

**Florida Atlantic University**  
**2005 State of the University Address**

by

**President Frank T. Brogan**

**University Theatre**  
**Boca Raton Campus**

**September 7, 2005**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you very much for that warm reception.

At this time last year we were in the midst of coping with the first two of the four major hurricanes that hit Florida in the fall of 2004. While the damages and distress we experienced are certainly not to be minimized, our minds reel at the sheer enormity of the disaster that Hurricane Katrina has visited upon the people of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

Like Americans everywhere, we want to help, and there are ways that we can certainly do just that. A link containing information about how you can contribute to the relief effort is posted on the FAU homepage. A Dollar Drive is getting under way on all campuses under the direction of the Weppner Volunteer Center.

If everyone in the FAU community donates just one dollar to this campaign, we will be able to generate more than \$30,000 almost overnight. All money collected will be sent to the Red Cross. Please contact the Weppner Volunteer Center about getting a collection box for your work area, and of course you'll be able to make a donation at the Florida Atlantic-Oklahoma State football game at Dolphin Stadium tomorrow night by contributing during the FAU National Alumni Association's tailgate party. In the days and weeks ahead there will be many other fund-raising initiatives on all of our campuses.

Like many other universities around the country, we extended our fall registration deadline in order to admit students from Gulf Coast institutions that are going to be shut down, perhaps indefinitely. At last count 45 students have come to us in this way, and we welcome each of them warmly as new members of the Florida Atlantic University family.

We're also concerned about displaced faculty members, and we'd like to extend a helping hand to them as well. We'd like to offer temporary facilities to faculty members from other institutions who may need, for example, laboratory space in which to continue their research. I have been charged by the energy, the vitality and the caring spirit of our Florida Atlantic University family as we continue to reach out.

I am proud to say that five of our nursing students who are specially trained in disaster medical services have volunteered to go to the Gulf Coast to give hands-on care to the sick and injured. They've already packed their bags and the

University is lending them a van. They plan on leaving, accompanied by a member of our nursing faculty and a graduate of our nursing program, as soon as they receive approval from the Red Cross to join the relief effort.

We are looking each day for new ways to reach out to the thousands and thousands of people who have been affected by this storm. Here in the Sunshine State we know a great deal about hurricanes, and we also know that in the aftermath of those hurricanes, nothing is more exhilarating than seeing people come together to reach out to others in need.

Florida Atlantic University continues to grow dramatically and substantially under the banner of the four overarching goals set by the Board of Trustees that our guiding are strategic planning process: *educate, research, serve, prepare*. These goals are being translated into human terms in a multitude of ways at FAU.

Our basic mission, of course, is to deliver educational services, and our student body continues to grow. This year's fall enrollment is 26,124, up about 700 students over last year. FAU still ranks as the most diversely populated university in the Florida system, with more than a third of the student body classified as minority or international. Credit hours are also up, totaling 251,088 for about a one percent increase over last year.

FAU is moving forward in an incremental fashion to elevate enrollment standards to ensure that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have a student body that is ready, willing and able to deal with the rigors of post-secondary education. We are reaching out to our community college partners to make certain that our transfer students are the best and brightest, and we are reaching out to the world to see to it that our first-time-in-college students are outstanding and excellent in every way. All of this will not only contribute to the process of building a world-class educational system, but will also ensure that those who walk the graduation stage at Florida Atlantic University are indeed prepared to meet the needs and requirements of the most competitive global economy this planet has ever seen.

At least 18,000 students are taking classes through a variety of distance learning technologies, including both fully online classes and traditional classes that are supplemented by web-assisted services.

Our incoming freshman class university-wide consists of 2,102 men and women. Their average SAT score is 1057. That's up a full 20 points over last year. Their average ACT score is 21, which is just about the same as last year and stands one

point higher than the national average. Their average GPA is 3.35, up from 3.34 last year. At the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College on our Jupiter campus, we have even more to brag about. Our incoming freshman class of 126 top scholars boasts an average SAT score of 1265 – the highest ever for our Honors College. Their average ACT score is an equally impressive 28, and their average GPA is 4.02.

Fully half of these graduates were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes. Four of them were valedictorians; one was a National Merit Finalist and one a National Hispanic Scholar. The Honors College student body now totals 379 and is expected to grow to 500 over the next few years.

To serve our growing student body, we're adding faculty, world-class faculty. This year 66 new faculty members came aboard to give us a total full-time faculty of 1,040 dedicated men and women who are serving FAU's student body through our eight Colleges. As I am very fond of saying, our faculty truly is the heart and soul of this great institution. Nothing gives me more pride than telling people about the enormous teaching and research contributions that the faculty members of FAU's eight Colleges are making to the future of our state and nation.

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science is undergoing very rapid development as an important center of 21<sup>st</sup> century biomedical research.

The Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters is breaking new ground in arts education by introducing exciting, one-of-a-kind programs, such as the new commercial music curriculum. With the addition of the FAU Marching Band, this College will not only provide us with wonderful entertainment, but also will carry the banner of our University to venues near and far.

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is reaching into the community in a multitude of ways as it educates a new generation of nursing professionals grounded in the philosophy of caring.

The College of Education is helping to ensure Florida's future by developing innovative ways to attract students to the teaching profession and preparing them to succeed as teachers and administrators.

The Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College is demonstrating that there is no need for academically gifted students to leave South Florida to receive a truly top quality liberal arts education with extensive enrichment experiences.

The College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs is shaping our shared civic life through its highly respected undergraduate and graduate programs for those wishing to pursue careers in public administration.

The College of Business is on the leading edge of our changing economic environment, offering students an ever-widening array of programs that are responsive to emerging needs.

And, finally, the College of Engineering and Computer Science is taking FAU to infinity and beyond through research that reaches from the depths of the ocean to the vastness of space.

More and more of our faculty members are carrying out cutting-edge research, and we're moving into the big leagues in terms of our ability to attract sponsored research dollars. At last count, 2004-05 research funding from all sources totaled \$61 million, a substantial increase over last year.

The research visibility of FAU continues to grow in boundless ways as we look to become full partners in the future of research through initiatives such as our Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Technology. We are reaching out to the sea to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other maladies that afflict our aged population. The Center of Excellence has already produced two spin-off companies with Florida Atlantic University researchers as principal partners.

A great deal of other important biomedical research is also taking place in the Schmidt College of Science in areas such as cancer, genetics, brain science, heart disease and many other critically important fields of inquiry.

FAU is the home of the world's most advanced high-definition television camera, developed by Professor Bill Glenn. It will be aboard the next flight of the space shuttle, providing not only high quality pictures of Planet Earth, but also helping to ensure the safety and security of the astronauts.

National-security-related research is taking place at SeaTech and in the Center for Intermodal Transportation as Florida Atlantic University steps up to the plate

and looks for groundbreaking ways to make security a higher and higher priority.

The partnerships that we've created at FAU are incredibly important to the University's future. I am one of those who believe that partnership is the way of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Institutions that are able to build effective alliances will move their academic fortunes forward higher, farther and faster than anyone thought possible. We are pioneering such great partnerships today here at Florida Atlantic University.

The Scripps Institute, the world's largest not-for-profit research institution, has now become our neighbor in Palm Beach County. FAU physically opened its doors to a partnership with Scripps by providing essential laboratory space to some of their key researchers here on the Boca Raton campus and on the John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter. Two new state-of-the-art facilities on our Jupiter campus will provide Scripps researchers with more than 75,000 square feet of state-of-the-art workspace, including wet labs. Ultimately, when our partners at Scripps move to their own campus at Mecca Farms, these buildings will become powerful additions to the University's own permanent arsenal of facilities.

We have done incredible work with our partners at Scripps already, and it is exciting to think of the potential that exists not only with Scripps but also with the biomedical industry that will no doubt grow up in this part of Florida. In the years to come, our partnership role will grow as we make certain that this University is indeed fully involved in the future of research in the Sunshine State.

A truly unique partnership links FAU with the University of Miami. Our Boca Raton campus has become a regional campus of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, with more than 40 students currently enrolled in the medical education program. The only public-private partnership of its kind in the country, it brings a private institution and a public institution together to create additional opportunities in the vitally important world of medical education. And this partnership is expanding. It now allows students to take their first two years of medical studies at FAU and then automatically transfer to the University of Miami for the remaining two years and their residency work. This will ultimately give way to a full four-year medical education opportunity here at FAU, a plan that has gained the approval of our Board of Governors and won some funding support. It will be a wonderful day in the not-too-distant future when students will be able to get their entire medical education right here at

Florida Atlantic University and remain for their residency work by taking advantage of our partnership with Boca Raton Community Hospital, which plans to relocate to our Boca Raton campus as a teaching hospital. We can make certain that our state's growing medical needs will be met in a cost-effective and efficient manner through partnerships such as these.

The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, one of the premier facilities of its kind in the world, is another of the University's valued partners. We are about to begin construction of an \$11 million facility on the Harbor Branch campus in Fort Pierce, and in that facility undergraduate, graduate and research opportunities will be provided in partnership with Harbor Branch and Indian River Community College. Again we see the power of the partnership to provide access and opportunity where once there was neither.

FAU has recently formed a partnership with the world-renowned H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa. FAU is committed to playing a leadership role in the ongoing search for new and innovative ways to treat and ultimately cure the disease as we know as cancer. I am convinced that our partnership with Moffitt will lead to groundbreaking work in that area, possibly leading to the day when one of our geniuses of research will look into a test tube and utter the great "aha!" that will signal the unlocking of cancer's mysteries.

We are also fortunate to have immensely valuable benefactors in the private sector who want to support the important work that is taking place in a host of areas at Florida Atlantic University. The College of Business recently received a \$5 million donation from Barry Kaye. In the brief video clip that was shown this morning, I hope you noted the excitement and passion in his eyes and voice as he talked about FAU. Although Mr. Kaye did not graduate from Florida Atlantic University, he has developed a love for this institution and through his generous donation is establishing the Barry Kaye School of Finance, Insurance and Economics. When this gift is matched by the state, it will total \$10 million. What a wonderful way to provide support for our faculty and students as they work to achieve everything we know they are capable of accomplishing.

Overall, this has been an excellent fund-raising year for the FAU Foundation, with donations and pledges totaling nearly \$28.5 million. That's an increase of 45 percent over last year. This money is being used wisely by the University in innovative and creative ways to help enhance educational opportunity. The coming year promises to be even better, with a reconstituted advancement staff that now spans the entire University, working together to prepare for a major

capital campaign sometime in the near future. The range of opportunity that Florida Atlantic University provides to our benefactors and potential benefactors continues to grow. Without their generosity, we would not be able to move the University forward at nearly so rapid a rate.

Now I would like to briefly review some important developments that are taking place on our seven campuses, beginning on the north with the Treasure Coast. The effort to build the Marine Science Partnership Building at Harbor Branch in Fort Pierce is under way. This unique research and teaching facility will greatly expand FAU's presence on the Treasure Coast and allow our students to access educational opportunities in marine science year-round. An FAU-affiliated K through 8 charter lab school is expected to open in the Port St. Lucie town of Tradition in the fall of 2007. This school will follow the successful model of our own A. D. Henderson University School. It demonstrates FAU's commitment to students of all ages on the Treasure Coast and will provide unique opportunities to aspiring teachers in our College of Education.

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, or the CARD Center, has just opened an office on the Treasure Coast campus. This new office and the existing CARD facility on the Boca Raton campus are the hubs of a newly created five-county service region that has been established to serve people with autism in our part of the state. More than 100 parents of children with autism flocked to the first informational meeting in Port St. Lucie, demonstrating the pressing need for CARD services in our area.

Now let's go the Jupiter campus. Scripps scientists have been at work since February in the first joint-use building. The FAU-Scripps partnership continues to bear fruit as it produces many very promising cooperative ventures. The first FAU graduate to be hired by Scripps went to work there a few months ago. A 30,000-square-foot addition to the Scripps building is currently in the planning stage. This new construction is expected to be completed within one calendar year. This fall, students on the Jupiter campus began using the brand new Wilkes Building, which houses psychology programs offered by the Honors College and the Charles E. Schmidt College of science. Another recently completed major addition to the Jupiter campus is the Elinor Bernon Rosenthal Lifelong Learning Complex, a truly beautiful facility that includes a 500-seat auditorium. Like the Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center here in Boca, the complex in Jupiter is designed to accommodate the needs of the senior learner, including features such as headsets for the hearing impaired and wheelchair-friendly aisles. Lifelong Learning classes will get under way there in October,

and when they are not in session the complex will be available for use by our regularly enrolled students. This is a really wonderful new venture that greatly enhances FAU's outreach in the northern part of Palm Beach County. Last year our family of enthusiastic Lifelong Learners on the Jupiter and Boca Raton campuses saw an enrollment of more than 17,000. That in itself is a good-sized university, ladies and gentlemen, and I think it demonstrates FAU's commitment to reach out to students of all ages. We are so proud of our Lifelong Learning program, which we believe is the largest and most successful in the United States.

Here on the Boca Raton campus, evidence of the University's continued growth is all around us. On October 28, we will dedicate the elegant new home of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, which we have been watching come out of the ground for the past year. This will be the culminating event of the College's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and will provide a long-awaited permanent home for one of the most highly respected nursing programs in America. The debut of this wonderful new facility follows closely on the heels of the recent dedication of the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center here on the Boca Raton campus. This innovative facility offers a comprehensive array of services to patients and their families. It recently won the major distinction of being named a state-designated memory disorder clinic by act of the Florida Legislature.

Long-awaited construction of the new Paul C. Wimbish wing of the main library in Boca Raton is finally under way. This five-story addition will greatly enhance the Wimberly Library's versatility as the multifunctional hub of all library services university-wide. Yesterday I had the opportunity to take part in the ceremony that marked the acquisition of the FAU Libraries' one-millionth book. Significantly, this new book is a creation of the library and it centers on the life of the burrowing owl, the protected species that FAU proudly claims as its mascot. It is now ensconced in a growing library that provides comprehensive services to students and faculty on all of our campuses.

In Davie, we are in the final design phase of the new Student Union and will be breaking ground for it in the spring. This facility is being paid for by the students and will bring them a full complement of services, including a new bookstore, a Bank Atlantic branch office, a new food service area, and office and meeting space for Student Government and clubs. The much-anticipated Davie Student Union is expected to open in about two years. Students in Davie are also excited about our agreement with Broward Community College to build a joint-use parking garage. This will be the first such facility on the Davie campus, and

it will make 1,000 parking spaces available to students, faculty and staff. We expect it to be in operation by this time next year. I've said before that when you ask a university president to identify the greatest challenge facing universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century you're likely to be told that it's providing ample parking places for students, faculty and staff. We are doing our best to address that at FAU.

Also in Davie, we are about break ground for a greenhouse – popularly known as “Dr. Volen’s greenhouse” – where important Everglades research will be carried out by Dr. John Volen and his faculty associates and students. It is also important to know that we are still working diligently to expand in Davie, which is our second largest campus. We are working with the Legislature on this, and hope to acquire planning and construction funds for additional buildings. FAU is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of Broward’s growing population.

Ocean engineering faculty and students on our SeaTech campus in Dania Beach continue to work in close cooperation with the U.S. Navy, carrying on research that is playing an increasingly important role in national security efforts.

In downtown Fort Lauderdale, construction has begun on a joint-use plaza between the FAU and Broward Community College buildings. This very pleasant outdoor environment will include a built-in stage with seating and a place where flags can be displayed. At this time, we have no place for the display of flags on the downtown campus; this provides a wonderful opportunity to remedy that. This project, which we've wanted to develop for a long time, will bring a real collegiate feel to our fast-growing downtown campus, which is part of the city center's redevelopment renaissance. We also believe that this campus will become a hub of Lifelong Learning opportunities for many of the new residents of the downtown Fort Lauderdale area.

From the Treasure Coast to Broward County and all points in between, this will clearly be a year of continued growth at Florida Atlantic University. That growth will be guided by our Strategic Plan, which is approaching completion under the leadership of our Board of Trustees and the hands-on direction of Dr. Kristen Murtaugh and Trustee Nancy Blosser. The strategic planning process has been going on not only at the University level but also at the level of the individual Colleges, and all the plans are coordinated with one another. We are very excited about the Strategic Plan, and I want to thank the thousands of people who have contributed to it with their input, their passion and their vision for the future of Florida Atlantic University. This process is aimed at making certain that FAU becomes a more student-centered and student-focused

institution, an institution that is dedicated to providing our world-class faculty the tools they need to do the remarkable job we call upon them to do each and every day, to make certain that our \$500 million budget is spent with efficiency and effectiveness, and to see to it that we are meeting the needs of our state, our nation and our world by turning out graduates who are well equipped to meet those needs. It is an incredibly important responsibility to create a Strategic Plan and then modify it again and again to keep pace with the evolution of Florida Atlantic University.

Why have a such a plan? A Strategic Plan serves as a road map to the best of all futures. It allows us to set budget priorities for the University, it facilitates transparency, with all data readily available online for public inspection, and it keeps everyone on track in terms of goals and accountability. We expect our Strategic Plan to become operational in December. It will be fully accessible online, allowing people to mine down into the data to every College, every Department and every Division to see first-hand how all of us are working together as a team to chart the future of Florida Atlantic University.

I would hate to end this brief overview of some of the most exciting things that are happening at FAU without talking about our growing athletics program, which is playing a bigger and bigger role in the life of this University. As you know, we are dedicated to offering students the entire University experience, making certain they have the same kinds of opportunities that have always been available at older, more traditional universities. We are continuing to add more on-campus student residence facilities and we are working with our Greek organizations to encourage the development of fraternities and sororities. Our athletics program is a big part of the extracurricular menu, and we are very proud of the 450 student-athletes who are taking part in 17 NCAA sports, plus cheerleading and dance. I use the term student-athlete for a very specific reason. We believe that our student-athletes are first and foremost students. I am very proud of the fact that the graduation rate among our student-athletes is even higher than the graduation rate of our overall student body. We will always work to make sure that as our graduation and retention rates increase, our student-athletes will be at the tip of the javelin, staying ahead of that curve, and we are going to work very hard to make sure they do. FAU wants to be known as a university that boasts student-athletes who are successful both on the field and, more important, in the classroom.

An exciting year in sports lies ahead, beginning with this year's football season, which marks the official Division I-A debut of the Fighting Owls. This year our

team faces a very challenging schedule of tough opponents, and we need to get out there and show our support for our wonderful student-athletes. We hope you'll be part of the excitement that's growing at FAU as our football team, cheerleaders, dance team and marching band come together to put us on the college football map.

We've just completed the celebration of Florida Atlantic University's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and I'd like to pause for a moment to reflect upon our history. It's been 40 years since this institution began right here on this campus, housed in a small collection of buildings and populated by a hardy band of faculty, students and staff who were willing to become part of a brand new enterprise in higher education. From the beginning, this University was dedicated to providing access to top quality post-secondary educational opportunities to the people of South Florida, a region that everyone knew was about to undergo explosive growth. That growth did, indeed, occur and as our service region grew so did FAU, expanding its teaching, research and public service programs, always under the hallmark of quality. As we conclude the University's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, it is important for us to take one more moment to remember the men and women who were willing to leave the security of established jobs and comfortable lives to bring Florida Atlantic University into existence. It is thanks to them and their pioneering work that those of us here today stand on the cusp of FAU's next 40 years.

I sometimes think about the State of the University Address 40 years from now, and the very, very fortunate FAU president who will deliver it. When you think about how far we've come in the first 40 years, you can't help but get excited at the thought of what this University will be 40 years from now. Florida Atlantic University today is a leader in teaching, research and public service, but so much more lies ahead. Each of you is directly responsible for creating the strong foundation upon which the future of FAU is being built. Students not yet born will have stronger, better lives because of the opportunities they'll find at FAU. Again, if we've come this far in 40 years, just imagine what the next 40 will bring. Our challenge is to get on with the job of writing the next chapter in the story of FAU, and we intend to do just that.

I would like to thank every single member of the faculty, staff and student body, who are all making important personal contributions to taking FAU to the next level of accomplishment. It is truly, truly a great privilege for me to be here working with you as a proud alumnus of FAU and its very proud fifth president.

Thank you so very much for coming today to hear the State of the University Address, and, more important, thank you for committing your talent, skill and energy to taking FAU into its next 40 years as we honor the past and make certain that the future is bright for all of those who will ultimately become part of the FAU family.

You are cordially invited to stay for a luncheon reception that will be held just outside the doors of this auditorium. As I leave the stage, I am mindful of our many blessings and the fact that there are still so many suffering in our country today. I urge you to contribute not only dollars but also your heart as we work together to try to help lift the burden of our fellow Americans who are facing devastation the likes of which this country has perhaps never seen before. They have a long road home, but isn't it wonderful to know that they have neighbors such as you – men, women and children who are willing to do everything possible to reach out to them in this time of need. That's the hallmark of Florida Atlantic University – people who come together not only to teach and learn, but who work together to make our world a better place. Thank you for giving me the blessing of being the president of Florida Atlantic University, and thank you again for all you do for FAU.