

The Rattler Times

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LEON COUNTY CHAPTER
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Issue 3

Tallahassee, FL

March 2010

Send your email address to myfam@myfam.com to be added to the Leon County List Serv. By joining the List Serv, you will be continuously updated with the news and other pertinent information about the Chapter.



- Mar. 25 3rd Annual CESTA Alumni Industry Day, Architecture Building Atrium, 8 am - 8 pm
- Mar. 27 FAMU Spring Preview, Lawson Center, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Mar. 29 Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis, Lee Hall Auditorium, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
- Apr. 20 FAMU NAA Leon County Chapter General Membership Meeting, FAMU Faculty Clubhouse, 6:00 pm Reception, 6:30 pm Meeting
- Apr. 1 Honors Convocation, Perry-Paige Auditorium, 10:10 am - 12:10 pm
- May 1 Spring Commencement, Lawson Center, 9:00 am and 2:00 pm
- May 20-23 FAMU NAA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

FAMU NAA ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Headquarters for the 2010 FNAA Annual Meeting, May 20-23, 2010 is The Hilton Philadelphia Airport Hotel, 4509 Island Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153. The hotel rate is \$99.00. The rate is good for May 17 - 26, 2010 which includes the three days before and after the meeting. Please call (215) 365-4150 to make reservations and use the RESERVATION CODE "FAM" or go to their website at www.hiltonphiladelphiaairport.com.

For further information, you may contact Dorothy Williams, Annual Meeting Program Committee Chair at (850) 224-4751 or drthypw@aol.com.

SPRING PREVIEW 2010

Saturday, March 27, 2010

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

At Lawson Multipurpose Center

**DISCOVER WHAT YOU CAN BE
at Florida A&M University**

- Meet faculty, staff, students, alumni and administrators
- Learn more about academic programs and student organizations
- Tour the FAMU Campus
- Scholarships will be awarded to eligi-

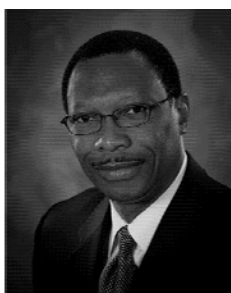
ble students

- Office of New Student Orientation campus tours

For more information about FAMU visit our website at www.famu.edu or call us at 850-599-3869. If you plan to attend, please send the following information via email to famuorientation@famu.edu or via fax at 850-599-3850: Name of group or individual, address, contact phone number, email address, and number of students, chaperones and/or parents.

3rd ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S TOUR

from FAMU Public Relations



FAMU President James H. Ammons will kick off his Third Annual President's Tour beginning March 7 through March 9 in an effort to increase university enrollment. President

Ammons will meet with students, parents, business executives and alumni in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa and Thomasville, Ga. and award scholarships on the spot to students who meet presidential scholarship requirements.

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend all receptions. To qualify, a student must be a National Achievement semifinalist majoring in one of the following STEM programs: biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or mathematics, who has an 1100 (R&M) SAT score or 23 ACT. Other students who have at least a 3.5 GPA and scores of 1300 (R&M) SAT score or 29 ACT are also eligible. Recipients of this scholarship will also receive a stipend each semester for miscellaneous expenses and internship opportunities.

FAMU will also offer the Distinguished Scholar Award, a full scholarship, to students who have 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT and a 3.5 GPA or better. Partial scholarships will be offered to incoming freshmen who have at least 1100 on the (R&M) SAT or 23 on the ACT and a minimum GPA of 3.0.

The FAMU Connection, the University's recruitment/performance group, will provide entertainment. Several FAMU administrators, Presidential Ambassadors, members of the FAMU Royal Court, colleges and schools representatives and alumni will accompany President Ammons.

For more information about the tour, contact Sharon P. Saunders at (850) 599-3413.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rattlers,

We are well within the course of our 2010 Membership Drive. Many of you have already submitted your membership dues. THANK YOU. Others, we are anxiously waiting. If you could, please expedite payment of your dues as soon as possible. We will have to cease sending you the newsletter and other Chapter benefits if we have not received your membership dues by March 30, 2010.

We also trust that you are supporting the V. L. Elkins Scholarship campaign which is our chapter's scholarship fund to provide academic scholarships to deserving Leon County student. We trust that you are supporting the Roast & Toast and/or sending in 100% tax deductible contributions to the scholarship fund. Your contributions and support of this and our other initiative are imperative to the success of these programs. Please also support our other funds - University Support and Rattler 100 Club.

It is with great regret that I inform you that the Run-off Election for the 1st Vice Presidency of the FAMU National Alumni Association has hit a snag. Please see the below memo:

TO: The members of the FAMU National Alumni Association Inc. (FNAA Inc.)
FROM: Tommy Mitchell Sr., President, FAMU National Alumni Association
DATE: February 28, 2010
RE: The Executive Board Takes Actions

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association Executive Board convened its first on-site meeting in the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. For the convenience of members who could not travel to Tallahassee, conference call capabilities were available.

The Board took action on several pending business concerns. Among those items were the confirmation of appointed officers, approval of payment for outstanding bills and a decision regarding the run-off election for the First Vice President. After extensive discussions the Board voted to invalidate the ballots mailed out for the run-off election. The Run-Off Elections Committee appointed by National President, Tommy Mitchell Sr., did not have a role in the process; hence the run-off election was handled by persons with no authority to conduct business on behalf of the National Alumni Association. The official run-off election for First Vice President of the FAMU National Alumni Association will be under the leadership of the Run-Off Elections Committee chaired by Mr. Andrew Lawyer. You will receive correspondence from him.

We regret any inconvenience these actions may have caused anyone. However, this administration made a commitment to you to be transparent in its operations and the decisions will be guided by the Constitution and By laws.

For more information and specific details, please attend this month's Chapter General Membership meeting March 16, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the FAMU Faculty Clubhouse.

Please do not allow these unfortunate events deter you from your support, commitment and dedication of this Chapter with your time, talents and resources. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

In true Rattler Spirit,



Andrew Lawyer, II, President
FAMU NAA Leon County Chapter

FLORIDA REGION VICE PRESIDENT ADDRESS

by Seabon Dixon III

Hello Rattlers

I hope all is well with you as we move forward in 2010. Recently, the Executive Board of the Florida Region met to outline our 2010 agenda. From that meeting we addressed the many issues and con-

cerns we felt directly impacted our Region, such as, the role and responsibility of a chapter. One clear perception was the concern that chapters are not on the same page of understanding their charge. Chapters, Regions and our National Association's main purpose is to assist our beloved FAMU. That assistance is expected in many forms, most notable is financial support.

The question is how do we all get on the same page of understanding? We have instituted some procedures we believe will consolidate that understanding. I have paired each Executive Board member with three or four chapters. The purpose is to facilitate a relationship of inclusion, and to make your job as a leader much easier. These Board members were asked to make contact with their individual chapters at least once a quarter. They will be seeking information about your meeting schedule, chapter officers, when do you hold elections, what are your yearly fundraiser's, who is your membership chair, what is your current membership count. They will also ask you about your concerns, and how our Region can improve.

I ask that you recognize the need for all of us to be on the same page. Please be receptive to the calls and the purpose. Our intent is to better this Region and to lend support to you. Without volunteers like yourself, this organization could not exist. But, as leaders that freely volunteered our time, we must understand and except the calling of the charge. Any chapter operating outside the established parameters must become inclusive.

As you know, our NAA meeting in Philadelphia is fast approaching. We expect a representative from each chapter to be in attendance. This is one of those inclusive parameters of being an active chapter. To be in the game, we must be inclusive of the GAME PLAN. To do that, you must come to the stadium. In this instance, the stadium is in Philadelphia, and the kick off is May 20th - 22nd. I look to see you in the stands.

THE 2010 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY

by Andrew Lawyer, II, President

The 2010 Leon County Chapter Membership Campaign has begun.

Your membership dues help the Association support Florida A&M University (FAMU) and its mission through many programs, from student recruitment to alumni relations. However, we cannot do it alone, we need your help. Part of our membership campaign will be "each one bring one." We will also work to keep recent graduates connected to the University and continue targeted membership recruitment at the three college campuses; city, county, and state government; Leon County school teachers and administrators; and churches, civic groups, fraternities, sororities, retirees, etc.

Your membership renewal notices should have been received by now. Please return the completed forms with your checks payable to the Leon County Chapter NAA as soon as possible. It is imperative that you renew your membership so as to not miss out on any Chapter benefits including your monthly issue of the *Rattler Times*. If your membership dues are not received by the end of March, you will no longer receive any Chapter benefits.

Those of you that are FAMU employees will be able to make your payments via payroll deduction. Additional information will be forthcoming. We have hit a snag with the FAMU Human Resources office with respect to return our telephone calls to facilitate this effort. However, we will continue to work diligently to this end. Make sure that your name is among those individuals who are committed to sustained giving and support of the University and Dr. James Ammons.

Thanks to all alumni who have already renewed or joined the Alumni Association for 2010. We look forward to serving the University with you. Through March 6, 2010, eighty-nine (89) new membership dues and/or renewals have been received!!! Namely, the newest paid members are: **Ellen Jane Adams, Carlton Bailey, Edwin Bethea, Alfreda Blackshear, Erika Brown, Edison Bruce, Rosalie Bruce, Harriett F. Bryant, Beverly M. Byrd, Clinton Byrd, Frankie Campbell, Michael Campbell, Gladys**

Caswell, Elsie B. Crowell, Mazie R. Crumbie, Anita L. Davis, Jason Davis, Eveline Duhart, Amanda Eason, Kay Finley, Ann Floyd, Clara B. Floyd-Gaymon, Annie M. Francis, Robert E. French, Roland Gaines, Mack Gardner, Carrie Gavin, Kirk Gavin, Geneva Gilliam, John M. Grayson, William Guzman, Melody A. Hadley, Tammy Hamlet, Willie J. Harris, John R. Haugebrook, Timothy Henry, Ann Hinson, Prince Hinson, Jr., Keith Jackson, Dennis Jefferson, Henry Kirby, Genevieve Lathrop, Freeman D. Lawrence, Thelma Lawrence, John E. Lawrence, Virginia Lawrence, Margaret W. Lewis, Thelma M. Link, Janice C. Lowe, Jerrell Lowery, Altha Manning, Leola Mashburn, Richard Mashburn, Jr., Valencia E. Matthews, Litha McGill, Michael R. Moore, James Oliver, Daniel Osborne, Dorothy R. Parker, Jonathan Peterson, Eva B. President, Estrellita Redmon, Carla K. Richardson, Rachel B. Robinson, Louise B. Royal, Lessie G. Sanford, Veronica Sarjeant, Ricardo Scruggs, Valeria Singleton, Olivia Skinner, Dorothy Speed-Eason, Dr. Frances Stallworth, Veronica J. Stokes, Edythe G. Strong, Edra C. Taylor, Elmira Gardner Valdez, Sharon Walker, Colinthia R. Walker, John W. Ward, Samuel Washington, Jr., Eugene Wesley, Jr., Lenita Wesson, Palmyra Williams, Mozella Williams, Chicarla Williams, Ralph L. Wilson, Adelle Woodberry and Ida Wynn.

This brings our current membership count to 116 members. Again, thank you for your continued support and dedication.

3RD ANNUAL CESTA ALUMNI INDUSTRY DAY

FAMU's College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA) will sponsor the 3rd Annual CESTA Alumni Industry Day on March 25, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The one-day professional development event will feature the return of many successful FAMU alumni who will share their expertise with students majoring in engineering technology (ET) programs at the university. The agenda for this activity includes the following: a professional speaking series, student case study competitions and a

banquet honoring faculty, students and alumni in the FAMU Division of Engineering Sciences and Technology.

The keynote speaker for the banquet this year will be Col. Tyrone J. Brumfield, Deputy Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers (South Atlantic Division). This banquet will be held on FAMU's campus in the Atrium of the FAMU Architecture Building, which is located at 1983 S. Martin Luther King Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida. During this event, student winners of the case study competitions will be recognized. Business professional attire is requested.

Tickets to the banquet are \$20 per person and can be purchased by contacting Gilda Phillips at [\(850\) 412-5634](tel:850-412-5634).

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

from FAMU Public Relations

Wynton Marsalis has been described as the most outstanding jazz musician and trumpeter of his generation, as one of the world's top classical trumpeters, as a big band leader in the tradition of Duke Ellington, a brilliant composer, a devoted advocate for the Arts and a tireless and inspiring educator. He carries these distinctions well. His life is a portrait of discipline, dedication, sacrifice, and creative accomplishment.

This event will take place on March 29, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) in the Lee Hall Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$10 Students, \$12 non-FAMU Students, \$25 seniors, \$30 general admission and \$45 preferred seating. **450 tickets are FREE for FAMU students with valid ID** (first come first serve, registration is required)

Tickets for Lyceum events may be purchased at www.famu.edu/lyceum or in the Commons Box Office (located across the street from the main entrance of Lee Hall Auditorium). Lyceum Box Office hours: Monday – Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. the week of the event and 1 hour prior to the time of the event. For more information call [\(850\) 561-2425](tel:850-561-2425) or [\(850\) 599-3413](tel:850-599-3413).

RATTLER STRIKES!!!

• **Miss FAMU voted Miss MEAC** – Demetria Henderson, the reigning Miss FAMU was voted Miss MEAC. Receiving 42% of the vote, Miss Henderson won out over Hampton’s Nikole Churchill who captured 36% of the vote. She is majoring in psychology and plans to teach in the impoverished areas of South Florida upon graduation. Miss Henderson holds a 3.2 GPA, membership chair of the NAACP and the Program Action Activities Council, and is involved in Relay for Life, Presidential Ambassadors, SISTUHS and the Rattler booster’s Hospitality. Let’s all congratulate Miss Henderson.

• **FAMU’s Dean Chanta Haywood is Appointed to Serve on U.S. Department of Education Board** - Chanta Haywood, Ph.D., dean of Florida A&M University’s (FAMU) School of Graduate Studies and Research, has been appointed to serve on the U.S. Department of Education’s prestigious Jacob K. Javits Fellows Program Fellowship Board. The Javits Board establishes

general policies for the graduate fellows program and oversees the operation of the program. Haywood was chosen because of her strong academic background and commitment to and understanding of graduate education on state and national levels. According to Cosette Ryan, the Javits Board’s executive director, Haywood is the only person on this current nine-member Board who represents a historically black college or university. Haywood was notified of her appointment by letter from the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Her appointment is effective immediately and ends on July 31, 2014.

• **Shawnta Friday-Stroud Named Dean of FAMU’s School of Business and Industry** - Provost Cynthia Hughes Harris has appointed Shawnta Friday-Stroud dean of the School of Business and Industry (SBI) after a national search. Friday-Stroud formerly served as the interim dean and is a professor of management. She also serves as the University’s Southern Association for Col-

leges and Schools (SACS) Accreditation Liaison. Under her leadership, the University attained reaffirmation of accreditation through 2018. Students in the School of Business and Industry were thrilled to hear the announcement of Friday-Stroud’s appointment. Friday-Stroud received her bachelor’s degree in business administration and an MBA from FAMU. She received her Ph.D. in business administration with a concentration in management from Florida International University in Miami, FL.

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General Membership Meeting

March 16, 2010
FAMU Faculty Clubhouse
6:00 pm - Reception
6:30 pm - Meeting

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“Associate yourself with people of good quality, for it is better to be alone than in bad company. There are two ways of exerting one’s strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.”
- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON