

MEMORANDUM

October 4, 2011

Dear FIU family:

Thank you so much for making this year's Homecoming a memorable celebration for our university community.

Throughout last week, we hosted special gatherings for students and their family members, former student-athletes, alumni, former and current FIU professional staff, and valued members of our community.

We had a record number of offices participate in the decorating contest. Congratulations to the Chapman Graduate School of Business, whose elaborate circus theme (see below) won the best decoration award.



Thanks to the initiatives of our staff planning committee and a talented group of student planners, we had a concert, pep rally, comedy show, step show, Lip Sync/Talent Show, numerous successful alumni reunions including the first gathering of our Black Alumni Chapter, and a food truck rally! A special dinner was held for the returning student-athletes who were part of the 1996 FIU soccer team that went all the way to the national soccer championship finals. And our annual Silver Pride luncheon featured the largest number of alums yet to be honored with the Silver Pride Medal. Students stayed up all night decorating floats and preparing for a Homecoming Parade that proved to be the biggest in our history. From children to retirees, we saw Panthers of all ages come to campus, have fun, share memories and make new ones.



The week of activities culminated with several athletic events: women's volleyball, football, and men's and women's soccer. The football game set an attendance record of about 22,000 Panthers fans who came together as the 12th Panther to scream their support for the Blue and Gold.

Last week was a time to honor traditions, rejoice in accomplishments and celebrate all that is FIU! Thanks to those who made Homecoming week such a success. Particularly, I would like to thank the University-Wide Homecoming Task Force, headed by Breny DaParre, and the student

Homecoming Council, headed by FIU senior and psychology major Mercy Lavado, for all of their hard work. Special thanks as well to Campus Life and External Relations for their marketing efforts, Steve Fain who gave an inspired "come home" speech to Silver Pride alums, Barry Bernhardt's marching band who has never been louder or more energetic, our dedicated parking staff and police officers who worked overtime all week to ensure our safety, and so many others who went the extra mile to help build a meaningful week for all who care about our FIU!

Thanks for making it happen! We are already counting the days until next year's Homecoming!

Sincerely,

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

Mark B. Rosenberg
President