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Thy Noble Shrine



FAMU NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Newsletter
SPRING 2020 (March - May 2020)

COVER STORY

THREE SENSELESS MURDERS SHOOK THE WORLD TO ITS CORE



JASON MOODY - Picture this: It's Memorial Day weekend and you're excited to get an extra day of rest and relaxation for the weekend. Although quarantining yourself has become a way of life for the past few months, you still are at peace with the fact you get an extra day tacked onto your weekend. As Memorial Day rears its head you think everything is going well until an event occurs that shakes you and many citizens of the world to the core.

On May 25th, 2020, a 46 year old father, George Floyd was killed at the hands of a white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin. A bystander captured video of the officer pinning an already handcuffed Floyd to the ground by kneeling on his neck. Floyd was heard repeatedly saying he could not breathe and calling out for his mother. The officer continued to hold his knee on Floyd's neck for approximately 8 minutes and 46 seconds and did not release regardless of Floyd's unconsciousness or at the arrival of the paramedics. Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao are the other three officers that were assisting Chauvin in pinning Floyd Down. All four officers have been fired and are charged with second degree murder and two counts of aiding and abetting; (one count of second-degree murder and one count of second-degree manslaughter) respectively.

On March 13, 2020, 26 year old emergency medical technician Breonna Taylor was shot eight times by police while in her Louisville, Kentucky home. She laid asleep on her couch as police raided her apartment based upon a drug warrant for a person that lived miles away from Taylor's apartment. Months having passed since her senseless shooting, Taylor is just now getting the proper recognition for her disheartening case. The Louisville Metro Council has since passed "Breonna's Law" – an ordinance that bans no-knock search warrants as well as requiring Louisville officers to use their body cameras during their searches. The officers involved in her death have yet to be charged.

On a February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, age 25, was seen jogging in the Satilla Shores neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia where two white men, father and son, allegedly assumed him to be a suspect in a series of break-ins that previously occurred. The duo chased him down and 3 gunshots were fired, 2 of which caused wounds and the death of Arbery. The murder was recorded and eventually seen by people across the nation, which sparked the hashtag #IRunWithMaud. Arbery's killers are faced with murder and aggravated assault charges and they are currently in custody of the Glynn County Sheriff's Department.

Although Ahmaud and Breonna's murders were just as senseless as George Floyd's, his death was the breaking point of many people across the world and, as a result, there are an ongoing series of protests. Starting in Minneapolis the day after Floyd's murder, protests in cities across the nation began to ensue. While many of these protests caused cities to enact curfews, they also helped to bring legislative proposals to light which combat police brutality and systemic racism within the United States. In many of these protests, protestors have defaced and dismantled various statues of people in history that were known to aid in the oppression of Black people and other persons of color. Protests have been held in Miami since the latter portion of March and are still going strong at the moment. **#BLACKLIVESMATTER**

FALLEN RATTLERS



Ms. Sylvia Rolle
August 27, 1952 – April 5, 2020



Rev. Dr. Kenneth Sims
December 30, 1942 – May 5, 2020



Mr. James "Jimmy" Anders Jr.
September 23, 1923 - May 12, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

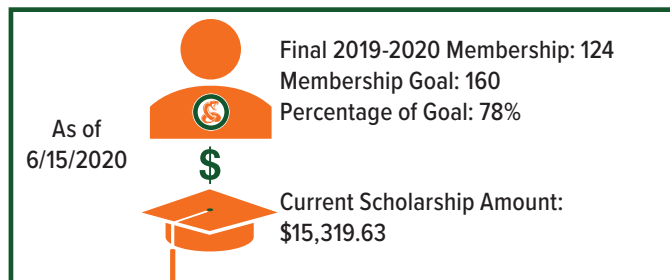
20 - Q&A Zoom Session
Future Events (subject to change)
Sep 6 - Orange Blossom Classic
Sep 12 - Southern vs FAMU (canceled)

JULY

1 - Pay Your Dues!
18 - Chapter Meeting
Oct 4 - Bowling for Scholars
Oct 24 - FAMU Homecoming
Nov 3 - Election Day
Nov 18-20 - NAA Nat'l Convention

AUGUST

8 - Student Send-Off
15 - Chapter Meeting
18 - Primary Election



KNOW YOUR BYLAWS!

Article III Membership
Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that "Alumni of the former Normal School, all alumni of Florida A&M College and Florida A&M University, and all persons who have completed one semester or trimester or one quarter and who left in good standing, shall be eligible for full membership in this association"? Send those interested to MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org to join our Chapter!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - SENSORY OVERLOAD

These past three months have been nothing short of overwhelming. From dealing with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic roller coaster, more senseless instances of violence against black people, and then to the resulting protests across the world...it's clear to say that 2020 has been one for the books; and it's only June! Here's to hoping that the back half of the year is a bit easier on the mind, heart, and body.

But hoping only goes so far. One of my favorite quotes/scriptures is James 2:26 – "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so *faith without works is dead* also." There must be a concerted effort to exert change in this world, no matter what we are trying to accomplish.

Particularly in this time of political uncertainty, make sure to complete your Census. This is an important tool that is used to tally the amount of individuals living within a particular area so that funds and services can be allocated proportionally.

Also, be sure to vote in the primary and general elections. Learn who else is on the ballot other than the Presidential candidates. Sure, those are important, but the local elected officials have a greater influence on the politics in your immediate communities. Many of those before us fought valiantly for merely the opportunity to vote. To institute the change that so many of us want to see, make sure to make it to the polls.

Primary Election: **August 18**
General Election: **November 3**

Finally, I'd like to issue a statement of caution. COVID-19, as of this issue, does not yet have a vaccine. Cases in Florida are spiking, especially in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Yes, mostly everything is opening back up again and the University has issued a plan to keep everyone safe in the fall.

However, please, do not let your guard down just yet. Please protect yourselves when out and about and when around others. I understand the desire to get out of the house and be around each other and have fun again – believe me, I do. But more importantly, I also want you all to be safe. This, too, shall pass.

Yours Truly, With Venom
Masekela

EDUCATION IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC:

How three Rattler school administrators weathered the storm

TRACEY JACKSON – For many people, COVID-19 is the most monolithic event of this lifetime. In what seemed a blink of an eye, the world drastically changed. Before businesses closed their doors and corporations sent their employees home to work, the nation’s 4th largest school district was moving quickly to ensure education would be effectively executed during the quarantine. Three Rattlers from the Miami-Dade Chapter of the FAMU National Alumni Association led their respective schools through the difficulties and triumphs of distance learning with less than two weeks to prepare.

Kenneth Williams, principal at Andover Middle School in Miami Gardens was simply planning for school testing like he always did in previous years. But this time, COVID-19 began to linger in news headlines and social media platforms. Everything seemed normal until the emergence of daily meetings with the district were getting extra hand sanitizers, masks, and increasing the routine cleaning rotations at schools were some of the daily topics. Soon, rumbles of school closures surfaced; then the official announcement happened. “We knew the schools were going to close, but we just didn’t know when. Originally, the kids were supposed to come back to school on April 15th,” he said. Things shifted quickly from testing preparation to getting laptops ready for disbursement, preparing the students and parents, moving everything online, and closing the school for quarantine. Being that COVID-19 was very fluid, planning was difficult. “We just didn’t know what was going to happen. We were getting the laptops ready. Whatever we had leftover went to our feeder pattern elementary school. We were even involved in helping Norland and Hialeah High with their laptop disbursement efforts.” Needless to say, it was every available hand, and then some, on deck.

Getting the ship ready was one thing, but sailing it on the proverbial ocean was another. From triaged support calls from parents to helping with meal distribution for food-insecure students, Kenneth handled a plethora of issues on a daily basis for hours and hours per day. “I answered late-night phone calls from our parents who needed that additional support. Myself, my AP, and some staff members worked tirelessly to answer calls daily, nightly, and even on weekends.” Despite the chorus of issues echoed nationwide with suddenly taking students from the traditional ‘in-person’ learning environment to strictly virtual, Kenneth, his administration, and teachers were able to keep over 500 middle school students supported and educated. “This

is a very fluid and ever-changing situation, we accept that things will not be the same structure moving forward. We have to prepare for a paradigm shift”.

A few miles away, recently promoted Assistant Principal DeAnthony Friday at Norland Middle School was in the midst of learning the ropes of his new role at the performing arts school when joy turned into a quick, yet difficult, pivot. “I was extremely excited, then all of sudden we had to deal with all of this uncertainty. It was because school is an atmosphere built for students to learn hands-on”. Instead of physically walking into the classroom to observe the students learning, having face time with teachers, and going through the ‘day-to-day’ rigors of school administration on-site, DeAnthony’s days, like so many other administrators nationwide, consisted of going from one Zoom meeting room to the next. “I did a lot of ‘Zoom-throughs’. Everything that I would’ve done at the school, I did it from home.” DeAnthony was in the trenches digitally with his faculty, fellow administrators, and staff. “We went from creating this dynamic environment where the students can learn and excel while feeling comfortable, to going completely virtual. It’s been an interesting thing!” DeAnthony is optimistic that people will finally embrace the value of teachers and that the bumps in the road will become smooth. “We need to move forward with grace and give everyone the benefit of the doubt, sometimes teachers think parents aren’t doing enough and vice versa. There has to be a balance. If grace is extended, we will all get through this together. We just have to support each other.”



Three Rattler administrators manage their respective schools during COVID-19. Pictured above L to R: **Kenneth Williams**, Andover Middle School Principal; **DeAnthony Friday**, Norland Middle School Assistant Principal; **Ron Butler**, Miami Jackson Adult Education Center Principal

For Ron Butler, things were a little bit different or in other words “a lot” bit different. He is the Principal at Miami Jackson Senior High’s Adult Education program that spans across five learning sites (i.e. Edison, iTECH, Jackson High, Booker T. Washington High, and Melrose Elementary). Ron’s pivot from getting his students from ‘in-person’ to virtual learning was very unique. The principal for the adult learning program not only had high school-aged

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

and young adult learners to worry about, but there were students from the ages of 50 to 70, and not to mention those who depend on the classroom setting to learn the English language. “There were constant meetings with the district and then I had to quickly develop a plan for our impending online education requirements. We offer courses like GED, Spanish GED, English, ESOL, Citizenship, and recovery classes for high school students. These students pay for these classes because they need it for their day-to-day lives. Going virtual wasn’t easy, but we were able to get them in.” While the focus was on the nation’s K-12, adult learning had its own unique challenges. Ensuring effective channels of communication and support was not an easy task for those students who didn’t have email addresses, WiFi, or laptops. Creativity had to be employed. “I had to create communication channels especially for adults who didn’t have an email address. The change was drastic and getting our older students to adapt to technology was difficult. When we ran out of laptops, we simply had to depend on our older students to use their smartphones to access Zoom for classes and WhatsApp for group calls”. Although the challenges seemed impenetrable, Ron Butler and his staff found a way through them all.

Kenneth, DeAnthony, and Ron are currently preparing for the new 2020-2021 school year. All three are not strangers to on-site and online challenges as the pandemic ebbs and flows with increasing COVID-19 cases in Miami-Dade County. These Rattlers are up for the challenge as they continue to lead their respective schools through this unprecedented time. Ron believes this is just another opportunity to create another pathway for learning in the public school system. “Education and knowledge are endless, even though we quickly had to move virtually, we still have to educate. It’s not gonna stop. We have to keep going.”

FAMU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2020 National Convention
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 18-21, 2020

FAMU NAA Fundraising Luncheon
 featuring FAMU
 Athletic Director Kortne Gosha

FAMU NAA Distinguished Alumni Awards
 Black Tie Gala

Florida Blue Florida Classic Kickoff Reception
Florida Blue Florida Classic Kickoff Luncheon

Sponsored by
GEICO

NAA MEMBER REGISTRATION	NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION
<p>\$325.00</p> <p>May 16 – May 25, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$275.00</p> <p>May 26 – July 17, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$325.00</p> <p>July 19 – October 9, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$425.00</p> <p>November 18 – November 20, 2020 (onsite): Rate \$475.00</p>	<p>\$375.00</p> <p>May 16 – May 25, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$375.00</p> <p>May 26 – July 17, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$375.00</p> <p>July 19 – October 9, 2020 (online/postmark by Midnight EDT): Rate \$425.00</p> <p>November 18 – November 20, 2020 (onsite): Rate \$475.00</p>

www.FAMUAlumniConvention.com

2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP

2020 is almost halfway over and the new fiscal year begins on July 1! We hope you join us as an active member for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year! We appreciate everyone that has already committed and we hope that we get many more! We want the Miami-Dade Chapter to not just have the best NAA members in the nation (we already have that designation) but to be the largest chapter in the NAA. We can do it! As a further incentive, all members that pay their membership dues before July 31, 2020 will get one of the shirts pictured to the left! Talk about a win-win! For membership information, [click here](#) OR visit www.MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org and click **JOIN NOW!**



COVID-19 AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS

DR. NICKETRIS MANDELA

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new coronavirus identified in 2019. The virus is thought to have spread from an animal to humans. This virus spreads from person to person via respiratory droplets from coughs or sneezes from an infected individual. When individuals are in close contact (within 6 feet) the virus is more likely to spread by passing into the lungs from the eyes, mouth, or nose.

Avoid spreading the virus by frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds, using at least 70% alcohol sanitizer, social distancing, isolating, and avoiding touching your face, in particular your eyes, mouth, or nose. Symptoms include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, nausea or vomiting, body aches, diarrhea and more. Currently the quarantine period is 14 days from last possible exposure or symptom(s). Testing involves nasal swabs to identify if the virus is currently present in your body. It is not yet known whether an individual previously infected with the virus is immune to future infection. Additional testing involves testing for antibodies to the virus, but this cannot be used to diagnose COVID-19.

Individuals at high risk for severe sickness from COVID-19:

- 65 years and older
- Long-term care facility residents
- Chronic lung disease
- Moderate to severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised (weakened immune system)
- Severe obesity (BMI > 40)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease

How is COVID-19 affecting African-Americans?

According to the Center for Disease Control, data has emerged to show disproportionately higher death rates among African-Americans compared to other racial and ethnic groups. This is often due to differences in economic and social conditions in particular populations and “these conditions can also isolate people from the resources they need to prepare for and respond to outbreaks”.

Social conditions such as residing in densely populated areas could make social distancing and quarantining more difficult. Furthermore, living in areas farther from



grocery stores and medical facilities can hinder the ability to stock up on groceries and/or seek medical care. Multi-generational homes impede the ability to isolate from older family members. Statistics show that “nearly a quarter of employed Hispanic and black or African-American workers are employed in service industry jobs” and “black or African-Americans make up 12% of all employed workers but account for 30% of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses”. These statistics reflect that African-Americans are a larger percentage of the essential workforce than their percentage in larger populations. Even more, due to worse economic circumstances, African-American workers may feel more obligated to continue working despite sickness due to lack of paid sick leave.

So, what can be done to stop this alarming trend in which African-Americans are disproportionately affected by many diseases and illnesses including COVID-19?

We should leverage our social networks and faith-based institutions to provide essential resources many are deprived of or lack easy access to. Sharing news about food distribution sites, food banks, and free testing sites all help to promote dissemination of information which can limit some of the disadvantages African-American face on a daily basis. Finally, educational campaigns and check-ins go a long way to ensure community members are informed about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and how to encourage individuals to seek medical care before more severe illness develops. Although systemic changes are necessary to completely address the disadvantages above, do not allow yourself and those around you to trivialize symptoms or rationalize the need to continue working in unsanitary conditions.

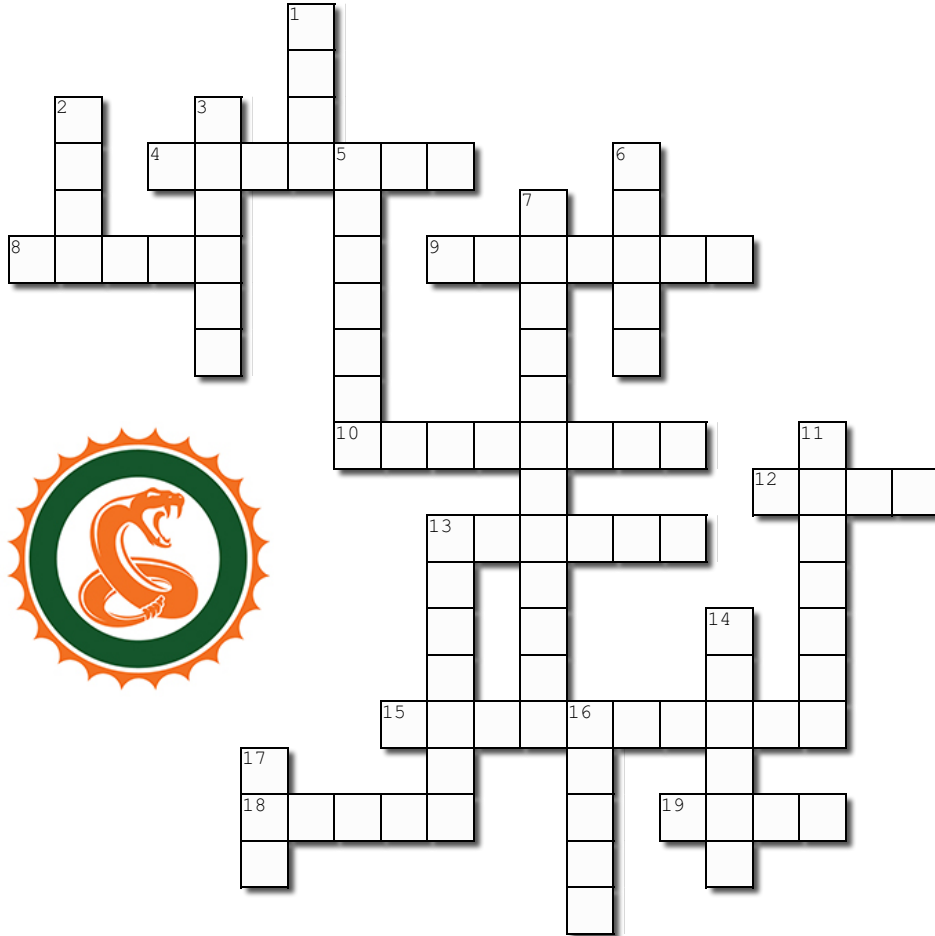
Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

WRITERS AND CONTENT WANTED!

Do you have a penchant for writing opinion pieces? Would you like to flex your short story chops? Maybe you have a riddle or a joke that you want to share with the readership? Do you have any pictures from Rattlers "back in the day"? We'd love to showcase your talents and/or keepsakes! Send an email to info@miamidadefamunaa.org and put "Thy Noble Shrine" in the subject line. We hope to hear from you!

MDFAMUNAA Spring 2020 Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below! Clues are both FAMU and Miami-Dade related.



Across

4. Last name of current FAMU football coach
8. Street 'behind the stadium' lined with vendors during Homecoming
9. A healthcare major concerned with the care and quality of life of patients
10. A Historic Miami neighborhood just northwest of downtown, formerly called 'Colored Town'
12. The last name of educator and former U.S. State Representative
13. The last name of FAMU's first president
15. Written number of the interstate along Florida's east coast
18. 'The Highest of ____ Hills'
19. Worse than a ticket, Parking Services may immobilize your car with one of these

Down

1. The call sign for the FAMU radio station
2. Location of Fried Chicken Wednesdays and other daily meals
3. Second name of the building of the former on-campus hospital
5. Florida city, location of the 2020 NAA National Convention
6. The last name of a former Director of Bands, Dr. Julian E. ____
7. This major combines math, engineering, and design
11. The last name of the educator for whom a school in Daytona Beach is named after
13. Another word for the fees charged for education
14. A Miami-Dade County high school, home of the Red Raiders
16. A women's dorm hall named after activist Sojourner
17. Acronym of this sorority founded in 1913

Thy Noble Shrine

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