



Dedicated to our Chapter members
Thy Noble Shrine

FAMU NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Newsletter // **SUMMER 2020** (June - August 2020)

SAVE THE DATE!



The **MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER** of the
Florida A&M University National Alumni Association
www.MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org
@mdfamunaa

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE - From the 1950s to Present

Set Fridays

VIRTUAL SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

OCTOBER 2, 2020

8:00 - 9:00 PM

REGISTER TODAY! – SetFridays.eventbrite.com

Come one, come all on Zoom and YouTube as we raise funds for scholarships and relive the FAMU years through the decades!

Music, trivia, photos, and more!

We're accepting *donations to benefit scholarships* through October 4, 2020. The *event is free*, but we're asking for donations of *at least \$18.87* or an number that is special to you (freshman year, graduation year, crossing year, etc.)

Donate by mail: P.O. Box 680938, Miami, FL 33168
or Cash App: \$MDFAMUNAA or PayPal: paypal.me/mdfamunaa

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - OUR MEMBERS ARE OUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Where has the year gone?

September is halfway over and in any other year, the Rattler faithful would have just gotten back home feeling victorious after trouncing our Baton Rouge rivals (if you know this SWAC team, then you'll enjoy the crossword at the end of this newsletter!). Rattler Nation would be finalizing preparations for the annual pilgrimage to Tallahassee for Homecoming 2020! Students would be getting into full swing, both on and off "The Hill". Tales of summer vacations domestically and abroad would be the story of legend! Rumors of the next Jazz in the Gardens headliners would be milling about and the next opponent for the Orange Blossom Classic would be the hottest topic on social media. In any other year.

2020 is not any other year.

While some things have remained constant, like staying alert of the busy hurricane season and the upcoming elections, 2020 has probably been the most disruptive year in several generations – possibly the most "non-wartime" disruptive year in almost a century. "Change" would be my word to describe this year. A mask is a must almost anywhere you go. Zoom has entered the daily routine as ubiquitously as social media. Plexiglass shielding and hand sanitizer is a common sight in most public places. Racial and cultural events have shaken the nation to the proverbial core on multiple occasions followed by vocal and unyielding protests. The economy constantly vascillates between "GREAT!" and "oh, great..."

One thing that never ceases to amaze me, however, is the tenacity of the Miami-Dade Chapter members. When the times get tough, our Chapter steps up – and in big ways. For instance, we were able to donate \$25,500 to incoming and current FAMU students within this past scholarship cycle at our Sylvia Rolle Virtual New Student Send-Off. Incredible! We also raised over \$1,000 in gift card donations for the celebrated students. Our membership has been nothing less than stellar. In fact, within 2 months of the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year, we had over 100 active members and the dues keep coming in!

This issue of *Thy Noble Shrine* is **dedicated to the membership of the Miami-Dade Chapter** of the FAMU NAA. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we continue to strike and make our beloved FAMU proud. As it stands, it looks like 2020 could actually be our best year ever as a Chapter. Let's keep up the great work. If anyone asks what makes the Miami-Dade Chapter special, you can always say that you, a Chapter member, are our competitive advantage.

Stay safe and continue to push our Chapter to greater heights!

With Love and Charity.
Masekela Mandela II

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 19 - Chapter Meeting
- 26 - NAA Florida Region Life Members Spotlight
- 30 - *University Scholarship Application Deadline*

OCTOBER

- 2 - Set Fridays Virtual Social
- 3 - HAPPY FOUNDERS' DAY! - 133 Years of Excellence!
- 3 - NAA Virtual Leadership Summit
- 17 - Chapter Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 3 - General Elections - Register to vote today!
- 21 - Chapter Meeting
- 26 - Thanksgiving



2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP

It's not too late to 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! For membership information, [click here](#) OR visit www.MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org and click **JOIN NOW!**

CURRENT MIAMI-DADE CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

as of 9/17/2020

Dale Akins*	Cupidine Dean	Masekela Mandela II	Danielle Taylor
Fatimah Albergottie	Bartow Duhart Jr.	Nicketris Mandela	Barbara Thomas-Robinson
Miranda Albury	Marva Duhart	Yuvonne Martin*	Verna Tremble
Cassandra Arnold	Wilfred Duncombe Jr.	LaVonnia Martin-Chambers*	Maui Umar
Angela Bailey	Kelli Farnell	Melodie Mitchell*	Virgil Valdez
Tiffany K. Bain*	Shon Fayson*	Jacqueline Moise	Alonzo Vereen
Mary Beasley Gilbert	Rameisha Ferguson	Antonio Moody*	Mary Vereen
Roshawna Bowe	DeAnthony Friday	Brigitte Moody*	Tricia Maria Walton
Felicia Bowles	Lakitsia Gaines*	Jason Moody	Velvatia Wanton*
Mae Bryant*	Wayne Gallo II^	Jonell Murphy	Verlon Ward
Acquanetta Buggs-Stevens*	Jennifer Gantt	Vernita Nelson	Cora White*
Lekeshia Bush*	Barbara Gardner*	Stanley Nelson	Gina White
Ron Butler*	Richard Gibson Jr.	Janyiah Olawale	Chaundra Whitehead
Ayesha Carson-Lawrence	Anika Hardmon*	Laurastine Pierce*	Aisha Wilder
Lillian Carter	Rosa Harvey Pratt*	Vanette Pinder	Vernon Wilder III
Vanessa Cassis	Cardelle Hayes	Joyce Postell	Larry Williams
Sade Chaney	Delores Hills*	William Powell III	Keisha Williams
Ingrid Cheesborough*	Sheryl Hopkins-Hutchins	Tameka Reese*	Kenneth Williams
Sharita Clark	Landry Johnson*	Lala Ricks	Romania Wilson
Jennifer Clark-Parker	Martha Johnson-Rutledge*	Agnes Rolle Morton*	Lynette Wims*
Alice Clark-Wilson*	Lanette Jones*	Pierre Rutledge	Vanessa Woodard Byers*
Carlos Cobb-Jackson*	Thomas Jones Jr.*	Marcia Samuel*	
Althea Coleman	Jayne Kearson	Michelle Sapp*	* indicates life member
Cora Coleman Portee	Deneisha Lewis	Kisha'sha Sharp*	^ indicates recent graduate
Denetra Collins	Niesha Mack-Freeman	Shantay Sharpe	
Michael Cooke	Norbert Madison	Gina Spicer	
Sandra Crawford-Clinch*	Judith Mandela	Mary Storr*	
Kathleen Danger	Masekela Mandela I*	Natasha C. Stubbs*	

Thank You Miami-Dade!

EDUCATION IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC - PART 2:

Academic support staff skillfully navigates the "new normal"

TRACEY JACKSON – *In part 2 of our series: Education in the Midst of Pandemic, we highlight support staff who are mission-critical to the success of student learning during what happens to be the most unprecedented time worldwide.*

While principals and teachers were on the front lines with the students, the tireless efforts of the school counselors who fought to build and maintain an additional level of support for students and their parents went on in the background. Brigitte Moody, a counselor with over 30 years of experience, and currently the Counseling Department Chair at Miami

Norland Senior High School, stood valiantly in the gap to ensure the students were equipped to succeed in difficult situations along the way. Prior to COVID-19, Mrs. Moody assisted with getting high school seniors emotionally ready for testing and post-graduation life as well as ensuring returning students were prepared for the upcoming school year. "My days were filled with trying to keep the students focused, especially my seniors," she said. "I've had to sit with students who were experiencing anxiety about testing and just life in general. I've personally helped keep my students calm, focused, and also, give them a sense of protection and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

stability with integrity and value.”

Her “day-to-day” open-door policy with her students was abruptly brought to a stop when the school district shut down for the remainder of the school year this past June due to COVID-19. “We went home that Friday and we were told that we weren’t coming back [to school] the Monday after spring break. We had to shift and the whole thing was surreal.” For Brigette, not seeing her students face to face and being able to connect with them in person was a challenge. She and her staff had to think outside of the box to maintain connections and fast. “We are used to hurricanes where we know when we’re coming back to campus but this was different!” Brigette’s experience in counseling in numerous school settings provided her with a solid foundation where adjusting to something new on a daily basis became commonplace. She often calls what she does “standing in the gap”.

Instead of her normal office hours at the school, it was early morning phone calls that started at 6 AM on her personal cell phone from students and parents. Then there were emails, voice messages, daily to-do list creation which included her goals for the students, the parents to call that needed to be addressed. “I had a lot of parents to reach out to me. It was the parents who weren’t able to come to the back to school nights or come by the school because of work schedules. I had the opportunity to speak with them and build a connection to help create a support system for them as well as their child. I was their bridge to a sense of calm.” Even though her days started at 6 AM, there were times where her day did not end until 12 AM the following day. “I had late-night phone calls with students and parents until midnight almost nightly. One time I spent 2 hours and 10 minutes on a call discussing graduation requirements and dual enrollment classes for one of my seniors.” While the teachers and administration staff were tackling education on the front end, Brigette, her staff, and so many other school counselors like her were ensuring any loose ends in the back were firmly tied.

Now that the 2020-2021 school year started virtually, Brigette had to refer back to her playbook from this past spring during the initial days and weeks of the school shutdown. “We used some of the same methods that were successful, but with the recent K12 platform issues, it sort of created another gap that we had to fill along the regular day-to-day requests like schedule changes. This year we have some new staff members, so now I have to navigate that along with the new changes that happen almost daily. We just have to be flexible.” Brigette remains inspired and motivated even in the face of constant shifts. “Value of self

and grit are the things that rise to the top. They keep us floating.” She relies on certain elements in her foundation that help her to assist others. “It’s my faith, family, and friends that are the springboard that keeps propelling me to serve humanity for a greater good.”

While the students are getting support in and out of class, Denetra Collins, who works in the Office of Student Assessment helps to oversee district, state, and nationally mandated testing and assessments for the schools. Being that COVID-19 canceled a lot of testing exercises this past spring, her office had to pivot to ensure that teachers had the tools needed to continue assessing their students’ knowledge. “Everything came to a halt with the school shutting down and testing canceled,” Denetra said. This meant that Denetra had to go into overdrive for the following school year. “We started working even more during the summer for one of the platforms that the district has for student testing. We were able to run many training sessions for our teachers. Our workload doubled to make sure the district was prepared for school this fall.” Her office was hard at work providing ways for teachers to run their tests online and other critical learning procedures. “We are making sure the teachers have the tools that they need to make their lives easier. Things that we thought would always be in person are now purely virtual and we simply have to adjust and adjust very quickly.”

The school system lives up to its name: a system of pieces that work together in order to provide an education for our students. During this worldwide pandemic, the Miami-Dade Public School System like many others in high infection areas are being put to the test. Our Rattlers are working hard to ensure the system is working for the benefit of the students while providing parents and guardians with the support they need and ensuring our educators are fully equipped to meet challenges seen and unseen.



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP Summit

SAVE THE DATE | **OCT 3** | 10 AM EST
 2020

Topics:

- FAMU NAA GENERAL BODY MEETING
- STATE OF FAMU ATHLETICS
- SGA UPDATE
- STATE OF FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY FUNDRAISING
- RECRUITING STUDENTS IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT
- ADVOCATING IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT
- FAMU VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL
 BROADCAST VIA ZOOM AND YOUTUBE

The Florida A&M University National Alumni Association Florida Region
 PRESENTS

Life Member SPOTLIGHT



An event Celebrating *Life* Members

SEP 26 4PM

Join Us via **ZOOM**

RSVP HERE  <https://bit.ly/2D2AF65> OR  SCAN ME

TIME BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE

MASEKELA MANDELA I - In the early 1970s, I lived in Miami, Florida, the "Magic City", aka "The 305". Motoring across Alligator Alley from Sarasota in a newly minted Carolina Blue 1972 Super Beetle VW was a newly minted RATTLER Grad. The \$1,650 brand-spanking-new Volkswagen had been co-signed by my mother with a \$56 monthly payment. She would always remind her seven children, "Time brings about change".

This was my second trip to Dade County. My first trip was with my marine biology instructor, Dr. Subramanyan, who organized a field trip to Key West for marine specimen collecting. A fellow student's family owned a house in Richmond Heights where we resided to and fro FAMU. Time brings about change.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had assigned Russell Eric Baker to the Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center at the beginning of my career. The FAA facility is located not too far from Miami International Airport, near LeJeune Road and also the Palmetto Expressway in Hialeah. National Airlines, Eastern Airlines, and Pan American Airlines were still crisscrossing America and the world. Time brings about change.

I first temporarily lived at the airport Howard Johnson before my aunt, who still lives in Liberty City, found a rear cottage for me east of I-95, off NW 79th Street on NW 5th Court. The Jet-Away near Jackson High School was jumping! The Galaxy in Liberty City was thumping! Jumbo's had great seafood on 7th Avenue and a drive-in theatre was showing movies near or on 7th Avenue. I remember The Sir John Hotel, out to the west of Liberty City and the Orange Blossom Classic was a force in the Orange Bowl. The road traffic was hectic, considering I was born and bred in the traffic of once "sleepy" Sarasota. Time brings about change.

If my mother was still with us, I would say to an avid Marching "100" enthusiast, "Yes ma'am, time brings about change". However, Miami, the "Magic City", "The 305" was and STILL is a stronghold RATTLER kind of Orange & Green! FAMU FOREVER!



MIAMI-DADE NAA CELEBRATES ANNUAL NEW STUDENT SEND-OFF REMOTELY

JASON MOODY - With COVID-19 sweeping the nation and families getting used to a quarantined styled way of living, the annual New Student Send-Off had to find a new home in the comfort of our own homes via Zoom and Facebook Live. On Saturday, August 8th at 10am, the 2020 Sylvia A. Rolle FAMU New Student Send-Off took place with Rattlers and Rattler supporters in attendance. Ron Butler, previous Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, along with the Executive Board and committee members made the decision to rename the Student Send-Off in honor of fallen FAMU NAA Life Member, Ms. Sylvia Ann Rolle. A 1974 FAMU graduate, Sylvia was a truly dynamic woman that loved to pour into the life of her fellow Rattlers. From sending care packages to current students throughout the year, to passing out envelopes of money while she visited the campus, Sylvia enjoyed selflessly giving unto the new generation of Rattlers that came after her. As everyone is glued to their respective devices, program host Velvatia Wanton led us all through a successful event that recognized both new and current Rattlers.

“This annual event allows Miami Dade Rattlers an opportunity to pay it forward, embrace new Rattlers, and strengthen the bond with current Rattlers” said Vice President Miranda Albury. Special Guests Dr. Willian Hudson Jr. (VP of Student Affairs), and Col. Gregory Clark (FAMU NAA President) took a moment to say inspiring words to the students on the call. With a total of \$25,500 in scholarship monies available, 29 lucky Rattlers were able to receive them as a result of their academic excellence. After the scholarship recipients were spotlighted, scholarship donors were also recognized. Before the event came to a close the Black National Anthem was played, Chapter President Masekela Mandela II shared videos and important information pertaining to the Miami-Dade Chapter, and a closing prayer was made by Chaplain Brigette Moody. Following the program was a Chat & Chew event where Scholarship Committee and Executive Board members spoke freely with the scholarship recipients.

Below, you will find the name of each scholarship and its respective recipient.

ISIS NELSON

Adrian Freeman, Miami-Dade Chapter Memorial Scholarship

KENNEDI FREEMAN

Alandria Davis, Miami-Dade Chapter Memorial Scholarship

IESHA BALLESTEROS

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

SHEMARIAH BENNETT

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

BRITTANY EBERHART

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

KERRINGTON FREEMAN

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

KAZINIQUE JOHNSON

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

SAMIYAH LAWRENCE

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

JEANNICE SEMANCIE

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

DESTINEE TOUSSAINT

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

NERLANDE VALSAINT

NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Scholarship

KAMARI WEST

Miami-Dade Chapter 10 for 10 Albury Team Scholarship

AMAYA HOWARD

Miami-Dade Chapter 10 for 10 Butler Team Scholarship

GABRIELLE DARBEAU

Miami-Dade Chapter 10 for 10 Gardner Team Scholarship

IVANA MCNEALY

Miami-Dade Chapter 10 for 10 The Fellas Team Scholarship

TATIANA BARNES

Alandria Davis Memorial Scholarship

KHAMARIA TURNER

Alandria Davis Memorial Scholarship

MARKEISHA LEWIS

Alandria Davis Memorial Scholarship

JERRALD BELCRIES

Albury and Albury-Williams Legacy Scholarship

KARINA ROJAS

Alonzo Vereen Scholarship

SUMMIA LITTLE

Dorothy Lee Scholarship

SHA'DERICKA CUNNINGHAM

James Sconiers Scholarship

KANISHA CLARK

Leon Ward Scholarship

NATHAN PRICE

DeVaughn Sorrells Scholarship

SEBASTIEN ZEPHIR

DeVaughn Sorrells Scholarship

AYANNA FONTAINE

Scholars Today, Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship

TYRA GILCHRIST

Lawrence Patrick Vision Scholarship

JANELLE BELLANDE

Lexus of Pembroke Pines Scholarship

CHEVON LAIDLER

Subaru of Pembroke Pines Scholarship

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARS!

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS!

Without contributions from the following, we would not be able to provide these deserving young minds with funds to begin or continue their matriculation at Florida A&M University. We are nothing without our members!

Darrius Albury-Williams

Miranda Albury

Alandria Davis Family

Cassandra Arnold

James Bailey

Williemae Bailey

Johnnie Mae Barber

Tiffany K. Bain

Brian Boyd

Marc Brewington

Butler Family

Arlease Carrion

Ingrid Cheesborough

Tonya Clinch

Denetra Collins

Yolanda Conway-Everett

Miami Carol City Senior High-Class of 1994

Kathleen Danger

Wilhelmina Davis

Johnny Dennis

Emily Dobard

Yvonne Farrington-Russell

Kevin Ford

Shirley Funches

Barbara Gardner

Sharon Green

Blanche Gross

Keith Harris

Cardelle Hayes

Sheryl Hopkins-Hutchins

Thomas Jones Jr.

Julia Kearns

Patricia Lasane

Yuvonne Martin

Lexus of Pembroke Pines

Sharon Miller

Jacqueline Moise

Antonio Moody

Brigette Moody

Jason Moody

Jennifer Parker

Lawrence Patrick

William Powell III

Charlie Powell-Albury

Veronica Rahming

Ronald Reid

Lisa Robinson and Family

James Sconiers Family

Cheryll Small

Tamara Snow

Gina S. Spicer

Lisa Spicer

Rick Still

Inez Studstill

Subaru of Pembroke Pines

Kay Sullivan

Barbara Thompson

Alonzo Vereen

Tia Wanton

Leon Ward

Rose Whearry

Cora White

John Woodard

and countless donations from Miami-Dade Chapter members and supporters

THANK YOU!!

SCHOLARSHIP/RECRUITING CHAIR VACANCY

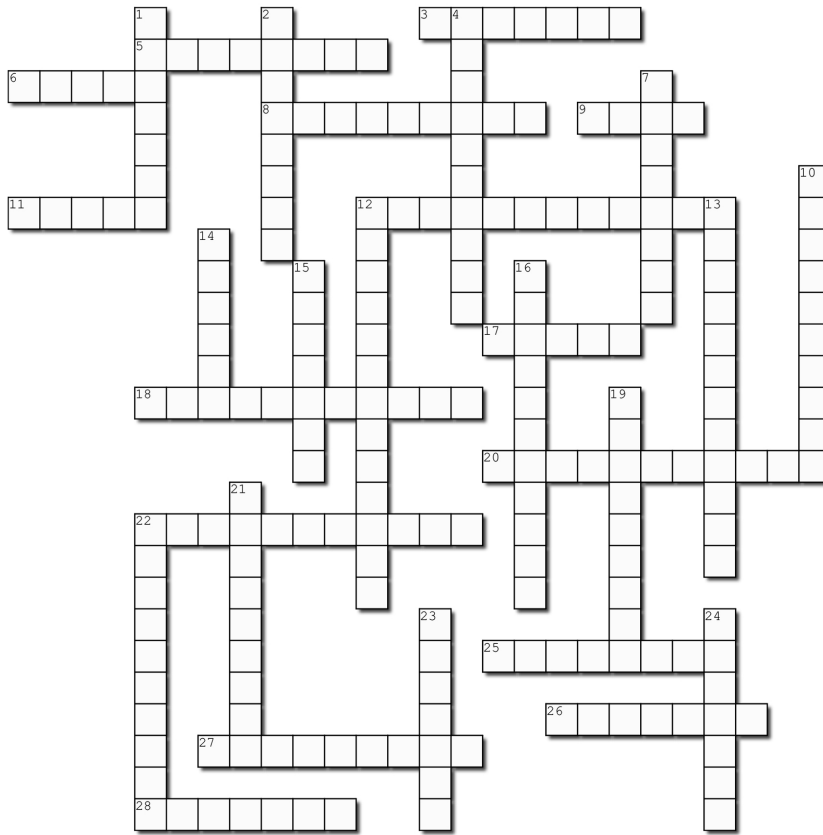
This pivotal role helps to manage our scholarship fundraising efforts, develop new strategies, monitor the local and University recruitment schedule for area (virtual) career fairs, and oversee the Chapter scholarship criteria, selections, and awarding components. Such an important role also comes with a very supportive team!

We're looking for a dedicated individual to take on this rewarding role for the upcoming scholarship and recruitment cycle! If interested or know someone who may be interested, send a text to 740-746-3268 or email the Chapter at info@miamidadefamunaa.org.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

MDFAMUNAA Summer Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

3. the nickname of the SWAC school located in Baton Rouge, LA.
5. Also known as Florida State Road 826, this Miami-area Expressway is known for its long sweeping curve
6. Middle name of FAMU grad and current Atlanta, GA mayor
8. students that live in this dorm complex are nicknamed 'Soldiers'
9. student enrollment grew to over 2,000 for the first time under this president, FAMU's 5th (last name only)
11. the FORMER pharmacy building on campus is named after this person; also a vacuum brand
12. the 'SW' abbreviation in SWAC
17. Last name of 'The first family of FAMU football', father and son Jubie and Eugene
18. This culturally-rich Miami neighborhood sits between Liberty City and Upper East Side
20. a branch of horticulture, this is the growing and harvesting of grapes
22. this major focuses on the use of scientific principles to build machines, structures, and infrastructure
25. these are the individual organizations that make up the National Alumni Association
26. these types of roads go north and south in Miami-Dade County
27. Stops along this system include Brownsville, Culmer, Government Center, Vizcaya, and Dadeland North
28. Known as the Honorable Gwen Cherry Hwy in Liberty City, this numbered avenue parallels I-95

Down

1. Atlanta's all-women's HBCU
2. a newcomer to an organization or group; i.e. new fraternity initiates
4. sometimes called the language of business, graduates of this major can go on to work for Deloitte and Ernst & Young
7. the computer science building on campus is named for this almanac author and original surveyor of Washington D.C.
10. a relative of the tuba, this marching band instrument loops around the user
12. this member of the 'Divine 9' includes members Hattie McDaniel, MC Lyte, and Kelly Price
13. the public Miami high school that serves the Liberty City area, home of the Bulls
14. THE campus cultural hot spot, particularly on Fridays just after noon
15. a Miami suburb that uses an entirely different street numbering system
16. Originally a beach for the black residents of Miami, this State park is a short distance from downtown Miami
19. Alumni John Thompson is the current Chairman of the Board of this tech giant
21. This is the most populous county, but third-largest in area, in Florida
22. the area to the west of the Miami metro is collectively known as this area, full of freshwater wildlife
23. the last name of the FAMU Sports Hall of Famer with over 700 softball wins
24. This Tallahassee street goes by the FAMU softball fields, the Tookes Rec Center, and Top Flite

STAY INFORMED!

Website: www.MiamiDadeFAMUNAA.org
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 Additional Content: Jason Moody, Tracey Jackson, Masekela Mandela I

Thy Noble Shrine

FAMU NAA Miami-Dade Chapter Newsletter
SUMMER 2020 (June - August 2020)

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

MDFAMUNAA Spring 2020 Crossword

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

