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Florida Public Officials Design Institute at Abacoa
The Florida Public Officials Design Institute at Abacoa (Design Institute), an initiative of the Catanese Center and a team of community professionals, is dedicated to improving communities by providing elected officials training in design. To address diverse local government issues, ideas are developed and specific recommendations are proposed in a daylong problem-solving session. All elements of design are in play - planning, urban design, landscape design, economic development, density, infrastructure planning, and financial realities.

Robert Gibbs, a nationally recognized retail analyst from Michigan, set the tone for our second Design Institute on April 24. During an evening lecture on Florida Atlantic University's (FAU's) Jupiter Campus, Gibbs addressed an audience of 130 and answered questions about factors determining retail success or failure. He offered pragmatic solutions for those who hope to breathe life into aging retail centers or promote town center redevelopment. The next day, 10 urban design and development experts participated in the workshop and made recommendations on a number of interesting scenarios. Lantana Council member Elizabeth Tennyson brought a challenging situation - the redevelopment of a 140-acre site and adjoining landfill. Vero Beach Mayor Sandra Bowden wanted advice on how to preserve and protect the city's "low rise, low density" development pattern. Coconut Creek Commissioner Jim Waldman needed ideas on guiding the development of a 400-acre parcel into a mixed-use town center.

(continued on pages 4-5)
I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate three great leaders, whose vision continues to inspire and inform our mission of providing solutions to urban and environmental issues through partnerships, education, and research.

First, we welcome President Frank T. Brogan (’81), the 15th Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida, who became FAU’s fifth President in March 2003. Elected in 1994 as Florida's youngest Commissioner of Education, he supported higher academic standards and greater accountability in schools. At the Annual Sustainable Florida Awards Program in July, President Brogan emphasized "the importance of transferring the academic work, research, and genius within universities to students, and to serving the needs of the greater community we call home." As we continue to meet our own goals and objectives, we here at the Center look forward to working with President Brogan to implement FAU's mission to provide access and opportunity to higher education and as a result enhance our communities, challenge research frontiers, and enlighten the minds of our students.

Second, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. John M. DeGrove, recipient of Leadership Florida’s 2003 LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award. LeRoy Collins, known as Florida's Education Governor (1955-61), set an example of principled leadership still admired today. Upon his death in 1991, the Florida House of Representatives eulogized him as the "Floridian of the Century." In presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. DeGrove, Lester Abberger, a 2002 Knight Fellow at the University of Miami (see related story on page 6), said that Dr. DeGrove’s "fresh approach to complex issues has, for decades now, shaped public and private debate about how Florida should best grow … while protecting our heritage, our environment and our economy."

Third, we note with great sadness the passing of friend and educator, Dr. John Scott Dailey, who lost his battle with cancer on May 21. Scott served as Executive Director of the Florida Institute of Government since 1981. Recently renamed in his honor (see related story on page 5), the Institute includes affiliates at five state universities. Sarah Shannon, Director of the Institute's FAU affiliate, remarked, "Scott's infectious sense of humor and compassion will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to know him."

These forward-thinking leaders have shaped the Center's research agenda. This issue highlights two of our cornerstone programs: Regional and Coastal Initiatives. Other research and education projects, together with staff activities, are detailed throughout the issue.

In furtherance of our goal to maintain and enhance connections within Florida and the nation, we are modifying the biannual printing of Florida Connections and replacing it with more reliance on our websites, e-newsletters, and a printed annual report. This will enable us to provide timely information and access to research documents online. Through these and other methods, our constituents can interact with the Center and its hosted affiliates.

We look forward to developing existing partnerships, forging new ones, and continuing the dialogue on promoting regional thinking and action, while seeking solutions to urban and environmental issues.
Coastal & Ocean Initiatives

Celebrating Florida Oceans Day 2003
Florida legislators designated March 31 through April 4 as “Florida Ocean Education Week” to promote public awareness and stewardship of the state’s ocean resources. As part of the festivities in Tallahassee, the Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA) helped sponsor “Ocean Education Day.” A joint exhibit by the Catanese Center, secretariat for FOA, and FAU’s SeaTech Campus were among 30 on display. Dr. Ellen Prager of the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science made a presentation to more than 400 area school children. Ken Haddad, Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, distributed awards to winners of the Florida Sea Grant/4H Poster Contest.

Oceans Day 2003 events were sponsored and organized by FOA, the Florida Institute of Oceanography, and Mote Marine Laboratory. FOA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public-private partnership of government, academic, and private sectors formed in 1999 to promote awareness and understanding of the ocean’s importance to the ecology and economy of Florida. More information is available from Dr. Lenore Alpert, lalpert@fau.edu, or on the website, www.FloridaOceanAlliance.org.

Evaluating the Economics of Beaches
On behalf of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Catanese Center recently completed an evaluation of the economics of beach restoration in Florida. This multi-faceted study provides education on the importance of beach management to the state and national economies. The study tracked federal, state, and local beach-related expenditures and funding sources from 1992 to 2002. The inventory encompassed Florida beach projects performed in that timeframe. The literature review and bibliography focused on both in- and out-of-state research. The Outreach Document presented data on the impacts of beach restoration and the status of Florida’s beaches. The Concept Paper proposed a statewide model to address the need for a broader approach to analyzing the economics of beaches. For further information, please contact Dr. Lenore Alpert, lalpert@fau.edu.

Focusing on Biscayne Bay
The Florida Legislature created the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative (BBPI) in 1999. Catanese Center Director Murley served as BBPI director.

The final BBPI report (January 2001) recommended the creation of a Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT), as an advisory body of the Working Group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. The BBRRCT has been meeting regularly since Fall 2001. Guided by the BBPI, team members are working to maintain a functioning ecosystem while promoting a sustainable region. Among other tasks, the BBRRCT prioritizes projects in need of funding. FY01 projects were funded at $6 million (Florida Legislative Appropriation 1748), with $3.5 million for land acquisition and $2.5 million for 14 specific tasks consistent with BBPI. Matching funds totaled $5.8 million. The appropriation was provided to the SFWMD for administration and disbursement.

The Catanese Center was contracted to develop www.DiscoverBiscayneBay.org, which was launched last summer. The Trust for Public Land Access Study and Citizens for a Better South Florida’s Environmental Education Database were among the FY01 projects. Information on these and related items can be found on the website, and in the monthly Biscayne Bay Bulletin, an electronic publication of the Catanese Center. The FY02 Florida Legislature appropriated $3.5 million for 10 new projects (Line Item 1769), and $8 million for land acquisition (Line Item 1645). However, no new appropriations have since been made. Please contact MJ Matthews, JD, mmatthew@fau.edu.

Implementing the Marine Master Plan
In Fall 2001, the Catanese Center, in conjunction with the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts - Boston, submitted a Master Plan for the Marine Industries Association of South Florida. After a Marine Summit last October, seven committees (composed of industry and government leaders) began working to implement strategies to meet Plan goals. A major objective is to publicize the importance of the industry to regional prosperity with respect to expanding economic growth, employment opportunities, and recreational activities. To this end, several tasks have been undertaken.

For example, two sample ordinances have been prepared to encourage marine uses of property and preserve marine-related sites at the local level. A countywide land-use designation for Marine Activity Centers has been developed for consideration by county officials. A survey of marine industry workforce needs has been conducted, and sites for industry expansion identified and mapped. Market profiles and economic impacts and trends are being compiled and analyzed. A megayacht survey is nearing completion. In addition, an intermodal waterborne-transportation network is being considered to provide for the efficient and safe mobility of people and goods countywide. For more information, please contact Dr. Lenore Alpert, lalpert@fau.edu.
ter. Finally, North Miami Beach Council member Raymond Marin sought advice on transforming the city's downtown redevelopment into a city center. Each of the local government officials came away from the session with a set of short- and long-range options tailored to his or her particular case. The next Design Institute program will be held in October 2003.

For more information, contact Associate Director Marie York at 561.799.8689 or myork@fau.edu or visit www.floriddesigninstitute.org.

**Shifting Region: Connections and Transitions in South Florida**

The Catanese Center published *Imaging the Region: South Florida via Indicators and Public Opinions* [available at www.catanese.org/regional] in January 2001, to identify key themes in South Florida's lifestyle and population, economy, and environment. This publication provides the baseline for an emerging dialogue about the region and its future. We are currently conducting research for a streamlined report, to be released in January 2004, that will highlight significant ways in which the region changed during the 1990s, and expand on major themes from the first report.

As part of this effort, the Center will establish an advisory board of nationally recognized experts working in the area of regional indicators to review its work and make recommendations for a third iteration. This third report, to be released in January 2006, will also benefit from the Center's participation in the Alliance for Regional Stewardship's (www.regionalstewardship.org) Indicators Affinity Group and will focus on indicators that can be used within a national system of regional scorecards to be used by other regions across the country.

To formulate mechanisms for developing policy solutions to regional problems, the Center is also beginning to analyze the transportation policy network to understand how it improves the capacity for regional governance around critical focal issues. The Center will continue to collaborate with Dr. Allan Wallis of the University of Colorado at Denver in all phases of the project and is collaborating with Dr. Juliet Gainsborough of the University of Miami on the network analysis.

For more information, contact Dr. Lenore Alpert at 954.762.5268 or lalpert@fau.edu.

**Research South Florida: Linking Regional Research to Sustainable Regional Growth**

The Catanese Center recently initiated a planning process to create a collaborative organization of regional research-oriented institutions in Southeast Florida. Public and private universities and colleges, nonprofit institutions, and quasi-governmental entities will participate in Research South Florida. The purpose is to provide coordinated and interdisciplinary research on issues relating to South Florida's growth and development, such as traffic congestion, cultural diversity, and coastal resource protection. Objectives include facilitating research among participants, maximizing interactions between Research South Florida and key sectors of the region, and approaching research in a holistic manner.

The Research South Florida development team has completed the first phase of an inventory of research expertise at FAU, Florida International University, the University of Miami, and 12 regional organizations that engage in research on regional growth and development. The study team is broadening and deepening its knowledge base on the resources of the initial participants, and will expand the inventory to other institutions of higher learning and research organizations.

This inventory of regional research expertise has already been used to identify potential candidates for the Technical
Review Committee for the Miami-Dade Watershed Study. The inventory was also used to assemble a team of experts as part of a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For more information, contact Sylvia Cohen at 954.762.5262 or scohen@fau.edu.

**South Florida Regional Resource Center**

The South Florida Regional Resource Center (SFRRC) is an innovative institutional approach to increasing the abilities of South Florida’s residents and neighborhoods to influence and shape public policy issues at the regional level. It combines elements of a community-building intermediary, a partnership and collaborative for concerted action, and a community design center to solve neighborhood problems and connect residents to regional resources and opportunities.

The SFRRC’s goals include assisting with community building and developing trusting relationships with neighborhood organizations, which can join together for regional action. Another goal is collaborating and partnering with public and private groups, built around the regional anchor organizations and local groups each of them serves.

Community work is focused on three pilot projects, each sponsored by an SFRRC partner: the Overtown neighborhood in Miami, the State Road 7 Collaborative in Broward County, and the northwest neighborhoods in West Palm Beach. A website is under development to serve as a resource for all South Florida communities.

Partners in the Regional Resource Center include the Collins Center for Public Policy, Inc., and the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils. The Catanese Center serves as SFRRC administrator.

For more information, contact MaryBeth Burton at 954.762.5255 or mburton@fau.edu.

**South Florida Regional Resource Center website - SFRRC.net**

**Partnering with the Institute of Government**

The Florida Institute of Government (Institute) at FAU was established in 1982 as an affiliate of the Florida Institute of Government [recently renamed the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government in memory of longtime Executive Director Scott Dailey, who passed away on May 21, 2003. [See Letter from the Director, page 2. ] The Catanese Center serves as its host organization.

Throughout its history, the Institute has provided high-quality, low-cost training and technical assistance to local governments within its service area, which covers eight counties (Broward, Glades, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie) and encompasses roughly 20 percent of Florida’s population. Dade and Monroe counties are also targeted for Code Enforcement training. To identify and assess constituent needs, staff solicits advice from Steering Committee members; conducts surveys through its newsletter *Linkage*; and interacts with FAU faculty, institute staff and affiliates, conference participants, the Catanese Center, and representatives from such entities as the Florida League of Cities, the Urban Land Institute, FAU’s Center for Urban Redevelopment and Empowerment, and the Florida Association of Code Enforcement.

From July 1 - June 30, 2003, approximately 12,000 participants (from more than 100 local governments) attended 655 programs (including 3,270 actual training hours) coordinated by the Institute at FAU.

In addition to training and technical assistance, the Institute organizes and convenes policy conferences, seminars, and goal-setting, consensus-building Assemblies to clarify issues and policy options. An undergraduate internship program for students seeking careers in the public sector is also offered.

Please contact Institute Director Sarah Shannon, sshannon@fau.edu, for information on how the Institute’s programs can benefit your organization or see the Institute’s website for current programs at www.fau.edu/fiog.
Final Peer Review Session on Central Western Communities

May 19 and 20 marked the third and final session of the Peer Review Panel on the Palm Beach County Sector Plan for the Central Western Communities. The primary focus was the Concept Plan Overlay and accompanying implementation strategies developed by WilsonMiller, the project consultants.

When adopted, the Concept Plan Overlay will be used to guide future growth and development in this 57,000-acre area. These unique communities are largely characterized by agricultural and low-density residential land uses in an atmosphere of open space and country living. The Overlay is designed to foster a development pattern that will sustain these qualities, which are preferred by area residents.

The panel met at three strategic points during the course of the sector planning process. The intent of the peer review component was to provide an objective, professional perspective through experts, who offered recommendations on refining and improving the planning process and related work products. The panel prepared its findings for each session after careful review of the planning products, followed by a day-and-a-half workshop with project consultants and county staff. A full report setting forth the recommendations was then published after each session.

The Peer Review Panel for the Sector Planning Process was coordinated by the Catanese Center. Jim Murley, Director, served as panel moderator. The convening of a Peer Review Panel, also known as a resource panel, is a specialized service offered by the Center. Panel members are selected carefully to make certain that each member brings the requisite expertise and familiarity with the targeted planning issues. The value that an independent Peer Review Panel brings to a planning process includes the following:

Reassurance to public officials, professionals, and the public that a plan has been reviewed and vetted by experts in the relevant fields, is of the highest caliber, and can withstand technical scrutiny

A sounding board that a project consultant and agency staff can use for testing ideas and developing new approaches to improving a planning process and products
An effective and cost-efficient way to bring additional expertise, cutting-edge information, and an unbiased perspective to a planning process
A higher level of confidence in a planning process and the resulting planning products

Please contact Jim Murley, Catanese Center Director, at jmurley@fau.edu or 954.762.5255 for more information on how a Peer Review Panel can be used to strengthen a planning process or a plan product and to help find effective solutions to difficult planning issues.

Sharika!

On February 22, over 350 people participated in Sharika: A Multi-Cultural Celebration of African American History. In Swahili, Sharika means “together in community.” The Catanese Center's Abacoa Project collaborated with the West Jupiter Community Group from Limestone Creek, among others, to present the event, which was hosted by the Abacoa Town Center. For more information on Sharika or the Abacoa Project, contact Ed Maietta at emaietta@fau.edu or 561.799.8526.

Marie York Awarded Knight Fellowship in Community Building

In May, Marie L. York, Associate Director of Northern Campuses for the Catanese Center, was selected as one of 12 Knight Fellows in Community Building by the University of Miami’s School of Architecture.

"Nominees were selected because of their accomplishments and their clear vision for advancing community-building efforts in their hometowns and careers," explained Chuck Bohl, Director of the Knight Program.

Ms. York directs the Florida Public Officials Design Institute at Abacoa (see cover story on Regional Initiatives, page 1). Through the Fellowship, Ms. York intends to produce a stylebook or manual so that other regions and states can replicate the program she helped establish in South Florida.

In a yearlong series of events, the Knight Fellows are taking part in a prestigious, mid-career educational program, which brings together community leaders, policymakers, architects, urban planners, environmentalists, journalists, and transportation experts from around the country for workshops and seminars on the techniques of building and rebuilding communities.

For example, on June 16 and 17, the Fellows had an opportunity to participate in and observe the charrette process at Kentlands, Maryland. The lead team for the charrette included the original group of urban designers who laid out the original plans for the community 15 years ago.
As part of the Catanese Center's Development Without Displacement project, an Undoing Racism/Community Building workshop was convened on May 17-18 at FAU's Downtown Fort Lauderdale Campus. The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, a national collective of experienced organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social change, facilitated the workshop. The South Florida Regional Resource Center (SFRRC, see Cover Story and www.sfrrc.net) provided staff support and other assistance.

The workshop addressed the different types of racism, including individual, institutional, cultural, linguistic, militarism, environmental, and others. Twenty-one attendees examined the history and occurrence of racism, power structures, and how to organize and empower communities. The participants intend to meet again to continue the dialogue on how anti-racist strategies can be developed and implemented in the communities and institutions in which they live and work. The Catanese Center and the SFRRC will help mobilize and participate in these efforts. For example, a discussion page and various documents are available at the SFRRC.net website for the use of those committed to addressing and resolving the issue of racism.
The Anthony James Catanese Center for Urban & Environmental Solutions is a university-based institution with offices at three Florida Atlantic University campuses.

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