



The FIU Ladies of



Present

# South Asian Night

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2002

At 7 pm

Graham Center Ballroom

University Park

Florida International University

*A Fund-Raising Event for Child Literacy*

## Message from the Advisor

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Delta Phi Omega (DPO), Inc. to welcome you to our first major event, South Asian Night. This event has two major missions: first to introduce the DPO Epsilon Colony to the FIU community and secondly to raise funds for their philanthropy, Pratham, a child literacy nongovernmental organization. As we celebrate FIU's 30-year anniversary, I am so glad the DPO has become part of FIU history.

When some of the ladies showed up in my office unannounced asking if I would support the formation of this sorority, I had to take a moment to think. But what made me say yes was that these were a group of ladies with Indian ancestry, but have never been to India. They wanted to use this forum to network with others of similar culture and customs and hoped one day to have closer interaction and better understanding of their roots. What they focus on is what unites them NOT what separates them from others and invited everyone to become an active member. I must congratulate two brave ladies, Mariel and Maria, with Spanish ancestry, who became part of this group. Hopefully, their message will resound loudly and attract all of those that want to learn about new customs and cultures.

With perseverance and persistence, the founding members were able to convince the Pan Hellenic Council to support their endeavor. The fact that FIU approved the formation of DPO is a testimony to its mission of promoting diversity through understanding and improving the quality of life for the students. I would like to thank Mr. Todd Sullivan and Dr. Richardson for all their help and encouraging words during the good times and the hard times, mind you we had both within our short existence. As usual crisis is a panacea for unity as we emerged as victors.

I gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and volunteers, but most of all, the performers and YOU who made this event possible.

My heartiest congratulations to the ladies of Delta Phi Omega, who are truly *"Destined to Prevail against all Odds"*

Dr. Kalai Mathze  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences  
Faculty Advisor, Delta Phi Omega Epsilon Colony

# देल्टा फी ओमेगा

Seventeen young ladies founded Delta Phi Omega (DPO) Sorority, Inc. at the University of Houston in 1998 with a vision to help South Asian women to unite and develop a support network in this ever expanding cosmopolitan country. DPO is one of the first South Asian sororities in the United States. It has been recognized both locally and internationally for contribution to children education and literacy, the major DPO philanthropy. DPO has grown tremendously, from 17 to over 120 members throughout the United States with chapters and colonies in Houston, San Antonio, Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami (FIU) and Maryland.

The sisters of DPO Sorority, Inc. stand upon five pillars of **SISTERHOOD, RESPECT, LOYALTY, HONESTY** and **FRIENDSHIP**. The colors are **RED, BLACK** and **SILVER**. The mascot is the **BENGAL TIGER**. The flower is the **WHITE ORCHID**. These essential elements make us Delta Phi Omega for life.

The ladies of the FIU colony are honored that we have been chosen to continue the DPO tradition here in Miami, and especially in FIU. DPO has provided a forum by which we have been able to facilitate ourselves within our community and university and let our voices be heard.

For more information: [www.deltaphiomega.org](http://www.deltaphiomega.org)



## FOUNDING MOTHERS



**Gem Jagmohan**  
Senior. Major: Biology



**Joanna Lewis**  
Senior. Major: Dietetics and Nutrition

**Julianna Lewis**  
Senior. Major: Psychology

**Toni Balla**  
Senior. Major: Biology

**Narti Maharaj**  
Sophomore. Major: Hospitality Management

**Vidya Maharaj**  
Senior. Major: Biology

**Prerna Laura Ramsahai**  
Senior. Major: Biology

**Shivanni Stacy Ramsahai**  
Graduate, Fall 2002. Major: Accounting

**Marig Rotundo-Patino**  
Graduate, Fall 2002. Major: Biology

**Nalini Ramgoolam**  
Senior. Major: Biology

**"Destined to Prevail against all Odds"**

## PRATHAM

It is a grass-roots effort in India that is based on the premise of "Every Child in School Learning." It was established in 1994 by UNICEF and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai with the goal of universal primary education in Mumbai by the year 2000. This goal is continually growing in size and scope and it has compelled individuals, corporations, and state governments within India and abroad to take the initiative further to ensure every child in their cities receives a formal education. Pratham has expanded beyond Mumbai into cities like Pune, Delhi, Patna, Surat, Ailbag, Bangalore, Vadodara, and it is continually entering new cities with one goal in mind, which is to give every child a quality education.

For more information: [www.pratham.org](http://www.pratham.org)



The ladies of Delta Phi Omega firmly believe that every child, regardless of race, religion or social status is entitled to receive a quality education. We believe that education is vital to building a solid future. Therefore, we have chosen children's education and literacy as our philanthropy. We commit ourselves to promoting education locally as well as worldwide.

## FIU DPO ACTIVITIES TO DATE

### Volunteer Activities in FIU

- Indian Student Association Divali Show 2001
- Ice-cream give away for FIU Softball game with Women Center
- Mentoring Program
- Greek Dance Marathon
- FIU Women's Sports Day
- Co-organize Greek week at FIU
- September 9<sup>th</sup> vigil with FIJ and SGF

### Community Activities in Miami

- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fundraiser on Casino Boat
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Silent Auction
- Reading Program at elementary schools with FIU Women's Basketball Team (twice a month)
- Reading in Barnes and Nobles – Twice a month

For more information:

<http://www.fiu.edu/~dpofiu/>

## PROGRAM

	Miss and Master of Ceremony	Nalini Ramgoolam and Salman Mamdani
1	Welcome	Vidya Maharaj, DPO President
2	Bharatnatyam Dance, Pushpaanjali/Villaarippu, Invocation of Ganesh	Kalai Mugilan, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
3	Yar Ki Piya	Sarah Baksh, Savita Bissoondatt, Neela Beharru
4	Nithya Dance Group	Abigail Ramshansingh, Shreya Williams, Shree Kuwas, Amanda Singh, Sunita Tolan, Tejera Assad
5	Belly Dancing	Ishita Dance Group: Tony Lalla & Carla Velasco
6	Dance to Nimbura Nimbura	Ishma Zaidi
7	Thank you Remarks	Dr. Kalai Mathz, DPO Advisor
8	Dinner	
9	Meldley of Songs	Orchestra "Three Dimensions"
10	Fashion Show	
11	Bharatnatyam Dance, Kaali Kautavam-"Kaaliyin Ornaments", Innovation of Kaali	Kalai Mugilan, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
12	Bollywood Dance	Rashmi Shah, Mast Academy
13	Nithya Dance Group	Abigail Ramshansingh, Shreya Williams, Shree Kuwas, Amanda Singh, Sunita Tolan, Tejera Assad
14	Rajna Dance	Sandra Samaroo & Crystal Samaroo
15	Raffle	
16	Final Dance	Surprise Performance
17	Tassa	All Star International Tassa Group

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank YOU for all the assistance

Sarah Baksh

Madan Beharry

Neala Beharry

Savita Bissoondatt

Ryan Hadzed

Rudy Kanhai

Lata Maharaj

Naresh Maharaj

Rohini Maharaj

Shara Maharaj

Dalç Maraj

Rajendra Maraj

Stefan Mohammed

Candice Rambarath

Crystal Rambarath

Rynell Rattansingh

Lavkush Satyaketu

Vinood Singh

Our Parents

## SPONSORS

### **Joy's Roti Delight**

1235 N W State Road 7  
Lauderhill Mall  
Lauderhill, FL 33313-5801  
Tel: 954 587-7700

### **Little India Restaurant**

8344 West Oakland Park Blvd  
Sunrise, FL 33351  
Tel: 954 741-7570

### **Continental Groceries**

(Pakistani/Indian)  
2500 SW 107 Avenue #34  
Miami, FL 33165  
Tel: 305 551-3333

### **Institute of Asian Studies**

Florida International University  
[www.fiu.edu/~asian](http://www.fiu.edu/~asian)

### **Panhellenic Council**

Florida International University

### **Vijay and Robin Kumar**

## SPONSORS

### **Imleg, An Indian Bistro**

12663 South Dixie Highway  
Pinecrest  
Tel: 786 293-2223

### **Sports Tavern and Grill**

11865 Coral Way, Suite C1  
Miami, FL 33175  
Tel: 305 226-3040

### **Anokha, Fine Indian Cuisine**

3195 Commodore Plaza  
Coconut Grove.  
Tel: 786 555-1030

### **House of India**

22 Merrick Way  
Coral Gables.  
Tel: 305 444-2348

### **ELB GEE INC**

### **Rookman and Gangadai Maharaj**