

VOL. 3 | JUNE 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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FAMU

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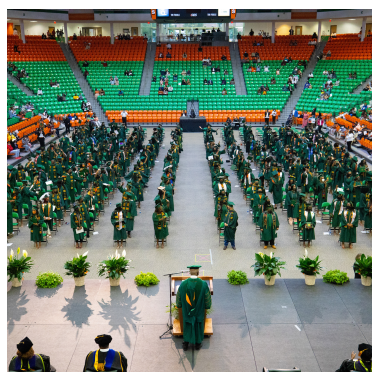
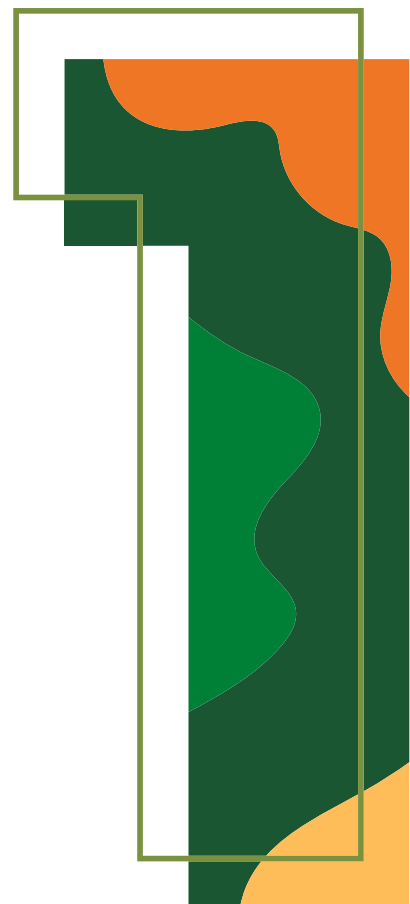
The Forever Rising newsletter is a publication from the Division of Academic Affairs. It is produced monthly and distributed within the University community.

Congratulations

to our Spring 2021 graduates



Congratulations



University Updates



FAMU is now offering the Pfizer vaccine to all adults and to youth ages 12 to 17 years old. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the Moderna vaccine are available to adults 18 years old and above. Each vaccine is available for free at the Al Lawson, Jr., Multipurpose Center and Teaching Gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

FAMU strongly encourages faculty, staff, and students to receive a vaccine as part of an effort to protect and minimize the number of COVID-19 cases on campus and in the community. As part of the State University System of Florida (SUS), FAMU joins all 12 public universities in anticipation of a return to pre-COVID-19 classroom capacity and operations for the upcoming academic year.

Florida A&M University's Institute of Public Health (FAMU IPH) recently received the maximum reaccreditation with no non-compliant findings by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The CEPH Board of Councilors rendered the decision for reaccreditation until 2028. Seven years is the maximum reaccreditation period.

FAMU's IPH, part of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, was established in 1995 and it is the first public health program to be accredited in North Florida. In June 2000, the IPH received its inaugural maximum accreditation of five years. Since that inaugural accreditation, the IPH has received the maximum reaccreditation three consecutive times.



FAMU is continuing its partnership with Cengage Unlimited for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The partnership allows students to purchase a subscription, which provides digital access to textbooks and other learning materials for \$123 each calendar year. Although the average cost of materials in Florida is approximately \$1,300 per year, students who purchase the Cengage subscription could save up to \$1,176 each year for their textbooks and materials.

"Students have access to Cengage's entire catalog of content regardless of the courses they are enrolled in for the semester, and it increases opportunities for them to have their course materials on the first day of class," said Sundra Kincey, Ph.D., FAMU's assistant vice president of program quality.

The Cengage Unlimited subscription is available for purchase via FAMU's Bookstore on campus and online.

Student Successes

Connie Awuku-Darkoh, an occupational therapy graduate student in FAMU's School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS) has received the NCAA Women's Enhancement Graduate Scholarship. The award was created to increase opportunities for qualified female candidates who plan to pursue a career in intercollegiate athletics or a career that provides a direct service to intercollegiate athletics.

Awuku-Darkoh was one of 13 female students to receive the award and said after graduation she plans to work with athletes who have experienced brain and spinal cord injuries.



Last month, several students in FAMU's School of Journalism & Graphic Communication (SJGC) received multiple honors from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Region 3 Mark of Excellence Awards. FAMU SJGC students competed against students from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The first-place winners will be invited to compete at the national level later this year.

FAMU SJGC Staff: First Place, In Depth Reporting (Large)

FAMU SJGC Staff: Finalist, Magazine

Aiyana Ishmael: Finalist, Online Sports Reporting

Aiyana Ishmael, Madeline Smith, Mia Uzzell: Winner: Best Use of Multimedia

FAMU College of Law student Shanice Cameron was recently named Editor-in-Chief of FAMU's Law Review for the 2021-2022 academic year, and she was also named the 2020 Holland & Knight Scholar.

Cameron will again spend the summer learning the legal profession from the attorneys at Holland & Knight, LLP in Orlando, and she will receive a full in-state tuition scholarship for her third year of law school, beginning this Fall.



Faculty and Staff Highlights



FAMU's Faculty Senate Institutional Research Award Committee recently announced the recipients of its 2020-2021 awards. The seven-person committee included representatives from the College of Education and the School of the Environment and cited each recipient's contribution and dedication to research through their publications, securing grant funding, community involvement, serving the University, and state, county and international networking efforts.

Komalavalli Thirunavukkuarasu, Ph.D.: Emerging Researcher Award

Shonda Bernadin, Ph.D.: Research Excellence Award

Lambert Houssou BléKanga, Ph.D.: Distinguished Researcher Award

Each year, the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering graduating seniors present faculty with awards in recognition of their dedication to the college and the students. This year, Richard Crisler, Shayne McConomy, Ph.D., and Simone Hruda received awards from the graduates.

Richard Crisler: Best Staff Member

Shayne McConomy, Ph.D.: Best Teacher

Professor Simone Hruda, Ph.D.: Best Undergraduate Advisor



Reginald K. Ellis, Ph.D., assistant dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research and associate professor of History and African American Studies has been selected to participate in the inaugural Academic Leadership Institute Residential Program; a partnership between the University of Michigan and The New School.

The program is designed to assist faculty of color in their journey to pursue senior executive leadership positions in higher education.

FAMU College of Law Professor Maritza Reyes recently published a law review article, Professional Women Subjugated by Name-Calling and Character Attacks, 23 J. Gender, Race & Just. 397 (2021), in the Journal of Gender, Race & Justice of the University of Iowa College of Law.

"The article analyzes how name-calling and character attacks continue to be used to put professional women in a gendered place," said Reyes. "This is similar to how women were once expected to put up with sexual harassment at work."

Reyes's article includes a proposal to begin a movement against this type of workplace abuse by acknowledging the problem, illustrating the ways in which it manifests, and encouraging individual action to challenge it, with the ultimate goal to lead to collective action against workplace abuse.



LeRoy Pernell, professor for FAMU's College of Law, was the law professor signatory to the successful Amicus brief in the case of Caniglia V. Storm, which was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States on May 17, 2021.

You may click [this link](#) to read the brief.

Upcoming Events

Board of Governors Meeting

Tuesday, June 22 to Thursday, June 24

Last Day of Class Session A

Friday, June 18

First Day of Class Term B

Monday, June 21

Last Day of Class Term B

Tuesday, July 29

Last Day of Class Term C

Tuesday, July 29

Independence Day Observance

Monday, July 5

Summer 2021 Commencement

Friday, July 30

Board of Trustees Annual Retreat

Thursday, August 5 and Friday, August 6



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 with our faculty, staff and students.

Thursday, May 27

[Florida A&M recognized as Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader for second straight year](#)

WTXL

Thursday, May 27

[Florida A&M University & Macmillan Learning Accepting Proposals for Fourth HBCU Symposium on Rhetoric and Composition](#)

PRNewswire

Thursday, May 27

[Commissioner Nikki Fried Joins USDA Event on \\$4 Billion in American Rescue Plan Debt Relief for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Wednesday, May 26

[3 win Peace Scholarships](#)

The Gainesville Sun

Sunday, May 23

[Philanthropists provide scholarships for Bahamian students at FAMU](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

Tuesday, May 18

[FAMU DRS begins new graduation tradition after COVID](#)

WTXL

Sunday, May 9

[FAMU pre-nursing student named 2021 Brain Busters Champion](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

Wednesday, May 5

[16-year-old chooses FAMU over Yale, Harvard as he amasses \\$1.6 million in scholarships](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

Sunday, May 2

[FAMU assistant dean accepted into Academic Leadership Institute](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

Sunday, May 2

[Florida Blue awards \\$15,000 to Florida A&M University academic programs](#)

Tallahassee Democrat

Sunday, May 2

[FAMU students crowned champions in National Pitch Competition](#)

Tallahassee Democrat



Message from Maurice

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

As challenging as the last year has been, FAMU continues to rise and excel.

I am pleased we will soon return to pre-COVID-19 capacity, which will include in-person academic support services, on-campus undergraduate research and employment opportunities, and on-campus meetings and events. Although we have shown we can thrive in the most unprecedented circumstances, it is important to and for our community to be able to fellowship and collaborate outside the confines of virtual spaces.

During the 2020-2021 academic school year, our faculty participated in several professional development activities to continue to enhance their skill set and knowledge. To date, we have allocated more than \$1M in support of these efforts and we plan to make additional investments during the Summer term as we prepare for the upcoming academic year.

Also, during the past year, we upgraded 54 classroom spaces to support remote instruction, modified more than 150 classes to accommodate social distancing requirements, distributed more than 600 computers to students and faculty, and rescheduled more than 6,000 course sections that were available in various modalities. All of this was accomplished to help us quickly transition to meet the academic needs of our students and provide faculty and staff with the necessary tools to complete their professional tasks.

Because of our attention to detail and our ability to adapt, we have proven ourselves capable of overcoming times of difficulty. I cannot promise we will never again face these types of challenges, but I am confident we are now better equipped to respond and adjust whenever necessary.

Thank you for continuing to push FAMU forward and continuing our ascent to greatness.

Maurice



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