

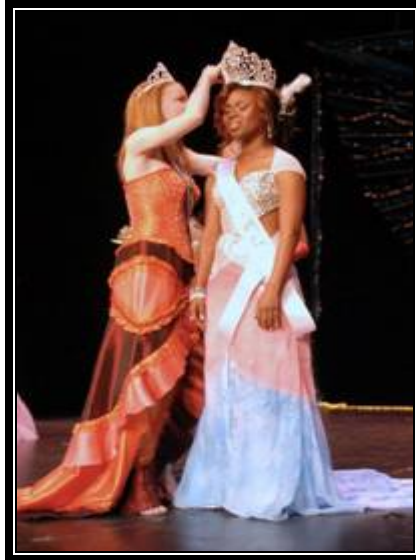
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**FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT WINS  
2007 MISS MIAMI CARNIVAL PAGEANT**



*Ms. Daveile Payne Abbot (right), a University junior, is being crowned  
Miss Miami Carnival 2007 by outgoing titleholder, Ms. Lucretia Ventura (left).*

**MIAMI GARDENS, FL [SEPTEMBER 21, 2007]** – On Saturday September 16, 2007, Caribbean Pageantry Incorporated held its third annual Miss Miami Carnival Pageant on the campus of Florida Memorial University in the Lou Rawls Center of Performing Arts. Contestants for this pageant come from various walks of life and represent the Caribbean Diaspora to show the rich heritage and talent that is Miss Miami Carnival. Two contestants from this year's pageant were also representing Florida Memorial University as well as their own Caribbean country.

The Queen of the 2007 pageant is Ms. Daveile Payne Abbot. Ms. Daveile was representing The Source Antigua. Born in St. John's of the West Indian country of Antigua, the 20-year-old says she has been raised on the stage since the age of eleven. As a junior honor student at Florida Memorial University majoring in biology with a minor in psychology, she has certainly left her mark on several of the university's clubs and organizations. One of her most notable achievements is being the first Antiguan to be captain of the university's "Razy Dancers." Ms. Daveile has graced many stages from New York, Houston, Nova Scotia and Barbados just to name a few. Ms. Daveile also goes on to say that pageantry and public affairs have been the key to her traveling as an Ambassador for her country while winning various awards and titles. In a quote taken before competing in the pageant, Ms. Daveile says, "The chances of me being the next Miss Miami Carnival is an overwhelming feeling that, like my beautiful country, could never be described but only experienced. I have a strong demeanor and I am humble. That's what I want the judges to see in me

the most.” She also has dream of having her own dance group, television show, and fashion line after receiving her degree.

The first runner up is Ms. Leburnah Liburd, who was representing St. Kitts Co-Operative Credit Union. Ms. Liburd is a 22-year-old sophomore majoring in finance with a 3.8 G.P.A. Before enrolling in Florida Memorial University, Ms. Liburd was employed as a head teller with the St. Kitts Co-Operative Credit Union as well as a part time cashier at a local supermarket. While being born and raised in Sugar City, St. Kitts, Ms. Liburd is an active member of the Vivace Dance Company which allows her to express herself artistically through body movement. Ms. Liburd also serves as the treasurer of both the Caribbean and International Students Association and the First Lady’s Ladies Organization. Ms. Liburd says, “In life, I believe that no one solely accomplishes anything. Therefore, it is wise to be kind to the people you meet on your way up because they’re the same ones that you’ll meet on your way down.” Upon obtaining her bachelor’s degree, Ms. Liburd intends to pursue a master’s degree in marketing. Along with many other desires, one that she holds dear to her heart is being able to return to her country to impart the knowledge and skill that she would have achieved in obtaining her degrees.

Florida Memorial University is pleased with the achievement of both of these young ladies, by staying true to the University’s motto of leadership, character, and service, both in and out of the classroom. For further information on this year’s pageant or for applications to be a contestant in next year’s pageant, please visit [www.missmiamicarnival.com](http://www.missmiamicarnival.com).

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**About Florida Memorial University:**

*Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the University has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida’s only Black University, it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” and home of student Barrington Irving, Jr., the first and youngest pilot of African descent to fly solo around the world. For more information, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (305) 626-3624.*