# SEPTEMBER 2021 FOREVER RISING

Updates and information from the Division of Academic Affairs at Florida A&M University



### **About Academic Affairs**

The Division of Academic Affairs oversees a variety of academic programs and departments within Florida A&M University (FAMU).

The division supports curriculum and student success initiatives as well as faculty research and instruction.

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Pictured left to right: Johnnie Early, Ph.D., dean for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Mary Simmons, Ph.D., director and professor of cardiopulmonary science, and a new Rattler enjoying cake at the Freshmen Transition Ceremony. Photo credit: Christian Whitaker, computer applications coordinator

## Office of University Assessment

FAMU's Office of University Assessment monitors and assists academic, administrative and educational units to continuously improve student learning and the quality of the University's support services. The assessment team collaborates with various units to enhance the capacity to effectively use assessment practices and provides meaningful, timely critique to guide constructive decision-making processes.

Each year, the assessment team requests a review from each unit. Below are some helpful tips to consider when developing an assessment review.

### **OBJECTIVES**

DO



Do state expected student behaviors and achievements.

Do be aggregate.
Focus on the program
as a whole rather than
individual courses.

Do specify skills, competencies or dispositions that students should acquire. **DON'T** 



Don't write about what program will do. Write about what students will gain.

Don't create objectives that are not connected with activities or courses the program conducts.

Don't create objectives solely for a specific course. Objectives should reflect learning that occurs in the course

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### **Additional University Updates**



As detailed in his letter dated August 12, President Robinson expects all faculty, staff, students, visitors and vendors wear a mask upon entering all campus buildings.



The class of 2025 officially made it to "the hill." This year, more than 7,800 students applied to become Rattlers. FAMU admitted 2,393 students with an average 3.8 GPA.



FAMU was awarded \$66.4 million in grant funding for Fiscal Year 2021, setting an institutional record for the University. The majority of the funding stems from federal agencies.



### **New Dean Announced**



FAMU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Maurice Edington, Ph.D., recently announced Mira Lowe as the next dean for the School of Journalism & Graphic Communication (SJGC). Lowe is scheduled to officially join the University on Friday, October 22.

"I'm ecstatic to welcome Mira as a member of our leadership team. She brings a wealth of professional experience from industry and academia, and I have no doubt she will provide bold, dynamic and transformative leadership for the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication," Edington said.

Lowe, a veteran journalist and editor, has been the assistant dean for student experiences at the University of Florida (UF) College of Journalism and Communications (CJC) since 2019. A master's degree graduate of Columbia University, Lowe has worked as an adjunct journalism instructor and guest lecturer on digital storytelling, communications and career preparation at several colleges and universities around the country.

You may click here to read more about her appointment.

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### **Additional Division Updates**



This Fall, FAMU launched a "fast-track RN-BSN program. All courses are offered in an eight-week format with options for students to complete graduate-level courses that will count towards a BSN as well as an MSN,



Beginning Spring 2022, FAMU will offer an undergraduate and a graduate program in cybersecurity.



FAMU DRS is boasting record enrollment for its elementary and secondary schools. The district has its highest enrollment numbers in a decade and is currently using a waitlist to accommodate students.



Earlier this month, FAMU's School of Allied Health Sciences' cardiopulmonary science program donated two mechanical ventilators and three Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) machines to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. We provide two (2) Puritan Bennett 840 Mechanical Ventilators to Capital Regional Medical Center.

### **Student Successes**



Miles Johnson, a junior at FAMU DRS, recently won the bronze medal for board breaking in the Master's Level at the Taekwondo World Championship in San Antonio.

Johnson, the youngest to compete at the Master's Level in this year's competition, is a 2nd Degree, Level III black belt, as well as a 4.0 honor roll student.



Lauren Rodgers, a graduate student in FAMU's School of Architecture + Engineering Technology, received the inaugural Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF) Emerging Black Architects Scholarship.

The award included a paid summer internship in ZGF's Seattle office where she worked on a plans for a 285,000 square foot healthcare building.

## Faculty and Staff Highlights



Bettye Grable, Ph.D., interim dean for the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication, was a featured panelists during the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's (AEJMC) 2021 Virtual Conference.

The discussion focused on the lack of representation of Black practitioners in public relations and the challenges people of color face in this field.



Natalie Arnett, Ph.D., associate professor of chemical and biomedical engineering, for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, is the Principal Investigator (PI), for the United States National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) grant.

The grant will provide opportunities for minority students to collaborate with researchers on various projects and help them successfully attain graduate degrees, featured publications and other avenues to help increase representation in the field.



Lucy Ngata, Ph.D., associate professor for the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), recently co-authored a chapter on Bahamian soils with CAFS Dean Robert Taylor, Ph.D.

The chapter, published in Soil Science: Fundamentals to Recent Advances, discusses presents physical, chemical, and fertility information on some of the soils of North and Central Andros, extensively farmed commercially for the past 90 years.

### Academic Affairs in the News

FAMU's Division of Academic Affairs continues to make a positive impact. The following stories from local and national media highlight *some* of the great things happening within the Division.



#### Monday, September 6

FAMU Partnering With Apple and Tennessee State University to Become Coding and Creativity Center

Florida Daily



#### Monday, September 6

Bristol Myers Squibb, HBCUs launch biopharma program

**Minority Business News** 



#### Friday, September 3

FAMU Marching '100,' Concert Choir performs in 2021 NFL Kickoff festivities in Tampa WTXL



#### Tuesday, August 31

FAMU COVID-19 testing site returns to Bragg Memorial Stadium temporarily as crews work to fix new site

**WCTV** 



#### Monday, August 30

More schools join Tennessee State-Apple tech initiative

**Associated Press** 



#### Sunday, August 29

**FAMU Journey Magazine Wins 2021 SPJ Sunshine State Awards** 

Tallahassee Democrat



#### Sunday, August 29

FAMU Allied Health students chosen for cross-cultural discussion

Tallahassee Democrat



#### Wednesday, August 25

FAMU names Mira Lowe Dean of School of Journalism & Graphic Communication

WTXL



#### Sunday, August 22

Florida A&M chosen by Bristol Myers Squibb for diversity initiative

Tallahassee Democrat



#### Wednesday, August 11

Florida A&M University graduates one of its largest doctoral classes

Tallahassee Democrat



#### Wednesday, August 11

Two FAMU students named 2021 White House HBCU Scholars

Tallahassee Democrat



#### Wednesday, August 11

Florida A&M University student named a Kirchner Food HBCU Fellow

Tallahassee Democrat

## **Upcoming Events**

The following is a list of some of the University's events. A full list is available on FAMU's website.



**Board of Trustees Committee Meetings** Wednesday, September 15



**Board of Trustees Meeting** Thursday, September 16



Faculty Senate Meeting Tuesday, September 21



Founders' Day Observance Thursday, September 30



**FAMU Parents and Family Weekend** Friday, October 1 to Sunday, October 3



Founders' Day Sunday, October 3



**FAMU Essential Theatre Production,** *BootyCandy* Thursday, October 7 and Friday, October 8



**FAMU Essential Theatre Production, Sweet Mama Stringbean** Wednesday, October 20 to Sunday, October 24



**Homecoming Convocation** Friday, October 29



Homecoming Saturday, October 30



Fall 2021 Commencement Friday, December 10







Images from the Marching 100's halftime performance during the 2021 Orange Bowl Classic Photo credit: Christian Whitaker, computer applications coordinator

## Rattler Recognitions

The following messages of gratitude are meant to bring acknowledgement to our peers for their outstanding, plus-one efforts to help us complete our daily tasks. If you would like to recognize a fellow Rattler, please send your submission to <a href="mailto:provostcomm@famu.edu">provostcomm@famu.edu</a>.

We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Lance Farmer, web developer on the University Web Team, for all his hard work and guidance when assisting us design the pages for the new university website. We appreciate your patience with helping us learn and navigate the new Omni system, and the work you did with uploading content to our pages. You were an integral part of getting our college ready for the new launch.

The College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

Robert Seniors and Michael Simmons were especially patient with me while I experienced ongoing connectivity issues. They expertly helped me troubleshoot several issues, answered repeated phone calls and emails, and continued working with me until the problem was resolved. Their help, is and still continues to be, greatly appreciated.

Heather Johnson, senior director, marketing and communications, Office of the Provost She is technically my assistant, but Alma Davis goes above and beyond to make my work life easier. In addition to organizing my day and workflow, she continually shows initiative and accomplishes tasks before being asked and proactively seeks information to guide our decision-making process, all while maintaining a student-centered approach to her daily activities.

Micheal Johnson, superintendent, FAMU Developmental Research School

We would not be the college we are without our social media influencer, Ms. Andreka Bryant. Our Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube accounts, and COE flyers are outstanding because of her efforts. We continue to keep striking with Ms. Bryant's creative ability and thoughtful posts and stories.

The College of Education



#### Welcome back, Rattlers!

We are almost one month into our Fall semester and I am thrilled we are back in person on campus. During this past month, I have been reminded how even the smallest details of our University hold so much significance to our culture: who we are, how we operate, and how we relate to each other. Witnessing students warmly interacting with each other, hearing the familiar calls and chants from our greek organizations, and engaging with faculty who excitedly prep for classroom discussions are all part of what makes us uniquely FAMU. Our University is teeming with energy.

This Fall, we will leverage this energy to continue to meet our strategic priorities while we also work to identify new initiatives for the University. Our Strategic Planning Committee is currently holding discussions to evaluate our successes and determine opportunities for improvement. These conversations will help us develop our approach to ensure the University continues to excel in a global environment.

While we are excited about our return to campus and the great things associated with a new academic year, we must also remain diligent in our efforts to #protecttheFAMUly. Our return to pre-COVID operations must be conducted with a concerted effort of each of us doing our part to stay healthy. Students, faculty and staff are expected to wear a mask when inside any FAMU facility and everyone is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. As a reminder, FAMU's COVID-19 vaccination site is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stay safe and be well.



**FAMUProvost**