



Press Announcement

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BARRINGTON IRVING, GAMMA ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER OF THE AKA'S AND FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY (FMU) TEAM UP TO HELP OUR BAHAMIAN NEIGHBORS



Miami Gardens, September 11, 2019 - On Monday, September 9, 2011, Dr. Adrienne Cooper, provost, a group of volunteer students, and the Gamma Zeta Omega chapter of the AKA's met with Barrington Irving, FMU alum, to fly over vital supplies to Bahamians in crisis.

"It's my second trip there for today. I just flew back to Miami and the plane needs a quick cleaning, since I brought back two service dogs," said Irving. Barrington Irving is a graduate of FMU and has the distinction of being the youngest to pilot a plane solo around the world in 2007.

"In the spirit of good will and humanity, Floridians unified and came together because so many of us have friends and relatives there, and most of all, South Florida is home to a large population of Bahamians. This was a crisis that needed immediate help and a fast plan. As President of Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I felt an urgency for that plan to be put in action to assist our people. The chapter members and I were compelled to be involved because of the devastation Hurricane Dorian left on the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama. The sisters of Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter arrived at our sorority meeting last Saturday, and gave generously. The chapter provided diapers, wipes, soap, bottled water, cleaning supplies, first aid items, non-perishable food items, toiletries, etc. During our meeting, we contacted representatives of Florida Memorial University, our adopted HBCU, about flying supplies over to the Bahamas, twice daily. We came to an understanding, thanks to Deborah Dorsett, a member of GZO, and her team from the Service Corp; we contacted the pilot, Captain Barrington, who so graciously offered his services and experience in helping us in a dire situation such as this. To send our

supplies successfully was a blessing and a unified effort. Alpha Kappa Alpha women will do everything in their power to help at this time. When there is an urgent need to collect donations that will assist in the recovery efforts of the Bahamas, we always stand tall and do as our motto states, provide “Service to All Mankind.” This is not a one-time donation; we will continue our collection of donated **items** throughout the year.” Tara J. Pasteur, Gamma Zeta Omega AKA President.

Needless to say, with 12% of Florida Memorial University’s student origins coming from the Bahamas, Dr. Adrienne Cooper and our FMU student volunteers are passionate about helping families and friends from the Bahama and are always eager to lend a hand.

To help our Bahamian students complete their education, please contact:

<https://www.fmuniv.edu/fmu-bahamas/>

- more photos available upon request-

ABOUT FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution that offers 27 undergraduate degree programs and 3 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1878, the University has upheld a commitment to provide an academic education solid foundation built upon the pillars of leadership, character, and service. As South Florida’s only Historically Black College or University (HBCU), it is widely recognized as the birthplace of the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing. For more information call 305 623 1452 or visit www.fmuniv.edu.

FMU is among the leading HBCUs in the nation leveraging partnerships with public and corporate partners to develop academic training and certification programs in emerging markets such as Energy and Environmental Science, Cybersecurity, Homeland Security and Computer Information Technology. FMU also offers a robust study abroad program and award-winning Broadcast Communications and Public Relations programs.

The University is also part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Sun Conference and offers nine collegiate sports programs, including men/women’s basketball, men/women soccer, men/women’s track and field, football, baseball and volleyball.

The University holds a 92% retention rate for program participants. More than 14% of the student population are international students representing Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa.