Deborah Roffino
WorldCity People

FIU professor brings ideas, world travels to program

Laura Kozloski envisions a "mini-Thunderbird" at Florida International University as she prepares to inaugurate the school's first undergraduate International Business Honors Program.

Her track record indicates that she could do it.

Kozloski, 37, began teaching at FIU last fall, following five years with Ryder System as a consultant, as head of the international division and, eventually, as director of corporate development.

An alumna of Thunderbird, she is modeling FIU's new program on the renowned, Arizona-based international management graduate program. As part of the College of Business, the FIU version will offer a three-part curriculum immersing stu-
FIU professor launching Thunderbird-style program

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dents in global business, international affairs and modern languages.

"I envision the course level between undergraduate and graduate, where the students choose a region, become proficient in a language of that region, take targeted courses and spend a term in the country," Kozloski said.

The inaugural Laura Kozloski class of 30 students in FIU's new international studies program will start in September, but Kozloski expects to have everything in place by summer, giving her time to accept a few consulting projects.

Before Ryder, Kozloski, a native of Connecticut, worked for Otis Elevator as a development specialist, involved in joint ventures in Central Europe and Asia.

In 1990, she helped renegotiate a 51 percent joint venture agreement for Otis in China, the first majority-owned joint venture agreement in that country.

Soon after, Kozloski worked for a Cambridge, Mass.-based firm, Associates for International Research, traveling to 50 countries in a two-year period, analyzing economics and cost of living expenses for expatriates.

Between coursework at Thunderbird and doctoral studies at the University of Miami, Kozloski worked for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague following the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. She developed programs for the country as it entered new markets.

At Ryder, Kozloski spent much of her time overseas seeking new markets and forming joint ventures while setting up operations in Brazil, Argentina, Singapore, Sweden, Malaysia and China.

When Ryder restructured two years ago, they moved Kozloski to corporate development where she led the team that sold the Ryder bus company for $940 million in 1999.

Kosloski began looking for a way to catch her breath and share her expertise.

"I really wanted to get back to teaching full time," said Kozloski, who had taught at Barry University and FIU as an adjunct professor while she was with Ryder.

"My lectures are based on real experience. This is an opportunity to take education up a notch," she said.