EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Activities - Prior Year

Following is a listing of activities either sponsored or co-sponsored by SOAC during the 2000-2001 academic year:

- Co-sponsorship with CLADEC, the Latin American Express Courier Association, to support the OAS conference on the FTAA Business Facilitation Measures, December 2000.
- First International Trade Negotiation Skills Course, January-February 2001. Twenty-seven participants from throughout Latin America attended this intense two-week course taught entirely in Spanish. This course was organized in conjunction with the Centro de Estudios de Integración Económica y Comercio Internacional (Integral) and combines a review of the state of hemispheric negotiations with practical skills training.
- Sustainable South 2025: Ecology, the Social Dimension and Trade in the Southern Cone of Latin America, February 2001. Seminar led by Eduardo Gudynas of the Latin American Center for Social Ecology of Montevideo, Uruguay to discuss the ecological and social dimensions of trade and development in the region.
- 19th Annual Journalists and Editors’ Workshop- Beyond Summits: The Bush Administration and Latin America and the Caribbean, May 4-5, 2001. This annual event brings together journalists, academics and public and private sector leaders to discuss current events in Latin America and the Caribbean and news coverage of the region.
- Part I: After Buenos Aires and Before Quebec- Perspectives on the Summit of the Americas, April 2000. Briefing to the FIU and Florida community to discuss the Buenos Aires Trade Ministerial and the prospects for the Quebec Summit.
- Part II: After the Quebec Summit- Prospects for the FTAA and a Perspective on Three Summits, May 2001. Briefing to the FIU and Florida community to discuss...
the events of the Quebec Summit and a comprehensive assessment of all three
summits.

- **Colombia Spring Lecture Series**: Speakers from various Colombian organizations
discussed their perspectives on the violence and politics in the region.
  - **New Perspectives in the Colombian Conflict**, lecture led by Alfredo
    Rangel, a columnist for *El Tiempo* and a leading strategist of the Colombian
    armed conflict. February 2001
  - **Opium and Heroin Processing in Colombia**, lecture led by Dr. Sergio
    Uribe, member
  - **Non-traditional Avenues in Colombian Politics**, lecture led by Sergio
    Fajardo, former mayoral candidate of Medellin and professor of
    mathematics at the Universidad de los Andes. March 2001
  - **Colombia: Crisis of Nationhood, Individualism, and Political Participation**, lecture led by Hernando Gomez Buendia, columnist for
  - **The Fate of the Key Proposals**, lecture led by Manuel Jose Cepeda, of
    the Constitutional Court Justice and professor of law at the
  - **The Effects of War on Children in Colombia**, lecture led by Dr. Nelson
    Arboleda, a native Colombian and currently a resident at the
    University of Miami School of Medicine. April 2001.
  - **Colombian Perspectives**, lecture led by Alvaro Uribe Velez, a
    candidate for president in Colombia and former governor of the

- **International Relations of Chile**: Lecture by Eduardo Frei, Former President of
  Chile, May 2001.
- **The Colombian Diaspora in South Florida**, presentation of the 1st Working Paper
  of the Colombian Studies Institute, Colombian Diaspora Project, led by Eduardo
  A. Gamarra, LACC Director and Michael W. Collier, Director of Research. June
- **The Quebec Summit and the Democracy Clause**, July 2001. Roundtable held at
  FLACSO, Santiago, Chile to assess the events of the Quebec Summit and to
  discuss the enforceability of the democracy clause.

2. Activities – Coming year

- Provide travel and other resources for professors conducting research doing work on trade and
  integration issues, particularly in the MERCOSUR countries.
- Generate new sources of funding to support graduate students, including continuing assistantships
- Present Second International Trade Negotiation Skills Course in Miami.
- Offer Trade Negotiation Skills Course in one Latin American country.
- Identify and pursue federal and private foundation grant opportunities
• Organize and implement a number of events, conferences, and lectures with the purpose of providing outreach to the FIU community, the community at large, and the state of Florida about issues concerning Latin America, trade and integration
• Develop fluid academic and faculty interchange links with Argentine Foreign Service Institute
• Develop project on Dollarization in Latin America and organize a State of Democracy in the Americas Conference on the subject - Spring 2002
• Develop and implement a work plan on expanding the size of the board. Also, continue to host events to meet the requests and recommendations from board members

A. RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Summit of the Americas Center plays a crucial role in the state of Florida’s economic development plan and outreach to Latin America. As the only academic center providing research and analysis in the area of hemispheric trade and integration in the state of Florida, SOAC responds to demand for the study of the impact of these trends and movements on the state. SOAC also provides timely information and open forums of discussion to both the public and private sector of events that shape the future of trade in the region. By providing training opportunities, courses of study and certificate programs, SOAC contributes to the knowledge base and educational necessities of the community in south Florida and beyond as it faces trade issues with Latin America and the Caribbean. By forging ongoing training linkages with government and private sector trade negotiators throughout Latin America, SOAC enhances and promotes Miami as the source of specialized training and knowledge in the field of hemispheric trade, thereby contributing to the effort to gain the permanent FTAA Secretariat for the city in 2005. Finally, SOAC will continue its mission by providing funding for faculty research and sponsoring graduate studies.