



# TOGETHER WE RISE

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**



# TOGETHER



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**HBCU PRODUCER  
OF BACHELOR'S AND  
GRADUATE DEGREES  
FOR ARCHITECTURE/  
RELATED SERVICES**

DIVERSE ISSUES

**HBCU PRODUCER OF  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
BACHELOR'S  
DEGREES IN AMERICA**

DIVERSE ISSUES

**HBCU FOR  
ACADEMICS AND  
EXCEPTIONAL  
STUDENT  
EXPERIENCE**

NICHE

**ONE OF**

**"AMERICA'S TOP  
COLLEGES"**

FORBES MAGAZINE

**A NATIONAL TOP  
COLLEGE FOR  
DIVERSITY &  
INCLUSION**

LATINO LEADERS MAGAZINE

**NATIONALLY  
RECOGNIZED FOR  
ONLINE EXCELLENCE**

AFFORDABLE COLLEGE  
ONLINE

**#  
WE  
ARE**

**NO.2**

**BEST VALUE COLLEGE  
IN FLORIDA**

SMART ASSET

**TOP**

**SCHOOL IN THE  
SOUTH FOR STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT**

WSJ/TIMES HIGHER ED

**TOP 5**

**FAMU COLLEGE  
OF LAW FOR BEST  
SCHOOLS FOR  
AFRICAN-AMERICANS**

PRELAW MAGAZINE

**HIGHEST-RANKED  
HBCU COLLEGE OF  
ENGINEERING IN THE  
COUNTRY**

U.S. NEWS & WORLD  
REPORT

**NATIONALLY RANKED  
MILITARY-FRIENDLY  
SCHOOL**

GI JOBS



# R WE RISE



President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., and his senior leadership team meet weekly to discuss the University's strategic priorities. New additions to the team this year include Director of Athletics John Eason, Ph.D., **(first from the left)** Vice President of University Advancement Shawnta Friday-Stroud **(second to the right of President Robinson)** and Chief Compliance Officer Rica Callhoun **(fourth to the right of President Robinson)**. Read page 45 for a complete list of senior leadership team members.





**FAMU**

*Message from the President*

# PRESIDENT ROBINSON REFLECTS ON “FAMU RISING” AS UNIVERSITY’S 12TH PRESIDENT

**As** a researcher, I have long enjoyed a fascination with understanding how things work, a thirst for knowledge and a passion for using knowledge to advance discovery.

As I reviewed the highlights of this past fiscal year as the 12th president of Florida A&M University, I was struck by how much FAMU has utilized data and information to advance our institutional goals and objectives. Although each of the stories herein demonstrates a successful outcome, the underlying story is how our team has employed data to support each initiative.

I can think of no better example of this than the ever-evolving story of “FAMU Rising.” In this edition of our Annual Report, you will read about our continued effort to make strategic and lasting progress to four-year and six-year graduation rates. You will also learn how we are not only courting some of the best and brightest high school students as part of our President’s Recruitment Tour, we are also partnering with select state colleges in Florida to recruit their top scholars.

Another key highlight is our reaffirmation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The regional accrediting body for colleges and universities in the southern United States visited our campus in March 2018 and concluded that our Institution met their rigorous standards with no recommendations.



I am also proud to share that enrollment at FAMU is up, and applications for admission have increased by 20 percent over last year's figures.

In terms of innovative partnerships, FAMU was selected for Google's new diversity-focused initiative called Tech Exchange. As a result of the technology giant's efforts to invest in the talent of tomorrow, five FAMU students majoring in computer science and one professor were chosen as participants and will enjoy a yearlong residency getting hands-on experience and training on the Google campus. This is a momentous development for our campus in terms of STEM partnerships and supporting student success.

I know that you will also appreciate learning about some of the outstanding achievements of our student scholars. One group of student scholars won top honors and scholarships during the 2nd annual HBCU Battle of the Brains Competition. Other FAMU students picked up the mantle of social justice by joining thousands of marchers to protest gun violence and the mass shooting deaths of 17 students in Parkland, Florida.

We are also elated to share with you highlights of our top faculty researchers whose commitment to excellence in research and scholarly pursuits have resulted in them being recognized among their peers both within and outside the campus community.

What a great pleasure it is, as well, to bring your attention to some of our Rattler alums who have carried their FAMU leadership prowess throughout the nation as mayors of their respective cities. Equally as impressive are the FAMU alums who continue to enrich our University with their time, enthusiasm and financial gifts.

We are also delighted to provide an update on the new leadership in Athletics, student-athlete accomplishments and highlights.

Finally, you will learn how I am committed to collecting input through ongoing dialogue with all University constituents as we continue to rise to new heights. One of my initiatives supporting this is my "Fireside Chats" with students, faculty and staff.

In closing, these are only a few data points serving as examples of FAMU's excellence. Please stay tuned as we continue pressing forward in our "FAMU Rising" strategic plan and discover with us the remarkable impact of Florida A&M University.

*Larry Robinson*

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BY KANYA STEWART

# FAMU'S NEW TRANSFER PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH FLORIDA COLLEGES IGNITES STATEWIDE IMPACT

President Robinson and St. Petersburg College President Tonjua Williams, Ph.D., discuss their Ignite partnership in Tallahassee.



Community college students in Florida who have their sights set on pursuing a bachelor's degree are flocking to the new Florida A&M University Ignite Transfer Student Program.

In partnership with Florida College System (FCS) schools and community colleges, the program offers an alternative for students to earn their degree after completing their associate degree. The 2+2 system (two years at community college, two years at the University) helps students to reduce the overall cost of attending a four-year university, in addition to reducing debt by offering scholarship programs and helping to eliminate excess credit hours.

"We've had previous partnerships with state colleges, but IGNITE is more rigorous because it provides a more streamlined approach to engaging students from high school graduation all the way to community college graduation," said William Hudson, Jr., Ph.D., vice president of Student Affairs. Hudson plans to add additional partners to the program in the near future.

Hudson said the program plays an important role in the University's implementation of its new strategic plan, "FAMU Rising."

"IGNITE also gives us an opportunity to continue to fulfill our commitment of service to others by providing opportunities for Floridians who may otherwise have not had an opportunity to attend a four-year university," Hudson said.

#### Inaugural IGNITE partner colleges include:

- ▶ Broward College
- ▶ Miami-Dade College
- ▶ Santa Fe College
- ▶ Tallahassee Community College
- ▶ St. Petersburg College
- ▶ Palm Beach State College
- ▶ Valencia College

Through Hudson and his team's recruitment efforts, the University exceeded its goal of enrolling 794 transfer students for the 2017-2018 academic year. By the end of spring 2018, FAMU welcomed 854 transfer students. The University's goal is to increase transfer student enrollment to 1,100 by 2020.

IGNITE offers transfer students from partner schools, who meet university requirements, guaranteed admission to FAMU. IGNITE also offers a "shorter time-to-degree process" that guides students to degree completion by offering customized intensive advising, curriculum maps and priority registration. IGNITE participants also become eligible for the FAMU Florida Community College Scholarship.

"IGNITE has welcomed me in and monitored my success," said Madelyn McClarey, a senior English major who transferred to FAMU from Tallahassee Community College. "There has not been a time that I felt alone in the process, both personally and academically. It's truly a family, ensuring that we (transfer students) have constant access to events, workshops and information on campus."

While at their respective community colleges, students in the IGNITE program can begin taking advantage of program features that include an ID card that gives them access to FAMU sporting events and other activities, internship and career services, study abroad opportunities, graduate feeder program opportunities and a campus organization just for transfer students.

IGNITE is designed to give students who may not initially meet FAMU admission standards an opportunity to first attend a partner community college to prepare them for success in the University's nationally recognized academic programs.

According to Broward College's North Campus President Avis Proctor, Ed.D., a FAMU alumna, IGNITE has the potential to impact students and citizens from all walks of life.

"Through our partnership, we are leveraging our resources to bring information about IGNITE to students so that they understand the opportunities that exist for them beyond their experience here at Broward College," Proctor said.

St. Petersburg College (SPC) President Tonjua Williams said she was excited about the partnership with FAMU.

This relationship allows us to expand educational opportunities for our students, who can start their college career as an SPC Titan and finish it as a FAMU Rattler."





BY PAMELA BERRY-JOHNSON

# STUDENTS WIN SILVER AND GOLD ADDY AWARDS

S

everal Florida A&M University (FAMU) students had their creativity and graphic design skills lauded with silver and gold awards at a district-level advertising competition this year.

Malkia Peterson, Taylor Erwin, Donovan Johnson, Akido Brewer, Nicholas Atcherson, Zoe Powell, Jamaal Whitehead and Maria Marsico, a spring 2018 graduate, were all among the silver and gold winners in the April 2018 American Advertising Federation's ADDY Awards in Orlando.

Erwin, Peterson and Marsico were all gold award winners and went on to compete in the 2018 National ADDY Awards in Chicago. Erwin won the Les Dents Longues Brand Book Award and the Les Dents Longues Logo Award, while Peterson won the Converse Shoes Rebranding Campaign Award and Marsico brought home the Green Rose Restaurant Menu Award. The American Advertising Awards, also known as the ADDYs, is one of the advertising industry's largest and most prestigious competitions.

FAMU School of Journalism & Graphic Communication Interim Division Director Anosh Gill said his students have a tradition of faring well in the awards competition. Having students compete with their student peers from across the country helps to prepare them for their future professional careers.

"Students get confidence that their work and creativity is compatible to the industry standards, and it's not just the professors who think their work is good," said Gill.



**He said other benefits include:**

- ▶ Gaining confidence that helps students improve their existing portfolio and future design work;
- ▶ Boosting their resume as the people who will interview them are also aspiring to get these awards;
- ▶ Increasing their chances of gaining employment after graduation; and
- ▶ Attracting future students to an award-winning program.

When training future graphic artists, Gill said he works to inspire and challenge them.

“They need to be aware of what is considered good design and what are the practical applications,” he said. “Students are encouraged and helped to improve their design work even after the class assignments are done. There are several meetings and improvements outside class work, even when the class is over.”

Gill said students are also shown the work of other FAMU graphic design students that won awards or received an ‘A’.

“This gives them the confidence that they can do it too,” he said.

**In addition to the district-level ADDY awards, Gill said other student accomplishments include:**

- ▶ 11 students won local ADDY awards.
- ▶ 4 students’ work won district ADDY awards.
- ▶ 4 students’ work competed at the national district level.
- ▶ 17 student entries won Florida Print Awards.
- ▶ 18 students won one or more design awards in 2018.

Gill has more than 25 years of national and international advertising experience. He said sharing his knowledge with students is rewarding. The recognition is icing on the cake.

“I feel really good that I was able to share part of my knowledge with these students,” said Gill. “Winning awards changes them and gives them confidence. I feel I have helped them to become more successful in life.”





BY KATHY Y. TIMES

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI BEGIN 2018 AS MAYORS



On December 30, Deana Holiday Ingraham was inaugurated as the 34th mayor of East Point, Georgia near Atlanta. Florida A&M University alumna Keisha Lance Bottoms was inaugurated on January 2 as the 60th mayor of Atlanta. In St. Paul, Minnesota, Melvin Carter III also took the oath of office on January 2 and became the youngest and first Black mayor of the city. Rattler Booker T. Gainor's inaugural gala as the first Black mayor of Cairo, Georgia was held January 13.

"Having these leaders in the mayor's seat is proof that our graduates can reach any

career goal, any place in the world as a result of a FAMU education," said FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., who attended inaugurations for both Bottoms and Ingraham and served as the keynote speaker for Gainor's inauguration gala. "I am proud of our Rattlers on the move and honored to witness the results of years of preparation and hard work."

Bottoms is the second Black woman to be elected as mayor of Atlanta and received about 700 more votes than her opponent, Mary Norwood, according to the Associated Press. During her inaugural

speech, she stressed the importance of making the area's renowned concentration of HBCUs "meaningful partners" in the transformation of the city's west side and acknowledged her alma mater during a lighter moment that garnered applause.

"I also want to take a moment here to point out – Mayor (Kasim) Reed and Ambassador (Andrew) Young – that as a graduate of Florida A&M University, I am the first Atlanta mayor who is an HBCU graduate who did not attend Morehouse or Howard University," said Bottoms, a graduate of the FAMU School of Journalism & Graphic

Communication. "I am very proud to say the streak has been broken."

Carter, a former city commissioner, earned more than 50 percent of the votes in a crowded mayoral race in St. Paul, Minnesota. During his inaugural address, Carter said he was humbled to serve a city where his grandparents fled to 100 years ago, leaving behind the "violence" of the Deep South.

"Right now is an exciting time for St. Paul. We have more places than ever to enjoy art and music and eat a great meal," said





Fans cheered for Quincy, Florida Mayor Angela Sapp, St. Paul, Minnesota Mayor Melvin Carter III, Atlanta, Georgia Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Tallahassee, Florida Mayor Andrew Gillum and his wife R. Jai Gillum, East Point, Georgia Mayor Deana H. Ingraham and Cairo, Georgia Mayor Booker T. Gainor during the homecoming game coin toss.

Carter, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from FAMU. "We have big development opportunities ahead, and our population will soon reach an all time high. St. Paul is a city with momentum, but we are also a city of deep inequity and I lived through that too."

After serving as Ward D at-large council member in East Point, Georgia, Ingraham found her place of leadership as mayor. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from FAMU with a double minor in criminal justice and psychology.

During her inaugural speech, she thanked President Robinson and his wife, Sharon Robinson for attending the ceremony along with hundreds of supporters.

"My journey to mayor was challenging, but with each door I knocked on and each resident I spoke with, the journey birthed relationships and garnered a familiarity that made me feel blessed to experience a true sense of community," said Ingraham.

About 225 miles south in Cairo, Gainor was elected as mayor with 57 percent of the votes defeating Hansell Bearden. In

an interview with Roland Martin, Gainor noted that after graduating from FAMU, he invested time into his community and found his motivation for change and a desire to become mayor.

Gainor took to Twitter after his win, stating "This is not a win for Booker T. Gainor. It is a win for the CITIZENS of Cairo, Georgia. I am so humbled to represent you, the wonderful citizens of my beloved Cairo, as Mayor. The goal was to unify the city, and that is what happened last night. #Unity." Gainor earned a bachelor's degree in business administration/marketing from

FAMU.

There are many more Rattlers across the country in elected and mayoral positions such as Andrew Gillum, mayor of Tallahassee; Angela Sapp, mayor of Quincy, Florida; Oliver G. Gilbert III, mayor of Miami Gardens; and Smith Joseph, mayor of North Miami.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Our image capturing the group of FAMU mayors was taken after the conclusion of our fiscal year because it was the first time all the municipal leaders were together for a photo opportunity on campus.



# SILICON VALLEY COMPANIES EXPAND TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

BY KATHY Y. TIMES

Several Silicon Valley technology giants opened their doors earlier this year to a group of Florida A&M University faculty and President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., as part of an ongoing effort to improve diversity within the high-tech industry.

During a 2018 winter visit, FAMU's president met with Intel CEO Brian Krzanich while FAMU professors and interim dean of the College of Science and Technology, Sonya Stephens, Ph.D., discussed the details of the partnership with Intel staffers at the company's headquarters in Santa Clara, California.

The daylong meeting with Intel's CEO featured a roundtable that included Krzanich and leaders from six historically Black universities. They discussed:

- ▶ the impact of diversity and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) on innovation in the high-tech sector;
- ▶ Intel's role in the future of the tech sector;
- ▶ the role of HBCUs and academia in

diversifying the tech sector; and how best to collaborate with HBCUs.

Intel's roundtable was a continuation of the company's pledge to diversify its workforce and operations through its Historically Black College and University Grant Program. In 2017, the company created the fund with \$4.5 million aimed at helping to produce more African-American graduates in STEM disciplines such as electrical engineering, computer engineering and computer science. The bulk of the funds will be awarded directly to HBCUs, with about \$600,000 reserved for hosting workshops and activities that bring together the universities and technology industry leaders.

"What Intel brought to our attention is their true commitment to this initiative," said Stephens. "They provided us with stats that showed, in 2005, they only had five African-Americans on their leadership council. By the end of 2018, they expect to have 90 African-Americans on their

leadership council."

Stephens said the message resonated with her and other colleagues in attendance.

"That tells us, it is our job to train the students to be leaders within companies in Silicon Valley, and in other tech companies and not just entry-level employees," said Stephens, "and that's what we need to do; train them to make the decisions and not just do the job."

Last year, FAMU was awarded a \$550,000 Intel grant that will be spread out over a three-year period to offer two-year scholarships for up to 26 junior to doctorate-level students majoring in the targeted areas. Intel also hosted FAMU faculty and traveled to Tallahassee to share the kinds of skills and knowledge they are seeking in interns and graduates.

As FAMU continues building on its reputation as a leader in helping to diversify the tech industry, Facebook and Google also presented concepts for new

partnerships.

Along with other leaders, President Robinson facilitated the expansion of Google's residential tech exchange with FAMU's College of Science and Technology and 10 other HBCUs and Hispanic-serving institutions. The yearlong residency program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2018 and includes credit hours in courses offered by leading professors and Google engineers.

In January 2018, Facebook, the world's most popular social media platform, dispatched a representative to FAMU's main campus to explore showcasing FAMU's students in a national live event. In turn, Facebook hosted President Robinson and Chief Communications Officer Kathy Y. Times at the Menlo Park, California campus during their visit to Silicon Valley. President Robinson discussed pathways that would help students gain knowledge, skills and opportunities to intern and have successful careers at the company.



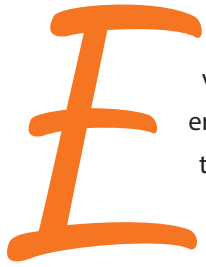






# **FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY RECEIVES POSITIVE NEWS AFTER REAFFIRMATION VISIT**





Every 10 years, Florida A&M University engages in a comprehensive review process to have its accreditation reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in 11 Southern states.

In March, as part of FAMU's review, an on-site committee from the agency visited the main campus in Tallahassee, the College of Law's campus in Orlando and the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science's site in Crestview, Florida.

The committee was composed of eight people from peer institutions and was led by Harold L. Martin, Ph.D., chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. The group spent three days on the main campus and ended their review after meeting with FAMU's faculty, administrators, students and staff. They determined that FAMU is in compliance with all of the SACSCOC accreditation standards.

"The on-site committee did not have any recommendations, which is the most favorable outcome a university can receive from a SACSCOC on-site review," said FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D. "FAMU is not required to do any follow-up work. The committee's determination is validation that FAMU operates in a manner consistent with higher education best practices."

In December, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will take a

vote at its annual meeting and decide whether to reaffirm FAMU's accreditation.

Preparation for the review includes many steps, such as surveys, meetings, data analysis, attending SACSCOC conferences and much more over the course of several years.

In September 2017, FAMU's liaison to the SACSCOC committee, Maurice Edington, Ph.D., School of Business and Industry Dean Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D., and Beverly Barrington, associate vice president for Strategic Planning, Analysis and Institutional Effectiveness, led the effort to draft and submit a 600-plus-page Compliance Certification Report to an off-site SACSCOC committee.

In November, the off-site committee reviewed more than 90 standards to evaluate FAMU's compliance. The second phase of the review occurred in March by the on-site committee.

"The on-site committee's favorable review of FAMU's compliance with the SACSCOC accreditation standards is a strong validation of the quality of the University's academic programs and administrative services," Edington said. "I am very appreciative of the many faculty, staff and students who did a tremendous amount of work not only for the reaffirmation effort, but also for their dedication and commitment on a daily basis."

After the on-site committee completed its interviews and observations, President Robinson called a University town hall meeting to deliver the positive news. He thanked

FAMU's Board of Trustees, students, staff and faculty for investing many long hours, days and months planning for the critical week.

Specifically, President Robinson recognized the FAMU SACSCOC Leadership Team, committees and subcommittees, Provost Rodner Wright and School of Business and Industry's Assistant Dean Jennifer Collins, Ph.D., who joined him on stage during the town hall.

Collins, a School of Business and Industry associate professor, chaired the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) subcommittee, which developed the framework for the University's five-year Quality Enhancement Plan, entitled, "Write On FAMU."

"Since the SACSCOC visit, the QEP team has been working to implement the five-year plan," Collins said. "We are providing faculty development opportunities and working with each academic unit to ensure that 90 percent of our undergraduate degree programs include Writing Enhanced Courses from the freshman year through their senior year."

The goal of the five-year plan is to enhance the writing proficiency of undergraduate students. The total QEP budget is approximately \$4 million and will be funded through the reallocation of existing resources, the infusion of new resources along with corporate/community partnerships.



# FAMU THEATRE STUDENTS PREPARE FOR HISTORIC PERFORMANCE IN SCOTLAND

BY KIM HARDING & KANYA STEWART

**W**hen Jewelisia Fagg learned she was one of nine Florida A&M University theatre students selected to represent its Essential Theatre in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, she simply could not believe it.

"I'm a small-town girl who has never been west of New Orleans or north of Washington, D.C.," said Fagg, a senior theatre performance major from Gretna, Florida. "Performing during the Festival Fringe will increase my drive to excel in school and in my career, so that I can be afforded more opportunities to travel to other new and exciting places."

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest performing arts festival in the world. The annually anticipated event, which will be held August 1-12, 2018, draws performing and visual artists from across the globe.

Valencia E. Matthews, Ph.D., dean of the FAMU College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, said, "The opportunity for our students to participate in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe provides an extraordinary experience for them, allowing them to engage artistically on the global stage as performers, designers, technicians and arts administrators. They will use the experience to enrich themselves professionally and the Essential Theatre

programmatically."

As part of the International Collegiate Theatre Festival Fringe, the Essential Theatre will perform "From the Mississippi Delta," written by critically acclaimed playwright, scholar and civil rights activist—the late, Endesha Ida Mae Holland, Ed.D. The University's contingent includes a student cast and crew as well as program administrative and production personnel.

Students were carefully selected based on their audition, good academic standing, character, work ethic, and contributions to the Essential Theatre, explained Anedra Small, the play's director. They will help recruit students to the University, attend shows, engage in workshops and experience Scotland.

FAMU's participation is also an opportunity for the international community to gain a new perspective about the quality of African-American institutions and their theatre programs.

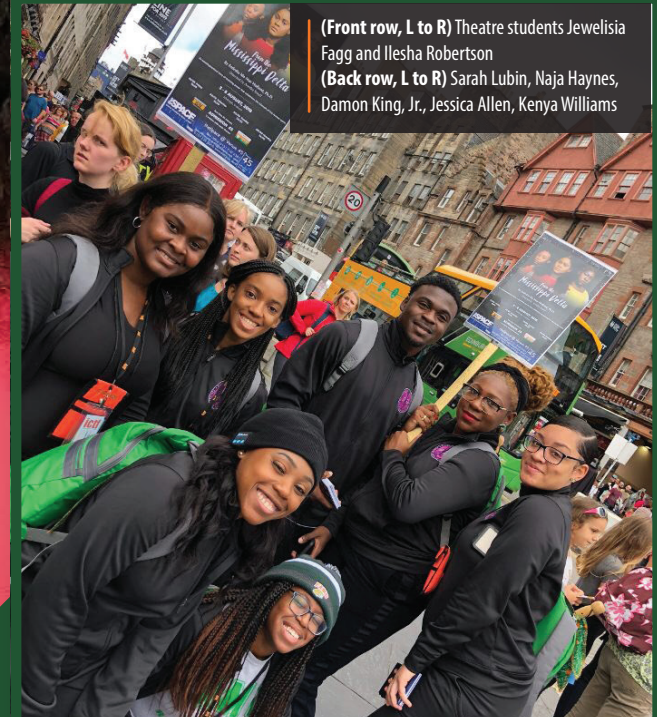
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The photo of the Essential Theatre's Scotland performance was taken after the conclusion of FAMU's fiscal year.







**(L to R)** Theatre students Jewelisia Fagg, Sarah Lubin and Jessica Allen



**(Front row, L to R)** Theatre students Jewelisia Fagg and Ilesha Robertson  
**(Back row, L to R)** Sarah Lubin, Naja Haynes, Damon King, Jr., Jessica Allen, Kenya Williams





A change in state law is allowing Florida A&M University (FAMU) to participate in a federal program that provides low-cost capital to finance infrastructure improvements to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs.)

Senate Bill 1712, passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Scott this past legislative session, permits FAMU to participate in the HBCU Federal Capital Finance Program.



The final bill was sponsored in the House by State Rep. Ramon Alexander and in the Senate by Senators Bill Montford, D-Tallahassee, and Perry Thurston, Jr., D-Fort Lauderdale.

Alexander, a FAMU alum whose House District 8 includes parts of Leon and Gadsden counties, has called the bill's passage a "huge step for the University in achieving infrastructure development goals and the highest educational success."

"This program has been a great success nationwide and will be beneficial to assist the University to leverage investments to help finance student housing. It is important for both the new construction and preservation of housing to help ensure students have safe, decent housing options available," Alexander said.

Specifically, the program provides HBCUs with access to capital financing or refinancing for the repair, renovation, and construction of classrooms, libraries, laboratories, dormitories, instructional equipment, and research instrumentation. According to the U.S. Department of Education website, this assistance comes through the issuance of federal guarantees on the full payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds, the proceeds of which are used for loans.

The University is using the finance program to seek federal funding to build a new 700-bed residence hall as well as to restructure its current debt that will provide critical funds for maintenance and renovation of existing dormitories.

FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., said the new law is an important tool for increasing and enhancing the institution's "living and learning spaces."

I am extremely thankful for the support of this initiative at the state level and look forward to moving this process

# STATE FINANCING BILL POISED TO BE BOON FOR FAMU'S FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING NEEDS

BY PAMELA BERRY-JOHNSON



to the federal level at the U.S. Department of Education,” Robinson said. “This student housing initiative provides additional opportunities to enhance student success through additional ‘living and learning communities’ that are proven to promote positive academic and student engagement outcomes.”

**Other noted benefits of the federal funding program include:**

- ▶ A privately placed loan with the U.S. Department of Education
- ▶ Lowest costs of funding
- ▶ No required bond debt rating
- ▶ Preserves single housing system and full University control

The construction of the residence hall is estimated at a total cost of \$60 million, which consists of \$54.5 million for planning, equipment, soft costs and building construction, \$2.8 million for utility infrastructure and \$2.7 million for a dining facility.

# FAMU INTRODUCES CUSTOMER SERVICE INITIATIVE DURING PRESIDENT’S SPRING RETREAT

In an effort to ensure Florida A&M University supports its motto, “Excellence with Caring,” President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., launched a new campus-wide customer service improvement initiative.

Robinson said FAMU recognizes that distinction in service quality creates a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining students, attracting and keeping renowned faculty and staff and engaging its alumni, donors and other stakeholders.

“The University looks forward to working with all constituents to build and sustain model customer service practices,” Robinson said. “We’re committed to supporting a culture that will only serve to further elevate our great institution. We want everyone to embrace the understanding that on this campus, customer service is everyone’s job.”

The new program, Leadership Through Service, is a priority of FAMU’s strategic plan, “FAMU Rising,” which was developed under President Robinson’s leadership. The initiative is designed to ensure high-quality customer experiences throughout all facets of university operations and student engagement.

**Key goals include:**

- ▶ Improving financial performance
  - Nurturing the onboarding process
  - Increasing Return on Investment
- ▶ Establishing a powerful brand and image
- ▶ Increasing college student retention and graduation rates
- ▶ Demonstrating greater value in tuition and attendance
- ▶ Enhancing our position with the community, alumni and all stakeholders

The push for enhanced customer service practices began in the spring of 2018 during President Robinson’s inaugural leadership retreat. He shared highlights of his plan with hundreds of University leaders, including vice presidents, deans and directors.

During the retreat, customer service consultant Neal Raisman of Raisman and Associates was introduced to attendees and explained the value of creating a student-ready campus.

The new initiative is led by FAMU Chief Human Resources Officer Joyce Ingram, along with a committee of staff and faculty who have a direct impact on the student experience every day.

In August, the University plans to provide campus-based training through a seminar titled “Service Excellence.” In addition to ongoing monitoring of progress and heightened accountability, the University also plans to reward instances of “excellent customer service.”





# PRESIDENT'S FIRESIDE CHATS LEAD TO INSIGHTFUL CONVERSATIONS AND RESULTS

Immediately after Florida A&M University's Board of Trustees named Larry Robinson, Ph.D., the University's 12th president, he held a town hall meeting with faculty and staff on December 11, 2017. It was the end of the semester, and he did not have an opportunity to meet with students, who were heading home for the holiday break.

The president entered 2018 with a plan for hearing from students as well as faculty and staff in small group discussions - a goal that is outlined in the University's five-year strategic plan, "FAMU Rising."

"The Fireside Chats" really provided me with an up close and personal opportunity to hear constructive dialogue from various constituency groups," President Robinson said. "Participants had an opportunity to get relaxed and provide feedback about operational aspects of the University, student services and faculty experiences in the classroom every day.

Special Assistant to the President, Linda Barge-Miles, Esq., drew inspiration from U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose "Fireside Chats," were a series of evening radio messages to America on various topics. She worked with the

Office of Communications to create intimate forums for each group and a way for the FAMU community to sign up for a seat around the fireplace at the President's House.

Topics ranged from the state of the University to student parking. A visible solution that evolved from the chat with students was the installation of lighted stop signs at crosswalks near campus streets with a high volume of traffic.





My name is  
Alana Williams



Florida A&M University  
School of Business and Industry



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High school students and Broward College students interested in the Ignite Transfer Student Program met with representatives from FAMU schools and colleges during the President's Tour stop in Davie.



# PRESIDENT'S TOUR ROLLS INTO FIVE CITIES

Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., launched his first statewide recruitment tour in March, as the University's 12th president.

"The President's Tour" supported the University's strategic enrollment management plan to attract the state's top scholars by exposing them to the life-changing educational experiences provided by FAMU's faculty and staff.

Approximately 1,125 students attended the five-stop recruiting events. The tour began during Spring Break in Pensacola, Florida on March 9, at Booker T. Washington High School and ended in Miami on Monday, March 12, at Miami Jackson High School.

Student Affairs Vice President William Hudson, Jr., added stops at two state colleges - Palm Beach State College and Broward College - to increase FAMU's enrollment of Florida College System students through the University's Ignite Transfer Student Program.

"Dr. Robinson has taken a hands-on approach to recruiting the best and brightest students," said Hudson. "The strategic goal to increase the academic profile of incoming first-time-in-college students is a priority, which incorporates students, faculty, staff and alumni having active roles in the President's Tour to engage all constituents."

## **The tour's itinerary included:**

- ▶ President Robinson's speech about why students should choose FAMU.
- ▶ One-on-one opportunities for students to interact with FAMU recruiters and representatives from schools and colleges.

Accomplished alumni, such as Palm Beach County Schools Superintendent Donald Fennoy, Ph.D., gave personal testimonials about how FAMU impacted their lives. FAMU's renowned student song and dance ensemble, "The FAMU Connection," donned new orange and green wardrobes during a show-stopping performance about FAMU's history.

Alumni in cities on the tour route greeted two buses carrying faculty, staff, administrators and students, including members of the FAMU Royal Court and Presidential Ambassadors. They interacted with prospective students and prepared lunch or dinner for tour participants.

The tour, along with recruiting events and other outreach nationwide and in strategic areas, helped boost admissions applications and enrollment. In fall 2017, the University enrolled 9,909 students, a 3.06 percent increase compared to 9,617 students enrolled in fall 2016.

To support the tour, FAMU launched three new online platforms for incoming students, including a new virtual reality tour, a customized social media network for admitted students and an admissions landing portal. Plans are also in the works to update FAMU's mobile app and relaunch it in the fall of 2018 as one more way to connect with prospective students and other stakeholders.

In the fall, the President's Tour will travel to Albany, Columbus and Atlanta, Georgia as well as Jacksonville, Tampa and Orlando, Florida.



# GIVING BACK IS PART OF THE FAMU EXPERIENCE

BY BAKARI MCCLENDON



FAMU UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Florida A&M University*  
*eight million five hundred*  
MEMO *Student Scholarships*  
258792000





One of the largest grassroots fundraising campaigns in recent Florida A&M University history all began as an impromptu 2016

Homecoming conversation between two FAMU alumnae.

Kristan Harper and Karla Taylor, both alums of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, said they had no idea what a major impact that chat would bring to

the University and future female students in less than a year.

“An old-school soror and I were just chit-chatting about what we could do to give back to the university,” said Harper, a vice president for Global Wound and Thermal at Cardinal Health, a \$103 billion Fortune 15 healthcare company,

Harper said she was sharing how she

and her husband – also a FAMU alum – had just accomplished a bucket-list goal by establishing a \$25,000 endowed scholarship for FAMU School of Business & Industry students. “That got the juices turning,” she said.

In nine months, the women had galvanized members of their undergraduate chapter from as far back as the mid-1960s and co-chaired an effort that raised more

than \$125,000 and established the BADST (Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta) Fortitude Endowed Scholarship for FAMU female students.

“What better way to uplift our university,” Taylor said. “FAMU Delta has accomplished a phenomenal goal, and our giving continues. Gifts are recurring.”



President Robinson and Board of Trustees Chair Kelvin Lawson thanked members of the FAMU Foundation and National Alumni Association Executive Boards and University donors for their support.





President Robinson thanked alumni of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta during the 2017 Homecoming football game.



## EMPOWERED TO GIVE (AND COMPETE) THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

With Taylor’s vision and Harper’s branding and marketing skills, they began working with the FAMU Foundation, establishing line champions to engage members of their respective lines, and updating members on progress through conference calls and a private Facebook group. Donations were slow to come at first.

“We had \$2,000 after six months,” Harper said. “As of May 2017, we were only at \$10,000.”

The team eventually created a tier system for giving at different monetary levels and scoreboards to create a friendly competition among the lines.

The move encouraged participation by connecting the giving to the celebration of their chapter’s 80th anniversary. Initially, the goal was \$80,000.

“We told them no matter how small their contribution was, they are contributing to the legacy,” Harper said.

By October 14, 2017, respective members with the highest individual and collective contribution levels and the highest level of line participation joined FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D. and the organizers at the 50-yard line during halftime of the Homecoming game. The group presented a check for \$125,000 to the FAMU Foundation. Due to the recurring gifts, the amount has grown to more than \$155,000.

## “FAMU RISING” CAMPAIGN

Supported by the priorities and goals outlined in President Robinson’s FAMU Rising 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, the FAMU Rising fundraising campaign includes the four areas of strategic investments: student scholarships, student success initiatives, athletics, and the arts & history.

The alumni donor category is one of the most important constituent groups for university advancement with current alumni giving at \$1.3 million dollars, and with corporations and friends of FAMU coming in at \$943,000 and \$417,000 respectively, (as of May 29, 2018).

“We want our alumni to look at FAMU as an opportunity to reach back and pull someone else,” said Audrey Simmons Smith, FAMU Office of Development’s director of

development.

While helping to stabilize the university’s financial standing, donors can establish endowments that are held in perpetuity to the benefit of various university units or students.

“To be able to not only give back but to leave a legacy that will last forever to the university, it’s an indescribable feeling,” Harper said. “That’s one of the benefits of an endowment, it lasts forever,” she said.

For example, an endowment could benefit a specific university department, division, or assist students with unmet financial needs from a hometown or region. Donors may even create a scholarship in their name through annual gifts of specific amounts made over a five-year commitment.

Some companies have 1-to-1 and up to a 3-to-1 matching contribution giving





CFO Wanda Ford, DM, Shawnta Friday-Stroud, interim Vice President of Univ. Advancement (center) and Metz Culinary Chairman John Metz, Sr. join Metz and Business and Auxiliary Services team at presentation.

program, allowing an easy opportunity to double or even triple contribution amounts.

“An investment in students today is going to be transformative for the future,” Smith said.

With a focus on students’ success, Dr. Robinson’s plan set a goal of strategically enhancing campus facilities to improve the overall student experience at FAMU. On-campus dining partner Metz Culinary Management stepped up with a major gift in alignment with that vision.

Founder and owner John Metz, Sr. presented a monetary portion of the renewal of its food services contract with FAMU in the amount of \$5 million for capital investments to upgrade, renovate, refresh and beautify dining facilities, furniture and equipment, along with other discretionary uses.

Throughout the campaign, the goal is to increase the number of donors, alumni giving rate, cash donations, amount of donations, and the corporate giving rate.

### THE EXPERIENCE: A LASTING LEGACY

“We have so many alumni,” Taylor said. “If we all gave, think of the things we could do for the university.”

Harper agreed and encourages more Greek-letter organizations to give back.

“I would not be where I am in my life had it not been for FAMU,” Harper said. “I would encourage Greek-letter organizations and individuals to contribute to our university. If we don’t, who will?”

## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ First-Time-In-College
- ▶ Returning Students
- ▶ Graduating Seniors
- ▶ Graduate Students



### STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

- ▶ Living-Learning Communities & Advisement
- ▶ Discipline-Specific Learning Communities
- ▶ Experiential Learning Experiences
- ▶ #WriteOnFAMU: Quality Enhancement Plan



### ATHLETICS

- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Athletics Facilities
- ▶ Academic Support Services



### THE ARTS & HISTORY

- ▶ The Marching “100” & Musical Ensembles
- ▶ The Essential Theatre
- ▶ Fine Arts and Black Archives Museums





# STUDENTS WIN TOP PRIZE DURING BATTLE OF THE BRAINS IN TEXAS

FAMU students took home \$25,000 in scholarships after emerging as the No.1 team during the 2nd annual HBCU Battle of the Brains Competition hosted by the National Black MBA Association, in conjunction with South-By-Southwest (SXSW), held in Austin, Texas, March 8-12.

The team was coached by FAMU professors Jason Black and Arlisha McQueen and included six undergraduate and graduate students from FAMU's School of Business and Industry and the College of Science and Technology's Computer and Information Sciences Department.

The students presented a compelling marketing and business solutions program to galvanize millennials to engage and become consumers with the Home Depot using virtual reality technology.

During the "hackathon meets business case competition," students were able to present and network with major corporate sponsors including The Home Depot, Facebook, Google and the National Football League.

Members of the FAMU Brain Bowl team (front row) show their Rattler pride with a fangs up.



# SCHOLARS FROM THE FAMU-FSU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SHINE AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Students in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Latarence Butts and Daziyah Sullivan, were honored with academic leadership awards at the Black Engineers of the Year Awards (BEYA) STEM Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Sullivan is a promising second-year mechanical engineering student and is interested in making renewable energy more affordable.

Butts is a third-year senior majoring in electrical and computer engineering. His research interest involves high-frequency devices and circuits.

Butts was a National Merit Scholar and vice president of Tau Beta Pi Honor Society.

The criteria for the BEYA student leadership award are very competitive and students from around the country have an opportunity to compete with the best of the best.

Students who earn the academic leadership award must have an exceptional GPA and be outstanding contributors to their school and communities.





In August 2017, a dozen FAMU student researchers and their professors visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast to take their classroom lessons into the field. The student researchers were part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's initiative called the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., serves as the principal investigator of the \$15.4 million grant awarded by NOAA to facilitate the program and partnership. The partnership engages minority-serving institutions and includes Bethune-Cookman University, California State University – Monterey Bay, Jackson State University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. The coastal and marine research trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast included places like Gautier and Ocean Springs, Mississippi.



FAMU's assistant director of the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Sharmini Pitter, Ph.D., (second from left), and a group student researchers visit the Estuarine Education Center in Gautier, Mississippi along the Gulf Coast.



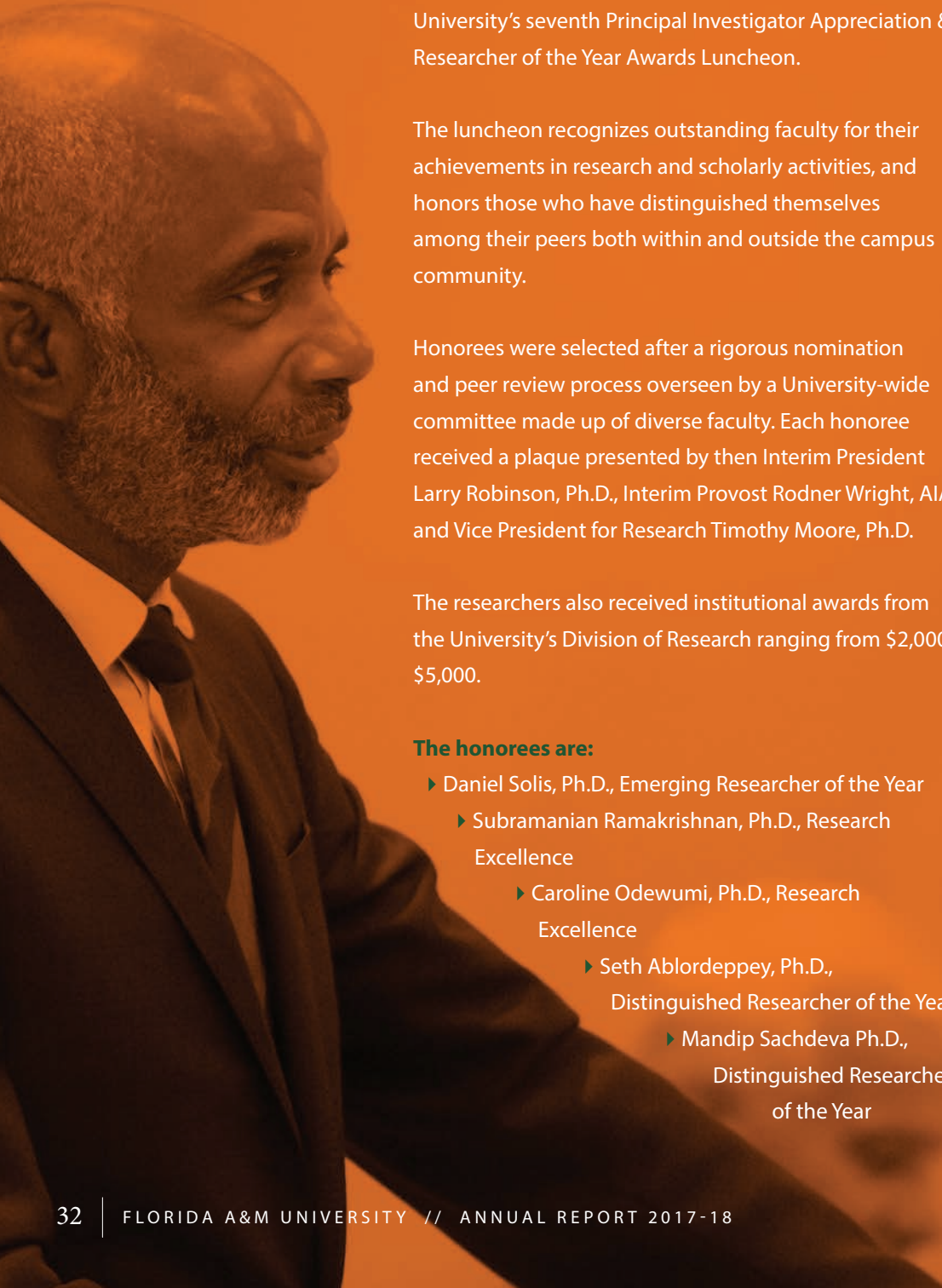
# TOP RESEARCHERS HONORED DURING APPRECIATION LUNCH & AWARD CEREMONY

BY KANYA STEWART



Professor and Interim Director of Health Care Management Martha Perryman, Ph.D., Vice President of Research Timothy Moore, Ph.D., Honorees Daniel Solis, Ph.D., and Seth Ablordeppey, Ph.D., President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., Honorees Subramanian Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., Mandip Sachdeva, Ph.D., and Caroline O. Odewumi, Ph.D., and Interim Provost Rodner Wright.





Five Florida A&M University faculty members were honored by their peers in July 2017 during the University's seventh Principal Investigator Appreciation & Researcher of the Year Awards Luncheon.

The luncheon recognizes outstanding faculty for their achievements in research and scholarly activities, and honors those who have distinguished themselves among their peers both within and outside the campus community.

Honorees were selected after a rigorous nomination and peer review process overseen by a University-wide committee made up of diverse faculty. Each honoree received a plaque presented by then Interim President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., Interim Provost Rodner Wright, AIA, and Vice President for Research Timothy Moore, Ph.D.

The researchers also received institutional awards from the University's Division of Research ranging from \$2,000-\$5,000.

**The honorees are:**

- ▶ Daniel Solis, Ph.D., Emerging Researcher of the Year
- ▶ Subramanian Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., Research Excellence
- ▶ Caroline Odewumi, Ph.D., Research Excellence
- ▶ Seth Ablordeppey, Ph.D., Distinguished Researcher of the Year
- ▶ Mandip Sachdeva Ph.D., Distinguished Researcher of the Year

**SOLIS** is an assistant professor and program leader in the Department of Agribusiness at the FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences. His areas of research interest and expertise include production economics, productivity and efficiency analysis, climate and weather economics, and development economics.

**RAMAKRISHNAN** is an associate professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. His areas of research interest and expertise include colloidal science, nanotechnology, nanoparticle synthesis and self-assembly, rheology of complex fluids, renewable energy, biofuels, and bioseparations.

**ODEWUMI** is an associate professor in the Department of Biology at the FAMU College of Science and Technology. Her areas of research interest and expertise include molecular environmental toxicology, molecular biology, cancer research, gene expression, and gene regulation.

**ABLORDEPPEY** is a professor and interim dean at the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His areas of

research interest and expertise include medicinal chemistry, computer-aided design, 3D models in drug design, natural products as sources for drug discovery and development, the development of novel orally effective, anti-infective agents, and emerging infectious diseases.

**SACHDEVA** is a professor and section leader for pharmaceuticals activity in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. His areas of research interest and expertise include drug delivery with special emphasis in inhalation/aerosol delivery as applied to lung cancer, triple negative breast cancer and topical delivery of neuropeptides. He also is focusing on identifying new molecular pathways and mechanisms for therapeutic agents and nucleic acids intended for the treatment of lung, breast and skin cancer.

The research awards are designed to help promote and enhance FAMU's distinction as a doctoral, research institution and its mission to provide mechanisms to address emerging issues through local and global partnerships, while enhancing the lives of constituents through innovative research.



# FAMU STUDENTS AT THE FOREFRONT OF PROMOTING CHANGE

BY PAMELA BERRY-JOHNSON







U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders was among speakers who interacted with FAMU students during events that commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Memphis sanitation workers strike and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and "Mountaintop" speech.

# W

hether it's joining anti-gun marches or commemorating the anniversary of the nation's Civil Rights leaders, Florida A&M University students have a time-honored tradition of promoting social, political, environmental and economic change through their student activism.

On April 4, 2017, FAMU students were among thousands of people attending the commemoration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in Memphis, Tennessee.

FAMU student Olivia James, a member of the University's FAMU Lead Academy, called the experience "life-changing."

"Dr. King's legacy means taking advantage of the opportunity for change, whether that's through society, or through the poverty rate or racial injustice," said James during an interview with WCTV, a CBS-affiliated TV station based in Tallahassee, Florida.

FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., said activism is a cornerstone of student life as it serves an important role in educating and producing future leaders.

"As our FAMU students grow into these future decision makers, we understand the important role that social, political or environmental engagement plays in supporting their growth as involved citizens contributing to a better society for us all," said Robinson.

FAMU students were selected as part of the I AM 2018 Mountain Top Conference. Students received training on how to become the next generation of leaders fighting for equality and economic justice.

In February 2018, President Robinson joined a group of about 50 FAMU students and marched with thousands of others in the #Never Again rally to the Florida State Capitol to promote better gun control. The rally followed a deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida that left 17 students and teachers dead.

FAMU SGA President Devin Harrison and Arriona Tindell, director of student lobbying for the SGA, organized the student event.

"I think it's important because we are the future; future legislators, future presidents and senators," said Tindell.







**MIKE FERNANDEZ**  
*Miami Entrepreneur and Author*

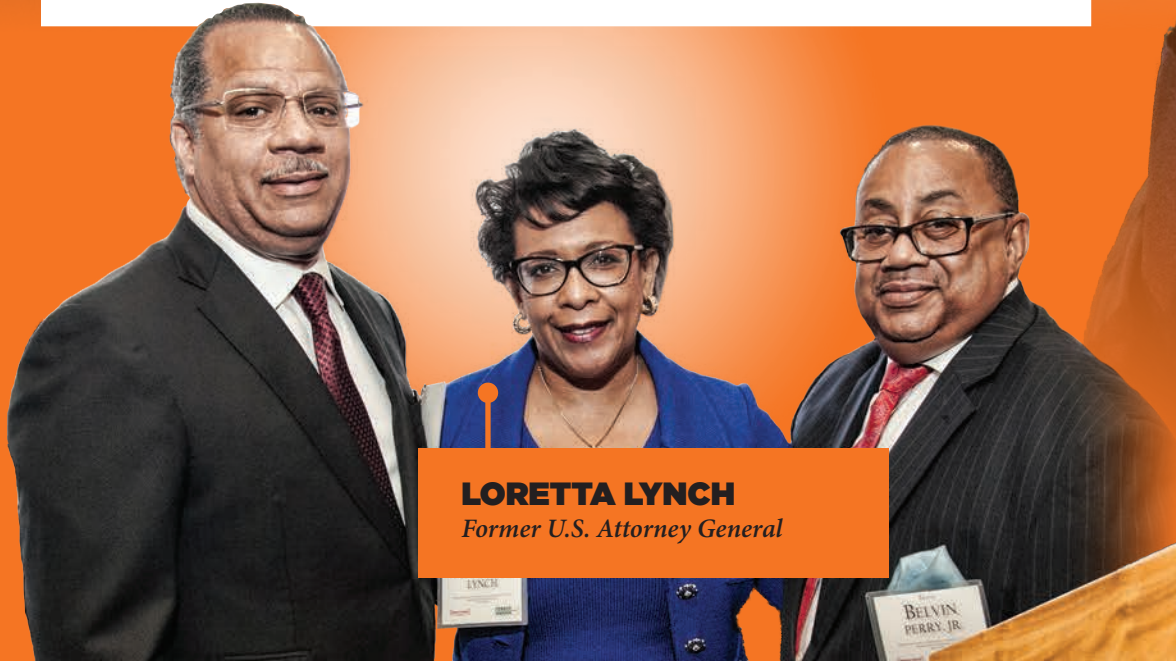


**SONNY PERDUE**  
*U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*

Whether their claim to fame was in arts, academics, social service, government, religion, or entertainment, several esteemed guests visited Florida A&M University this year to connect with the Rattlers. Some brought messages of empowerment, while others sought to inform, inspire and engage.



**VASHTI MCKENZIE**  
*First Female Bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Church*



**LORETTA LYNCH**  
*Former U.S. Attorney General*

**BENJAMIN CRUMP**  
*Attorney and Civil Rights Activist*





(Left) Alumni Shundrawn Thomas, pres. of Northern Trust Asset Management, (right) Rob Hardy, a director/producer and Cheryl Harris, an Allstate sr. vice president served as commencement speakers.





(above) Alumna Kimberly Godwin was promoted to CBS News Vice President. She also chairs the School of Journalism & Graphic Communication's Board of Visitors.

# RATTLERS ON THE MOVE MAKE A GLOBAL IMPACT AND SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH FAMU

Throughout the year, Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., led the campus community in cheering on distinguished and faithful alumni who share their time, talents and treasures. FAMU applauded them in person and online in our "Rattlers to Watch" social media campaign. They returned the love by returning to the "Hill" as commencement speakers, generous donors, dedicated volunteers, faithful fans and parents of incoming students. Here's a snapshot of "Rattlers on the Move," making a difference and making us proud.





John Eason, Ph.D.  
Director of Athletics

Head Football Coach  
Willie Simmons

# NEW LEADERS, NEW FIELD, NEW ERA FOR RATTLER ATHLETICS

The February 2018 hiring of John Eason, Ph.D. as new athletic director for Florida A&M University launched a new era in Rattler Athletics.

Eason, a FAMU alum and Ocala, Florida native, quickly made several key leadership changes in FAMU Athletics that have resulted in an increase in fan support and pride in the program.

The resulting excitement is credited with igniting a surge of 107 percent in football “Investing in Champions” package sales, and football season ticket sales increased by 9 percent. The fan engagement is also credited with fueling a spike of 248 percent in basketball season ticket sales.

Eason’s first major hire was Head Football Coach Willie Simmons. Simmons, a Quincy, Florida native, was formerly the head coach at Prairie View A&M University.

“I knew Willie Simmons was the right coach for our program at this time, so there was no need to wait,” Dr. Eason said. “I moved quickly to get him hired.”

Keeping the break-neck pace of change going, Simmons went right to work hiring an exceptional coaching staff, meeting with the team and setting the program on a new path. He also traveled the state meeting with alumni, boosters, supporters and friends spreading the word about the program he would put in place to turn FAMU’s football fortunes around.

Other factors are also increasing fan support and excitement.

After 60 years of playing on natural grass at Bragg Memorial Stadium, the Rattlers are now competing on a premium artificial turf system made possible by many great partners and supporters of the university.



FAMU football Captain Terry Jefferson, who graduated in December 2017, returned as a graduate student to play in the fall.

For the first time in FAMU's recent football history, six home games were scheduled for Bragg Memorial Stadium, and a major rivalry with Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, was renewed for the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

Additionally, Athletics has increased the academics and compliance services staff, enhanced communication with other departments, updated its athletic policies and procedures manual, and streamlined several review processes and operations to ensure adherence to

NCAA rules.

Overseeing Compliance is Kendra Greene, who was one of Eason's new hires in February 2018. Prior to arriving at FAMU, Greene worked at Alabama State University as senior athletic director for internal operations. Green also serves as FAMU's senior woman administrator for Athletics.

Eason also promoted alumnus and former Rattler football player Vaughn Wilson to associate athletic director for Media Relations.

Football Team Captain  
Terry Jefferson





# FAMU CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD ARE RUNNING STRONG

BY KEITH MILES



Track and Field Coach Darlene Moore, Ed.D., (arms raised) celebrates another award-winning season.



# F

lorida A&M University Track and Field Coach Darlene Moore, Ed.D., has built such a dominant athletic program that in addition to stacking wins in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), it is catching attention from across the country.

A clear standout in the Track and Field program is FAMU junior David Too. Last year, the Eldoret, Kenya, native was named the Most Outstanding Performer at the 2017 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships indoor and outdoor.

This year, Too also led a fast-paced Rattler Men's Cross Country contingent to a stunning victory at the 2018 Mountain Dew Gator Cross Country Invitational at the University of Florida.

Overall, the FAMU Men finished first in an average time of 24:34.12, followed by Tennessee Tech and host Florida.

The FAMU men's crew placed five runners in the Top Ten and all six contestants placed in the Top 15 overall.

Too won all of his cross-country meets this year and says it's been a great year.

"We were really prepared and won easily," said Too, who is captain of the cross-country team and leads them in

running 15 miles at 5 a.m. each morning.

Too went undefeated this season and despite all of his success, the runner remains modest, saying, "My personality is humble, and I'm always trying to achieve more."

Too credits Coach Moore for recruiting him. He said he appreciates what the coach - who oversees both Women's and Men's Track and Field/Cross Country programs - did to get him to FAMU.

In October 2017, when FAMU's women's cross country team won its sixth-consecutive MEAC title in Smyrna, Delaware, Moore was named Most Outstanding Coach for the women's championship.

The women's cross country team recently won its seventh straight MEAC title, giving FAMU a conference-best 11 titles, a school and conference record.

"This was a remarkable year for men's and women's cross country," said Moore. "The men's team won the Disney Classic, the University of Florida and the Montevallo University (Alabama) Cross Country meet."

All of Moore's championship-winning athletes will be returning next year.



Cross Country Champion David Too is studying health and recreational sciences and is grateful to Coach Moore for recruiting him.



# NEW DINING DIGS, COMFY SEATS AND HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS AWAIT FAMU STUDENTS

BY KATHY Y. TIMES

When Florida A&M University students begin classes in fall 2018, they will see the results of summer and ongoing construction projects designed to enhance their dining and shopping experience, gathering spots and campus safety.

A \$1.5 million renovation of the Food Court in the Student Services Center includes a larger space for Tropical Smoothie, new flooring, a gaming station and new soft seating.

The Center's atrium makeover includes upgraded bathrooms, new contemporary porcelain tile and repainted interior walls. New soft seating and vending machines create an inviting gathering place. The renovations complement the bookstore renovation completed in the summer of 2017.

In June 2018, W. Rebecca Brown, FAMU's assistant vice president for Business & Auxiliary Services, announced the University's three-year commitment to enhancing the campus environment and its wellness efforts by joining the Partnership for a Healthier America's (PHA) Healthier Campus Initiative. It is designed to transform the campus community by promoting healthier eating options and improved physical fitness opportunities.

The positive changes are part of the Division of Finance and Administration's ongoing campus improvement projects. Throughout the year, Facilities, Planning and Construction erected new signs to help identify buildings, spruced up landscaping, repaired or replaced hundreds of sidewalks and installed lighting sensors in restrooms campus-wide as part of sustainability efforts.

The physical and fiscal management of a campus the size of a small city is one of the most visible undertakings of Interim Chief Financial Officer Wanda Ford, D.M. FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., appointed her to the position in December 2016. The division ended the fiscal year with several major milestones, which include working with internal and external partners to improve the University's Moody's Rating Outlook from negative to stable.









	UNIVERSITY	COMPONENT UNITS
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 16,005,125	\$ 1,784,101
Investments	38,309,002	-
Accounts Receivable, Net	15,745,519	7,170,972
Loans and Notes Receivable, Net	28,757	-
Due from State	18,495,602	-
Due from Component Units	3,080,514	-
Inventories	527,109	-
Other Current Assets	-	509,726
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>92,191,628</b>	<b>9,464,799</b>
NONCURRENT ASSETS:		
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,794,742	-
Restricted Investments	8,703,698	125,531,535
Loans and Notes Receivable, Net	1,813,558	-
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	518,379,598	127,911
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	38,438,322	27,000
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>569,129,918</b>	<b>125,686,446</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>661,321,546</b>	<b>135,151,245</b>

#### DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred Amounts Related to Pensions	38,956,696	-
Deferred Amounts Related to Post Employment Benefits	2,530,000	-
Deferred Amount on Debt Refunding	85,652	-
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>41,572,348</b>	<b>-</b>

#### LIABILITIES

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	8,571,417	1,709,147
Construction Contracts Payable	937,526	-
Salary and Wages Payable	3,795,962	-
Deposits Payable	1,972,180	-
Due to State	93,429	-
Due to University	-	5,507,652
Unearned Revenue	6,574,979	-
Other Current Liabilities	-	-

##### LONG-TERM LIABILITIES - CURRENT PORTION:

Capital Improvement Debt Payable	3,427,000	-
Post Employment Benefits Payable	1,644,000	-
Capital Leases Payable	1,368,558	-
Compensated Absences Payable	1,568,697	-
Net Pension Liability	661,987	-

<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>30,615,735</b>	<b>7,216,799</b>
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	UNIVERSITY	COMPONENT UNITS
<b>LIABILITIES (Continued)</b>		
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Capital Improvement Debt Payable	52,701,929	-
Capital Leases Payable	8,672,547	-
Compensated Absences Payable	19,890,906	-
Post Employment Benefits Payable	58,328,000	-
Net Pension Liability	85,219,292	-
Other Noncurrent Liabilities	1,893,575	-
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	226,706,249	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>257,321,984</b>	<b>7,216,799</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Deferred Amounts Related to Pensions	5,263,436	-
Deferred Amounts Related to Post Employment Benefits	8,404,000	-
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	490,733,537	154,911
RESTRICTED FOR NONEXPENDABLE:		
Endowment	-	87,517,056
RESTRICTED FOR EXPENDABLE:		
Debt Service	4,716,487	-
Loans	1,332,966	-
Capital Projects	22,281,391	-
Other	-	37,952,068
Unrestricted	(87,159,907)	2,310,411
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 431,904,474</b>	<b>\$ 127,934,446</b>

## FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

# STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

**JUNE 30, 2018** *UNAUDITED*



REVENUES	UNIVERSITY	COMPONENT UNITS
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Student Tuition and Fees, Net of Scholarship Allowances of \$35,918,357	\$ 44,190,324	\$ -
Federal Grants and Contracts	37,672,853	-
State and Local Grants and Contracts	6,217,432	-
Nongovernmental Grants and Contracts	1,810,291	-
Sales and Services of Auxiliary Enterprises (\$16,219,284 Pledged for Housing Capital Improvement Debt)	32,000,774	-
Other Operating Revenues	2,627,265	11,774,990
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>124,518,939</b>	<b>11,774,990</b>

#### EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Compensation and Employee Benefits	172,838,242	1,899,826
Services and Supplies	57,511,042	13,493,657
Utilities and Communications	12,851,990	48,497
Scholarships, Fellowships, and Waivers	24,796,634	-
Depreciation	18,771,188	18,403
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>286,769,096</b>	<b>15,460,383</b>
<b>Operating Loss</b>	<b>(162,250,157)</b>	<b>(3,685,393)</b>

#### NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)

State Noncapital Appropriations	103,219,776	-
Federal and State Student Financial Aid	33,945,323	-
Noncapital Grants, Contracts, and Gifts	5,357,122	-
Investment Income	712,663	1,626,569
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(273,139)	6,879,278
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	(1,045,482)	-
Interest on Capital Asset-Related Debt	(2,731,124)	-
Other Nonoperating Revenues	1,052,319	-
<b>Net Nonoperating Revenues</b>	<b>140,237,458</b>	<b>8,505,847</b>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Other Revenues</b>	<b>(22,012,699)</b>	<b>4,820,454</b>
State Capital Appropriations	7,369,383	-
Capital Grants, Contracts, Donations, and Fees	198,795	-
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Position</b>	<b>(14,444,521)</b>	<b>4,820,454</b>
Net Position, Beginning of Year	487,651,995	123,113,992
Adjustment to Beginning Net Position	(41,303,000)	-
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year, as Restated</b>	<b>446,348,995</b>	<b>123,113,992</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 431,904,474</b>	<b>\$ 127,934,446</b>

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### ROBERT L. WOODY

Assistant to the City of Gainesville Police Chief

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Executive Associate Director, Office of Communications

### CHARLES WEATHERFORD, PH.D.

Interim Executive Director, Title III Programs



FAMU

# T O O G E W E





# T

An aerial photograph of a university campus, showing various buildings, courtyards, and green spaces. The image is overlaid with large, semi-transparent orange letters. The letters 'T', 'L', 'E', and 'R' are positioned at the top, while 'R', 'I', 'S', and 'E' are positioned below them, partially overlapping the campus scene. The overall color palette is dominated by the orange of the letters and the greys and browns of the campus buildings and landscape.

# R I S E

*Annual Report 2017-18*





# FAMU

FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
MECHANICAL  
UNIVERSITY

"I'm committed to helping my alma mater build a bright future for current and future Rattlers. Will you join me? Show your support by encouraging somebody else to give at [FAMURising.com](https://www.famurising.com)."

*Rob Hardy*

FAMU Alumnus and Director/Producer