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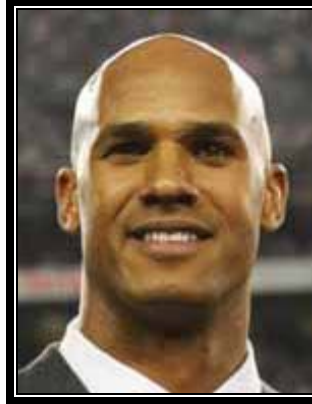
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JASON TAYLOR TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD  
DURING FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY'S 130<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA**



*Jason Taylor*

**MIAMI GARDENS, FL [AUGUST 27, 2009]** – Superstar Miami Dolphins linebacker **Jason Taylor** will serve as this year's special guest and honoree during "Keeping the Promise," Florida Memorial University's 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. The lavish dinner fundraiser will be held on Friday, October 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the famed Fontainebleau Miami Beach Resort. The fundraiser is the third annual installment of the University President's mission to garner support from corporations, churches, organizations, and the community in raising funds to provide higher education to students from all walks of life.

Taylor, who recently gained notoriety as a celebrity finalist on "Dancing with the Stars," will receive the University's 2009 Community Leadership Award for his commitment to service and promoting education through the Jason Taylor Foundation. "We are pleased to host a guest of Jason Taylor's caliber for such an historic event for the University" stated Sandra T. Thompson, Ph.D., Interim President of the institution. "We hope to form a long-lasting partnership with Mr. Taylor and his foundation to provide educational opportunities for all prospective students," she continued.

After Taylor receives his award, executives from Denny's Restaurant will be on hand to accept the 2009 Corporate Partner Award for opening the Denny's Single-Parent Student Resource Center on the Florida Memorial campus in October 2008. As a Founding Sponsor for the affair, Denny's Restaurant will also present a vocal performance from BET's "Sunday Best" gospel music competition winner Y'Anna Crawley, an accomplished single mother who strives for excellence and personal achievement through her musical talents.

In honor of the University's 130 years in existence, individual tickets for the gala will be sold for \$130.00. Proceeds will benefit the Florida Memorial University Student Scholarship Fund. For more information regarding the event, please call Joan Redd at (305) 626-3607.

**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 Historically Black College or University (HBCU), it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and the home of 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 or visit [www.fmuniv.edu](http://www.fmuniv.edu).*