

# **Florida Atlantic University 2007 State of the University Address**

Delivered by President Frank T. Brogan on September 19, 2007

Thank you ladies and gentlemen, and thank you so much for that wonderful introduction, Trustee Tripp. Sincere thanks to you and all the dedicated members of our Board of Trustees for all you're doing to take Florida Atlantic University to the next level of excellence. The passion that goes into the work of our Board of Trustees is something to behold. I'm hard pressed to believe that there is a better Board of Trustees in the State University System of Florida. We're very fortunate to have all 13 of them as members of our Board, contributing in their own unique ways to the policy-setting and fiduciary responsibilities that are helping to take this University to the next level. So thank you again to the members of our Board of Trustees.

I want to take a moment to also thank the musicians and vocalists who got us off to such a marvelous start this morning. Chairman Tripp is right – they provide just one example of the unbridled talent that covers the length and breadth of this University, in our classrooms, in our laboratories, on our stages, on our fields, courts and diamonds. This is a remarkable place, full of most remarkable people.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2007 State of the University Address. Before I begin my report to you, I would like to introduce someone in the audience who is very special to me. Courtney Brogan, my wife and great partner, is here. Courtney, welcome to you. Not with us this morning is son Colby John, who now belongs to the world and is a school student.

Traditionally, this address has consisted primarily of a look backward at the ground we've traveled as an institution over the past year. I intend to cover some of that familiar territory in my report to you this morning, but much of my focus is going to be on the future of Florida Atlantic University – little bit of a different wrinkle for the State of the University Address.

As a personal aside, let me tell you that Courtney and I have learned a lot from our son over the past two-and-a-half years. We've learned that parents are people who naturally look to the future, knowing that their children are on an exciting journey of growth, development and transformative change, and we're immensely privileged to be taking that journey with them. It is an incredible thought, and I have it often. Just a few weeks ago, I saw Colby John and his mother walk out the door, he in his backpack carrying his Thomas the Train lunch box headed to his first formal educational experience. I knew that he was going to be in the care of some wonderful, talented

teachers who would love him, care for him and help us to get him on the right path for the rest of his life, academically. That lesson is just as instructive when applied to a vigorous young educational institution as it is when applied to a bright and energetic little boy. In a very literal sense, the future belongs to Colby John and his generation, and it just as surely belongs to Florida Atlantic University. So today I would like to introduce you to FAU's Crest of the Wave initiative – a 10-year look at the future of our University. I'll give you some of the highlights of this 10-year plan as I report on various aspects of the status quo, and at the conclusion of these remarks I'll try to paint a very broad picture of what I expect FAU to look like at the next stage in its development.

As hard as it is for his mother and me to imagine right now, in 2017 Colby John will be a 12-year-old middle school student. For those of you who have had middle school students, this is a frightening thought, I know. This University will have just passed the half-century mark, and it will still be a very young institution when compared with the average age of other universities around the country, many of which date back to the original Land Grant Acts of 1862 and 1890 and even well before that.

I would like to say at the outset that I received a great deal of help in developing the 10-year vision for FAU from people all over the University who work in the areas we're going to be looking at, who are partners in what we do, and who love the institution, as do I. I would like to thank them very much for their assistance.

Let us start with student enrollment, which is arguably the single most important statistic at any institution of higher education, particularly those that are publicly funded. We're in our third consecutive year of more gradual growth, with enrollment at the 26,000 mark, which is fine considering that we have raised our admission standards and enrollment has declined in both the K through 12 and community college systems in South Florida in the last couple of years. In fact, our fall enrollment has increased by more than three-and-a-half percent over last year. So we are doing very well. While our higher admission requirements are here to stay, I'm convinced that the drop in enrollment in our feeder schools is a temporary phenomenon linked to statewide economic issues that one way or another are eventually going to be resolved.

The total number of credit hours our students are taking this semester is up by more than four percent to just over 250,000. So once again we are seeing evidence of a continued growth curve.

I believe that by 2017 – in 10 years – our student population will have reached approximately 30,000. I think this projection is very realistic and achievable. To get there will require a net increase of about 400 students a year, which is certainly within our reach.

While most of our future students will take their classes in traditional settings on one or more of our seven campuses and sites, the University will offer them greatly expanded opportunities to take their entire degree programs online. Currently about five percent of our degree programs can be completed online; I expect to see that number increase dramatically over the next 10 years, to at least 25 percent.

While I fully believe there will never be a real substitute for the richness and immediacy of the in-class experience, where students get the priceless opportunity to interact with our faculty members on a face-to-face basis, it's clear that a significant number of people seeking university degrees are in life situations that prevent them from attending classes in person. The online option provides a way for them to reach their educational goals, and it's important for FAU to provide quality programs to help them do just that.

These students of the future, whether they're taking their degrees in the traditional way or online, will be part of a University that has used its Strategic Plan to deepen its roots in the community and greatly increase its responsiveness to the needs of the workforce.

This University will continue to gain strength as a powerful engine of economic development throughout its large service region. Currently, FAU is the driving force behind \$1.2 billion dollars a year in economic activity, and I expect that figure to climb to \$3 billion over the next 10 years. In response to the University's deepening importance to the community, friends and alumni will step forward in ever-increasing numbers to show their support of FAU. We've seen a clear trend in this direction in recent years, as the FAU Foundation's endowment has grown to almost \$200 million.

It's my great pleasure to tell you that we've just closed the books on the second-best fundraising year in the Foundation's history. We received \$42.5 million in donations and pledges, a truly remarkable figure that stands 101 percent over last year's total. This resoundingly successful fundraising year provides the perfect backdrop for the kick-off of our capital campaign and will most certainly help us find a person of real substance to become our new Vice President for University Advancement.

I think that an endowment approaching \$400 million is eminently achievable over the next 10 years. When we do hit that mark, we should have something in the neighborhood of \$6 million available to award to the best and brightest students who need financial assistance to pursue university degrees in the fields of their choice at Florida Atlantic University. That \$6 million, like the need-based scholarships we are able to award today, will literally open the door to a future of limitless possibility to thousands of deserving students. As

we all know, getting that door open and keeping it open are the two main reasons we come to work every single day.

Let's take a look at some Fall Semester statistics that I think will interest you.

This semester we have 2,763 incoming freshmen here on the Boca campus and at the Honors College in Jupiter. This class is 15 percent larger than the cohort of first-time-in-college students we admitted last fall. These students bring with them an average SAT score of 1040, an average ACT score of 22, and an average GPA of 3.2. Ten years from now, I expect the SAT range of our freshmen to fall between 1150 and 1250, their ACT range to be from 23 to 27, and their GPA range to be from 3.4 to 3.6. We began an important discussion with our Board of Trustees yesterday about some possibilities in the area of higher enrollment standards in the future.

This year's 929 graduate students are coming to us with an average GRE score of 1021. By 2017, we should see that increase to 1200.

I'm proud to tell you that our University continues to lead the way in the very important area of student diversity. Some thought that raising our admission standards over the past several years would result in a loss of minority students, and that just has not happened. At the end of late registration this semester, we found that FAU's minority student population had increased across the board, with African-American enrollment growing by 3 percent, Native American enrollment by 3.6 percent, Asian and Pacific Islander enrollment by 4.3 percent and Hispanic enrollment by a resounding 9.6 percent. These excellent figures enable us to keep on proudly making the claim that our student body is the most diverse in Florida's State University System. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks FAU 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of student diversity, and two other national magazines have repeatedly commended us in recent years for the number of degrees we award to African-American and Hispanic students.

I fully expect this achievement to stand over the next 10 years, and, beyond that, I expect Florida Atlantic University to duplicate that level of diversity in its faculty, administration and staff. It's very important for those of us who are the public face of this University to look like the population we serve, and I intend to work vigorously toward that goal for as long as I'm privileged to be president.

I'm very glad to say that we're welcoming a diverse group of 82 new faculty members to FAU this semester. These newcomers bring a wide variety of very interesting backgrounds and areas of specialization to the University, and they bring our full-time faculty to 1,051. Of that new total, nearly 44 percent are women and almost 20 percent are members of minority groups. So we are making progress!

They join a faculty that I sincerely believe ranks among the best in the world by any and all measures one might wish to apply. Our student exit surveys consistently show that our graduates quite literally treasure their relationships with faculty members, and many continue to keep in touch with special teachers and mentors long after they leave Florida Atlantic University. Most, if not all, members of our faculty have been given this honor over and over again, and every single one of them richly deserves it.

I would like to ask all of our faculty members who are in attendance today – and, as you might imagine, many are in class – to stand so that we can show you how much we appreciate the skill, dedication and wholehearted commitment to students you bring to your work. To you and all of the great faculty members of Florida Atlantic University, our heartiest thanks.

Ten years from now I expect our full-time faculty to number from 1,300 to 1,400, and I want FAU to be in the top quartile of our national peer group in the very important area of faculty salaries. Our faculty is the best, and their level of compensation should reflect that. I am supported in that call by our Trustees, who recognize that each and every day this great faculty comes to work to do the great job of educating the people who are the future of the world.

I stand in awe of the work of our Eminent Scholars and Distinguished Professors, who are the embodiment of excellence in their disciplines. In the years ahead, their ranks will swell with other world-class scholars, including at least 10 more members of the national academies, who will join Dr. Herb Weissbach, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Mike Lin, a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

This semester we're welcoming 113 new students to the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, to bring total enrollment to 400. These students bring with them the most outstanding academic credentials of any incoming Honors College class, with an average SAT score of 1247, an average ACT score of 27 and an average high school GPA of 4.0. More than half of these young men and women were in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes. Four of them are valedictorians and one is a salutatorian. Five are National Merit Finalists and two are National Achievement Finalists.

All of this year's freshmen University-wide enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to become the first class of incoming FAU students to take part in the summer Freshman Reading Program and the inaugural Freshman Convocation, which took place in the Kaye Auditorium a few weeks ago. I know that some of you attended the festivities that day, as Susan Orlean, author of the best-selling book *The Orchid Thief*, made the keynote address to a packed house of very appreciative FAU freshmen. She said something

that's stuck in my mind, and that's that she became a writer because she never wants to stop learning. What a wonderful message to give young people who are just starting out on their own lifelong journey of discovery!

As enjoyable as the Freshman Convocation was, it's much more than an exercise in pure hospitality. Statistics show that universities that welcome freshmen in this way help them get off to a good start in their academic lives and increase the likelihood that they'll be retained through graduation. It makes a great deal of sense to take a page from that book.

Our first Freshman Convocation can only be described as a roaring success, and we intend to offer it at the beginning of every Fall Semester ever more. I'd like to take a moment to thank Dr. Mary Ann Gosser Esquilin, Dr. Deborah Raines and all the members of the Freshman Convocation Committee for doing an absolutely incredible job of getting this very important new tradition off the ground. All of you please stand and let us say thank you.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a new key player on the FAU team, Dr. Edward Pratt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Dr. Pratt comes to us from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he was Dean of Undergraduate Studies and associate professor of history. He's part of the team that is right now hard at work to enhance our core curriculum, continue our expansion of critically important student support services and build more and more of the elements of traditional university life into the FAU experience.

As part of that initiative, over the next 10 years we're going to see the construction of more on-campus residence facilities for our students, and that will include some fraternity and sorority accommodations. By 2017, we expect to see at least 5,000 students living on this campus and another 500 on the Jupiter campus.

The process of enhancing campus life in Broward will take a quantum leap forward in the near future when the long-awaited Davie Student Union opens. I've taken a hard hat tour of this building, and I can tell you that it's going to be everything our Broward students were hoping for, and more. We expect the doors to open in January. By 2017 it will have undergone a major expansion to accommodate the continued growth of our student body in Broward County.

Here in Boca Raton, construction will soon begin on the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center and on a state-of-the-art recreation and fitness center for students, faculty and staff.

And yes, we're going to get that stadium we've been talking about for the past few years, and when we do it's going to be something that will capture the

attention of other universities around the country. Our 30,000-seat stadium will be the hub of a campus community called Innovation Village that will include student housing and retail shops as well as a venue for many different types of athletic, academic and entertainment events. Yesterday our Board of Trustees gave this idea their unanimous approval, so we're moving full steam ahead with our planning and hope to play our first game in our own stadium just three years from now. More than anything else, the stadium and Innovation Village will bring the true flavor of traditional campus life to FAU, and that's going to have a very dramatic impact on the University's future.

We're also planning to add a multi-purpose convocation center/arena to this campus within the next decade.

The permanent home of Scripps Florida is rapidly taking shape on the eastern edge of our Jupiter campus. This represents yet another major step in the FAU-Scripps partnership, which has already opened up an exciting new world of opportunity to our faculty and student researchers and will ultimately play a huge role in redefining the economy of our entire region. In the coming years, Scripps Florida is expected to generate up to 44,000 high quality new jobs as it puts Florida on the biomedical research map. FAU is already an actively contributing partner in this process.

You've probably seen the recent newspaper reports about the possibility that yet another internationally prominent research giant, the Max Planck Society, is also hoping to set up shop on our Jupiter campus. This proposal is still very much in the early stage, but the fact that the Planck organization, which is based in Germany and has 81 operational units around the world, would seek to duplicate the arrangement we have with Scripps here in South Florida provides dramatic evidence of our young University's rapidly advancing standing in the international research arena. Last week, the Planck proposal was unanimously endorsed by our Board of Trustees and the Palm Beach County Commission. In a totally unprecedented move, Commissioner Jess Santamaria pledged \$100,000 of his own money to help move this very exciting plan forward.

We're quite literally at the core of an explosion of biomed-biotech-bioengineering activity that's going to change everything for our University and our state over the next few years, and the Jupiter campus continues to be at the forefront of all of this.

A few miles farther up the coast, we've entered into another very promising partnership with the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies. Torrey Pines scientists are currently being housed at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, an internationally known marine science education and research facility just north of Fort Pierce that's now a full-fledged member of the FAU family. While our relationship with Harbor Branch dates back more than a

decade, and we recently put an \$11 million joint-use building into service there, until very recently FAU and Harbor Branch have been two separate entities. That changed during the 2007 session of the Florida Legislature, when we asked for and received more than \$52 million in operational and construction funding to make Harbor Branch part of Florida Atlantic University. The process of merging the two institutions has been under way for quite a few months, and it will be complete by the beginning of next year.

In addition to bringing the work of a renowned and highly respected marine science research organization under the FAU umbrella, the merger has added more than \$16.5 million to our total funded research. Some of our colleagues from Harbor Branch are here with us this morning, and I'd like to introduce them to you. Please hold your applause until I've introduced each of them and then I hope you'll join me in welcoming them to the FAU family. I would like to introduce from Harbor Branch Dr. Shirley Pomponi, president and CEO; Patrick Boles, COO; Pete Tatro, director of ocean exploration; Jan Petri, director of external affairs; Dr. Megan Davis, director of coastal research; Dr. Amy Wright, senior scientist and director of biomedical marine research; and Dr. Dennis Hanisak, senior scientist and director of educational programs. Welcome to all of you!

We've just broken ground for a major new classroom facility on our Port St. Lucie campus. This 31,000-square-foot building will give us the added space we need to serve our growing Treasure Coast student population and add high-demand degree programs in accounting, finance, marketing and nursing.

If you'll bear with me for a moment, I'd like to share two more important statistical projections with you. Our Lifelong Learning Society, which is arguably the most successful program of its kind in the nation, currently has about 22,000 members University-wide. Given the excellence of our program and the continued expansion of the senior population in South Florida, I think LLS membership is likely to increase to about 37,000 students 10 years down the road. As you know, our regularly enrolled student body is also on the rise, which means that we're gaining alumni in record numbers every year. The Alumni Office tells me that close to 103,000 men and women are now the proud holders of FAU degrees. I see their ranks swelling to 175,000 by 2017.

I know I've probably got your head spinning with all those numbers, so let's pause for a minute and think about the living, breathing human beings who bring those statistics to life. The best part of my job – and the best part of all our jobs – is getting to know the incredible men and women of all ages who make up the FAU student body. Their talent, their intelligence, their energy, their resourcefulness and, above all, their commitment to public service never cease to amaze and inspire me. This University has so many heroes in its student body that it would take me hours to give you a comprehensive report about all of their activities. Since we don't have that much time at our disposal

this morning, let me briefly tell you about a really wonderful outreach effort that took place just this last year.

While most college students around the country are into relaxing on their spring break, there's a growing trend toward using that time to render meaningful community service, and I'm very glad to tell you that FAU students are part of that trend. Last spring, 30 of our students and staff members went to New Orleans to render hands-on help in the ongoing effort to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition to working with people from the ACORN national service agency to make three flood-ravaged houses livable again, they tutored elementary and high school students in the hard-hit Ninth Ward. This experience made a profound impression on our students, and many of them are looking forward to doing it all over again this year.

Alternative Spring Break is a University-wide initiative sponsored by the Weppner Center for Civic Engagement and Service, Student Government, Students Advocating Volunteer Involvement, the Catholic Newman Club and the Diocese of Palm Beach County. I'd like to thank Monica Jara, Heather Bishara, Freddie Frage, Teresa Brown and Terrence McCorry for all the hard work they put into organizing the FAU mission to New Orleans. Many of the students and staff who went to New Orleans are here with us this morning, and I'd like to ask them to stand so we can thank them and through them express our thanks to this University's many volunteers.

Students are this University's reason for being, and it's important that they be well represented by their Student Government Association. Last year saw the creation of a brand new Student Government Constitution, which brought our SG policies into alignment with state guidelines and encouraged more students to participate in the self-governance process. In the first elections held under the new Constitution, Mr. Tony Teixeira won the presidency. I've already worked with Tony on a number of special matters, and I can tell you that he's a student leader of outstanding ability. In addition to heading up Student Government, Tony is a member of the Board of Trustees. Both Tony and SG Vice President Abe Cohen are here today. I'd like to ask them to stand so we can thank them – and through them thank all our student leaders – for their very valuable service to our student body.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech underscored the importance of making safety a top priority on all our campuses. We've always taken safety very seriously at FAU and have a growing number of programs in place to help our students, faculty and staff avoid becoming the victims of accidents or crime. This month marks the second year of our University-wide observance of Safety Month, which features an incredible array of presentations and programming on all our campuses. Now we're going several steps further than ever before by installing a reverse 911 automatic calling system that will give us the capability to notify everyone who has a telephone that's registered with the

University – including cellphones – when an emergency situation develops. That is in development even as we speak. Also, we're in the process of installing an emergency audio alert system on this campus, and we intend to expand that program to other campuses as well. Additionally, the FAU Police Department has broadened its training procedures and increased its partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.

I'm very glad to tell you that our long search for a new police chief has come to a successful conclusion. Chief Charles Lowe began his duties here at Florida Atlantic University on September 4<sup>th</sup> after serving as chief of police at Longwood University in Virginia for seven years. He's a seasoned law enforcement professional with a degree in criminal justice who fully understands the challenges that face university police departments. We're very glad that he's here, and I'd like to introduce him to you now. Chief Lowe, welcome to Florida Atlantic University!

Now let's turn our attention to the seemingly endless stream of construction projects that are taking place on our campuses. As I'm fond of telling people, if you like cranes come to Florida and either go to the Florida Everglades or Florida Atlantic University. You will see more than your share in both locations. Let me begin by telling you that your University is committed to taking the lead in the critically important "green" movement to bring the manmade environment into long-term compatibility with the natural environment. We're off to an excellent start, with no fewer than three major new buildings designed in compliance with sustainability guidelines developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. These very comprehensive guidelines are referred to by the acronym LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Four levels of LEED certification are available: certified, silver, gold and platinum. Our new engineering building is being designed to meet the platinum standard, we've just received word that our nursing building has been certified at the gold level, and the elementary school that we're building at Pine Jog in conjunction with the Palm Beach County School District will be the first LEED-certified school in the state of Florida. It's being built to the silver standard.

Going forward, every publicly funded facility that's built on our campuses will meet the silver standard, and many of them will go well beyond that. Our College of Engineering and Computer Science is taking an especially proactive approach by not only committing itself to a new building on this campus that will meet the highest LEED standard, but also by making this facility a constantly evolving laboratory for the best environmental and energy practices. This is all part of a long-term sustainability initiative that's just getting under way at FAU and that will guide our actions in the years ahead. I've joined many other university presidents around the country in signing the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which

brings FAU into the national campaign to reduce greenhouse gases by 80 percent by mid-century.

On October 24th, the FAU community will observe Campus Sustainability Day for the first time. This is a day that's been created by the Society for College and University Planning to focus attention on things that can be done now to make university campuses – and, by extension, the communities in which those campuses are located – more eco-friendly.

Even as we embrace the philosophy of sustainability, we must continue to develop our campuses to meet current and future needs. University-wide, 15 major construction projects and more than 130 minor projects are under way right now, for a grand total of \$212 million in capital improvements. How can this be happening in such a tight budget year? We have the tremendous generosity of several major donors and a record-setting allocation of state money to thank for this much-needed influx of construction dollars. This year FAU received the largest state appropriation for construction and renovation in its history, totaling almost \$96 million.

After a lengthy national search for a new University Architect and Vice President for Facilities to oversee all this activity, we found the perfect person for the job right here at home. Tom Donaudy joined the FAU team in 1997 as Director of Facilities Planning. He came to us from Tallahassee, where he was an architect for the State University System. For more than a year, Tom served as our interim Vice President for Facilities. He did such an outstanding job that we had no choice but to ask him to take the job on permanently, and – luckily for us – he agreed to do that. So many of the changes you see on our campuses, so many of the upgrades, so many of the improvements that go along with the painting, the clean-up, the landscaping and all of those gigantic construction projects fall under Tom's watchful eye. Tom and his staff are fully committed to our sustainability goals, and they're the hands-on professionals who are making sure that we keep on moving in the right direction. Tom, please stand so we can officially welcome you as FAU's new University Architect and Vice President for Facilities.

As Tom fulfills his role of making our campuses the best in America, others are hard at work creating programs and services aimed at keeping FAU students on those campuses. Earlier I mentioned the Freshman Convocation and the important role we think it's going to play in encouraging our students to hit the ground running and stay at FAU through graduation. In recent years we've begun to put a network of retention strategies in place, including creating Freshman Learning Communities and Living Learning Communities, which help new students get a handle on dealing with the challenges of university life.

We're also doing a much better job of identifying students who need special assistance early in their college careers, when there's still time to step in and give them the kind of help they need to succeed.

Our Freshman Academic Advising Office does an excellent job of giving close personal attention to every student who seeks guidance, our Counseling Center offers a wide variety of individual and group programs to help students cope with the pressures of university life, and our Office for Students with Disabilities is there for those who are struggling with special challenges.

I see all of these vitally important services growing exponentially in the years ahead as we continue to reorganize our core curriculum and put an undergraduate support system in place that's second to none. As I said to our Board of Trustees just the other day, students often pick universities based on visibility created by graduate and research programming. While this is certainly important, we want to make sure that our undergraduate students select this University primarily because they want to spend the next four to five years at a university that will provide them with the best undergraduate education in the country.

We've already devoted a substantial amount of our time and resources to establishing a Center for Teaching Excellence and Student Success at FAU that will provide specially tailored services to our undergraduate students and the faculty members who serve them. Our 2008-09 Legislative Budget Request includes a bid for \$2.8 million, which, if granted, will allow us to continue to transform this important new center from idea to reality.

A lot of hard work has already gone into our FTIC first-to-second-year retention efforts. That refers to our first-time-in-college students. We've moved from 73 percent last year to 76 percent this year, and the overall increase has been seven percent since the fall of 2003.

Looking forward again to the next 10 years, I want and fully expect Florida Atlantic University's undergraduate program to be recognized nationally for its overall excellence and effectiveness. This does not imply that we'll be giving any less attention to our graduate studies program, which has developed very rapidly in recent years and most certainly will continue to do so in the future. We recently welcomed a new Dean of Graduate Studies to FAU, and I'd like to introduce him to you now. Dr. Barry Rosson comes to us from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he served as associate dean of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. He'll be leading the charge as we move aggressively ahead in our graduate studies program, placing renewed emphasis on growth in areas such as teaching, nursing, business, bioinformatics, computer science, medicine and all of the sciences as well as the arts and humanities that do so much to give richness and meaning to our lives. Dr. Rosson, please stand so

we can formally welcome you to the FAU community. Dr. Rosson is working very closely with Dr. Larry Lemanski and others in our Division of Research to fully integrate our graduate program with our research activities – and those activities are experiencing dramatic growth.

Over the past 10 years, our total funded research has gone from \$24 million to nearly \$92 million, approaching an astounding four-fold increase. Over the next 10 years, I expect that figure to climb to over \$200 million, as we reach for and capture the prize of being classified as a Very High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. We're currently included in Carnegie's High Research Activity category.

Along with the bio-sciences, Florida Atlantic University will have a very distinctive profile that will include leading the nation in research on age-related illnesses; playing a leadership role in the Everglades Restoration Project – the largest environmental renewal effort in the world and the largest public works project in United States history; and harnessing the power of ocean currents to generate an inexhaustible supply of cleanly produced energy for Florida and other parts of our country. The name "Florida Atlantic University" will be synonymous with ocean and water-related research, and the University will serve as a world-wide resource and authority in this area.

We'll add to our current portfolio of 48 patents at the rate of about a dozen a year, accumulating at least 100 more over the course of the next 10 years. FAU's most recent patent was literally received only yesterday by Dr. Larry Lemanski, our Vice President for Research, and his post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Chi Zhang. They were awarded a patent on an invention that grew out of the work they've done to understand the mechanisms that regulate the formation of muscle mass in the developing heart. Their research could lead to a way to repair myocardial deficiencies in the heart that are caused by congenital defects or heart attacks.

This past year, our researchers' inventive genius produced more than \$1.5 million in royalties for our University. By 2017, I expect our annual income from this source to have increased to \$6 million or more.

What will be going on in each of our nine great colleges 10 years from now? Before I discuss the possibilities, I would like to ask a very important group to stand. They are the men and women who are the deans of our colleges. I would like to ask them to stand and be recognized for all they are doing to help create the future of Florida Atlantic University. Will all of the deans who are here with us today please stand and let us thank you for your hard work.

By 2017, the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs will rank among the nation's top 25 colleges in the areas of public affairs, public administration and urban design, and it will have expanded its degree

offerings. Plans are in motion right now to introduce master's degrees in architecture and urban design.

The Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters will have expanded its exhibition and performance venues, which offer so many enriching arts experiences to people from the outside community, and it will carry FAU's voice into that community through participation in the operation of WXEL, our local PBS affiliate. In March, the College will welcome a new dean. Dr. Manju Pendakur is coming to us from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he's headed the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts for the past six years. He brings a broad range of experience to this richly diverse College, and we're all looking forward to his arrival in the spring.

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Biomedical Science will be the home of a medical school program that will have grown to its full complement of 256 students and will be producing 64 new physicians every year. We're so excited that the first cohort of four-year medical students has joined us this fall. Our program will be acknowledged as a leader in preparing doctors to diagnose and treat chronic illnesses on an out-patient basis, which will meet a need that's guaranteed to become more and more acute with the aging of America. Our medical students will carry out their residencies at the new Schmidt Medical Center teaching hospital that will be built here on this campus and at many other hospitals throughout our area. The College's researchers will have deepened their collaborative relationships with scientists at Scripps, Torrey Pines and other top-flight research organizations, leading to important new discoveries that will have a positive impact on the health of people here and around the world.

The Barry Kaye College of Business, historically our biggest college, will continue to expand as it sharpens its focus on several areas of excellence. The School of Accounting will retain its top-10 ranking nationally, and it will claim a place among the leaders in the field of forensic accounting. The Adams Center for Entrepreneurship will be recognized as the prototype for the successful cross-implementation of entrepreneurship education and new-venture initiation. The College's Executive Programs, which provide an excellent means of outreach to the business community through offerings such as the Executive MBA, will continue to grow, expanding over the next 10 years from a current enrollment of 2,500 to about 7,500.

The College of Education will remain the number one producer of teachers in South Florida, and it will become the leading producer in our region of TESOL educators – that's Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages. Additionally, educators around the country will look to our innovative College of Education as they work to find new and better ways of attracting talented newcomers to the teaching profession.

By 2017, the College of Engineering and Computer Science will be a national leader in green building technology and sustainable infrastructure. It will maintain its leadership position in the field of ocean engineering, continuing to work with the U.S. Navy and other funding entities on projects of importance to our national security. The College's bioengineering program will provide a model for an innovative discipline that applies the analysis and design principles of engineering to the challenge of solving problems in medicine and biology.

The very distinguished and distinctive Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College will collaborate with other colleges University-wide to create honors program tracks in a wide variety of undergraduate degree programs. At least five Eminent Scholars and three Endowed Chairs will be added to the College's already very outstanding faculty. The Honors Summer Institute will rank as one of Florida's premier events for gifted high school students, and the College will host about 100 of those students every year on our Jupiter campus.

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing will continue to be the leading proponent nationally and internationally of nursing education based upon a caring, holistic, humanistic philosophy. It will continue its efforts to recruit students from groups that have historically been under-represented in the nursing profession as it prepares a new generation of nurses to serve our increasingly diverse society. And the College will move ahead with its research activities to advance knowledge in a host of areas, including Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses associated with aging.

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science will achieve a ranking among the nation's top 50 colleges for the life sciences. The College will maintain its status as a primary source of science education and research in South Florida, increasing its undergraduate and graduate programs by 15 to 20 percent. Its already accomplished interdisciplinary research centers will gain even greater recognition nationally and worldwide as discovery moves ahead in disciplines such as brain science, biotechnology, environmental science, cryptology, physics and geo-information science. The College will become the home of at least three more specialized research centers in bioinformatics, environmental science and space-time physics.

Having said all that, it's incumbent upon me to note that none of this growth within our University can take place unless the heart and soul of the institution grows as well. I'm talking, of course, about the FAU Libraries, which serve our students and faculty members so very, very well – a most unique model in higher education. The Libraries currently house just over a million hard-copy volumes. I see that collection growing to about one and a quarter million by the year 2017. Our electronic resources will expand at an even faster rate, as we go from today's half-million e-books to about a million and a half 10 years

from now. Similarly, we'll see a rapid increase in our electronic journal subscriptions, from 5,000 to over 7,000 by 2017. Our burgeoning programs in science and medicine need and deserve a library facility of their own, so I hope to see a science or biomedical library written into the master plan of our University in the near future.

Intercollegiate athletics have always been a staple ingredient of university life in America, and FAU is enjoying the excitement of competition and the taste of victory to a greater degree than ever before. How about that incredible win over Minnesota! I have to deviate from my written text to tell you a story about a young man who stepped before our Board of Trustees yesterday. His name is Bobby, and he heads up the Prowlers, our student spirit group. He came to the podium not only to talk about Innovation Village, but also to share a story with us. Bobby said that when he told a friend of his that he had decided to go to Florida Atlantic University, the friend asked him why. Bobby replied that he was attracted to FAU because it's a young, dynamic university that he wanted to be part of. His friend told him that might be a mistake. Today that friend is singing a different tune. He goes to Minnesota.

I wish that every person in this theatre could have been at Dolphin Stadium on Saturday to see our team play a fast, smart game against the Big Ten powerhouse! The game-winning interception by Tavious Polo in the last three seconds of the game was absolutely as good as football gets! His incredible performance earned him recognition as the Walter Camp National Player of the Week and the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week.

Rusty Smith, our quarterback, played an absolutely great game, throwing for 436 yards and five touchdowns. He was named the Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Week, and he beat out the University of Florida's Tim Tebow and three other very talented quarterbacks to be voted *USA Today's* Player of the Week.

The win over Minnesota was a tremendous victory for Coach Schnellenberger and the Fighting Owls, and there's a lot more great FAU football to come. If you haven't bought your season ticket yet, what are you waiting for? The next home game is on October 6<sup>th</sup>, when FAU takes on the University of South Florida. Let's all be in the stands at Lockhart Stadium for that one.

Football isn't the only team that's making us proud. Last year our swimming and softball teams won conference championships, and women's basketball went to the NCAA tournament. Over the next 10 years we're going to see a steady stream of FAU teams competing in all the post-season tournaments, and they'll be bringing home their share of winner's trophies. Here at home, they'll all be playing in upgraded facilities.

Even more important than victories on the field are victories in the classroom. We have more than 450 student-athletes at Florida Atlantic University, and I'm very proud to tell you that last spring 159 of them achieved GPAs of 3.0 or higher. That shows outstanding performance in the arena that's most important to their future: the classroom. By 2017, I expect the majority of our teams to have NCAA Academic Progress Rate scores that rank at the top of the conference, with no FAU team falling below minimum requirements. Now, as a member of the NCAA board, it's more important than ever for me to sound the clarion call for higher academic standards for all student-athletes and to show that we're working diligently right here at Florida Atlantic University to make certain that our student-athletes excel not only on the field, the court and the diamond, but also in their academic endeavors. They'll all win their personal national championships when they walk across the stage at commencement to receive the degree that will put them on the path to being productive, contributing, self-fulfilled citizens of our nation.

If I had to find one word to characterize the FAU that's taking shape right now, on our watch, that word would be "responsive." We're working together to build a University that is, above all, responsive to the expectations and desires of the students it serves, responsive to the needs of the greater community and responsive to the imperative to change and grow that comes with our times.

Does this University face challenges in the years ahead? We all know that it does on a host of fronts, from finding the money to fund its expanding mission to staking out a secure place for itself in the changing landscape of higher education.

Yes, there are problems out there and challenges to be faced, but the great thing about trouble is its ability to focus the mind on finding solutions. Without the irritation of those grains of sand, oysters would never produce pearls. This University is young, agile, adaptable and bursting with the energy that all of you are bringing to it. Right here, right now during this terrible budget year, with the headlines screaming doom and gloom, we're joining hands to start our journey to an even higher summit.

In our hearts we know what a wonderful university this is, and we know that accomplishments beyond even our ability to imagine lie in its future. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing than leading us up this mountain ascent, and I thank each and every one of you for all you're doing to help carry the load and get us to the top.

This University has made tremendous progress in its 43 short years of service, and so much more still lies ahead. I'd like to leave you today with the news that the *Princeton Review* recently identified FAU as one of the best

universities in America. And you know what? The *Princeton Review* got that exactly right!

Thanks so much to all of you for all you do for Florida Atlantic University!