



**Divina Grossman: One Hope, One Better Feeling, One Better Load**  
Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on April 4, 2013



*This speech was presented to the attendees of Divina Grossman Inauguration as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on April 4, 2013.*

I bring greetings from friends, colleagues, and our community in South Florida! We miss our Divina or, as I called her, La Divina! If you know Spanish, it lovingly means The Divine.

We are in the Land of Robert Frost! So let us reflect for a moment through the words of Frost and two other Presidential Poet Laureates Richard Blanco, Maya Angelou. Blanco, a two time graduate of FIU, just recited his poem One Today at President Obama's Inauguration. In it he speaks of One sun rising over our shores, His face, your faces, millions of faces in mornings mirrors, One light breathing color into stained glass windows, One Ground – our Ground. One sky, our sky....As he spoke these words, I thought about my friend Divina Grossman and all that she represents for humanity, for us, and how much the aspiration and inspiration of the Poem speaks to what Divina embodies as a human being. In Richard Blanco's words, Hope is a new constellation waiting for us to map it. Divina Grossman is hope, and she will help you map it in the same way that she helped us map it!

Then there is Maya Angelou. She too recited a poem at the inauguration of President Clinton. But she is perhaps most remembered for her aphorism... people will never forget how you made them feel." This statement must have surely been because of an experience with Divina. She unerringly will make you feel like a real person! She has some of the best people skills of anyone whom I have ever met! Because of this Divina Grossman will challenge you to bring your "A" game in every dimension of your life; and you will be better for it!

Finally, there is your nearly native son –the beloved--Robert Frost: President Kennedy's Poet Laureate. Listen to his words. They speak of Divina and the challenges that she and you have ahead for your beloved University. Here is Frost:

For every parcel I stoop down to seize  
I lose some other off my arms and knees,  
And the whole pile is slipping, bottles, buns,  
Extremes too hard to comprehend at. once  
Yet nothing I should care to leave behind.  
With all I have to hold with hand and mind  
And heart, if need be, I will do my best.  
To keep their building balanced at my breast.  
I crouch down to prevent them as they fall;  
Then sit down in the middle of them all.  
I had to drop the armful in the road  
And try to stack them in a better load.....

Ladies and Gentlemen, One Hope, One Better feeling, One Better Load.  
That is your new Chancellor and we all will be stronger and better for it – I  
promise. You will see! Thank you very much and Congratulations  
Chancellor Grossman.