

FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

THE ROAR

SEPTEMBER 2022



FMU

Welcome

CLASS OF 2026!

FMU's largest Freshman class in 15 years



ASCENDING TO EXCELLENCE

PREPARE

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IT'S AN **EXCITING** TIME TO BE A PART *of* **FMU!**

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year, and an especially warm welcome to the new Lions in our largest Freshman class in 15 years! With more than 1,100 students on campus this semester, we exceeded our enrollment goal, and to say I am proud is an understatement.

We have made incredible progress these past few years, growing our enrollment, beautifying our now tech-forward campus, forming vital community partnerships, and curating programs to prepare our students for prosperous careers. The stage is set for your success.

Fall is a busy time for the Lion family, particularly new students, as you find your footing and get involved in the plethora of organizations and activities available to you. Not to mention special events like Homecoming, Greek life, and a full athletics schedule where you can cheer on your FMU. I encourage you to get involved and make the most of campus life.

This issue of The Roar shows how, in just a few short weeks, we have already started the year on a high note, adding achievements to our Pride. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful Fall semester. Together, there is nothing our community can't accomplish.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dr. Jaffus Hardrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Dr. Jaffus Hardrick



FALL Convocation

On September 1, Florida Memorial University welcomed the Class of 2026 to the pride at the “Elevating Minds, Transforming Lives” Convocation Ceremony.

Nearly 500 Freshmen, FMU’s largest class in 15 years, packed the Wellness Center to listen to words of motivation from keynote speaker Freddie Figgers.



Mr. Figgers, CEO and Chief Software Architect of Figgers Communication Inc., is an inventor, computer programmer, and entrepreneur.

After the ceremony, guests enjoyed a celebration lunch in the Marketplace Dining Hall, where Mr. Figgers provided each student with an autographed copy of his book and awarded many students with scholarships.

BIG CAT CLASSIC

Adapted from fmuathletics.com game recap by Habtom Keleta, Assistant Athletics Director for Communications

The Lions roared to victory in the 2022 Big Cat Classic, as FMU took the win against Edward Waters University, 39-34. On August 27, more than 1,400 fans packed the stands to see new Head Coach Bobby Rome earn his first career victory at FMU.

“Edward Waters is a good football program, so at halftime, I told them that we have to be ready to take that blow in the second half and be able to execute and finish when we need to, and we did that tonight,” Coach Rome explained. “I’m so proud of our young men; we found a way to win, and we found a way to pull it out. That’s what good football teams do.”



It was a thrilling match up when, with five seconds left in the game, FMU’s Darius Conley sealed the deal with an interception to capture the victory over the Tigers. Despite trailing 26-0 at halftime, the Tigers stormed back to score three touchdowns in the third quarter, but it wasn’t enough as FMU prevented a repeat from last season, this time holding on to victory by forcing a turnover on the final possession.

Be sure to come out and support the team for their action-packed schedule this Fall. GO LIONS!



FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Time
AUGUST	27	FB	Edward Waters	Miami Gardens, FL	3:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER	3	FB	Southern University	Baton Rouge, LA	6:00 p.m.
	10	FB	Southeastern University	Lakeland, FL	7:00 p.m.
	17	FB	Warner University (non-conference)	Miami Gardens, FL	3:00 p.m.
OCTOBER	1	FB	Keiser University	West Palm Beach, FL	5:00 p.m.
	8	FB	Warner University	Lake Wales, FL	7:00 p.m.
	15	FB	St. Thomas University	Miami Gardens, FL	6:00 p.m.
	22	FB	Webber Int University	Babson Park, FL	1:30 p.m.
	29	FB	Southeastern University	Miami Gardens, FL	6:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER	5	FB	Ave Maria University (Homecoming)	Miami Gardens, FL	1:00 p.m.
	12	FB	University of Fort Lauderdale	Fort Lauderdale, FL	TBD



FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 -
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

GAME KICK-OFF NOV. 5

UNLEASH THE LION

Here is a snapshot of select Homecoming activities. Be sure to check FMU's website and social media channels for more information and the latest schedule of events!

SUNDAY, OCT. 30

Coleman Drive Countdown
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Homecoming Concert
"We Outside"
8:00-11:00 p.m.
Clock Tower

MONDAY, OCT. 31

Lions After Dark: Haunted House
8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
J.C. Sams Student Activity Center

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

2022 Annual Alumni Homecoming Luncheon
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Smith Conference Center
Tickets: \$40.00

TUESDAY, NOV. 1

Comedy and Fashion Show
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts

Family Matters
The Reunion, Family Day featuring Kid Zone
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

Legacy Society Luncheon
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
President's Dining Room

Lion Mixer, Fish Fry, Greek Yard Show,
Food Truck Invasion, and more!
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Clock Tower

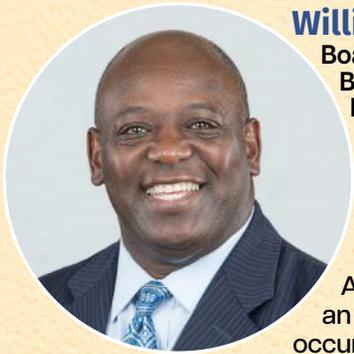
Alumni 40 Under 40
6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Smith Conference Center
Tickets: \$40.00

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Homecoming Football Game
vs. Ave Maria University
1:00 p.m.
Betty T. Ferguson Stadium

Meet the BOARD

Starting with this issue of The Roar, we will introduce the members of FMU's Board of Trustees. These community and business leaders generously give their time and expertise to help FMU continue ascending to excellence.



William C. McCormick, MBA

Board Chair
Business Administration '87
Founder & CEO, Americlaims
Billing, Inc.

Why did you choose to serve as a Trustee for FMU?

As a graduate, I have watched an amazing transformation occur at the university since my days as a student. I am truly honored being bestowed such a distinguished position. It is a responsibility that I accept with humility, and I pledge to serve with leadership, service, and character as an opportunity for me to give back to the university that helped me realize my own potential, which in turn led to my prosperity.

What's your vision for FMU?

My vision for Florida Memorial University is to be recognized as the Talent Pipeline Center that creates positive members of society.



Susan C. Nystrom

Senior Vice President and Div'l General Counsel
Comerica Bank

Why did you choose to serve as a Trustee for FMU?

I strongly believe in the FMU mission. Education is the gateway to changing lives. At FMU, I want to see these first-generation college graduates leave FMU with strength in academic skills, spiritual development, intellectual acumen and character to be successful in their careers and change agents in the world. I want to contribute, both with my time and finances, to a University that will stress core academics and produce students with superb writing, reading, STEM, and interpersonal skills.

What's your vision for FMU?

My vision for FMU is a University that is financially strong and able to meet the needs of its students financially and academically, and a culture that enhances the students' character development and life skills. It is my vision that FMU will be a premier HBCU, with a waitlist of applicants who have strong academic credentials. It will be seen as the school which high school graduates compete to get into and feel proud to have been accepted.



Dorothy P. Davis

Progressive M&E Baptist
Convention of Florida, Inc.
Senior Women Ministry
President
Retired Educator

Why did you choose to serve as a Trustee for FMU?

The PM&E Baptist State Convention supports FMU and for this support, an Honorary Seat on the Board is extended to the Convention. The Senior Women Ministry takes the lead in a fundraiser for FMU, and the President is selected as a member of the Board.

What's your vision for FMU?

I envision providing a solid educational foundation for the students that walk the halls of FMU, as well as increased enrollment, and continued growth as a vital part of the local community.



Dr. Audrey Austin White

President, Women's Auxiliary
Florida General Baptist Convention
Elementary Principal, Austin
Christian Vocational Academy

Why did you choose to serve as a Trustee for FMU?

The President of the Women's Auxiliary of Florida General Baptist Convention is appointed to represent the Convention as trustee of Florida Memorial University.

What's your vision for FMU?

My vision is for FMU to be the premier institution for higher learning where students and faculty collaborate to forge a more innovative community and reshape society as a whole.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. William C. McCormick, Jr.
(Chairman)

Mr. Walter Weatherington
(Vice Chair)

Mrs. Audrey White (1st Vice Chair)

Min. Horace C. Hord, Jr. (Secretary)

Mr. E. Ray Smith (Treasurer)

Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks, Sr.

Ms. Taffany Brown

Mrs. Kimberly M. Chapman

Mrs. Rochelle Cox-Hill

Mrs. Dorothy P. Davis

Dr. George Davis, Jr.

Brandon K. Dumas, Ph.D.

Dr. Gerald Glass

Dr. Derrick Jackson

Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja

Dr. Lawrence Morehouse

Mrs. Susan Nystrom

Mr. John Owens, Esq.

Dr. Glenn Parker

Dr. Mona-Lisa Pinkney

Rev. Dr. Michael D. Warren

Ms. Tracy Wright

Student SPOTLIGHT



LA'KARLA MOORE, SENIOR

Miss FMU 2022-2023

Hometown: Daytona Beach, Florida

Major: Aviation - Air Traffic Control

Why FMU?

I chose FMU because of the outstanding Aviation program, but aside from that, I knew I wanted to be active. The welcoming atmosphere on campus instantly made me feel at home, which also made my decision easier.



JALIL LEE, SENIOR

Mr. FMU 2022-2023

Hometown: Plainfield, New Jersey

Major: Aviation Management

Why FMU?

I chose FMU because of the amazing Aviation program and how much it has to offer in comparison to other Aviation programs, ranging from scholarships to job opportunities, as well as top notch connections and internships.



ALAYAH WILLIAMS, FRESHMAN

Miss Freshman 2022-2023

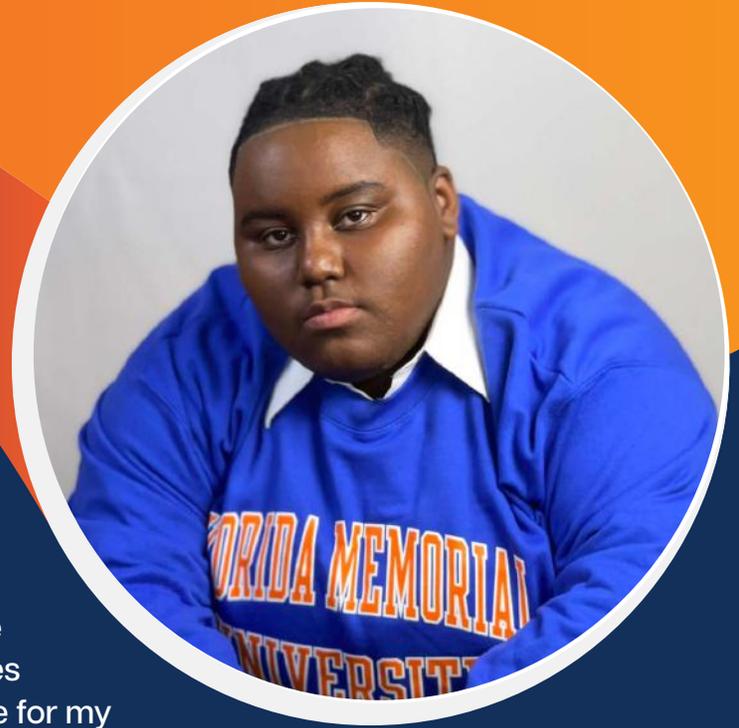
Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Major: Law and Government

Why FMU?

The great Law and Government program and family-oriented environment. I also want to represent my class and apply my strong leadership skills to benefit the University.

Get to Know Your SGA President: *Taffany Brown*



Introducing Taffany Brown, your 2022-2023 Student Government Association President! Taffany is a junior Communications major, with a concentration in Television Broadcasting. She has future aspirations of being a journalist, author, motivational speaker, and philanthropist.

Hailing from humble White Springs, Florida, Taffany endeavors to be more than what stereotypes dictate about someone coming from a small town. She prides herself on never wanting to settle. “I want to be more for my family, my community, my campus, and most importantly, myself. I would like to use my life with purpose in mind. Being ‘enough’ is not adequate. I want to be extraordinary! I want people to know it’s acceptable to go beyond the status quo,” Taffany said.

She enjoys being a community activist and learning more about government relations. During her time at FMU, she has been a member of the Florida General Baptist Convention, the United Negro College Fund Career Pathways Initiative, an iROAR (Intentional Readiness for Occupational Acquisition and Retention) Student Ambassador, a Republica Havas mentee and intern, a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) mentee, a Residential Assistant, a campus deejay, a member of the FMU Social Justice Institute, a Programming Director for the FMU Lions Radio, a member of the Florida Student Power Network, a Johns Hopkins Center of Talented Youth Residential Assistant in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Florida Democracy Fellow. Throughout her extensive extracurricular and community involvement, she has been able to maintain an impressive 3.5 GPA.

Taffany is excited about networking with a collective that can bring more resources to the FMU campus, her peers, and the surrounding Miami Gardens and South Florida communities. She is also eager to collaborate with colleagues at other HBCUs, believing it is similar to iron sharpening iron. Being a student who happens to be a leader is a fulfillment of her life’s purpose. Taffany’s community, family, and experiences have driven her to this exact moment. “The route to college is not always the same for all. I could never have pictured myself miles from home, thriving, pushing myself to be a student leader, or applying for something as prestigious as an opportunity to lead the FMU Prideland! I’m not “supposed to” be here! When you’re in leadership, you automatically set a standard. You can’t be a leader without being an example,” she said.

In Memoriam:

JASON JENKINS

October 30, 1974 - August 27, 2022

**Miami Dolphins Senior Vice President
of Communications and Community Affairs**

Community Leader

Philanthropist

Unifier

Father

Husband

Friend

*Jason was a steadfast supporter of FMU,
helping to spearhead our Construction Trades
program.*

*He was dedicated to making South Florida a
better place for everybody,
and his legacy will live on in the hearts
of so many.*

*The Lion Family stands with Jason's loved ones,
wishing them comfort and peace during this
difficult time.*



NEW WEBSITE

In August, FMU proudly launched its new website fmuniv.edu. The bright design and user-friendly navigation make the site the go-to resource, providing crucial information to the Lion community, as well as prospective students and their families.

In addition to being the hub of all online processes for students, faculty, and staff, the revamped website features overviews of all academic programs, admissions resources for first-time, returning, and international students, the latest campus news, athletics updates, and everything you need to know about campus and residence life and activities.

If you haven't checked out the new site yet, visit today to stay up to date on all things FMU!



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

FMU is proud to share it is one of 32 organizations selected to take part in the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Jobs for the Future program. On August 3, the EDA announced its award of a \$4.6 million grant to Jobs for the Future to coordinate and lead a national Community of Practice dedicated to sharing best practices, providing technical assistance, and extending professional networks among the \$500 million Good Jobs Challenge's grantee organizations.

The Good Jobs Challenge links workforce development and economic development by connecting local leaders with a diverse set of partners to generate new ways to equitably grow regional economies. In establishing a Community of Practice, Jobs for the Future will support grantees as they build and implement customized solutions to address the specific talent needs of their communities while ensuring knowledge sharing and development of best practices based on what works elsewhere.

NEW HIRES & ROLES



MAYFLOR REMOND
Chief of Staff to the
President



DAVICA WILLIAMS
Executive Director
University Advancement
and Alumni Affairs



DR. JAMILA JACKSON
Dean of Campus Ministry
Director of Theological
Education Partnership



**DR. FREDERICK L.
HUNTER**
Dean, School of Education
Social Work Chair

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

This month, we highlight the extraordinary work of Annamaria Jerome-Raja, Ed.D., Associate Professor in FMU's School of Education. Dr. Jerome-Raja began her journey in education in India, at Osmania University's National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped. She then earned a Master of Arts in Applied Psychology at the University of Madras. Dr. Jerome-Raja came to the U.S. to attend Florida International University, where she was awarded a Doctor of Education in Exceptional Student Education. In addition to her degrees, she has served as a Youth Mental Health First Aider, held clinical supervision trainings, and holds two Blackboard Certifications in digital teaching.

Since 1997, Dr. Jerome-Raja has held a series of professorships, including adjunct, visiting, assistant, and associate roles, at esteemed universities including Florida International University, Barry University, and Carlos Albizu University. She joined FMU's School of Education in 2007. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses across a wide range of concentrations.

During her time at FMU, Dr. Jerome-Raja has made a big impact. Her work has been awarded more than \$6.3 million in grant funding from agencies including the Departments of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services and the Lilly Endowment. In 2015, she received the Outstanding Faculty Award, and she currently serves as President of the Faculty Senate. Over the years, she has held many more roles at FMU that all helped improve the quality of the curriculum and student life.



Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja
Associate Professor, School of Education

Thank you for all you do for our FMU, Dr. Jerome-Raja!



2022 Faculty and Staff Institute

FMU's faculty and staff came together August 15-17 to "Refocus, Reimagine, and Reset" at the 2022 Faculty and Staff Institute. Employees enjoyed an Invocation, inspirational messages, including one from President Hardrick.

This year's sessions included Project-Based Learning, a grant writing workshop, Design Thinking - fostering a culture of innovation and learning, and Student Affairs 101. iRoar explored partnering with faculty to foster student success, and a panel discussion centered on internship and job placement in a changing economy.



The annual Faculty and Staff Institute not only provides valuable resources to keep FMU on course and ascending to excellence but rallies the Lion family together to set the tone for the new academic year.

Dr. Hardrick Takes on New Leadership Roles

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) has invited Dr. Hardrick to serve as Chair of its Members Committee. Founded in 1944, the UNCF is a major philanthropic organization that funds scholarships for Black students and general scholarship funds for 37 private HBCUs, including FMU. Dr. Hardrick is sure to bring value to this role through his expertise in leadership, fundraising, and education.



On August 3, Dr. Hardrick was named to the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. MDCC is the oldest minority chamber in the State of Florida, and FMU has been involved with the Chamber for several years. As a member of the MDCC Board of Directors, Dr. Hardrick will help with implementing programs and continue providing the necessary assistance that minority businesses need to succeed.

Congratulations, Dr. Hardrick!



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CYBERSECURITY

FMU's Cybersecurity program educates students with the technical proficiency and analytical problem-solving techniques that protect organizational critical systems and infrastructure. Information is the biggest commodity in business today and corporations must protect theirs at all costs. Cybersecurity graduates will be prepared to combat the threats that accompany technological advances, and the dangers that come with it, by learning critical thinking and problem-solving skills required to stay ahead.

The cybersecurity field is rapidly growing and students holding this degree can ensure a bright, secure future. This degree prepares students for careers as Security Consultants, Engineers, Architects and Analysts, Incident Responders, Computer Forensic Experts, Security Software Developers and Auditors, and Chief Information Security Officers.

Led by Dr. Ben Wongsaroj and Dr. Robert Steinhoff, the mission of the Cybersecurity program is to produce graduates who demonstrate technical proficiency and the essential cybersecurity skills necessary to successfully develop and transition new technologies, tools, and threat mechanisms to protect organizational critical systems and infrastructure.

FMU's Center for Cybersecurity hopes to foster greater understanding and perception of cybersecurity, resulting in better preparation of students entering the workforce for the benefit of industry and society. In addition, the Center encourages collaboration on partnerships with community needs, and interdisciplinary exchanges that strengthen the pipeline for cybersecurity professionals.

As a testament to the program's high standards, in April, FMU was designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, recognized by the National Security Agency.

AVIATION & SAFETY

The Department of Aviation & Safety serves as the focal point of technological education at FMU, offering rigorous programs designed to educate the future aviators, airport managers and air traffic controllers of the aerospace industry. In fact, FMU's Aviation Management degree program is accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI); only 35 aviation programs in the country achieve this elite status.

This degree, oriented to the business side and human resource needs, prepares students for administrative, supervisory, and managerial positions in the aviation industry. It has even established partnerships with several local businesses to provide students with ample internship opportunities.

Aviation & Safety programs stress critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, human resource management and written and oral communications. Students gain a broad perspective of the aerospace industry, the environments in which it operates, and its impact on global transportation and economics.

CENTRALIZED OFFICE

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



Let's give a big Lion roar for all those who worked in the Centralized Office to ensure all students were processed for the start of the new school year. Some days, there were staff who stayed until 2:00 a.m. to get the job done.

*WAY TO GO, TEAM!
YOUR LION FAMILY APPRECIATES YOUR EFFORTS.*

New Grants to Fund Crucial FMU Projects

In recent months, FMU has been awarded more than \$4.4 million in new grants. This funding is crucial, as it allows a variety of departments to begin or continue critical projects that benefit the local, and even global, community.

Thanks to these new grants, the School of Education, department of Computer Science, and Black Male College Explorers Program will be able to further their efforts. Grantee organizations include powerhouse agencies like the Economic Development Administration, Department of Energy, NASA, the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Florida Department of Health. Congratulations to all of the recipients!

FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM LION COUNTRY, BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Plus, you can always find episodes of *The Lions' Den*, our show highlighting campus happenings, on our YouTube channel.



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THANK
You
So Much!



FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Office of Public Affairs

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FMU Departments and Their Contributions:

Office of the President, Board of Trustees, Academic Affairs, Advancement, Athletics, Enrollment, Health Sciences, Music, Registrar, Student Affairs, Information Technology, and the Legal Department