

# Forever Rising

#protecttheFAMUly

## Maurice Edington, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Break. Although the day has passed, there are several areas we can continue to acknowledge and for which we can express our gratitude—the first being the tremendous work of our faculty and staff.

While we continue to navigate through what has become an unprecedented time in our nation's history, FAMU still continues to rise and prosper. I realize it is not always easy to remain focused and diligent to our mission and vision, but I am grateful for and to all of you who continue to persevere. As I have noted previously, our students' successes are indicative of the unwavering dedication of our faculty

and staff. It is your commitment and enthusiasm for our University that helps our students continue to break barriers, excel and advance in areas once believed to be unattainable. Remember to show your support to them, the University and yourselves by celebrating their academic achievements during our Fall Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 12.

As we close the Fall semester, be mindful of how you can continue to Protect the FAMUly. Please use caution when traveling and practice social distance recommendations when gathering. Protecting yourself protects our FAMUly.

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## Great Things Are Happening

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### Faculty Achievements

Tiffany Packer, Ph.D., professor of history for Florida A&M University's (FAMU) College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities has been named 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

"It is my absolute honor to serve the campus of Florida A&M University. As as a FAMU alum, this award is especially meaningful because I have the opportunity to shape and mold students the same way I was when I was a student," said Packer.

The selection committee considered several criteria including, but not limited to commitment to excellence in education, thorough knowledge in their academic area, and motivating and stimulating students.



Jorge Hernandez Olaves, instructor and director of FAMU's aquatic center, has been named the 2019-2020 Advanced Teacher of the Year.

"I am humbled and honored to work with such a great group of people. Let's keep in touch doing "Excellence with Caring" work," he said.

In addition to meeting the selection committee's criteria for nomination, Olaves holds seven degrees and is involved in minority swimming research.



## Student Success

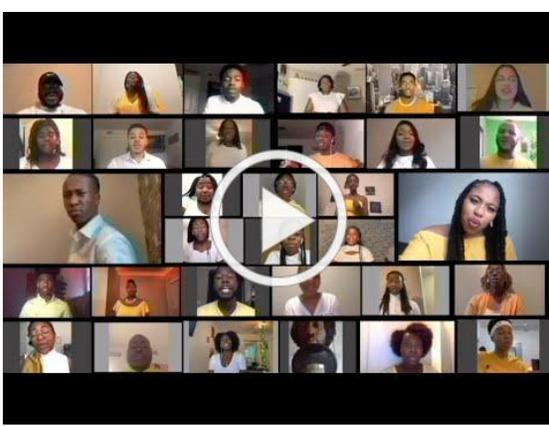


Several students in the School of Allied Health Sciences volunteered their time and services at the Bragg Memorial Stadium COVID-19 testing site.

The site coordinator, Wayne Balcom, praised the students and sent the following message to Mary Simmons, Ph.D., professor and director of cardiopulmonary science.

*"Thank you for your student support today at the FAMU Covid Test Site. Your 15 Respiratory Therapist students contributed greatly in the effective thru-put of over 1,000 persons. Our RNs couldn't say enough about their professionalism and ability to provide outstanding patient care in the way*

*of swabbing, registration, testing, tracking and notifications. Your support is greatly appreciated."*



The FAMU Concert Choir, under the direction of Mark Butler, Ph.D., created a virtual video for their song "A New Day." from their modern "Songs to Inspire" series.

The choir's diverse repertoire spans the choral genres of classical, jazz, contemporary, spiritual, gospel and multicultural style, and includes students from various academic disciplines.

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## University Announcements

Florida A&M University's School of Allied Health Sciences is pleased to announce the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program housed in the division of Health Care Management (HCM) has received initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). The program is directed by Juliet Davis Weaver, Ph.D., MHA, professor and division director of health care management.

"When I became the MHA program director, my primary goal was to work with our faculty and program coordinator to ensure we achieved full accreditation. In addition to receiving the notoriety of being the first HBCU with an accredited MHA program, we also sought to showcase our program's rigorous academic standards and the extensive training of our students," said Weaver.



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United States Representative David Scott will provide remarks for FAMU's Fall 2020 Commencement.

Congressman Scott represents Georgia's 13th congressional district and has served in this capacity since 2002.

Scott, who graduated from FAMU in 1967, serves on the Financial Services and Agriculture Committees, as well as the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He has advocated for student loan repayment assistance for law students and he also secured \$80 million in funding for agriculture-focused scholarships at the 19 historically Black 1890s land-grant colleges and universities.



FAMU's Fall Commencement will be held virtually on Saturday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

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The President's Annual Holiday Toy Drive

will be held on Friday, December 4. This year, organizers hope to exceed last year's remarkable 700-gift donation and are requesting new, unwrapped toys be delivered to the President's House between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. the day of the event.

Advance donations are also being accepted and may be delivered to the Office of Communications, located in Lee Hall, Suite 200, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day until Friday, December 4.



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## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, December 2

FAMU Board of Trustees Committee Meetings

### Thursday, December 3

FAMU Board of Trustees Meeting

### Friday, December 4

Last Day of Class

### Friday, December 4

President Robinson's Annual Toy Drive

### Monday, December 7-Friday, December 11

Final Examinations

### Thursday, December 10

Launch Toast and Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony

### Saturday, December 12

Fall 2020 Commencement

### Monday, January 4

Residence Halls Open

### Wednesday, January 6

First Class Meeting

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## Academic Affairs in the News

Click the stories below to read *some* of the great things that happened in Academic Affairs this month

### Sunday, November 29

[FAMU professor appointed by Gov. DeSantis to Board of Pharmacy](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

### Sunday, November 29

[Congressman and FAMU alumnus David Scott to deliver fall commencement address](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

### Friday, November 27

[FAMU Team Tests More than 100,000 for COVID-19 at Bragg Memorial Stadium](#)

Florida Daily

### Tuesday, November 24

[FAMU celebrates its musical masters](#)

FAMUAN

**Sunday, November 22**

**FAMU-FSU College of Engineering seeks to improve driverless transportation**

Tallahassee Democrat

**Sunday, November 22**

**FAMU earns distinction with School of Allied Health Sciences accreditation**

Tallahassee Democrat

**Sunday, November 22**

**FAMU junior awarded John Deere Thurgood Marshall Scholarship**

Tallahassee Democrat

**Thursday, November 19**

**FAMU included in Dow Inc.'s \$5 million initiative to diversify STEM workforce, scholars**

Tallahassee Democrat

**Wednesday, November 18**

**Florida Universities and Health Centers Partner on COVID-19 Community Engagement, Research**

South Florida Hospital News and Healthcare Report

**Wednesday, November 18**

**FAMU updates hours of Bragg Stadium walk-up COVID-19 test site**

WCTV

**Monday, November 2**

**HBCU students each awarded a \$15,000 McDonald's Black & Positively Golden Scholarship**

BlackEngineer.com



[Click here to learn more about the Division of Academic Affairs](#)

