

Thy Noble Shrine

FAMU NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Newsletter
WINTER 2020 (December 2019 - February 2020)



As of
3/31/2020



Current Membership: 122
Membership Goal: 160
Percentage of Goal: 76%



Current Scholarship Amount: \$10,562.32



COVER STORY

2020 MLK DAY OF SERVICE

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dedication to service, the FAMU NAA annually challenges individual chapters to commit to a community service project in the local area. This year, the Miami-Dade Chapter chose to collaborate with the Sickle Cell Association - Miami-Dade Chapter and the University of Miami Sickle Cell Center to provide personal hygiene products, activity books, and other FAMU mementos to the patients at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Many patients, particularly the children and young adults, did not have any basic hygiene products other than the bare minimum that the hospital provides.

Chapter members were able to donate several items including lotions, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, cotton swabs, deodorants, disposable wipes, and more. There were enough items to fill over 50 bags to distribute to the patients. Vice-President Miranda Albury delivered the bags to Alex's Place, the Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders clinic. The patients were excited to receive the supplies and Chapter members were delighted to contribute.

Sickle cell anemia is a blood disorder that affects many, but African-Americans are at a greater risk at contracting the illness. Several Chapter members know someone that deals with the challenges of sickle cell. There was a consensus within the Chapter to continue supporting this community service effort and to make sickle cell awareness a targeted focus going forward. September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 12 - Easter
- 18 - Chapter Meeting

MAY

- 16 - Chapter Meeting

Future Events

- Sep 6 - Orange Blossom Classic
- Sep 12 - FAMU vs Southern
- Oct 24 - FAMU Homecoming
- Nov 18-20 - FAMU NAA Nat'l Convention
- Nov 21 - Florida Classic

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook – FAMU NAA - Miami-Dade Chapter

Twitter – @mdfamunaa

Instagram – @mdfamunaa

DATE & LOCATION CHANGE!

Nov 18-20, 2020 – FAMU NAA National Convention
Orlando, FL
www.FAMUAlumniConvention.com

Hotel Reservations:

To Be Announced!

For more information, contact:

Dr. James Moran - 1st Vice-President
lvp@famunaa.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - THE NEW NORMAL

As 2019 rolled to a close, an invisible enemy loomed across the Pacific Ocean. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) made its presence known in the first few months of the decade and by March, it was a full-blown pandemic. Nations hastily made difficult decisions to limit travel and social activities to curb the spread of the virus. In less than two weeks, many citizens of the United States went from making summer plans to working from home indefinitely. Students enjoyed an extended Spring Break, many not taking heed of the warnings made by government and health-care officials; now the possibility of a commencement ceremony looking incredibly unlikely.

From a health-care concern, the senior population is at greatest risk of the virus and the younger population is showing mixed results. While underlying health conditions pose a greater risk to severe symptoms, anyone could contract the virus and show little to no symptoms – you don't know who is infected! Therefore, because there is no vaccine (yet) the best way to combat the coronavirus is to self-isolate as best as possible.

What does this mean for the Miami-Dade Chapter? The Executive Committee and I felt that the health, safety, and wellbeing of our members is of utmost priority. We had to make a few tough decisions that will likely be in effect for the next few months. We had to make our Chapter meetings virtual. We had to cancel a few social events that we had planned for Founder's Day weekend. We even made the difficult decision to postpone Be Out Day Miami once again. The usual events that we have planned in the summer and fall may even be affected. I miss being in the presence of Rattlers, but this is a health issue that cannot be ignored.

Overall, we can all play a role in "flattening the curve" and decreasing the rates of infection. The CDC and WHO both have great resources for healthy living and self-isolation during these unprecedented times. It's very unfortunate that life as we knew it is "on pause", but adapting with the changes and moving forward is the best way to address these challenges. A special shout-out for my "essential" personnel that are still working hard and my health-care workers on the front lines. Please enjoy the Winter edition of *Thy Noble Shrine!* I pray that everyone stays safe, sane, and strong.

Masekela

FALLEN RATTLERS



Immediate Past Chaplain
Mr. Baljean Smith
May 11, 1935 - December 24, 2019



Ms. Georgiana Johnson Bethel
June 6, 1923 - February 29, 2020

KNOW YOUR BYLAWS!

Article III Membership
Section 3 - ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that "any person who did not attend the University who is interested in supporting causes of the National Alumni Association may become an Associate Member by majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting by those present and voting"? "Chapters that identify such persons may enroll them as Associate Members of their Chapter. Any person voted as an Associate Member will remain an Associate Member as long as he/she pays their annual dues. Associate Members may vote and hold office at all levels except the National level."

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP

April 1, 2020 marks the first day that dues can be collected for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year. Several payment options are available – click [HERE](#) for more details!

HISTORY RE-EMERGING ARE YOU READY FOR THE ORANGE BLOSSOM CLASSIC?

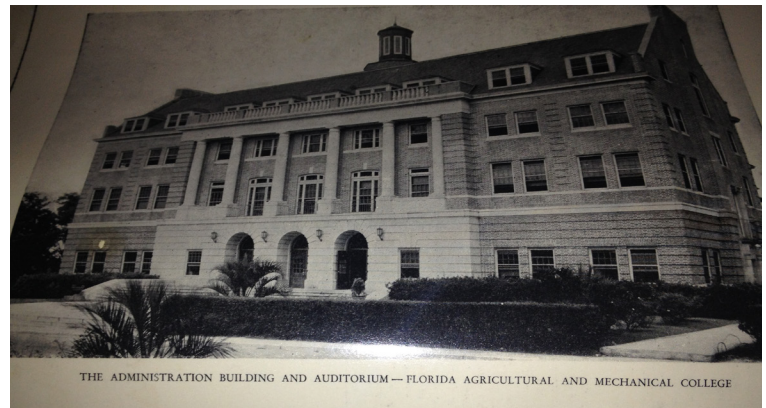
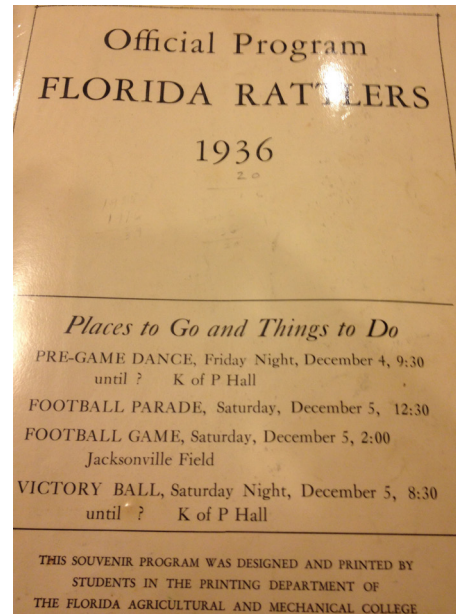
JASON MOODY - Rattlers far and near are excitedly awaiting the return of the historic Orange Blossom Classic back in its home spot here in Miami.

First founded in 1933 by J.R.E. Lee Jr. (son of President J.R.E. Lee) as a post season invitational game, its legacy is still held in high regard by Rattler football fans. Starting the tradition in Jacksonville, FL against Howard with 2,000 fans in attendance, the Orange Blossom Classic found its home and history in Miami in 1947. In 1947 at the Orange Bowl stadium, black fans were able to sit in the main stands for the first time in order to witness the “must-see” black college football game. With the last Classic game being held in 1978 against Grambling State, there have been no games scheduled until now in 2020.

The re-emergence of the Orange Blossom Classic will be held in the beautiful city of Miami Gardens during Labor Day Weekend on Sept 6, 2020 at Hard Rock Stadium. FAMU will be playing against Albany State University at 7 pm EST. The Orange Blossom Classic is expecting to bring out alumni, students, and fans of the HBCU experience with hopes in gathering scholarship funds for the participating schools. With the re-emergence of the Classic, the importance of history and tradition regarding HBCUs will be put on full display for all to see.

To purchase tickets or learn more information about the event visit www.orangeblossomclassic.com.

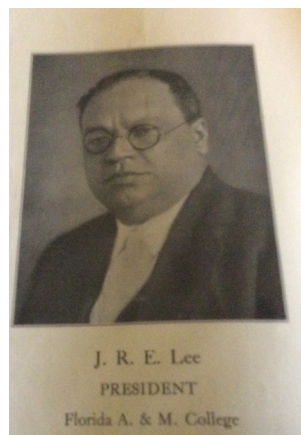
A special Rattler THANK YOU goes out to Mr. Thomas Jones Jr. for providing these excellent vintage images from the 1936 Orange Blossom Classic program! Do you have any vintage pictures of life on “The Hill” that you’d like to share with the Chapter? Send them to info@miamidadefamunaa.org with the subject line “Vintage Rattler”. Rattlers only get better with time!



A Tribute to Eugene Bragg

THE DESTINIES of the Florida A. & M. College football teams were capably managed by Coach Eugene Bragg for two years beginning in 1934. A youth who proved his ability as a coach and a scholar, whose career came to an untimely end on January 24, 1936. Like the true sportsman that he had always demonstrated himself to be we know that in his passing he was playing the Game of Life in the manner that he had been taught—he took the signal from the Master and Guardian of all affairs and tucking the Ball of Life close to his breast in answer to the play called for, he crossed the Goal of Life for his final Touch-down.

Amidst the gaiety that this occasion elicits we pay our respect to him for the contribution that he made to the building of the Greater Famcee, because he always did build himself into this institution he will be a part of not only this feature of our activity but of every achievement that the institution makes either on the gridiron or in any other activity in which the college participates.



Florida

Upper Right—
J. B. BRAGG
Athletic Counselor

Upper Left—
WILLIAM M. BELL
*Director of Physical Education
Head Coach*

Lower, Left to Right —
W. MCKINLEY KING
Assistant Coach
S. O'TANNER COHEN
Trainer
THEODORE BRIGGS
Assistant Coach

NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION

The 2020 - 2022 Chapter Officers were installed at the January Chapter Meeting. The Honorable Rodney Smith, U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida, presided over the ceremonial swearing-in of the officers. Here are the officers:

President: Masekela Mandela
Vice-President: Miranda Albury
Recording Secretary: Tracey Jackson
Corresponding Secretary: Tia Wanton
Financial Secretary: Tricia Walton
Treasurer: Nicketris Mandela
Parliamentarian: Tiffany K. Bain
Publicity Director: Masekela Mandela
Chaplain: Brigette Moody

To show their gratitude to the work that Immediate Past President Denetra Collins had done for the chapter, the incoming officers presented her a framed poster with the Chapter member notes and signatures.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org



2020 FAMU DAY AT THE CAPITOL

On February 6, the annual FAMU Day at the Capitol was held in Tallahassee. This marquee event is meant to convey to our local representatives the importance of FAMU's legislative budget requests. Chapter President Masekela Mandela was able to make the trip up to Tallahassee and meet with Rattlers from across the state. Dr. Carolyn Collins, past NAA President and current Governmental Relations chair, greeted everyone to remind them of the importance of the day. SBI Dean / FAMU Foundation Executive Director Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, NAA President Col. Greg Clark and University President Dr. Larry Robinson also brought greetings and led the Rattlers to the Capitol building.

The FAMU SGA prepared students to speak with legislative officials. Students were ready to provide first-hand anecdotal references to support the budget requests. For example, continued support for building infrastructure was a priority to speak about and students could mention how certain buildings had been largely unchanged since their parents were at FAMU. They were amiable yet professional – perfect examples of FAMU excellence. President Mandela led the conversation during meetings with legislative aides but allowed dialogue to continue naturally by encouraging the students to speak about their experiences. Bad weather ended the day prematurely, but Rattler spirits were high upon departure.





2020 FLORIDA REGION MEETING

The 2020 Florida Region Meeting took place February 28 - March 1. The J.R.E. Lee / Jacksonville Chapter (Angela Freeman - President) did a phenomenal job hosting the event at the Lexington Hotel along the St. Johns River. Miami-Dade Chapter attendees included, National Treasurer Lanette Jones, Regional Recording Secretary / Immediate Past President Denetra Collins, Ms. Sharon Shackelford, Ms. Jayne Kearson, Ms. Barbara Gardner, and Chapter President Masekela Mandela. There were fantastic meetings and breakout sessions including the University President's message, an NAA panel on leadership, student recruitment strategies, chapter finances, and FAMU Athletics.



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Chapter President/Publicity Director: Masekela Mandela II;
Additional Content: Jason Moody, Thomas Jones Jr., Denetra Collins

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