

George L. Hanbury, II, Ph.D

Nova Southeastern University's Sixth President

Remarks from the Celebration of Excellence

Saturday, February 1, 2014

Dr. Hanbury's Opening Remarks

Thank you Daniel. You are a shining example of all of our students who are taking their future into their own hands –leading their lives instead of waiting to be led.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and distinguished guests.

On behalf of NSU's Board of Trustees, my wife Jana and I would like to welcome you to the 16th annual Celebration of Excellence.

A sell out audience of more than 750 people with all proceeds going to scholarships for our students. Fantastic! Thank you. You know, it took an entire team to put this all this together but I want to give special recognition to Mrs. Sharon Sullivan who led and directed this event tonight. Sharon please stand.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of Trustees supporting the mission of this fine university. At this time I would like to introduce them. Please hold your applause until they have all been introduced.

Mr. Ron Assaf, Chairman of the Board; Dr. Barry Silverman, Vice Chair; and Mr. Tinsley Ellis, Secretary. Tinsley was our first Secretary in 1964 and still is today and is our longest serving trustee. Other Trustees present this evening are:....

Thank you for joining us this evening to honor two remarkable individuals – Winifred and Joseph Amaturo, who will join a

select group of exceptional community leaders who have been presented with the President's Award for Excellence in Community Service.

I hope you had a chance to tour Fellows' Way during the reception – with the display of modernized shark fins that recognizes donors who, over the last 50 years, have given more than \$50,000 to the University.

It is located just around the corner in between the Alvin Sherman Library, which houses the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center, and the Carl DeSantis Building, which houses the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Both Wayne Huizenga and Rose Miniaci are here with us this evening, will you both please stand and be recognized?

I would be more than happy to help anyone in the room get their name on a building if they wish – just see me after the program.

As shown in the video, 1964 was a turbulent year of social unrest, civil disobedience and war. The nation was still reeling from the assassination of John F. Kennedy; the Civil Rights Movement was at its highest; and Americans went to war in a little known place - Vietnam. The average income per year was \$6,000; gasoline was 30 cents per gallon; the Dow was 834. A group of young men from Liverpool, England drove our young ladies to tears by simply telling them "I want to hold your hand"; and Joe, the average price of a movie was \$1.25! So, for \$1.25, movie audiences everywhere in 1964 first heard these immortal words - "Bond, James Bond".

And so much has happened while we were growing up as a university:

- LPs gave way to cassette tapes, which ceded to compact discs, and now we carry all of our music in our phones.

- And led in great part by NSU – the world of education has moved from traditional classrooms to distance education and now to hybrid class formats of technology and the traditional.

We are indeed the future of education. NSU touches lives throughout Florida, our Nation and literally the world in 116 different countries.

NSU's 160,000 graduates span the globe, making an impact in their chosen fields of study, and above all... **giving back to the community**.

As I contemplated what to speak about tonight, I was reading the newly released book by Dr. Julian Pleasants, "The Making of Nova Southeastern University – A Tradition of Innovation, 1964-2014."

In particular, a few sections sounded like they could have been written today, because they still ring true with our goals and ambitions a half century later.

NSU's first president, Warren Winstead, a Ph.D. from Harvard, said that "You can't separate the technologies from the humanities in the world of today. The technical and theoretical, the aesthetic and the scientific, the factual and the valuable, the creative and the inventive must be recognized as merely facets of one single, cultural core." I believe this to be even truer today.

It is this convergence of science, technology and liberal arts, or for my conservative friends - humanities, that enables critical thinking to connect the dots and be innovative. Thus, our students are able to live out the original Nova dream.

You see, we are indeed teaching students to connect the dots... to unleash their potential to **LEAD** their own lives instead of being led.

These 50 magnificent years would not have been possible without the direction of Warren Winstead and his successors, my predecessors: Abe Fischler, Alex Schure, Stephen Feldman, Ovid Lewis and Ray Ferrero, Jr. – two of which are here with us this evening – President Emeritus Abraham Fischler, and Chancellor Ray Ferrero, Jr.

Please stand gentlemen to be recognized.

And of course, I cannot forget Dr. Morton Terry, the visionary founder of Southeastern University of Health Sciences. It was Dr. Terry who, in 1994 – just 20 years ago - enabled us to become, **Nova Southeastern** University. It was with their leadership and guidance that enabled NSU to go through 50 years of evolution and innovation.

Although Warren Winstead would not recognize what we have become from the outside, we are much the same on the inside today as we were in 1964.

Several years after NSU's founding, President Winstead brought the Germ-Free Life Research Center to NSU and created the Royal Dames of Nova to raise funds to support its research. The Germ Free Center is still part of NSU, but now named the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research and still derives much of its funding from the Royal Dames of Cancer Research — NSU's longest continuous philanthropic partner.

Continuing with that same spirit today in research, in less than two weeks, within a stone's throw from this site, we will break ground on the Center for Collaborative Research, which will house—among other entities—the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research and the Emile Buehler Research Center for Engineering, Science and Mathematics – both entities would not be possible without their generous benefactors.

In fact, none of our growth then, now, or in the future, would have

been, or will be, possible without the much-needed support of business leaders and philanthropists and individuals with a passion for a cause greater than themselves.

Tonight, I would like to recognize those individuals and organizations, who during our first 50 years have given a million dollars or more.

In recognition of their generosity, we are presenting a limited edition Marquette of Kent Ullberg's 30' Mako shark statue which is located in front of the Don Taft University Center.

I have asked Student leaders to bring the Shark to your tables. Now these Sharks are heavy, so after we give them to you... we'll take them back!! Don't worry, we'll deliver them to you.

As I call the name of the individuals or organizations I would like you to stand! Please hold your applause.

Mr. Ronald G. and Mrs. Kathy Assaf

**AutoNation,
and Mr. Mike Jackson**

**Doctors Hospital Foundation,
Dr. Howard L. & Mrs. Gloria Neer**

**Emile Buehler Perpetual Trust,
accepting will be Mr. George Weaver**

**Hill York Air Conditioning and Energy Services,
accepting will be, Bob and Chip Laferetty.**

Mr. William D.* and Mrs. Norma M. Horvitz/ River Oak Foundation Inc.

Mr. H. Wayne and Mrs. Marti Huizenga

**JM Family Enterprises, Inc.,
accepting Colin Brown.**

Mrs. Rose and Mr. Alfred* Miniaci

Mrs. Toni M. and Mr. August C.* Paoli

**Royal Dames of Cancer Research, Inc.
accepting will be Carol Nugent.**

Dr. Barry J. and Mrs. Judy N. Silverman

**Dr. Morton* and Mrs. Geraldine Terry,
accepting for Ms. Terry will be Dr. Fred Lippman, Chancellor
of the Health Professions Division and a member of my
executive team.**

Mr. August* and Mrs. Melba Urbanek

All 45 are listed in your program and are on the screen.

All of this history, our vision for the future, and much, *much* more, is included in Julian Pleasant's new book and I encourage everyone to read it. It's on sale on line and in our book store.

Dr. Pleasants, please stand and be recognized.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving NSU's storied past. But as they say on late night TV – Wait, there's more!

Tonight as you leave you will receive a free copy of this book as a token of our gratitude for all you do for NSU.

So the history of NSU is bright and glorious.

It has had its ups and downs, but, you see, the best is yet to be

because of the support and passion of people like you.

Continuing in that vein, and the tradition of awarding community members who celebrate our core values, we honor two individuals who have invested extensively in a cause greater than themselves—education.

Wini and Joe Amaturo are perfect examples of how a simple act of the thought of giving back to the community can create a destiny

– Because, as Steven Covey said:

“If you sow a thought, you reap an action; you sow an action, you reap a habit; you sow a habit, you reap a character; and if you sow a character, you reap a destiny.”

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce two people who have reaped a destiny of giving to others out of the simple action of making the world a better place to live.

Please turn your attention to the screens...

VIDEO PLAYS

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the stage the awardees for the 2014 President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service – Winifred and Joseph Amaturo.

Dr. Hanbury:

Joe & Wini, I again want to thank you for being such an inspiration to our community and to our students; -I am proud to be numbered among your many friends.

Ladies and gentlemen, enjoy your tasty desserts and we will resume in a moment with a very special musical performance from Melissa Manchester.
