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History of Florida Atlantic University

On a bright October day in 1964, Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the United States, squinted into the South Florida sun and, in his famous Texas drawl, declared Florida Atlantic University officially open.

For a sitting U.S. chief executive to officiate at the dedication of a new regional university was most unusual – but, then, FAU was no ordinary institution of higher learning. From its very inception, FAU was envisioned as the first of a new breed of American universities that would quite deliberately throw off the ivy-covered trappings of the tradition-bound world of academe and invent new and better ways of making higher education available to those who sought it.

Indeed, in his dedication remarks, President Johnson said that America had entered an era “when education is no longer only for the sons of the rich, but for all who can qualify.” Speaking on an outdoor stage before a crowd of 15,000, he called for “a new revolution in education” and said that a better educated American public could vastly enrich life over the next 50 years.

Seated onstage behind the President as he spoke was an array of Florida’s top political VIPs, including Governor Farris Bryant, U.S. Senators Spessard Holland and George Smathers, U.S. Congressmen Claude Pepper and Paul Rogers, and a banker named Thomas F. Fleming, Jr., who, more than anybody else, was responsible for bringing America’s newest public university to Boca Raton.

From Airbase to Campus

In the beginning, there was an airbase – the Boca Raton Army Air Field, to be exact. This facility, the only radar training school operated by the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War Two, opened in October 1942 in the sleepy coastal resort town of Boca Raton. The base, which eventually covered more than 5,800 acres, did its part to help win the war, teaching the relatively new art of radar operation to thousands of airmen, including those who were aboard the *Enola Gay* on its fateful run to Hiroshima in 1945. By the 1950s, however, the base had outlived its usefulness; the radar training school it once housed had moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, and weeds grew tall around the landing strips that once saw a steady stream of arriving and departing B-17 and B-29 bombers. The war was over, and America was facing new challenges, including the imminent coming of age of the first wave of Baby Boomers. Members of the most economically privileged generation in U.S. history, they were going to seek higher education in record numbers, and Florida’s colleges and universities were in no way prepared for the onslaught.

In 1955, the Florida Legislature authorized creation of a new public university to serve the populous southeast region of the state. The new university would be the fifth in the State University System, joining the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida State University and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and the University of South Florida in Tampa. Community leaders in Broward and Palm Beach counties stepped forward to suggest possible sites, none with more enthusiasm than Boca Raton’s Tom

Fleming, who made a convincing case for converting the vacated airbase to this exciting new use.

Fleming was a true visionary who recognized the many benefits a state university had to offer Boca Raton. The son of a prominent Fort Lauderdale attorney and bank president, he had arrived in Boca Raton in 1941 to help manage the 4,000-acre Butts Farm, which was owned by the family of his wife, Myrtle, and he often referred to himself as "a bean farmer." His educational credentials included a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, where he had been a member of the prestigious Blue Key leadership honorary society, and an MBA from Harvard.

Tom Fleming was successful at everything he did, and everywhere he went he made influential friends. By the time he was heading up the drive to establish the new state university in Boca Raton – under the rallying cry of "Boca U. in '62" – he had many friends in Tallahassee and Washington who would prove to be powerful allies.

On January 18, 1957, Fleming stood before the Board of Control, which was the body that governed public universities in Florida at that time, and presented his proposal. When one member objected that the 400 feet of beachfront property owned by the city was insufficient to accommodate large groups of collegians, another member replied: "We want to educate them, not give them a bath." By meeting's end, the Board had unanimously endorsed Fleming's idea, disappointing proponents of the other proposed sites.

Next came complex negotiations in Washington to get the federal government to lift use restrictions off the land. Ultimately, the Civil Aeronautics Administration agreed to permit the state to build the university on 1,000 acres of the former airbase, reserving another 200 acres for airport use. Boca Raton Municipal Airport was built on a 200-acre site adjoining the campus and remains in active use to this day.

In 1960, the State Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Education, gave final approval to the Boca Raton site, and on July 15, 1961, FAU was established by an act of the Florida Legislature. The new university's opening date was set for September 1964.

"Open the Door in '64"

Just one hitch remained: while the state had approved building a new university in Boca Raton, it had provided no funding for planning, architectural design or construction. When Broward Culpepper, chairman of the Board of Control, announced that the local community would have to raise \$100,000, Fleming swung into action once again, establishing an Endowment Corporation that solicited contributions from the public under the slogan "Open the Door in '64."

The first donation came from Fleming himself, who pledged one percent of three years' worth of the pre-tax earnings of the First Bank and Trust Company of Boca Raton, which he headed. The Endowment Corporation raised close to \$300,000 in start-up funding for the university, and it is still in service today under the name of the FAU Foundation.

Next came the question of what to name the new university. There was no lack of ideas from official quarters or the public. Names generated through a contest run by the Fort Lauderdale News included Palm State, Peninsula University, Gulfstream University, Kennedy University of Florida, Bryant State (to honor Governor Farris Bryant, a Fleming friend who was an early supporter of the Boca site), Sunshine State and A-Okay University (a reference to a catch-phrase used in the '60s by American

astronauts). The Board of Control resolved the question by adopting the name Florida Atlantic University in 1962, two years before the scheduled opening.

Tom Fleming made a critically important discovery during his long, successful campaign to bring FAU into existence: He realized that state support of all of higher education in Florida was woefully inadequate. In order to remedy this, he became chairman of "Citizens for Florida's Future," a committee of the state Chamber of Commerce that sought voter approval of a \$75 million bond issue to expand and improve Florida's junior colleges and universities.

The bond issue passed in the November 1963 election, and President John F. Kennedy praised Fleming by name for this outstanding accomplishment during a speech that month in Tampa. It was the last speech Kennedy made before his tragic trip to Texas. A letter inviting him to take part in the planned dedication of FAU the following year was mailed on the very day he was assassinated in Dallas.

By the time FAU was ready to open in the fall of 1964, Lyndon Johnson was President, and he was campaigning hard against Republican candidate Barry Goldwater. Fleming, who was managing Johnson's Florida campaign, made him an offer he couldn't refuse: He invited him to make the keynote address at the ceremony that would mark the opening of Florida's newest public university. And that is why the President of the United States was on hand when Florida Atlantic University was dedicated.

A New Kind of University

From the very beginning, FAU aimed to be a whole new kind of university, one that would harness broadcast technology to beam classes to students wherever they might be, thus swinging the door of higher education open wider than ever before. In a very real sense, FAU was the first Information Age university. The only problem was that the Information Age itself would not be popularly recognized for nearly four more decades, and the outside technology needed to enable off-campus students to take advantage of what FAU had to offer simply did not exist. It finally began to take shape in the late 1990s, as colleges and universities around the world offered increasing numbers of courses online and through other methods of distance learning.

The first university buildings to rise among the Quonset huts of the old airbase were the Library, the Learning Resources Building, the Sanson Science Building and General Classrooms South, which featured classrooms shaped like slices of pie arranged around a core containing the most advanced audio-visual resources available in the early '60s. A few steps away, in Learning Resources, four fully equipped television studios stood ready to broadcast classroom lectures across campus or around the world. The Library featured a technologically sophisticated Media Center, an automatic checkout system and a computer-generated catalog instead of the familiar card index.

FAU was the first university in the country to offer only upper-division and graduate-level work, on the theory that freshmen and sophomores could be served by the growing community college system. Even with these enrollment restrictions, the initial student body was expected to be about 2,000, but by September 8, 1964, the scheduled opening day, fewer than half that number had registered for classes. This shortfall was attributed to the campus' lack of dormitories and dining facilities, South Florida's inadequate system of roadways, the absence of public transportation and the administration's failure to actively recruit students. Because a feasibility study had

indicated that the new university stood in the middle of a region that was home to 30,000 potential students, little or no marketing effort had been made.

Just as FAU was about to open, Hurricane Cleo swept its way up Florida's east coast, causing \$100,000 in damage to the campus and delaying the start of classes by six days. When the wind died down and the flood waters receded, FAU's charter class of 867 students arrived to begin their studies on a treeless campus marked by a flagpole that was bent like a used pipecleaner. Thus did the academic life of the university get under way, inspired by the motto "Where Tomorrow Begins."

The Williams Years (1962-1973)

During its early years, FAU prospered and grew, led by the steady hand of its first president, Dr. Kenneth R. Williams, who had also been the founding president of Miami-Dade Community College (then called Dade County Junior College). He took the helm of the university in 1962, two years before it opened, and set about the task of hiring administrators and faculty members. The small but dedicated faculty he assembled quickly became known for outstanding classroom teaching and mentorship of students, qualities that continue to characterize the FAU faculty to this day.

The university's first students could pursue bachelor's degrees in five colleges: Business, Education, Humanities, Science and Social Science. The College of Education also offered master's degrees in elementary, secondary and higher education, administration, guidance, special education, and human behavior.

In April 1965, just seven months after opening its doors, FAU held its first commencement ceremony, presenting degrees to 30 students who had entered as seniors. Because there was no appropriate facility on campus for this event, the ceremony was conducted at the First Presbyterian Church of Boca Raton.

The aggressive construction program that took place during the university's earliest years saw completion of the three-story Administration Building (which three decades later would be named for Dr. Williams), the Humanities Building, including the 504-seat University Theater, and six residence halls, all named to honor Native American tribes: Algonquin, Modoc, Mohave, Naskapi, Sekoni and Seminole.

In the fall of 1965, FAU introduced the nation's first degree program in ocean engineering. Over the years, this pioneering program has garnered much recognition, including being named a State University System Program of Distinction. Today it is housed at SeaTech, a state-of-the-art research center in Dania Beach, and offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Intercollegiate athletics made their appearance at FAU in 1969, signaling the start of the gradual transformation of the university into a more traditional institution than was originally envisioned. This trend continued in later years with the advent of fraternities and sororities, an annual Homecoming celebration and construction of the University Center, which quickly became a hub of student life.

Every university must have a mascot, and FAU found one on its doorstep: the feisty burrowing owl, a South Florida native that lives and raises its chicks in holes in the ground. Classified as a species of special concern by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the owls dwelling on FAU's campuses have long been protected from human harassment. In 1971, the Boca Raton campus became an official burrowing owl sanctuary. The university's teams proudly bear the Owls name.

During Dr. Williams' presidency, major emphasis was placed on developing the Boca Raton campus, but some outreach efforts were made to other parts of FAU's large, seven-county service area. Small satellite facilities were established in Fort Lauderdale to the south and West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce to the north.

When Dr. Williams retired in 1973, he left a university that had made great progress under his leadership. The student body had increased to 5,632, the number of degree programs had expanded from 31 to more than 100, and 13,509 men and women had graduated to become FAU alumni. The stage was set for the next phase in the university's development.

The Creech Years (1973-1983)

President Glenwood L. Creech came to FAU from the University of Kentucky, where he had been vice president of university relations. A courtly Southern gentleman with wavy salt-and-pepper hair and a movie star smile, Dr. Creech was ideally suited to tackle the urgent challenge of increasing financial support for the university. To encourage substantial private donations, the state had introduced a program that would match every gift of \$600,000 made to endow an Eminent Scholar Chair with \$400,000 in state funds, boosting the value of the donation to \$1 million. Dr. Creech used this leveraging tool with great success, and FAU soon became the state leader in the establishment of endowed chairs.

Million-dollar Eminent Scholar Chairs established under Dr. Creech included the Charles E. Schmidt Chair in Engineering, the Dorothy F. Schmidt Chair in the Performing and Visual Arts, the Charles Stewart Mott Chair in Community Education, the Eugene and Christine Lynn Chair in Business and the Robert J. Morrow Chair in Social Science.

The Schmidt and Lynn families were to become sustaining friends of the university, demonstrating real interest in its development over the years and making multiple donations of astounding generosity. By 2001, the Schmidts had contributed more than \$53 million to FAU, including state matching funds, enriching the life of the university in a host of ways, from establishing an innovative medical education partnership with the University of Miami to attracting legends of the American theatre to FAU's performing arts program. Occupants of the Dorothy F. Schmidt Chair in the Performing Arts have included director Joshua Logan, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee and Tony Award-winning actor Hume Cronyn. The Schmidt Family Foundation's most recent gift of \$15 million (\$30 million with the dollar-for-dollar state match permitted at that level) set a record for private donations to public education in Florida. Today the College of Arts & Letters bears the name of Dorothy F. Schmidt and the College of Science that of her husband, Charles.

Eugene and Christine Lynn focused their philanthropy on the College of Business and the College of Nursing, donating more than \$32 million over the course of two decades. A former registered nurse, Mrs. Lynn made a \$10 million (\$20 million with the state match) to FAU's widely admired nursing program in 2001. The College of Nursing is named in her honor.

During the presidency of Dr. Creech, the Boca Raton Campus began to take on a new look, thanks to his success in getting the state and private parties to donate landscaping to the largely barren former airfield. He asked for and received a \$5,000

grant from Tallahassee to plant trees on campus, and he invited the community to help in the beautification effort. Ever the FAU supporter, Tom Fleming responded to the call with seven huge ficus trees, which still provide deep wells of shade on the lawn in front of the Administration Building. In the middle '70s, mathematics professor Jack Freeman organized a work party of students that, with some help from the Florida Department of Transportation, managed to carry out the Herculean task of digging up and moving several dozen full-grown live oak trees from the path of I-95, which was under construction a half-mile west of the Boca Raton Campus. These trees took root in several spots, most notably at the south end of the Breezeway where they stand today as Heritage Park.

At the end of his decade in office, Dr. Creech could take justifiable pride in a university that had matured both academically and physically under his leadership. Major additions to campus included the University Center and its 2,400-seat auditorium, the Engineering Building and the 70,000-square-foot Gymnasium. As a tribute to Dr. Creech upon his retirement in 1983, donors funded the Glenwood and Martha Creech Eminent Scholar Chair in Science.

That year, as it approached its 20th anniversary, the university had 9,388 students and its alumni base had grown to 30,243. Some big changes lay ahead.

The Popovich Years (1983-1989)

In July 1983, FAU welcomed the first woman to head a public university in Florida history, Dr. Helen Popovich. For the 18-month period preceding her appointment, she had been the acting president of Winona State University in Minnesota.

One far-reaching change implemented at FAU during her presidency was the addition of freshmen and sophomores to the student body in 1984. South Florida's rapidly expanding population had generated strong demand for a four-year university, and FAU answered the call. The university simultaneously maintained its cooperative relationship with all of the community colleges in its service region, tailoring "2+2" degree programs that allowed community college graduates to move on to university studies without facing transitional obstacles.

Dr. Popovich placed special emphasis on adding more minorities to the university's faculty, staff and student body, and she succeeded in pushing those numbers upward. During her six years in office, the enrollment of African American and Hispanic students increased, and the faculty and administration became more diverse. She also supported the appointment of more women to faculty and administrative positions, and she encouraged creation of the Women's Studies certificate program.

FAU's ability to serve Broward County students in their home community took a big step forward with the opening of the Reubin O'D. Askew University Tower in downtown Fort Lauderdale in 1987. This nine-story classroom and office building, named after a former Florida governor who later joined the faculty for a short period of time, housed programs in business and public administration.

Graduate programs and research activity also advanced during Dr. Popovich's administration. In 1989, her last year in office, FAU reached the important milestone of \$10 million in sponsored research.

When Dr. Popovich left FAU to accept the presidency of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, enrollment stood at 11,743 and alumni had increased to 41,152.

The Catanese Years (1990-2002)

With the arrival of Dr. Anthony J. Catanese in January 1990, Florida Atlantic University entered a period of rapid growth and development on all fronts. During his presidency the student body more than doubled, four new campuses were built, three dozen new degree programs were introduced, the Owls began competing in Division I of the NCAA and the long-awaited FAU football team made its debut. By the middle of Dr. Catanese's 12-year term, FAU had become known as the fastest growing university in America, and that was probably literally true.

Formerly dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Florida, Dr. Catanese became president of FAU just as higher education in Florida and around the United States began to get caught in the crossfire of a recessionary economy and changing national priorities. The central challenge he and other educators across America faced was to do more with less: the demand for higher education was soaring as traditional public funding sources were contracting.

Despite these challenges, Dr. Catanese embraced an ambitious vision for FAU, driven by his belief that universities had to "run smarter" by adopting some of the principles of private enterprise, including putting productivity standards in place, containing expenses and seeking resource-leveraging partnerships. He succeeded perhaps beyond even his own wildest dreams, presiding over a half-billion-dollar construction program on seven campuses that created more than one million square feet of new and renovated classroom, laboratory and office space.

As the university's student body passed the 23,000 mark, its faculty expanded to include 895 full-time, tenure-track teachers and researchers, and its degree offerings increased to 137, FAU built new campuses in Davie, Dania Beach, Jupiter and Port St. Lucie. The Downtown Fort Lauderdale Campus was greatly enhanced by the addition of the Florida Atlantic University/Broward Community College Higher Education Complex, a 12-story high-tech facility with Internet connections at every desk and interactive, Internet-connected white boards in every classroom.

FAU's sponsored research activity increased from \$10 million to \$37 million annually, and the 73-acre Florida Atlantic Research and Development Park took shape on the Boca Raton Campus.

Dr. Catanese led the first capital campaign in the university's history, and this, too, was highly successful, increasing the assets of the FAU Foundation from \$18 million to \$150 million.

Especially notable accomplishments of the Catanese years include creation of FAU's medical education program, in partnership with the University of Miami; introduction of a five-year professional degree program in architecture, based on the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Campus; and establishment of the four-year, residential Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College on the university's John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter.

When Dr. Catanese left FAU in June 2002 to become president of the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, the student body had grown to 23,836 and the university had 78,396 alumni. Through aggressive recruitment of minorities, FAU's student body had become the most diverse in Florida's State University System, with African Americans making up 16 percent and Hispanics 13 percent of the total number of students in attendance.

The Brogan Years Begin

On January 31, 2003, by unanimous vote of the university's Board of Trustees, Frank T. Brogan – Florida's incumbent Lieutenant Governor and a 1981 graduate of FAU's master's degree program in educational administration – was named the fifth president of Florida Atlantic University.

President Brogan's return to his alma mater as its president marked the latest development in his career in public education in Florida, which began in 1978 when he became a teacher at Port Salerno Elementary School in Martin County. After serving as a teacher and administrator for 10 years, he was twice elected Superintendent of Schools in Martin County. In 1995, voters around the state sent him to Tallahassee as Commissioner of Education. He was elected Florida's Lieutenant Governor in 1999 and 2003, leaving the state's second-highest post early in his second term to accept the presidency of FAU.

President Brogan has taken the reins of an institution that bears little resemblance to the university that opened its doors on an abandoned airfield 39 years ago. Today's FAU offers students a selection of 60 bachelor's degree programs, 53 master's degree programs, three specialist's degree programs and 17 doctoral degree programs on seven well-designed and beautifully maintained campuses. Modern residence facilities are available on the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses.

FAU students are served through eight colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, and the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, and Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs. Additional educational programs are offered by Open University & Continuing Education and the Lifelong Learning Society. In fulfillment of the original vision of the university's founders, FAU finally is able to make full use of distance learning technology, delivering many courses online, via interactive television and on videotape. By 2002, the number of students taking advantage of distance learning opportunities had reached 16,000.

In the aftermath of FAU's 12 years of rapid expansion, President Brogan is focusing on bringing added depth and quality to all of the university's programs and services. He and his wife, Courtney, are the first presidential couple to live in the Eleanor R. Baldwin House, the university's newly built president's home and reception center on the Boca Raton Campus.

In accepting the challenge of leading his alma mater, President Brogan said, "I am humbled and thrilled to be selected FAU's fifth president. My lifetime of public service and commitment to public education continues as we all work together to lift FAU to the next level of excellence."

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Through the Years at Florida Atlantic University

1950s

- 1955 The Florida Legislature authorizes establishment of Florida's fifth public university in the southeastern section of the state.

Boca Raton banker Thomas F. Fleming Jr. immediately begins working to secure a vacated U.S. Army airbase in his small Palm Beach County town as the site of the new university.

- 1956 Boca Raton Town Clerk William H. Lamb sends a letter to the State Board of Control affirming that "the Town is vitally interested in the location of the proposed new State University" and is willing to deed 1,250 acres of the airbase to the state "for University purposes only."

The Civil Aeronautics Administration, heavily lobbied by Fleming through his friends U.S. Senator George Smathers and U.S. Congressman Paul Rogers, supports this action.

- 1957 The Board of Control unanimously endorses Tom Fleming's proposal to establish the new university in Boca Raton, disappointing proponents of sites in other locations, including Broward County and the Florida Panhandle.

1960s

- 1960 The Florida Board of Education approves building the university in Boca Raton, but the Panhandle-controlled State Legislature refuses to provide the necessary funding.

The Board of Control mandates that the community must raise at least \$100,000 to cover start-up expenses.

- 1961 The Florida Legislature passes an act dated July 15, 1961, authorizing establishment of the new university. Opening is set for September 1964.

Farris Bryant, newly elected Governor of Florida, calls for \$25 million in bonds to build the new university at Boca Raton and improve the physical facilities at the state's other four public universities. The bond issue survives a court challenge and is approved.

The Brumbaugh Report, prepared by a Board of Control committee chaired by Dr. J.A. Brumbaugh, is issued. It calls for innovative thinking in the planning of the new university, which it says could pioneer a new model of higher education nationally. The report

envisioned an institution that would take full advantage of rapidly developing television and computer technology while serving juniors, seniors and graduate students exclusively, in partnership with community colleges.

- 1962 Tom Fleming organizes the fund-raising Endowment Corporation for a University in Boca Raton under the rallying cry "Boca U. in '62, Open the Door in '64." This grassroots group raises \$300,000 to pay architects' fees, salaries and other expenses associated with launching the new university. Fleming himself makes the first donation, pledging one percent of three years' worth of the pre-tax earnings of the First Bank and Trust Company of Boca Raton, which he heads.

The bonds proposed by Governor Bryant are sold, providing \$5.3 million to construct "Boca U."

The Board of Control selects Florida Atlantic University as the name of the new university. Rejected names include Bryant State University (to honor Governor Bryant), Sunshine State University and A-OK University (a reference to a catch-phrase used by U.S. astronauts, who were then based at Cape Canaveral, Florida, about 150 miles north of Boca Raton).

At the same meeting, the Board of Control names Dr. Kenneth Rast Williams the first president of FAU, taking him from Dade County Junior College (now Miami-Dade Community College), where he was also founding president.

Dr. Williams and a handful of administrative staff move into the Army airbase's old fire station to begin their work.

Governor Bryant officiates the University's groundbreaking ceremony on December 8, 1962. The event is attended by about 2,000 people.

- 1964 Florida Atlantic University opens on September 14, 1964 – six days behind schedule because of Hurricane Cleo, which leaves \$100,000 in flood and wind damage in its wake. The first university in the nation to offer only upper-division and graduate work, FAU welcomes an initial student body of 867, well below the expected 2,000-plus. Degree programs are offered through five colleges: the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Humanities, the College of Science and the College of Social Science. Original buildings include the Library, the Learning Resources Building, the Sanson Science Building and General Classrooms South.

U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson dedicates the University on October 25, 1964. During the Sunday afternoon dedication ceremony, attended by about 15,000 people, he accepts the first honorary doctorate awarded by FAU.

Dr. Williams is formally inaugurated as the University's first president on November 12, 1964. At the same ceremony, Tom Fleming receives the University's first Distinguished Service Award for the central role he played in getting FAU established, and Governor Bryant receives the second honorary doctorate presented by the University.

FAU's first theatrical presentation, a readers' theatre production of Franz Schneider's *Last Letters from Stalingrad*, is staged at Marymount College's Founders Hall Auditorium.

- 1965 The first FAU commencement ceremony is held on April 24, 1965, at the First Presbyterian Church of Boca Raton. Thirty students receive degrees.

FAU introduces the nation's first degree program in ocean engineering.

Algonquin and Modoc Halls, the University's first two student residence halls, open. All six of the original residence halls have names that honor Native American tribes.

The cafeteria opens.

Dan Mica, a future U.S. congressman, becomes the first president of FAU's student body.

- 1966 The Humanities Building, which includes the 504-seat University Theatre, opens.

Mohave and Naskapi student residence halls open.

The Administration Building opens.

- 1967 The name of the Endowment Corporation for a University in Boca Raton is changed to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools elects FAU to regular membership and grants full accreditation to all of the University's programs.

Mrs. Lucy Henderson endows the Alexander D. Henderson University School, a K-12 laboratory school affiliated with the College of Education. Her gift honors the memory of her late husband.

FAU wins its first athletic championship when the water ski club team takes first place in the 21st Southern Annual Water Ski Tournament at Cypress Gardens.

1968 Sekoni and Seminole student residence halls open.

The Alexander D. Henderson University School opens.

FAU initiates the Faculty Scholars program, which allows academically gifted high school graduates to enroll at the University and complete bachelor's degree programs in two or three years. Twenty-two students are in the first Faculty Scholars cohort.

1969 The Board of Regents (successor body to the Board of Control) approves an intercollegiate athletics program at FAU. The teams become known as the Owls.

The University holds its first Honors Convocation, presenting the first Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award to political science professor Dr. Douglas Gatlin.

Faculty speakers address students during an outdoor rally on War Moratorium Day as opposition to the war in Vietnam grows among college students nationwide.

1970s

1970 A memorial service for four students slain at Kent State University during an anti-war demonstration is held on the lawn between the Administration Building and the Breezeway.

Pine Jog Environmental Center in West Palm Beach becomes affiliated with FAU's College of Education.

1971 FAU expands to Broward County with creation of the Commercial Boulevard campus in northern Fort Lauderdale.

The Boca Raton campus becomes a burrowing owl sanctuary.

1972 The University Center, a hub of student life, opens.

President Williams announces his intention to retire.

1973 The Board of Regents names Dr. Glenwood Creech the second president of Florida Atlantic University. Formerly vice president for university relations at the University of Kentucky, his special strength is in the area of fund-raising.

Fall semester enrollment is 5,632.

1974 FAU's ocean engineering program is designated a Program of Distinction by the State University System.

The University Library is named to honor the memory of founding administrator Dr. Stanley E. Wimberly.

1977 Fleming Hall, housing the College of Business, is dedicated. Its name honors the memory of FAU founding father Tom Fleming, who died in 1976.

1978 The Board of Regents approves a nursing education program for FAU. The program begins the following year as a division within the College of Social Science.

1979 The State of Florida initiates a matching gift program, which encourages the establishment of Eminent Scholar Chairs at public universities by matching \$600,000 donations from private donors with \$400,000 in state funds. FAU is quick to take advantage of this opportunity.

1980s

1981 The Charles Stewart Mott Eminent Scholar Chair in Community Education is established through a gift from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The School of Accounting is established as a unit in the College of Business.

1982 The Engineering Building opens.

The 2,400-seat FAU Auditorium opens at the University Center.

The Lullis and Rolland Ritter Art Gallery opens.

1983 President Creech retires, and Dr. Helen Popovich is named FAU's third president by the Board of Regents. Formerly vice president for academic affairs and acting president of Winona State University in Minnesota, Dr. Popovich is the first woman to head a public university in Florida.

Fall semester enrollment is 9,388.

The Eugene and Christine Lynn Eminent Scholar Chair in International Business is established through a gift from Eugene and Christine Lynn.

The Charles E. Schmidt Eminent Scholar Chair in Engineering is established through a gift from Charles and Dorothy Schmidt.

The Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar Chair in the Performing Arts is established through a gift from Charles and Dorothy Schmidt.

American theatre legend Joshua Logan is appointed the first Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts. He stages his last play, *Huck and Jim on the Mississippi*, at FAU.

Dr. John DeGrove, a founding dean and director of the FAU-FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems, is named Florida's first Secretary of Community Affairs by Governor Bob Graham.

FAU's intercollegiate athletics program joins NCAA Division II.

- 1984 In response to the need to offer a broader range of services to South Florida's rapidly growing population, FAU opens its doors to freshmen and sophomores.

The University's 70,000-square-foot teaching gymnasium opens.

The FAU baseball team finishes the season at No. 8 in the NCAA national rankings.

- 1985 The Dr. Robert J. Morrow Eminent Scholar Chair in Social Science is established through a gift from his widow, Johanna Morrow.

The Glenwood and Martha Creech Eminent Scholar Chair in Science is established through gifts from more than 50 donors who wish to honor his recently concluded service as FAU's second president.

- 1986 Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee becomes the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts.

- 1987 The Reubin O'D. Askew University Tower opens in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The nine-story classroom and office building greatly expands FAU's service to students in Broward County and is a key component in the redevelopment of the downtown area.

The S.E. Wimberly Library is expanded by more than 86,000 square feet.

The Christine E. Lynn Eminent Scholar Chair in Nursing is established by Eugene and Christine Lynn.

Tony Award-winning actor/director Hume Cronyn becomes the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts.

1988 President Popovich leaves FAU and becomes president of Michigan's Ferris State University.

The John Thomas Ladue McGinty Eminent Scholar Chair in Marine Biology is established through a gift from a bequest from the estate of John Thomas Ladue McGinty.

1989 The Board of Regents names Dr. Anthony James Catanese the fourth president of FAU. He comes to FAU from the University of Florida, where he was dean of the School of Architecture.

The Florida Legislature designates FAU the lead state university serving Broward County.

The University reaches \$10 million in sponsored research activity.

Fall semester enrollment is 13,148.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter delivers a public lecture on the Boca Raton campus.

Four-time Tony Award-winning actress Zoe Caldwell becomes the Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts.

The William F. Dietrich Eminent Scholar Chair in Philosophy is established through a gift from William F. Dietrich.

The College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs is created and based in the Reubin O'D. Askew University Tower in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

A student team from FAU's Department of Ocean Engineering wins the first International Human-Powered Submarine Race, held off the coast of Riviera Beach, Florida. Their winning sub is named the FAU Boat.

1990s

1990 Philanthropist Charles E. Schmidt makes a \$10 million gift to FAU to create the Dorothy F. Schmidt Center for the Arts and Humanities in memory of his late wife. The donation, which also funds two "Super Chairs" in the humanities and fine arts, ranks as the largest cash gift to academic programs ever received in the history of Florida's State University System. FAU names its College of Arts and Letters in honor of Dorothy F. Schmidt.

The Division of Nursing becomes the School of Nursing.

The College of Liberal Arts is created and based on the Davie campus.

The Social Science Building and the Science & Engineering Building open on the Boca Raton campus.

1991 The School of Nursing becomes the College of Nursing.

Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a campaign speech in the University Center Auditorium on behalf of her husband, U.S. presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

A group of FAU students and faculty members from the College of Business accept an invitation from a member of the Supreme Soviet to travel to Russia to present concepts of American capitalism. While they are aboard a boat on the Volga River, the Soviet Union collapses. They arrive in Moscow on the first day Russia's pre-Soviet flag has flown in the city since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. When they return home, they go on a local speaking tour to share their close-up view of history in the making.

The student built and operated FAU-Boat wins the International Human-Powered Submarine Race for the second time.

1992 Former Massachusetts Governor and Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis joins the FAU faculty as a visiting professor of political science.

Hurricane Andrew strikes South Florida on August 24, 1992, causing 23 deaths and \$26.5 billion in property damage in Florida and Louisiana. The National Hurricane Center reports that it is the most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States. FAU's campuses are largely unaffected, but the Kendall campus of Florida International University is left in a state of devastation. FAU students and employees spend weeks rendering volunteer aid to FIU and the neighborhoods surrounding it, traveling singly and in caravans to distribute donated food, clothing and water, help repair roofs and render other kinds of assistance. For many months, FAU's Boca Raton campus is a major drop-off point for relief supplies in south Palm Beach County.

1993 The Jay and Sharon Raddock Eminent Scholar Chair in Holocaust Studies is established through gifts from Jay and Sharon Raddock and other donors.

FAU is elected to membership in the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the nation's oldest higher education professional association.

FAU's intercollegiate teams join the Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) and move to NCAA Division I.

- 1994 The Liberal Arts Building opens on the Davie campus, adjacent to Broward Community College's central campus. FAU and BCC administrators and faculty members develop carefully coordinated four-year degree programs that greatly expand the higher educational opportunities available in Broward.

The Dorothy F. Schmidt Center for Arts and Humanities opens on the Boca Raton campus. The beautiful new complex contains a bell tower that rings on the hour, art studios, classrooms, lecture halls and the Schmidt Gallery.

The College of Education Building opens on the Boca Raton campus.

- 1995 FAU purchases Barry University's Port St. Lucie facility to establish a campus on the Treasure Coast, in partnership with Indian River Community College.

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell joins the faculty as the Tripp, Scott, Conklin & Smith Visiting Professor of Political Science.

- 1996 The Donnell-Kay Foundation and the estate of Anne Kunkel make donations totaling about \$8 million to the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. When combined with state matching funds, these gifts create an \$11 million endowment for Pine Jog's programs and services.

The extensively remodeled FAU-BCC Joint-Use Library opens on the Davie campus.

- 1997 Sponsored research funding exceeds \$24 million.

Manuel Diaz Farms, Inc., of Kendall makes the first of a series of tree donations to FAU, planting some 2,200 royal palms, coconut palms and other native species on the Boca Raton campus, dramatically transforming its appearance. This plus 4,000 more trees provided by Manuel Diaz Farms to beautify the Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter campuses adds up to a total in-kind donation valued at \$1.5 million.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the TAAC championship.

- 1998 The Schmidt Family Foundation, headed by Richard L. Schmidt, makes a \$15 million donation to the University in memory of FAU benefactor Charles E. Schmidt, who died in 1996. The gift supports FAU's medical education partnership with the University of Miami

and funds construction of the Charles E. Schmidt Biomedical Science Center. It sets a new state record for cash gifts to academic programs. FAU names its College of Science in honor of Charles E. Schmidt.

The Herbert and Elaine Gimelstob Eminent Scholar Chair in Judaic Studies is established through donations made by Herbert and Elaine Gimelstob and other donors.

FAU benefactors Eugene and Christine Lynn donate \$750,000 to the College of Nursing to establish the Christine E. Lynn Center for Caring, a wide-ranging community outreach service addressing the healthcare needs of underserved populations, particularly at-risk children and the frail elderly.

FAU student Mindy Tyson places first on the national CPA exam, receiving the Gold Medal for her outstanding performance.

Renovation work is completed on General Classrooms South, one of the oldest buildings on the Boca Raton campus.

The Physical Sciences Building opens on the Boca Raton campus.

Governor Lawton Chiles takes part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the University's John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter.

The FAU Foundation hosts a gala at the Boca Raton Resort & Club to kick off the University's first capital campaign, with a goal of \$100 million.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the TAAC championship for the second time.

Sponsored research funding exceeds \$31 million.

1999 SeaTech, FAU's state-of-the-art ocean engineering research center at Dania Beach, is dedicated. The keynote speaker is Rear Admiral Paul G. Gaffney, chief of research for the U.S. Navy.

The Education & Science Building opens on the Davie campus.

Carl DeSantis gives \$2 million to the College of Business to establish the DeSantis Center, which focuses on preparing students to enter the business side of the motion picture/entertainment industry.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams of Northern Ireland is named a Distinguished Visiting Scholar. She and her fellow Nobel Laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, make a public presentation called "An Evening of Unity."

The Board of Regents authorizes a football program at FAU.

Howard Schnellenberger, a legendary figure in college football, is named FAU's first head football coach.

Retired public school teacher Eleanor R. Baldwin of Boca Raton pledges \$1.5 million to FAU to fund construction of a presidential residence, which will bear her name.

The Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center opens on the Boca Raton campus. Funded by generous gifts from the Friedbergs and other donors, the Center serves the educational interests of men and women of retirement age. FAU's Lifelong Learning Society ranks as the largest in the country.

The Jupiter campus opens and is formally named for the late John D. MacArthur. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation donated the 135 acres on which the campus is built.

The Honors College opens at FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus at Jupiter. The first honors college in the nation to be built from the ground up, this top-echelon institution offers a four-year liberal arts and sciences curriculum to academically gifted students.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the TAAC championship for the third time.

The baseball team has a record-breaking year, tying the national record for consecutive victories (37).

Sponsored research funding exceeds \$36 million.

21st Century

2000 The Board of Regents is dissolved by action of the Legislature and replaced by individual Boards of Trustees at Florida's public universities.

Scott Adams contributes \$2 million to the College of Business to establish the Internet Institute and the Adams Center for Information Technology (IT) Product Management and Entrepreneurship.

The John M. DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair in Growth Management and Development is established through a gift from an anonymous donor.

The Helen Karpelenia Persson Eminent Scholar Chair in Community Caring is established through a gift from Helen Karpelenia Persson.

The Davimos Family Eminent Scholar Chair in Brain Sciences is established through a gift from Richard H. Davimos.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the TAAC championship for the fourth time.

The 61,000-square-foot Tom Oxley Athletic Center, the only coeducational facility of its kind in the country, opens on the Boca Raton campus.

Sponsored research funding exceeds \$37 million.

2001 Terrorists crash airliners into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington and a field in Pennsylvania just as President Catanese is preparing to deliver the 2001 State of the University Address in the University Theatre. The address is postponed, replaced by a moment of silence. The University is evacuated after Governor Jeb Bush orders all state facilities closed. Later in the day, residence hall students hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the victims.

Christine E. Lynn makes a gift of \$10 million to the College of Nursing, which is named in her honor.

The 12-story Florida Atlantic University/Broward Community College Higher Education Complex opens on the Downtown Fort Lauderdale campus, adjacent to the Reubin O'D. Askew University Tower. It is the first facility in the nation designed to house both university and community college programs.

Students in the Florida Atlantic University's School of Accounting place seventh among all colleges and universities nationwide in a study conducted by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

The School of Social Work is established as a unit of the College of Architecture, Urban & Public Affairs.

Louis and Anne Green donate \$1.5 million to establish the Louis and Anne Green Alzheimer's Research Center and Care Facility.

The Memory & Wellness Center, a community outreach facility operated by the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, opens on the Boca Raton campus.

Forseti Biosciences, Inc., the University's first biotechnology spin-off company, is founded by Dr. Ramaswamy Narayanan and Dr. Gary Perry of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.

The Fighting Owls play their first football game on September 1, 2001, at Miami's Pro Player Stadium against Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, losing 40-7.

The Fighting Owls play their second football game on September 8, 2001, scoring a 31-28 upset victory over No. 22-ranked Bethune-Cookman.

The Lady Owls softball team records a fifth championship, playing in the Atlantic Sun Conference (formerly the Trans America Athletic Conference).

FAU's athletic programs are ranked among the best NCAA Division I programs in the nation by *Sports Illustrated*.

2002 President Catanese resigns to accept the presidency of the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

Voters approve creation of a statewide Florida Board of Governors to oversee the State University System. The Boards of Trustees serving individual universities remain intact.

A team of FAU computer science and engineering students develops CodeBlue, a computer-based health monitoring system that can connect people to their healthcare providers via the web. The project is named one of the year's 10 best student inventions worldwide by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

George Cornell makes a \$10 million gift to the Honors College, which is named to honor his late wife, Harriet L. Wilkes.

Tamar and Milton Maltz make a \$1 million donation to the Lifelong Learning Society on the Jupiter campus to build the 500-seat Tamar and Milton Maltz Center for Learning and the Performing Arts.

The Charles E. Schmidt Biomedical Science Center is dedicated on the Boca Raton campus.

The three-building Florida Atlantic University/Indian River Community College campus opens in Port St. Lucie, greatly enhancing the access of Treasure Coast residents to higher education.

The Eleanor R. Baldwin House, a presidential residence and University reception center, opens on the Boca Raton campus.

The Kenan Evren Eminent Scholar Chair in Turkish Studies is established through gifts obtained by the Turkish American Business, Education and Cultural Development Organization.

The Office Depot Eminent Scholar Chair in Small Business Research is established through a gift from Office Depot, Inc.

The College of Liberal Arts is merged into the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science to eliminate duplication of programs.

FAU's first capital campaign ends with \$199 million in donations and pledges, almost double its original goal.

The Marching Owls band makes its debut at the season's first FAU football game.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the Atlantic Sun Conference championship for the sixth time.

The men's basketball team wins the Atlantic Sun Conference championship and gets invited to the NCAA Tournament --"the Big Dance."

The baseball team wins FAU's first NCAA Regional Championship, beating No. 3-seeded Alabama and earning a No. 15 national ranking.

FAU's football rivalry with Florida International University is launched on November 23, 2002, with a game that will reward each year's winning team with the Don Shula Trophy. FAU wins the first game, 31-21.

Fall semester enrollment is 23,836.

2003 Fall semester begins with 24,961 students enrolled. FAU has the most diverse student body in the State University System, with minority enrollment of 34.6 percent.

FAU alumnus Frank T. Brogan (M.Ed., '81) is named the fifth president of Florida Atlantic University by the FAU Board of Trustees.

Dr. Ramaswamy Narayanan and Dr. Gary Perry, researchers in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, successfully test a new drug for human colon cancer in animal models.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel speaks at FAU.

The State of Florida awards FAU \$10 million to establish the Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology, a research facility that will search the waters off Florida's coastline for drugs from natural sources that could be used to treat cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses.

The Lady Owls softball team wins the Atlantic Sun Conference championship for the seventh time and is listed among the all-time greatest teams in college softball history by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

FAU football moves to Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale.