



NEWS RELEASE

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joyce R. Forchion
(305) 626-3624
jforchio@fmuniv.edu

KEYNOTE SPEAKER BOBBY HENRY, PANELISTS TO ADDRESS MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND MINORITIES DURING 7th ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

MIAMI GARDENS, FL [MARCH 26, 2007] – Florida Memorial University’s Department of Communications is pleased to host its 7th Annual Communications Conference, which will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 in the Smith Conference Center on campus (15800 NW 42nd Avenue in Miami Gardens). This year, panelists are invited to address the ever-changing roles and business opportunities allotted to minorities as they discuss this year’s theme, “Media Ownership and Minorities.” Approximately 150-200 from local high schools in Miami-Dade County are scheduled to attend the workshops and listen to Bobby Henry, President / CEO of The Westside Gazette newspaper as he delivers his keynote speech and urges young guests to pursue careers in journalism. The conference schedule, along with its respective panelists, is the following:

**Broadcast/Online/Print Journalism Panel
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

Tsitsi D. Wakhisi
Managing Editor, Miami News Service

Kervin Clenace
General Manager, Radio One

Neki Mohan
Reporter / Anchor, WPLG Local 10

Johnson Ng
United Chinese News of Florida

Mohamed Hamaludin
Editor, Miami Herald Neighbors

César A. Pizarro
Business Manager, El Nuevo Herald

**Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations Panel
10:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

Cynthia Stafford
Associate Vice President, Sonshine Communications

Natalia Flores
Corporate Communications Manager, Hispanic PR Wire

Mari García
Vice President of Client Services, Imagen The Marketing Agency

Suzan McDowell
President & CEO, Circle of One Marketing

Lisa Silvera
Vice President / Creative Director / Partner, Thinkking Media

Christopher Ian
Vice President / Creative Director / Partner, Thinkking Media

Marvin Dejean
President / CEO, Markcom Industries

Keynote Speaker
12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

Bobby Henry
Publisher / CEO, The Westside Gazette

For the past seven years, the conference was organized at Florida Memorial to provide an outlet for motivated students to interact with broadcast journalists and business owners about pointed issues pertaining to the communications profession. Dr. William-Jong Ebot, Chairperson for the Department of Humanities, stated that the conference provides an excellent opportunity for high school and college students to network with established, highly-regarded communications practitioners. “Our panelists are leaders in the fields of broadcasting, advertising, marketing, and public relations. Students have access to these individuals and should approach them accordingly,” he said.

For more information about this year’s conference, please contact Dr. Mary Angie Salvá-Ramírez, Assistant Professor of Communications, at (305) 626-3105 or mramirez@fmuniv.edu.

Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the university has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida’s ONLY Black university, it is widely known for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” For more information, please contact the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs at (305) 626-3624.

###