

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: FIU Faculty & Staff  
FROM: Mark B. Rosenberg, President  
SUBJECT: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Freshman Convocation  
DATE: August 19, 2009

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Freshman Convocation on Sunday August 23, 2009, is an opportunity to celebrate who we are, the importance of our newest students, and the start of a new era for our university.

Universities are communities of memory and hope. Throughout the United States, Freshman students will soon be anxiously arriving at their new institutions. They bring with them incredible energy and hope for their new learning experience. Our convocation is a wonderful tradition that instills in our new students a sense of confidence about what lies before them and enhances awareness for what is expected and possible, along with the inspiration to excel.

Freshman Convocation will recognize the impact that incoming freshmen will make on the FIU community, as well as their outstanding accomplishments. Here are four examples of our newest students:

- Blair Danial, graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School in Liverpool, NY, and plans to major in Liberal Studies. She has been competing in ballet, jazz, tap and hip hop since she was 5 years old. She has choreographed dance teams that have competed in Walt Disney World and New York City. All of the teams Blair has choreographed have won choreographer awards.
- Rebecca Fernandez, graduated from Spanish River Community High School in Boca Raton; she plans to major in Biological Sciences. She is a National Hispanic Scholar who is a member of numerous honor societies with an extensive volunteer record in hospitals and tutoring.
- Samera Nath, a freshman from Trinidad & Tobago plans to major in Biomedical Engineering. She is a talented pianist who loves astronomy and volunteer work
- Anthony Figueroa, a graduate of Belen Jesuit High School in Miami, will major in International Relations. He was one of 25 Hispanic students in the U.S. chosen to

attend a law camp in Washington, D.C. during his junior year. Anthony participated in Belen's Youth Mission in the Dominican Republic this summer.

I want to thank our staff and numerous volunteers who have been planning for this year's Freshman Convocation. They know that this event - more than any other - marks our formal commitment to our students.

I invite you to attend this ceremony as we encourage full university staff and faculty participation in this rite of passage. Your presence will send a message that FIU is student-centered, and that "every student counts."

**Freshman Convocation**  
**Sunday, August 23, 2009**  
**1:45pm-4:00pm (doors open at 1:30pm)**  
**U.S. Century Bank Arena**  
**Modesto A. Maidique Campus**