



## The Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Althea Gibson Endowed Scholarship

Drs. William H. Cosby, Jr. and Camille Olivia Cosby established an endowed scholarship in the name of Althea Gibson, one of Florida A&M University's (FAMU) most famous graduates who attended the university on a tennis and basketball scholarship. The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to students who demonstrate a commitment to studying physical education, recreation and health at FAMU.

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### Althea Gibson



This trailblazing athlete defied long odds to succeed in the 1950s paving the way in tennis for the likes of Arthur Ashe and the Williams Sisters. She became the first African American to win championships at Grand Slam tournaments such as Wimbledon, the French Open and the United States Open in the late 1950s.

Gibson had a scintillating amateur career in spite of segregated offerings earlier in the decade. She won 56 singles and doubles titles during her amateur career in the 1950s, before gaining international and national acclaim for athletic prowess on the professional level in tennis. In the late 1950s, she won 11 major titles including singles titles at the French Open (1956), Wimbledon (1957, 1958) and the U.S. Open (1957, 1958), as well as three straight doubles crowns at the French Open (1956, 1957, 1958).

In addition, Gibson was named the winner of the Associated Press and Babe Zaharis Woman Athlete of the Year awards in 1957-58. In 1962, she became the first African American woman on the Ladies professional Golf Association Tour, competing in 171 tournaments through 1977.

Althea Gibson was a dominant athletic performer at FAMU as both a tennis and basketball player. In fact, she was so outstanding that she overwhelmed her competition in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play. In 1976, she was honored by Florida A&M University with induction into its Sports Hall of Fame. She was the only female in that inaugural class.



***Althea Gibson – was the rarest of jewels who will forever be regarded as a FAMU treasure.***

**Florida A&M University  
College of Education  
Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation**

**Application for Scholarship**

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**General Information**

1. Scholarship recipients will be selected annually by the HPER scholarship committee, after review of application material. Academic records and letters of recommendation, academic standing, commitment to the academic program and other specified criteria will be considered.
2. Awards may be made to high school graduates, transfer junior college students and students currently enrolled at FAMU as described in the scholarship criteria. Consideration will be given to students with outstanding credentials.
3. Students must submit an application and all required information by June 1.
4. The award is intended to be used during the traditional academic year (fall and spring), and for academic purposes such as tuition, fees and books.
5. Students must submit a transcript from all schools (*high school graduate*) and colleges/universities.

**Althea Gibson Endowed Scholarship**

- Criteria:**
- GPA 3.5 or above
  - High school or Florida community college academic achiever
  - Commitment to Degree in Physical Education

**Award:** \$1,500 annually

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_\_\_ Cum GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #( *if not currently enrolled at University*): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of HPER Physical Education Majors Club? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please provide a letter signed by the PEPS President and Faculty Advisor.

Are you a current member of a) Florida AHPERD? \_\_\_\_\_ b) AAHPERD? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the campus organization which you have membership.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you held any leadership positions or office in any organization? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please list those offices and organizations and include dates: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following items must be submitted with this application:**

- An official copies of your school or college transcripts
- A letter of recommendation from each - Dept. Chairperson, current instructor, and academic advisor.
- Personal statement regarding current and future HPER issues.
- Statement of your Philosophy of Education
- A current resume

**Please submit Application to:**

Chairperson  
Department of Health, Physical  
Education & Recreation  
Florida A&M University  
206 Gaither Office Complex  
Tallahassee, Florida 32307  
Phone: (850) 599-3135