



**Sunset - Sunrise, and the New Day:  
Memorial Service for FIU Founding Professor Harry Antrim**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on February 18, 2010**



*This speech was presented to attendees of FIU Founding Professor Harry Antrim's memorial service on February 18, 2010.*

I would like to begin with a fourteen word poem written by our faculty colleague Campbell McGrath:

"Sunset"  
Clamor of seabirds as the sun falls –  
I look up and ten years have passed.  
(from Seven Notebooks)

So...we look up, and a life has passed....

Like so many here today, Harry Antrim knew that FIU was special. Harry turned dreams into reality. He was someone who could turn the impossible into the inevitable:

- Harry was a founder of the English Department;
- Harry was a key player in creating our lower division;
- He was instrumental in crafting our historic first class;
- He was a department chair, a dean, a vice president, and he led our Cambridge program.

For many of us who were new to FIU and the profession, Harry was the go-to guy throughout the late 1970s and the 1980s. We needed him to help us understand the complexities of our world.

Harry found ways to get things done. He found ways to get things done. His love and dedication to FIU is a metaphor to our past and most importantly, a beacon for our future.

So, in the final analysis for Harry, it wasn't really about the "Sunset," or dusk, it was about Sunrise, or morning, and the freshness of the *new day*. Harry Antrim represented the *new day* that thousands of faculty who have worked at FIU wanted and created and will continue to create for FIU.

Harry Antrim was about the *new day*.

To Mary – our dear former colleague, we welcome you back, even if it is to commemorate the passing of a valued life, that of your dear husband, Harry.

**About Harry Thomas Antrim:**

*Harry participated in the creation of the University from very early on. Founding Arts and Sciences Dean Butler Waugh hired Harry from the University of Virginia in 1971 and appointed him as the first Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences. Thus began a distinguished record of service to the University. Subsequently, he served as Chair of the Department of English, as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, as Director of FIU Cambridge Program, and as Graduate Director of the MA in English. His work in having the Florida Legislature approve the opening of the lower division changed the University and was vital to the growth in the number of graduate programs.*