



Adam W. Herbert
President

October 2, 1997

TO: MEMBERS OF THE UNF COMMUNITY

Happy Golden Anniversary!

As you pause to reflect on the first half century in the life of the University of North Florida, my colleagues and I are pleased to share with you a few mementos from the University's first quarter century. As we close this time capsule on the anniversary day of classes opening for the first time in 1972, it is my hope that the items enclosed will convey some very important messages about the state of our University in 1997.

We hope you can sense the pride we share in the rapid growth and development of UNF into one of the best comprehensive universities in America. We hope you will feel the optimism we share, not only about the present, but also for the future of this institution as it attracts even more of the outstanding scholars and dedicated staff who are becoming a part of the UNF family. We also hope that some of our current colleagues will be with you as UNF celebrates yet another quarter century of distinguished service to this region, the State and the nation.

Throughout 1997, we have conducted and/or participated in a wide range of exciting celebratory events related to the University's 25th Anniversary. We have recognized the contributions of our founding faculty and staff, 40 percent of whom began and will end their professional careers at UNF over the next decade. We initiated the Presidential Lecture Series with two of the nation's most highly regarded citizens -- Elie Wiesel and Maya Angelou. We have received the largest State budget increase in the history of the University, which has resulted in our first total budget exceeding \$100 million. We raised \$8.6 million dollars last year and anticipate over \$10 million this year in external community support. We will have an endowment exceeding \$25 million before the end of 1998. We are currently in the process of constructing the Conference Center, the Fine and Performing Arts building, the track and soccer stadium and 450 beds of new housing.

In short, this first quarter century has been an outstanding one for the University of North Florida. We are confident that you have carried on the tradition of excellence which has become the hallmark of the University. Our hope is that you will challenge those who follow you to remain firm in the conviction that UNF must maintain its commitment to academic excellence built on a foundation of outstanding teaching, responsive to the students we serve, and actively engaged in service to the community.

Again, **Happy Anniversary!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam W. Herbert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



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President
University of North Florida

To be opened on the occasion of
the University of North Florida's
50th anniversary celebration.