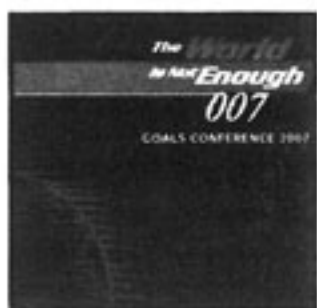


CHAMBER CONNECTION

DEVELOPING BUSINESS ♦ BUILDING COMMUNITY

2007 GOALS CONFERENCE FEATURES AN INTERNATIONAL TWIST



2007 GOALS CONFERENCE

May 17th - May 20th

The Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue

This year's annual Goals Conference will be held May 17-20 at the historic Biltmore Hotel. The Goals Conference is our Chamber's annual membership meeting where we meet to discuss our vision for the upcoming year, set priorities, and develop our

strategic plan. This year's conference is presented by HispaFilms and is supported by many outstanding sponsors, including, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Business Centers International, University of Miami, and Regions Bank.

The event will kick-off on Thursday morning at Good Morning Coral Gables and feature Latin American scholar and Chancellor of our State University System, Dr. Mark Rosenberg. Dr. Rosenberg is the former provost at FIU and will help usher in our 2007 Goals Conference, a celebration of international commerce, culture and community.

Our theme, *The World Is Not Enough*, heralds the desire to position our

Chamber as an international player in a global marketplace. Committee meetings, official welcomes from the Mayor and our elected officials, as well as a panel on international issues opens Day 2 (Friday), followed by a luncheon with José Cancela sharing his seven secrets of success as outlined in his new book.

Friday afternoon features three break-out sessions on tourism, emerging markets, and Cuba after Castro. Delegates will wash down all this great information during an interactive dinner with Chef Edgar Leal of Cacao Restaurant.

Finally, Saturday will bring the conference to a close as we discuss such pressing issues as insurance and property taxes; challenges that are front and center for our State and our business community. Dress as your favorite James Bond character and dance the night away at our 007 Gala to the glorious sounds of Formula 8A. Treat yourself to a great weekend at the Biltmore Hotel and stay on property. Special rates are available for Chamber members and even enjoy a late check-out on Sunday after indulging in their world-famous Biltmore Brunch.

See you at our Goals Conference!

OUR CHAMBER CELEBRATES OUR RISING STARS!



By: Deirdre Nero Valladares
Becker & Poliakoff
Award Committee Chair

The 20/30 Group of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce kicks-off its first annual *Rising Star Award* at the June 21st Good Morning Coral Gables Breakfast.

Do you know someone under the age of 40 who has that extra special something that has helped them outshine the competition? A bright young

entrepreneur? A shining community leader? A stellar young business person? Nominate them (or yourself - don't be shy!) to be the first recipient of the Chamber's *Rising Star Award*. The application form is inside this edition of the Chamber Connection newsletter for your consideration.

As the embodiment of the ultimate Rising Star Award, we are proud to have the honorable Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives,

Marco Rubio, as the keynote speaker and emcee of the first annual *Rising Star Awards*. Rubio is the first Cuban-American Speaker in the history of the State of Florida, and the second youngest ever to rise to this post. Representing parts of Coral Gables and West Miami, Marco Rubio is a Rising Star in his own right.

The Award, which will become the 20/30 Group's annual signature award, will be presented on June 21st at Good Morning Coral Gables to the young professional who most clearly exhibits the qualities of a Rising Star. The criteria that will be used to determine the finalists and winner are Business/Professional Achievements, Community Involvement, and Additional Accomplishments. Please review the enclosed application for more details on the criteria.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for this event. If you are interested in supporting tomorrow's leaders today, please contact Deirdre Nero Valladares, Award Committee Chair, at 305-351-1079 or Valeria Ventura at 305-446-1657 to learn more about how your company can be a part of the *Rising Star Award*.

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Gayle Bainbridge, Honorary Chair presents gifts from Montica Jewelry to Vic Atherton & Fran Giuffrida in celebration for their 10 Year Anniversary in the Merrick Society



Sergio Barrera, CGCC Chairman, Mark A. Trowbridge and Pedro Gonzalez, BankUnited present a Proclamation for Success to the partners of Jordan, Castellon & Ricardo, LLC at the opening of their new offices.