

**MEMORANDUM**

October 1, 2010

Dear FIU family,

We have had a terrific few weeks where we have shown how FIU is Worlds Ahead in athletics, academics and community and global engagement.

Two weeks ago we celebrated faculty excellence, beginning with the tenure and promotion reception and culminating with Faculty Convocation events. We had an incredible concert on Wednesday, Oct. 6, featuring faculty and students from our School of Music. At the grand convocation and awards ceremony the following day we were treated to an engaging and thought-provoking keynote address by John F. Stack, director of the School of International and Public Affairs. It also was wonderful to see so many staff and students there, supporting our faculty. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized for accomplishments in teaching, research, mentorship, librarianship and service.

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, we were proud to host the 2010 Presidential Community Leaders Summit. More than 150 community leaders came to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus to share their ideas on building affinity, fundraising, community outreach, alumni relations, community engagement, research and student-centered academics. It was great to have so many people who care about FIU helping us to align our strategic direction with the priorities of our community. I hope to soon share with you a report on the summit.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Reagan House, we held a reception in honor of the late Jorge Mas Canosa, who was well known for his passionate fight for Cuba's freedom. We were fortunate to have his family join us that evening and his sons, Jorge, Juan Carlos and Jose Ramon led us in a tribute to their father and a discussion on leadership.

On Thursday, Oct. 7, we were honored with a visit from Zhang Yesui, China's ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Zhang was impressed by our hospitality and our university. We hope to host the ambassador again in the future, as we strengthen our exchanges with China.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, the Frost Art Museum inaugurated five new exhibitions that included Venezuelan abstraction; an exhibition on pre-Castro Havana; a participatory exhibition with artist Xavier Cortada and Dr. Kalai Mathee from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine; the Florida Artist Series with Arnold Mesches from the University of Florida; and beautiful Baroque pieces, including works attributed to Peter Paul Rubens and Ferdinand Bol. More than 1,000 guests – students, faculty, staff and

community guests - walked through the grand galleries admiring works, many of which have never been exhibited, by Venezuelan masters such as Jesus Rafael Soto and Carlos Cruz Diez. What a great way to officially launch the arts season!

On Saturday, Oct. 16, we hosted nearly 500 middle and high school journalism students and their advisers at the Graham Center for a full day of workshops and sessions as part of the 38th annual South Florida Journalism Day. FIU has been the proud sponsor of 37 of these events and we were happy to see so many journalism teachers at public and private schools who are FIU and School of Journalism and Mass Communication alums or who have been trained at the SJMC. In addition, a number of the professional journalists participating were FIU alumni.

On Monday, Oct. 18, and Tuesday, Oct. 19, we celebrated FIU's commitment to global, health and environment - three of our strategic areas - with the second Geopolitical Summit. This gathering brought to our campuses leading scholars and policymakers - Paul Collier, professor of economics and director of the Center for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University; Len Nichols, professor of health policy and director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason University; and former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. Our guest speakers engaged in meaningful, high level academic exchanges with our students and faculty. The summit also spotlighted the world class faculty and academics at the School of International and Public Affairs, School of Environment, Arts and Society and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

Also on Oct. 19, Rosalie and I were joined by several members of the FIU family at the Miami debut of the latest production of "Dreamgirls," the musical starring our own Syesha Mercado. As many of you know, Syesha is a former FIU theatre student and Top 3 finalist on "American Idol" and she once again made us proud with a spectacular performance at the Adrienne Arsht Center that evening.

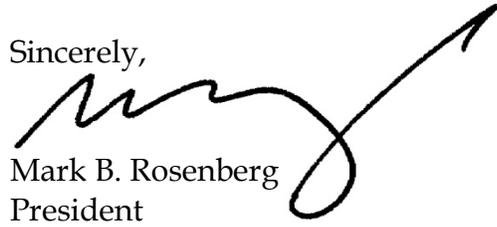
This afternoon we celebrated faculty and staff excellence at the Service and Recognition Awards. Everyone who was recognized for their years of service or for their accomplishments has contributed to FIU's ability to continue turning the impossible into the inevitable. Congratulations to all of the honorees.

And in the past three weeks we have seen great performances by our volleyball, swimming and diving, softball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, and women's tennis teams. Our football team also clinched its first victory of the season - and first conference victory - against WKU on Oct. 9, followed by a dominating road victory against North Texas on Oct. 16.

As usual, on the day of the WKU victory, the energy in FIU Stadium was incredible, thanks to all the loyal FIU fans - students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and family - who came to cheer on the Panthers.

We look forward to even more victories this fall and even more exciting events. I look forward to seeing you at all of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Rosenberg', with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Mark B. Rosenberg  
President