A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

2011 marks FAU’s 50th anniversary, and it happens to be unfolding as one of the most “game changing” years in our rich history as Florida’s fifth state university. Under the leadership of our new president, Dr. Mary Jane Saunders, we are currently celebrating many accomplishments, including a newly approved medical school, a 30,000-seat football stadium under construction and record-breaking admissions application numbers. FAU is moving full-steam ahead into its next 50 years of progress and innovation.

FAU claims a unique role among the state’s 11 public universities as an institution that serves citizens living along 100 miles of South Florida’s coastline with seven campuses and sites. Each location brings a distinct contribution to the FAU portfolio, as you can see from this newsletter that highlights the university’s latest initiatives in our Broward community.

I encourage you to learn more about your “hometown university.” Visit FAU’s website and social media pages, click on FAU Today — our latest news and information site — and see more about how Florida Atlantic University is making an impact on our region, state, nation and world. Thank you to our alumni, donors and community supporters who play a big part in the University’s achievements.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joyanne Stephens
Vice President for Regional Campuses

FAU Stadium Update

The construction of FAU’s much-anticipated 30,000-seat football stadium on the Boca Raton campus is underway. Slated to open this fall, the state-of-the-art stadium will feature such amenities as suites, loge boxes and premier club and priority club seating. For more information, including a virtual tour and a webcam monitoring construction progress, visit www.fau.edu/stadium.

Earlier this year, Florida Atlantic University joined with Broward College, the Town of Davie, Memorial Hospital Pembroke and State Farm Insurance Company for a Community Health and Safety Fair at the shared FAU/BC Campus in Davie. More than 1,000 people attended, interacting with approximately 70 vendors from local nonprofits and health agencies. Attendees received free health screenings and safety services including child identification, car safety seat inspections and immunizations.

QUESTIONS? Please contact: Dr. Carolyn Stewart, Office of Community Relations - Broward at 954.762.5300.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Loretta Hedberg ’05, & Jerilyn Grimm ’07

Although in different stages of their lives and careers, Loretta Hedberg ’05 and daughter Jerilyn Grimm ’07 both benefited from the flexibility of an education at FAU in Broward.

Originally from Huntington, New York, Loretta has lived in Florida for the past 26 years. While living in New York, she volunteered for the Center on Volunteerism at Adelphi University. In return for her work, Loretta was able to take college courses and discovered a strong affinity for learning, discussion and research — but as a stay-at-home mother raising four children, “achieving a college degree was a dream for the future.”

In 1984, Loretta moved to Florida, where she worked in a number of roles including as a secretary at FAU’s Boca Raton campus. She was also active in many volunteer roles and became a spokesperson for breast cancer education and a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

When she retired, Loretta returned to college first taking classes at Broward College then finishing her studies at FAU in Davie. She graduated magna cum laude in 2005, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies/Social Sciences. At graduation, she was introduced to the audience by then-President Brogan as the oldest graduate in the Class of 2005, a designation of which she is very proud. When asked why she went back to school in her 70s Loretta said, “I wanted to be a good example to my five grandsons and encourage them to understand life’s lesson that with determination and tenacity, all good things can happen and you can achieve your goals.”

Following in her mother’s footsteps, Jerilyn Grimm graduated from FAU in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning, which she also earned through the 2+2 program with Broward College.

Jerilyn was recently honored as the 2011 Outstanding Alumna for the Broward campuses at the Seaside Shindig on April 2.

She has had a successful 20-year career as the Director of Community Relations for the Memorial Healthcare System, Jerilyn initiated the Safety Town program in Broward, which teaches more than 5,000 students each year about harm and injury prevention. She was also the lead coordinator for the Tour de Broward, a cycling/running/walking event that raised more than $250,000 to build and benefit the new Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital. In 2010, Jerilyn was named the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce’s Hollywood Businesswoman of the Year.

Through Jerilyn’s efforts, Memorial Hospital Pembroke was a sponsor of the Community Health and Safety Fair at FAU’s Davie campus in January. Jerilyn played a major role as a member of the planning committee, resulting in the participation of more than 70 community partners, as well as free health screenings at the event.

Jerilyn says of her time at FAU, “As a full-time working mom, the varied class schedules and proximity of campuses to my home and business made it so easy to take several classes each semester. Before I knew it, I was applying for graduation!”

Sixth Annual Seaside Shindig

The Broward Seaside Burrow of Florida Atlantic University’s National Alumni Association recently presented the Sixth Annual Seaside Shindig at the Dania Beach (SeaTech) campus.

The Shindig, which raises funds for student scholarships and alumni initiatives at FAU, is a community favorite for its casual, beach-themed atmosphere and seafood menu. Each year, the event recognizes “Wave Makers” who have shown exceptional dedication to FAU’s Broward campuses.

2011 honorees included Jerilyn Grimm as the outstanding alumna, Becker & Poliakov, P.A. as the corporate partner and the Town of Dania as the community partner. Additionally, the Ginny Miller “Pearl of Broward” Award was presented to John Pisula of State Farm Insurance Company. The prestigious award was donated by P.J. Rossi Jewelers and is named for Broward community leader and FAU supporter Virginia “Ginny” Miller.

In celebration of the University’s 50th anniversary, outstanding alumni from each of FAU’s five decades were honored. The “Alumni of the Decades” included Bessie Cristwell ’66, Lynn Shatas ’77, Charlene Bender ’85, Ginger Martin ’91 and Michael Walters ’09. The awards were presented to the alumni by current FAU student leaders.


Please consider Florida Atlantic University in your planned giving.