Dear students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of FIU:

We’re going to a bowl game! Within a decade of its founding, our football team clinched the Sun Belt Conference Championship title this evening in a glorious 31-24 win against Arkansas State at FIU Stadium.

The pride, the energy, the enthusiasm we experienced today will only be rivaled by the exuberance of going to a bowl game for the first time.

But first we must bring this historic season to a close on Dec. 4 against Middle Tennessee at home. The game starts at 6 p.m.; tailgating at 4. We are dedicating this final game of the regular season to county employees – Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe and Collier counties. So if you know anyone who works for these county governments or the neighboring city of Sweetwater, please invite them and their families to be our guests next Saturday.

On Sunday, Dec. 5, bowl game selections will be made and we’ll know if we’re headed to the New Orleans Bowl on Dec. 18, the Little Caesars Bowl in Detroit on Dec. 26, or to the GoDaddy.com Bowl on Jan. 6, 2011 in Mobile, Alabama. Stay tuned!

I know you share the pride I feel in our team and our coaches, who have worked through pain and disappointment to emerge stronger and victorious, as FIU always does. As a university community we are experiencing another chapter in our history of turning the impossible into the inevitable. Enjoy it, come out and support your team next Saturday, and start planning a road trip.

Go Golden Panthers!

Mark B. Rosenberg

President