive of Colonial Bank.
- **Silver Medalist Company**: The PharmD Group, based in Miami with operations in six other nations, manufacturer and distributor of pharmaceuticals and medical-surgical products.
- **Bronze Medalist Individual**: Cesar Alvarez, managing partner of Greenberg Traurig law firm.
- **Bronze Medalist Company**: Continental National Bank of Miami.

Reports on each of the winners will be found in this Gold Medal Awards section.

The University of Miami School of Business presented the Gold Medal for a company. Ed Rosasco, newly named director of the Business Health & Policy Administration program within the school and a winner in the 2001 Gold Medal competition when he headed Mercy Hospital, and Assistant Dean for Administration and Development help presented the award that evening.

The Silver Medal for an individual. Judging the competition were Joyce Elam, dean of the School of Business Administration at Florida International University; Tony Goldman, chairman of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau and chairman & CEO of Goldman Properties; Frank Nero, president & CEO of the Beacon Council; Mario Ortiz, chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and president of SunTrust Bank in Miami-Dade County; Peter Roulhac, first vice chairman of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and vice president & community programs director of First Union National Bank of Florida; Paul Sugrue, dean of the University of Miami School of Business, and J. Antonio Villamil, chairman of Florida's Council of Economic Advisors and president & CEO of the Washington Economics Group.

The judges made their selections based on:
- The importance of the achievements for which the nominees had already been cited in earlier competitions and the importance of the recognizing agency or organization.
- The long-term impact of the honoree's achievement on this community.

"Impact on our community is key," Mr. Lewis told the audience at the awards dinner. "It's our hope at Miami Today that by recognizing not only excellence in one's field but also achievement that is vital to this community's future, we will encourage the linkage between personal or organizational achievement and community advancement."

A total of 17 individuals and 10 companies or organizations were nominated for the awards this year.

Five of the winners accepted their etched glass plaques to the applause of the crowd.

The absence of the sixth was emblematic of the spirit of the awards. Ms. Redmond, the Gold Medal winner among individuals who were chosen for honors on all judging forms, was in Tallahassee Thursday night accepting the 2002 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award.

Her award was accepted for her by another guest, law partner Jimmy Morales, who not only is a county commissioner but who won honors in last year's Gold Medal Awards competition for his service to the community.

Mr. Morales was among a number of winners from the previous two years of the awards who had assembled to pay tribute to this year's crop of honorees.