Dr. Rosa Jones’ Farewell Reception

Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on August 29, 2012
Forty Years—A Triptych through FIU!
A Tribute to Rosa Jones

FIU in ’72.
Were you really here then?
FIU in ’72?
Two buildings, a torch and...
Amen!

Charles Perry confidently gazing out from our Control Tower.
His heady optimism made him the man of the hour.

But in the iconic Tower was more than Chuck
A young Ms. Rosa would bring FIU some luck.

Hal Crosby, then Greg Wolfe—he at least had real hair.
With a luminous smile, Ms. Rosa began social work there.

Then the deadly Liberty City Riots,
And Mariel Boatlift
The 80s’ in Miami—"Paradise Lost"—to a racial and ethnic rift.

She served as Chair of Social Work—there was deep despair
You see our fragile community, it needed her repair.

Then Mitch Maidique—he brought hope and vigor,
Rosa’s will was strong, she showed equal rigor.

James Mau, he was our wise and modest Provost,
This role model woman—she would never ever boast.

Assoc. Dean Undergraduate Studies—here her grace and charity come
This leading lady now was on an incredible run.

Hurricane Andrew in ’92—a cataclysmic change—forget FIU in ’72
Assistant Provost—she was all in...
Because our temporarily flattened U. took a count of ten.

It had been two decades and all in all,
She was always there to take our community’s call.

Then Undergraduate Studies—she became our inspiring Dean—
It’s all about Y2K—you know what I mean.

Vice President for Academic, and then Student Affairs
God Bless you Rosa—you never, ever took on airs.

2012 and here we are, Rosa Jones—you have unerringly raised the bar.

Forty Years…..Our Leading Lady throughout…..Forty years… an infinity of hopes and cheers, no doubt!

It’s not ’72, but just as that day Rosa Jones, you will never be forgotten—because you did it your honorable way!