



## **Silver Pride Reunion**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on November 14, 2009**



*This speech was presented to attendees of the annual Alumni Relations' Silver Pride Reunion held during Homecoming Week on November 15, 2009.*

Good afternoon and welcome home!

It is always a pleasure to be with so many members of the FIU family who have loved and supported our institution over the years and have helped us turn the impossible into the inevitable.

Whether you live down the street or in another state, you have been instrumental in helping FIU become the leading, student-centered, urban public research university that it is today. And you will be instrumental in helping FIU build on its accomplishments and move to the next level.

Our alums are a lifeline for a lifetime and never before have you been so important for our institution.

Shortly after the FIU Board of Trustees chose me to lead FIU, I issued a challenge. I challenged our alumni association to bring in 2,000 new members in two months. We shattered that goal and recruited almost 3,000 new members in those two months. This confirmed for me that there is a hungry heart out there for FIU and that alums are our backbone, willing to take up the challenge of helping FIU become the university it deserves to be.

More than 100,000 strong, our alumni are our secret weapon. As we move FIU forward in this new era, the support of our alumni network is crucial. With your help, and with students at our center, FIU can engage our community like never before, reinforce crucial partnerships, and make a difference locally and globally.

Together, we can continue to turn the impossible into the inevitable -- again and again.

Thank you for coming home, staying connected, and being a part of this weekend's homecoming festivities. We are proud to have you as part of the FIU family.

Please enjoy the rest of your day and I hope to see all of you tonight at the stadium, cheering our Golden Panthers football team to victory.