

The Vanguard

The official newsletter of the FMU Honors Program

Florida Memorial University

Honors Program

August - October 2014



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Sarah Blocker, Rm. 221

15800 NW 42nd Avenue

Miami Gardens, FL 33054

"Continuing the pursuit of excellence and leadership."

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE

"The
best party
in town!"

MUSICAL PLAY : FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE

Starring:

Vlad Dorson, Reginald Everson, Jovon Jacobs,
Kunya Rowley, Donnie Seward, John Williams

November 20th – 30th, 2014

Showtimes

Thursdays* – Saturdays 8:00pm

Sunday Matinees – 3:00pm

* No Thanksgiving Day Show – 11/27/14

Location

The Historic Lyric Theater Cultural Arts Complex
819 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

For Tickets/Reservations, please call
(786) 708 – 4610



DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

It has been a while since the Vanguard, the Honors Program newsletter, has been published. But I am pleased to see this issue presented. Students in FMU Honors Program participate in so many activities throughout the year that sometimes it can be a challenge to capture all the things the Honors Program does. So the Vanguard is a way to chronicle the activities of students in the Honors Program.

Honors students pursuing and achieving more than ever is a necessity in this day. Often Honors students can become complacent with achieving mediocrity, thinking that because they're smart they will have time to achieve greater later. But the reality is that this greatness has to exemplify itself now. Honors students today do not have time to waste because the pressure to excel beyond mediocrity is now. Whatever Honors students wish to become and achieve, they have to begin working towards that now. And be-

ing focused and maintaining that focus is essential to an Honors student's success.

In one of the papers from the Honors Freshmen Seminar course, a student quoted "No person was ever honored for what they received. Honors has been the reward for what he gave." Students in the Honors Program have to understand that they have to give more and do more to maintain their standard of honors. Honors is more than being smart or earning good grades! Being in Honors is about giving and sharing, in tangible ways, of the gifts and intellectual talents that have been instilled within each student.

Therefore, the Vanguard is a glimpse at the ways Honors Program students share their talents. "To be honored in anything is a high accomplishment, but to be a part of Honors is a lifestyle."

THE HONORS PROGRAM RECEPTION & INDUCTION CEREMONY

On October 7, 2014, in the Smith Conference Center, the Honors Program hosted its Reception & Induction Ceremony for new Honors Program students. Thirty new freshmen were welcomed into the Honors Program, and twenty-one returning students from the previous year were inducted into the Honors Council. As a newly inducted student in the Honors Council, one pledges to maintain an acceptable GPA and represent the Honors Program with a standard of excellence.

As a new freshmen student in the Honors Program, one is officially introduced to the campus body and to the other students in the Honors Program. It is at this event that the new Honors students come to understand that they are a part of a large family that exists to help them be successful at Florida Memorial University and their future endeavors.

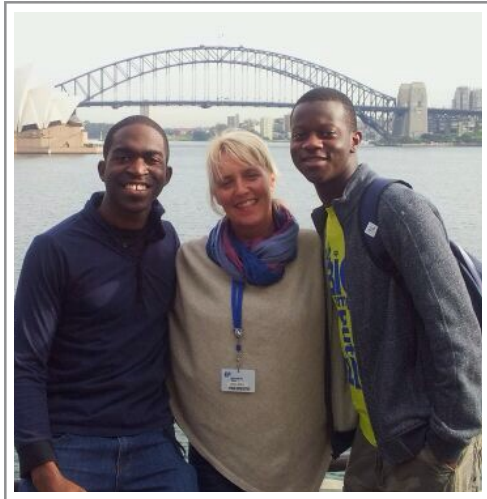
A crowd of approximately 200 gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of students in the Honors Program. One Honors Council inductee, Alonna Williams, was honored as the inductee with the highest GPA, 3.93. Rickey M. Thomas II was recognized and honored as the continuing student with the highest GPA in the Honors Program, 3.98. And Neugenia Joseph was recognized as the incoming freshman with the highest GPA, 5.5. The new leadership of the Honors Council was announced as well on that evening. Congratulations to Gabrielle Russell who was named President of the Honors Council and Erick Dolsaint who was named Vice-President of the Honors Council.

To all the new freshmen and new inductees, congratulations. You are now a part of a rich legacy dedicated to continuing the pursuit of excellence and leadership.



STUDY ABROAD

Malik Jackson & Erick Dolsaint venture to Australia and New Zealand



Studying abroad has become somewhat of a rite of passage for some college students. They are usually encouraged by friends, family members, and faculty advisors to expand their reach and experiences beyond the typical American education system. Florida Memorial University Honors Program over the years has been a true source and advocate for this ideal. The Honors Program has successfully provided the opportunity for Honors students to have an international educational experience every year since 2007. And this past year was no different. At the end of the spring 2014 semester (May 14-26, 2014), two students from FMU Honors Program, Malik Jackson and Erick Dolsaint traveled to New Zealand and Australia and participated in the EF College Study Tour Program. Nearly 200 college students from approximately ten universities participated in this program. Because of the number of participants, the schools were divided into (3) separate tours. Flor-

ida Memorial University was a part of the group that included Christopher Newport University, Kentucky Technical College, and Texas State University---Sul Ross (comprising a group of 44).

From Rotorua to Auckland, New Zealand, and from Sydney to Cairns, Australia, these students had an incredible experience in the “land down-under.” While in Rotorua, students were able to visit Lake Rotorua, visit a traditional Maori Village and eat a traditional Maori dinner, visit the Agrodome to learn about sheep shearing, ride the Skyline Gondola up Mount Ngongotaha, and visit Middle-Earth where the trilogy “The Hobbit” was filmed. The students also spent a day in Auckland, NZ (considered the city of sails) and visited the Auckland harbor and other sites in the downtown area. It is believed that 1 in 3 people in Auckland own a sail boat of some kind. After visiting Auckland, the students flew to Sydney, Australia where they

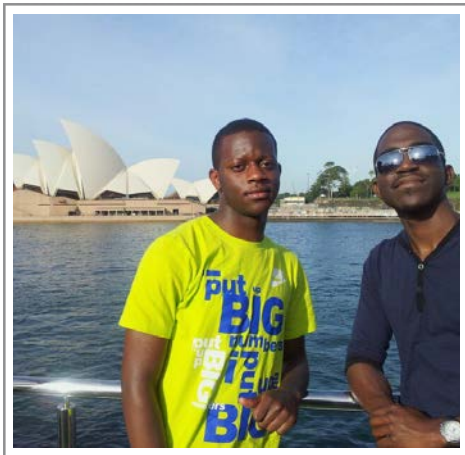




were able to visit the famed Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbor, Bondi Beach, Sydney Bridge, and Luna Park. In addition, the students were afforded the opportunity to visit and tour the CAPA International Education School in North Sydney as well as tour the campus of Australia Catholic University where students from international universities can come to study.

world of science that is teeming with a variety of incredible marine life.

Also while in Cairns, students visited the village of Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park (1st inhabitants of Australia) and Kuranda Village and Australia Venom Zoo at the top of the Blue Mountains of Cairns (rode the Kuranda Scenic Railway down the mountain). “Study Abroad in New Zealand and Australia was a life-changing experience! I felt very blessed to have had such an opportunity come my way” according to Erick Dol-saint. Malik Jackson stated that “Study Abroad New Zealand and Australia was an amazing experience to say the least. The culture of both places was so vibrant. As a science major, I was able to deeply appreciate the Great Barrier Reef.” Hopefully, students will continue to participate in international education experiences as these as they move to become global students.



Additionally in Sydney, students visited Olympic Park where the 2000 Olympics was held, toured the Australian Federal Reserve, and toured the famous Sydney Tower, a familiar and recognizable site in the Sydney skyline. The Sydney Tower, at 1063ft, is the tallest building in Sydney and the second tallest building south of the Equator. After leaving Sydney, students flew to Cairns, Australia (FNQ---Far North Queensland).



Cairns is considered to be a part of Australia’s outback country where there are vicious crocodile and venomous creatures. In Cairns, students were able to visit and experience Cairns Night Market and the famous Great Barrier Reef. At the Great Barrier Reef, the students were afforded the opportunity to explore this great wonder in the

INTERNSHIPS

Internships have proven time and time again to be a student's best friend during and especially after college. Some of the Honors Program students participated in internships this past summer:

Jina Pierre, Marquise McGriff, and Laila Muhammad-El.

LAILA MUHAMMAD-EL

This past summer Laila Muhammad-El had the extreme pleasure of interning at the Orange Bowl Committee through the Barbara Jordan SYII program. The SYII program was started by the District I (Miami Gardens) commissioner, Barbara Jordan.

Muhammad-El was hired by the CFO of the Orange Bowl Committee to be his assistant for the upcoming Orange Bowl set to take place in December 2014. Her duties included expediting contracts, logging in tax forms, ordering office supplies, organizing the incoming and outgoing contracts, and assisting with daily operations.

"I was able to network with many people in my field of accounting and gain experience

in a modern, corporate office" according to Muhammad-El. Overall, she loved the experience and learned what it takes to flourish in a fast-paced corporate arena.

JINA PIERRE

This summer, Jina Pierre interned in the great city of Opa-Locka. She was an intern for the city manager of Opa-Locka, Kelvin L. Baker Sr. Her job consisted of researching different grants for various departments such as the police department, parks and recreation, and public works. Although her job description entailed grant research, she was able to work with other departments and become a part of various projects. Pierre says that "I am appreciative for the opportunity to work with diverse people in a field where I can make a difference."

MARQUISE MCGRIFF

This past August, Marquise McGriff, a new Honors

freshman, completed a second summer interning with Breakthrough Collaborative. Breakthrough is a dynamic organization where high school and college students from across the globe have the opportunity to intern for a summer teaching high-potential and exceptional-performing middle school students from low socio-economic communities. For the past two summers, McGriff has participated in an internship as a 6th grade English teacher with Breakthrough Miami at their Ransom Everglades Middle School site. "This internship is truly rewarding, and I look forward to my next four summers" remarked McGriff.



HONORS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE ESCAPE TO MIAMI TRIATHLON

In the Honors Program is a sense of duty for individual and group involvement in volunteer service and community outreach. The Honors Program provides opportunities for students to participate in service-learning activities and introduces and exposes students to in-depth community service. It is impressed upon Honors members that community service is not about how many projects are done but rather about being a good member of our society, helping the fellow man, and finding satisfaction in assisting those people who are less fortunate than we are.

The first community service project that the Honors Council participated in for the fall 2014 semester was "The Escape to Miami Triathlon" on September 28, 2014. Sixteen students from FMU Honors Program arose early that Sunday morning around 4am to assist with the set up for that event in downtown Miami. Over 1700 athletes participate each year. And this year, FMU Honors Program students assisted the athletes in passing out water at the water stations, cheering the athletes

on at the finishing line, assisting the athletes completing the swimming portion of the triathlon, providing direction along the triathlon path, and other duties. Terri Upson, a sophomore Bio/Nursing major in the Honors Program, stated "My experience at the Escape to Miami Volunteer event was one of the best experiences I've had with Florida Memorial University Honors Program. The contestants that I met were from all walks of life, and they were extremely ambitious. I was so amazed by the determination I saw on each contestant's face." The Escape to Miami Triathlon is supported by Mack Cycles which shares a passion for triathlons, endurance events, and encouraging people to live a healthy way of life.



MIAMI MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN

On October 18, 2014, a group of FMU's honors program students volunteered at Miami Dade College's SEED Food and Wine Sponsorship Event. The Event was hosted at MDC's Museum of Art and Design. The event coupled showcasing local artwork while also exposing the guests to healthy and exciting vegetarian options prepared by renowned chefs. The students helped set up the event and guarded the art work. Some of the students that participated included, Lisa-Gay Davis, Jada York, and Janique Miller. The students were exposed to the local art culture in Miami and they also got a taste of delicious vegetarian cuisine.





Honors Excursion to Orlando: Universal Studios

Florida Memorial University Honors Program recognizes the need for students to have the opportunity to “de-stress” from classes and relax for fun. Therefore, the Honors Program provided an opportunity for students to travel to Orlando, FL (theme park capitol of the world) and experience Universal Studios (both parks), September 26-27, 2014.

Twenty-four Honors Program students departed on a Friday afternoon headed to Orlando. They arrived at the beautiful Renaissance Orlando Resort-Seaworld to spend a great day and evening enjoying the hotel amenities (incredible pool area; especially the children’s waterslide). Late evening, they all enjoyed dinner at Bahamas Breeze. After dinner, they returned to the hotel to rest for the next day’s adventure at Universal Orlando.

Saturday morning, students arose and after the morning breakfast buffet, headed to Universal Orlando for a fun-filled day at the parks. From Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit to Krustyland’s Simpson Ride on the motion picture side, and from Wizarding World of Harry Potter to The Incredible Hulk Coaster on the thrill-ride side, the students in the Honors Program enjoyed it all.

One thing is for certain, Honors Program students know how to have fun. Interesting side note: some students brought their laptops and books with them to do some school work while they were in the hotel. Amazing! Honors students: always books before fun!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blue Light Special

Sarah Blocker Rm. 221

December 2, 2014

3:00- 5:00 pm



Florida Undergraduate Research Conference

"FURC"

Embry - Riddle Aeronautical University

February 27- 28, 2015

Florida Collegiate Honors Council

"FCHC"

February 20 - 22, 2015

Marriott Miami Hotel

FIU Honors College





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Jina Pierre

Marquise McGriff

Fun Trivia

1. What's the ballet term for a 360 degree turn on one foot?
2. What element begins with the letter K?
3. Name the world's biggest island.

Answers

1. Pirouette
2. Krypton
3. Greenland



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