

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
2:30 p.m.
FAMU Grand Ballroom

Committee Members: Belvin Perry, Jr., Chair - Kristin Harper, Kelvin Lawson, Kenward Stone

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|
| I. | Call to Order | Chair Perry |
| II. | Roll Call | Mr. Nick Dulcio |

ACTION ITEMS

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| III. | Approval of Minutes
A. February 15, 2023, DSO Committee Meeting | Chair Perry |
| IV. | Approval of DSO Budgets: FY 2023-2024
A. FAMU Foundation, Inc.
B. FAMU Rattler Boosters | Dr. Friday-Stroud |
| V. | Consideration of Approval of DSO Board Members
FAMU Rattler Boosters | Dr. Friday-Stroud |
| VI. | Consideration of Approval of DSO Board Members
FAMU Foundation, Inc.
A. Re-Elected to the Board (Term Expiration: December 31, 2023) | Dr. Friday-Stroud |
| VII. | Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items:
A. Investment Policy Statement Asset Allocation
Targets and Benchmarks
B. Foundation Spending Policy Underwater Endowment
Spending Limit
C. Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments | Dr. Friday-Stroud |
| VIII. | Approval of FAMU Naming Committee Action Items:
A. Veronica Wiggins Softball Field
B. George "Godfather" Thompson Locker Room
C. Kenneth Riley Football Field at Bragg Memorial Stadium | Dr. Friday-Stroud |

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| IX. | Update on Divisional Activities
A. FY 2022-2023 University Advancement Updates
B. DSO Updates
1. FAMU Foundation, Inc.
2. FAMU National Alumni Association
3. FAMU Rattler Boosters | Dr. Friday-Stroud |
| X. | New Business | Chair Perry |
| XI. | Adjournment | Chair Perry |

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item III.

Subject: Consideration of the Approval of Minutes

Proposed Board Action: Approval of the Minutes

Rationale: In accordance with the Florida Statutes, a governmental body shall prepare and keep minutes or make a tape recording of each open meeting of the body.

Recommendation: Approve the DSO Committee Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2023.

Attachment: Yes

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee Minutes
Trustee Kenward Stone, Presiding
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Trustee Kenward Stone called the meeting to order. Trustees Kristin Harper and Kelvin Lawson were present. A quorum was established. One (1) action item and several informational items were presented to the DSO Committee.

Approval of December 7, 2022, DSO Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Lawson motioned for approval; seconded by Trustee Harper. The motion passed, unanimously.

Update on Requested Items from Trustees | Marching '100' Updates
Annual Cost Projections (2023-2024)

List of Contracts with band travel included

Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud presented to the Committee an update on the cost projections for the Marching '100'.

- Annual Cost Projections (2023-2024) - \$450,000 total
 1. ~\$100,000 – USF (additional needed over contracted amount)
 2. ~\$175,000 – Southern University
 3. ~\$175,000 – Florida Classic

- List of Contracts with band travel included:
 1. Orange Blossom Classic (OBC) – paid for by OBC
 2. Florida Classic - ~\$175,000

The Trustees discussed the cost projections for band travel, citing the need to negotiate inclusion of band travel expenses in football contracts and to seek support from consumer-based companies (e.g., Nike) that can partner with the Marching '100' to sponsor band travel by leveraging branding opportunities.

Dr. Friday-Stroud informed the Committee that there were 313 individuals (students and staff) included when the band travels. Ms. Nichole Murry, Director of University Budgets, reminded the Committee that a sub-committee was formed to include band travel expenses in future football game contracts. The members of the sub-committee are Dir. Murry, Dr. Friday-Stroud, COO Edington, Director of University Bands, Dr. Shelby Chipman; Mr. Darryl Baker, Assistant Director; Dr. Valencia Matthews, Dean; and Mr. Lindsey Sargeant, Department Chair.

Trustee Harper asked if there was increased revenue from games that the band did attend? President Robinson responded that revenues from games are decreased when the band does not perform at games. He stated that the year the band was suspended, revenues were profoundly impacted.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that there needs to be a stronger level of coordination between Athletics and the band in order to align financial plans for football games and to allocate funding sources early for band travel.

Update on Requested Items from Trustees | SUS Direct Support Organizations

Update on Executive Directors serving as board members

Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud stated that the Committee requested that she research to determine if other State University System (SUS) Institutions VP/Executive Directors served on their institutions Foundation Board, since the Board of Trustees had approved amending BOT Policy 2018-01 - FAMU Direct Support Organizations to include language that prohibits DSO Executive Directors serving as members of their respective boards at their December 2022 meeting.

Dr. Friday-Stroud stated that FSU is the only member of the SUS with the Executive Director serving as a board member.

Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D., provided updates on Divisional Activities

A. FY 2022-23 University Advancement

1. Update on Advancement Readiness Assessment

- i. Scheduling and conducting interviews with identified stakeholders
- ii. Collecting relevant documents
- iii. Working on Case Summary
 1. Dr. Friday-Stroud will forward the case summary to President Robinson and COO Edington for review.

- FY 2022-2023 Fundraising Progress as of February 1, 2023:
 - Raised over \$20.62M (137% of \$15M Goal)
 - New Cash - \$13.87M (67.3% of Total & 92.5% of \$15M Goal)
 - Pledges & Planned Gifts
 - Current - \$6.74M (32.7% of Total & 44.9% of \$15M Goal)
- The 10-Year Fundraising Overview emphasized that double-digit fundraising was the consistent goal that the division wants to reach.

B. DSO Updates

1. FAMU Foundation, Inc.

- FAMU Foundation Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting will be held on June 1-3, 2023, in Schaumburg, IL., in conjunction with the FAMU NAA Convention.
- Investment Value - \$145,211,670 as of December 31, 2022, compared to \$137,399,888 as of September 30, 2022
- Endowment Value - \$108,975,752 as of December 31, 2022, compared to \$102,120,327 as of September 30, 2022

2. FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA)

- Rattler Alumni in Southern California and Trustee Otis Cliatt received President Robinson and our team of administrators, recruiters, Ms. FAMU, SGA, and AD Tiffani Sykes last month. The team participated in the nation's largest HCBU Recruitment event in the country at the Los Angeles Convention Center with nearly 15,000 students in attendance. Alumni Drs. Bernard and Shirley Kinsey hosted a welcome reception at the legendary SO Fi Stadium where more than 1M people have toured the new home of the Kinsey Exhibition.
- Our very own Kimberly Godwin, President of ABC News, and other esteemed NYC-area alumni hosted a welcome dinner in historic Harlem for AD Sykes the evening before the big HBCU indoor track and field showcase hosted by Nike.
- President Robinson and AD Sykes and other key administrators are on program at the FAMU NAA Florida Region Conference later this month in Jacksonville.

3. FAMU Rattler Boosters

- The Life Memberships are approaching 200. Three of our newest members are Trustees Reed, DuBose and Cliatt.
- Rattler Boosters received a \$8,000 gift from SMA (R) Gene and Dr. Wilhemina McKinney for the Football Nutrition program in honor of their son Zuberi.
- Rattler Boosters are in the process of raising \$15,000 for the cooling station again this year since none of our athletes suffered from heat-related exhaustion last year.
- Preliminary plans have begun for the Fall Kickoff Fan fest for the Volleyball and Football teams.
- In February, the Boosters Board of Directors will be adding new Board members to fill current vacancies.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item IV. A.

- Subject:** **Consideration of Approval DSO Budgets: FY 2023-2024**
A. FAMU Foundation, Inc.
- Proposed Board Action:** Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the DSO Budget for the FAMU Foundation, Inc.
- The FY 2023-2024 FAMU Foundation Operating Budget was approved by the FAMU Foundation Board during their Virtual Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2023.
- Rationale:** The DSO Budget is submitted for acceptance in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01.
- The DSO shall submit an annual operating budget, which has been approved by the DSO's governing board and by the President and submitted to the Board for approval. The budget shall be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the first day of the fiscal year for which the budget pertains.*
- Recommendation:** **Approve the FY 2023-2024 FAMU Foundation Operating Budget.**
- Attachment:** Proposed FY 2023-2024 FAMU Foundation Operating Budget

FAMU FOUNDATION, INC
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

	FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget	Difference	2022-2023 Budget
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Operating Revenue	\$3,642,814	\$214,434	\$3,428,380
<i>Endowment Administrative Fees and Operating Fees</i>	\$2,904,814	\$117,434	\$2,787,380
<i>Incoming Gifts Fees [7%, 5% or 3%]</i>	\$355,000	\$80,000	\$275,000
<i>Administrative Fees on Miscellaneous Revenue (7%)</i>	\$77,000	\$17,000	\$60,000
<i>Administrative Fees on Disbursements [\$2.50]</i>	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
<i>Campaign Fee [2%]</i>	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
License Tags Revenue	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000
Rents and Fees 625 East Tennessee Street	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
Contingency Revenue	\$0	(\$550,000)	\$550,000 *
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$4,162,814	(\$335,566)	\$4,498,380
EXPENDITURES			
Foundation Operations			
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$970,000	\$80,000	\$890,000
Contractual Services	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
General Counsel and Legal Services	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
Auditing and Accounting Services	\$55,000	\$0	\$55,000
Foundation Board Support	\$220,000	\$70,000	\$150,000
Travel, Registration, Training and Seminars	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Memberships and Subscriptions	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Insurance	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
Janitorial Services	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Office Security Monitoring	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Office Utilities	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Pest Control	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Grounds Maintenance	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$14,000
Software Maintenance	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
Telephone	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Office Equipment/Furniture	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Materials, Printing & Postage	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
625 E TN Street Renovations	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Bank Fees	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Donor Outreach Support and Other	\$83,775	\$0	\$83,775
Equipment - Van	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Contingency	\$20,091	\$10,934	\$9,157
Transportation Maintenance	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Total Foundation Operations	\$1,937,366	\$174,434	\$1,762,932
Office of University Advancement			
Advancement Operations/Development Support	\$126,000	\$0	\$126,000
Capital Campaign Support	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Fundraising Activities [75% License Tags Revenue]	\$337,500	\$0	\$337,500
Total Office of University Advancement	\$563,500	\$0	\$563,500
University Support			
University President Compensation	\$388,562	\$0	\$388,562
Interim University President Compensation	\$0	\$0	\$0
University President Salary Increase, Bonus & Benefits	\$80,000	\$10,000	\$70,000
Office of the President	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
University Auxiliary Support	\$298,485	\$0	\$298,485
Board of Trustees Assessment	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
Board of Governors Assessment	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000
Legislative Advocacy	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
License Tags Scholarships [25% License Tags Revenue]	\$112,500	\$0	\$112,500
Athletics Salary Support	\$134,000	\$30,000	\$104,000
Athletics Scholarships Support/General	\$0	(\$350,000)	\$350,000 *
University Executive Support	\$336,401	\$0	\$336,401
University Support	\$100,000	(\$200,000)	\$300,000 *
Total University Support	\$1,661,948	(\$510,000)	\$2,171,948
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,162,814	(\$335,566)	\$4,498,380
REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$0

* Approved at the Orlando Board Meeting 11/19/22. \$350,000 (Athletics Scholarship) \$100,000 (University Support-Band) \$100,000 (University Support-AD Discretionary)

Note: Balance for Contingency Revenue \$100,000.00

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item IV. B.

- Subject:** **Consideration of Approval DSO Budgets: FY 2023-2024**
B. FAMU Rattler Boosters
- Proposed Board Action:** Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the DSO Budget for the FAMU Rattler Boosters.
- The FY 2023-2024 FAMU Rattler Boosters Operating Budget was approved by its leadership.
- Rationale:** The DSO Budget is submitted for acceptance in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01.
- The DSO shall submit an annual operating budget, which has been approved by the DSO's governing board and by the President and submitted to the Board for approval. The budget shall be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the first day of the fiscal year for which the budget pertains.*
- Recommendation:** **Approve the FY 2023-2024 FAMU Rattler Boosters Operating Budget.**
- Attachment:** Proposed FY 2023-2024 FAMU Rattler Boosters Operating Budget

**FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY
RATTLER BOOSTERS, INC.
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL 2023-2024**

Object Code	Category Description				FY 2023-2024 Budget
	Revenue:				
410050	Gifts - Alumni				\$ 15,000.00
410055	Alumni / Chapters				
410100	Individual / Friends				\$ 10,862.00
410110	Corporations				\$ 16,100.00
410115	Foundations				\$ -
410120	Organizations				\$ -
410150	Membership Income				\$ -
421200	Interest Income - Allocations				\$ -
424000	Membership Dues				\$ 24,500.00
425000	Dues Pledges				\$ 23,750.00
427000	Miscellaneous Income				\$ 43,000.00
722000	Transfer from Restricted Fund (Net of Interest Earnings on Life Membership Endowment)				\$ 3,700.00
	Total Revenue				\$ 136,912.00
	Operating Expenses:				
500130	Salaries				
500150	Contract Services				\$ (23,628.00)
500160	Legal & Accounting - (Nateli Chapple)				\$ (2,100.00)
510070	Audit Expenses				\$ (4,500.00)
500195	Administrative Charges - Misc.				
500200	Administrative Charges -Gift Fees				
500220	Travel and Meetings				
500230	Materials and Supplies				\$ (3,177.00)
500260	Entertainment and Dinners				\$ (11,255.00)
500270	Repairs and Maintenance				\$ (815.00)
500310	Insurance				\$ (1,674.00)
500320	Taxes and Licenses (State of FL Annual Report)				\$ (61.00)
500340	Printing				
500370	Rent Expense				\$ (1,642.00)
500380	Advertising				
500400	Computer Equipment/Software				\$ (1,070.00)
500410	Education Training / Seminar				
500440	Bank Service Charge				\$ (410.00)
500900	Miscellaneous Expense				\$ (3,990.00)
722000	Transfer to Life Membership Endowment				\$ (22,742.00)
722000	Transfers to the Athletic Department				\$ (53,119.00)
XXXXX	Contingency				\$ (6,729.00)
	Total Expenses				\$ (136,912.00)
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item V.

Subject: **Consideration of the Approval of DSO Board Members**
FAMU Rattlers Boosters, Inc. Board of Directors

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of Board Members for the FAMU Rattler Boosters Board of Directors.

All of the below names were approved by the Rattler Boosters Board of Directors at their March 14, 2023, Board meeting.

New FAMU Rattler Boosters, Inc. Board of Directors

- 1) Zachary B. Ansley
- 2) Ulysses Glee, Jr.
- 3) Johnny Hankerson Sr.
- 4) Kevin Hicks
- 5) Sandra H. Lamarr
- 6) Leila A. Walker
- 7) Bonita M. Williams

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01, *"Provide that the Board shall approve all appointments, including elected board members, to any DSO board."*

Recommendation: **Approve the above candidates as Directors for the FAMU Rattler Boosters, Inc. Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2026.**

Attachment: Biographical Summaries

- Graduate of FAMU
- Booster Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - Bethel AME Church
 - Florida's Bright Future Advisory Council
 - FAMU NAA Life Member
- Skills and Expertise
 - Mentoring Students
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Raised funds for the Eddie "Bo" Bryant and Zachary Ansley Endowed Scholar Foundation at Florida A&M University
 - Solicited funds for the 220 Quarterback Club initiative to provide AV equipment for the Rattler football team



Mr. Zachary B. Ansley



- Graduate of FAMU
- Booster Life Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - Alfred Street Baptist Church
 - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
 - Masonic Lodge #215
 - Investing in Champions



- Skills and Expertise
 - College Professor
 - Real Estate Developer
 - Lecturing
 - Fundraising
 - Inspiring others to give
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Raised \$12,000 in less than 1 wk for the FAMU Athletic Department
 - Created a \$25,000 scholarship endowment



Dr. Ulysses Glee, Jr.



- Not a FAMU alumnus
- Booster Life Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - Stewart Memorial AME Church
 - 220 Quarterback Club
 - Investing in Champions
 - FAMU NAA Life Member

- Skills and Expertise
 - Mentoring
 - Business Etiquette
 - Inspiring others to give
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Chair, Taylor County United Way of the Big Bend



Mr. Johnny Hankerson, Sr.



- Graduate of FAMU
- Booster Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - Revive Church
 - Charlotte Track Club
 - FAMU Sports Hall of Fame



- Skills and Expertise
 - Computer Science/Software and technology
 - Banking Automation
 - Computers
 - Internet Social Media
 - Manager, Senior Android Engineer
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Comfortable with fundraising efforts



Mr. Kevin Hicks



- Graduate of FAMU
- Booster Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - Executive Director, Henry Atkins Sports Group
 - NFL Alumni Association
 - NFLPA Certified Agent
 - Professional Football Player's Mother's Association

- Skills and Expertise
 - Business
 - Government
 - Computers
 - Executive Management
 - Community Volunteer
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Charitable efforts for Jamaica (native homeland)



Ms. Sandra Henry LaMarr



- Graduate of FAMU
- Booster Life Member
- Current Organizations/Associations
 - National Rattler F Club
 - FAMU National Alumni Association Life Member
 - 220 Quarterback Club
 - Chair, FAMU Archival Committee
 - Leon and Capital City Alumnae Chapters, FAMU NAA



- Skills and Expertise
 - Communication Skills Ph.D. in English
 - Public Relations- produced directories and contact lists of organizations to be used as resources
- Specific Fundraising Efforts
 - Chair, FAMU NAA Fundraising Committee
 - Raised \$10,000 for the Million Dollar Athletics Campaign
 - Fundraiser for the Booster Advisory and Kickoff Luncheon Committees



Dr. Leila A. Walker



- Graduate of FAMU

- Booster Member

- Current

Organizations/Associations

- St. Lucie Catholic Church
- President, St. Lucie County Alumni Chapter of FAMU NAA
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- National Pan-Hellenic Council
- Board Member, FAMU Hall of Fame
- Project Rock South

- Skills and Expertise

- Leadership
- Teaching
- Fundraising
- Public Speaking
- Networking

- Specific Fundraising Efforts

- Assisted St. Lucie FAMU Alumni Chapter in raising \$40,000 for the FAMU NAA Scholarship Campaign
- Assisted the EtaEta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in raising \$60,000 for the Million Dollars in One Day HBCU Campaign



Mrs. Bonita M. Williams



FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item VI. A.

Subject: **Consideration of Approval of DSO Board Members**
FAMU Foundation Board of Directors
A. Re-Elected to the Board (Term Expiration: December 31, 2023)

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of re-elected DSO Board Members for the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors.

At the May 10, 2023, FAMU Foundation Virtual Board Meeting, a total of three (3) Directors were re-elected to the FAMU Foundation Board due to term expirations on December 31, 2023.

Re-Elected to the Board

- 1) Dir. Kenneth M. Neighbors
- 2) Dir. T.J. Rose
- 3) Dir. G. Scott Uzzell

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01, *"Provide that the Board shall approve all appointments, including elected board members, to any DSO board."*

Recommendation: **Approve the re-election of the three (3) Directors listed above to serve another four-year term on the FAMU Foundation Board beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027.**

Attachment: Biographical Summaries

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Proposed Term Renewing Board Members' Biographical Summaries

1) Dir. Kenneth M. Neighbors

- a. Location: Atlanta, GA**
- b. Occupation: Attorney, Partner – McGuireWoods LLP**
- c. Foundation Board Member: 2016-Present**



2) Dir. T.J. Rose

- a. Location: New York City, NY**
- b. Occupation: Investment Management, Partner – Veritas Capital**
- c. Foundation Board Member: 2020-Present**



3) Dir. G. Scott Uzzell

- a. Location: Boston, MA**
- b. Occupation: President & CEO – Converse, Inc.**
- c. Foundation Board Member: 2016-Present**



FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item VII. A.

Subject: **Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items**
A. Consideration of the Approval of the Investment Policy Statement
Asset Allocation Targets and Ranges and Policy Benchmarks

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of the Investment Policy Statement Asset Allocation Targets and Ranges and Policy Benchmarks.

These asset allocation target and ranges and policy benchmarks were approved by the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors at their May 10, 2023, Virtual Board Meeting.

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01, *“Provide that any subsequent amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the organization shall be approved by the President and the Board, prior to becoming effective.”*

Recommendation: **Approve the Investment Policy Statement Asset Allocation Targets and Ranges and Policy Benchmarks.**

Attachment: FAMU Foundation, Inc. Investment Policy Statement –
Proposed Asset Allocation Targets and Ranges and Policy Benchmarks

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
 Board of Trustees
 ACTION ITEM

FAMU Foundation, Inc.

Investment Policy Statement - Proposed Asset Allocation Targets and Ranges and Policy Benchmarks

Asset Class	Target	Minimum	Maximum	Policy Benchmarks
Fixed Income	10%	5%	15%	Bloomberg US Aggregate, Bloomberg Long Term Treasury Index
Global Equities	40%	35%	45%	MSCI ACWI
Private Markets	20%	10%	30%	Cambridge Associates Private Equity Index
Hedge Funds	20%	15%	25%	HFRI Fund of Funds Index
Real Estate	5%	0%	10%	MSCI US REIT Index
Natural Resources	5%	0%	10%	Bloomberg Commodity Index
Cash Equivalents	0%	0%	5%	ICE BofA ML US 3-Month T-Bill

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item VII. B.

Subject: **Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items**
B. Consideration of the Approval of Foundation Spending Policy
Underwater Endowment 10% Spending Limit

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of the Foundation Spending Policy Underwater Endowment 10% Spending Limit.

The Spending Policy Underwater Endowment 10% Spending Limit was approved by the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors at their May 10, 2023, Virtual Board Meeting.

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01, *"Provide that any subsequent amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the organization shall be approved by the President and the Board, prior to becoming effective."*

Recommendation: **Approve the Foundation Spending Policy Underwater Endowment 10% Spending Limit.**

Attachment: Foundation Spending Policy (Redlined Version)

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC.
POLICY ON EXPENDITURES FROM ENDOWED FUNDS
(Spending Policy)

Adopted: April 25, 2014

I. Purpose of Policy

This is the *Policy on Expenditures from Endowed Funds* of the Florida A&M University Foundation, Inc. The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedure by which the Foundation will decide to annually allocate for expenditure amounts from endowed funds for the purposes for which the funds were established and for administrative costs related to investment and administration of the endowed funds.

II. Policy

The Foundation is committed to administering and investing endowed funds in compliance with all relevant Foundation by-laws, organizational concerns, industry standards, and federal and state laws and regulations, including without limitation the Florida Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA). No policy will supersede any provision of federal or state law or regulation.

The Foundation shall periodically review the application to endowed funds of its spending allocation and administrative fee described below, and shall make a determination that such application is prudent. In making a determination to expend such amounts from endowed funds, the Foundation shall act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances and shall consider the following factors:

- a) The duration and preservation of endowed funds;
- b) The purposes of the Foundation and endowed funds;
- c) General economic conditions;
- d) The possible effect of inflation or deflation;
- e) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- f) Other resources of the Foundation; and
- g) The investment policy of the Foundation.

The Foundation has a duty under UPMIFA to maintain the long term purchasing power of each endowed fund and, in accordance with that duty, will record the historic dollar value of each endowed fund as a benchmark by which to measure each fund's performance relative to preservation of long term purchasing power. The Foundation shall also institute such procedures as are reasonably calculated to identify any individual endowed fund, the long-term purchasing power of which has the potential to be significantly impaired by continued application of this policy, and present a strategy for remedying such impairment to the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

~~The Foundation may decide to spend from endowed funds, even to the extent of expending a portion of the fund which constitutes historic dollar value, in accordance its~~

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expenditure policies; provided, such spending is part of a purposeful, prudent and documented strategy to maintain the long term purchasing power of such funds.

The Foundation will in good faith make information available to donors and potential donors concerning its expenditure policies.

The Foundation is aware that despite utilizing a well diversified investment portfolio strategy and the best good faith efforts of its Board members there will be times when the fair market value of an endowment may fall below the endowment corpus value creating underwater endowments. In the event a fund falls underwater by 10%, the Foundation will reinvest the spending allocation back to net return and the fund will not receive a spending distribution or be charged any fees.

III. Calculation Method

Transfers from endowed funds for the spending allocation and the administrative fee shall be calculated as described below. Such transfers may be made regardless of whether an endowed fund has sufficient current period and/or accumulated net investment returns to support such allocation, unless a determination has been made pursuant to Section II above to limit or withhold such payments with respect to a particular fund.

a) Spending Allocation

The amount allocated for spending will equal 3.0% of the rolling prior 12-quarter average market value of the pooled investment portfolio. The average market value calculation will commence with December 31st of the year immediately prior to the fiscal year in which spending will occur. To assist budget planning, endowed fund beneficiaries will be informed of their spending allocation for the upcoming fiscal year by the end of March directly preceding the fiscal year in which spending will occur. The spending allocation will be recorded in the endowed fund spending account in full at the start of each fiscal year.

b) Administrative Fee

The amount of funds allocated for expenditure for Foundation administrative expenses will equal one and one-half percent (1.5%) of average market value calculated as described in III. (a) above. The full endowment administrative fee will be recorded in the Foundation's operating fund in full at the start of each fiscal year.

Description	Rate
Spending Allocation	3.0%
Administrative Fee	1.5%
Total	4.5%

IV. Exceptions

The spending allocation and administrative fee will not be calculated as set forth above for endowed funds underwater by 10% or established pursuant to a gift instrument that specifies a different spending method or does not permit the assessment of such fees.

All other exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Foundation Executive Director where there is substantial potential for developing a long-term funding relationship with the donor and the gift's designated use is compatible with the Foundation's priorities.

V. Applicability

This Policy applies to all endowed funds administered, held, and invested at or by the Foundation.

VI. Enforcement and Interpretation

It is the responsibility of all employees to uphold this policy. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, termination of employment. Questions regarding interpretation of this policy should be directed to the Foundation's Executive Director or Managing Director/CFO.

VII. Effective Date

This policy is effective for expenditures from endowed funds commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and replaces and supersedes any preceding policy concerning this subject matter. This policy and its application shall be monitored by the Finance and Investment Committees of the Foundation Board of Directors, which shall make to the Board of Directors any necessary recommendations with respect to amendments to this policy.

VIII. Approval Date

This policy was approved by the FAMU Foundation, Inc. on April 25, 2014.

IV. Amendments

Amended on November 19, 2016.

Amended on August 28, 2014.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item VII. C.

Subject: **Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items**
C. Consideration of the Approval of Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of the Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments.

The Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments were approved by the FAMU Foundation Board of Directors at their May 10, 2023, Virtual Board Meeting.

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2018-01, *"Provide that any subsequent amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the organization shall be approved by the President and the Board, prior to becoming effective."*

Recommendation: **Approve the Foundation Bylaws Recommended Amendments.**

Attachment: Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to Foundation Bylaws



Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to the Foundation Bylaws

June 7, 2023 | DSO Committee Meeting

"Suggested Changes"

1) Article I, Section #1 - Mission

Suggested Change: Adding below language to Foundation Bylaws.

The mission of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Foundation, Inc. is to assist the University in achieving its mission by raising and stewarding contributions through exceptional management, investment, and administration of assets received.

2) Article I, Section #2 – Defined Terms

Suggested Change: Adding below language to Foundation Bylaws.

Capitalized terms used in these Bylaws shall have the meanings ascribed to them in that or as defined below.

Definitions

1. "Advancement" means the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Office for Advancement. When Advancement employees are authorized by these Bylaws or the Executive Board to act for the Foundation, they are acting within the scope of their University employment as an agent of the Foundation.
2. "Board of Trustees" or "BOT" means the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees.
3. "Directors" means Elected Directors and Ex-officio Directors of the Executive Board.
4. "Elected Directors" are those directors confirmed by the University President and elected by the Executive Board.
5. "Ex-officio Directors" means the Directors listed in Article II, Section 3.
6. "For cause" means actions or omissions that may adversely reflect on the interests or reputation of the Foundation or the University, as determined by the University President after consulting with the Executive Board or its authorized designee acting as a senior executive of the Foundation. Any such determination may be made by the University President at any time and need not depend on the conclusion of any external determination or process.



Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to the Foundation Bylaws

June 7, 2023 | DSO Committee Meeting

"Suggested Changes"

7. "Foundation" means the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Foundation, Inc.
8. "Officers" means the Foundation Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
9. "Unacceptable performance" means a persistent failure to fulfill duties of the position to high standards and in a manner that serves the best interests of the Foundation and the University, as determined by the University President after consulting with the Executive Board or its authorized designee acting as a senior executive of the Foundation.
10. "University" means Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.
11. "University President" or "President" means the President of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

"Vacancy" means and shall be deemed to occur upon the incapacity, death, resignation, or removal of the incumbent of an Executive Board or Officer position. Incapacity (which includes abandonment) shall be deemed to occur when, for any reason and regardless of intent, the incumbent does not or cannot fulfill the material duties of the position for 30 consecutive days or 45 days total in any six-month period, unless the Executive Board resolves not to treat such circumstances as a vacancy. Incapacity shall also occur upon the incumbent's acknowledgement in writing that he or she intends not to perform, or is or will be unable to perform, the material duties of the position for at least either of such period of days, unless Executive Board resolves not to treat such circumstances as a vacancy. The Vice President for University Advancement/Executive Director shall notify all Executive Board members upon the occurrence of a vacancy and shall specify the cause. If questioned, the Executive Board's determination, made at a special or regular meeting held for that purpose within 14 days after the Vice President for University Advancement/Executive Director's notice, shall be binding. The substantive provisions in this definition of vacancy are incorporated in these Bylaws wherever a vacancy is addressed.

3) Article I, Section #3 – Office Location

Suggested Change: Adding below language to Foundation Bylaws.

The principal office location of the Foundation will be located in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to the Foundation Bylaws

June 7, 2023 | DSO Committee Meeting

"Suggested Changes"

4) Article I, Section #6 – Conflict of Interest Policy

Suggested Change: Remove this section from the Foundation Bylaws and add it to the Foundation Policy Manual.

Generally, conflicts arise when a Board member or Foundation Officer has an existing or potential financial or other interest which impairs, or might appear to impair, his/her independence or objectivity in serving the Foundation or the member or officer might derive, or appear to derive, a financial or other material benefit from confidential information learned in the course of his / her board service.

Disclosure is required, and abstention or recusal may be necessary, whenever a member or Officer or a related party (as described below) engages in the following activity:

1. has a material interest in any transaction or any proposed transaction to which the University or Foundation was or is to be a party, or serves as a director, officer, trustee, partner, employer, or employee of any person or entity having a material interest in an actual or proposed transaction with the University or the Foundation, or
2. serves as a director, officer, trustee, partner, employer, or employee of any person or entity that competes directly with the University or the Foundation, holds more than 5% of the stock or equity of any such organization, or has received substantial compensation, gifts, or services from any such organization or person.

For purposes of Paragraphs 1 and 2 above, a related party shall be defined as: one's spouse, domestic partner, ancestors, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings (whether by whole or half-blood), or the spouses of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, or siblings.



Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to the Foundation Bylaws

June 7, 2023 | DSO Committee Meeting

5) **Article I, Section #7 – Whistleblower Policy**

Suggested Change: Remove this section from the Foundation Bylaws and add it to the Foundation Policy Manual.

The Foundation strives to maintain the highest level of stewardship. Directors and employees are expected to observe the applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and are herein advised that fraudulent and other wrongful acts will not be tolerated. In accordance with this goal the Foundation subscribes to all applicable University and State of Florida policies regarding the protection of whistleblowers. If any employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of the Foundation is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that employee *immediately* with the Executive Director, unless the violation involves the Executive Director, the University's Division of Audit, or the Compliance Office. It is the intent of Foundation to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the Organization and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the Organization's goal of legal compliance. The support of all Board members and employees is necessary to achieving compliance with various laws and regulations. An employee or Board member acting in good faith and with a reasonable belief is protected from retaliation in accordance with applicable law. The protection described below is available to employees or members who comply with this requirement.

The Foundation will not retaliate against an employee or member who in good faith has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of the Foundation, Director, or of another individual or entity with whom the Foundation has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy. The Foundation will not retaliate against persons who disclose or threaten to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of the Foundation or a member thereof that the person reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy concerning the health, safety, welfare, of the Foundation or the University.

Each member should manifest a commitment to accountability and transparency and should exemplify the behavior he/she expects of other participants in the governance process. As a corporate, policy-making body, Board members must ensure Board policies and practices are current and that the Board speaks with one voice.



Comparison Chart of Suggested Changes to the Foundation Bylaws

June 7, 2023 | DSO Committee Meeting

6) Article II, Section #10 – Removal of a Member

Suggested Change: Removing Old Language and included new/suggested Language within the Foundation Bylaws.

Old Language: ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IV, Section 1(f) of these Bylaws, an elected director may be removed, with cause, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors by reason of the following:~~

New/Suggested Language: An Elected Director may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present and voting, whenever in the Board's judgment the interests of the Foundation would be best served. Examples of a reason an elected director may be removed include, but is not limited to, the following:

7) Article II, Section #10, Sub-Section A – Removal of a Member

Suggested Change: Revising below language within the Foundation Bylaws.

- (a) refusal or failure to fulfill his or her annual financial responsibility to the Foundation, as promulgated from time to time in the Foundation's Policy and Procedures, ~~not later than March 31st in advance of the annual Spring meeting of the Foundation~~ from January 31st thru December 31st.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
ACTION ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Agenda Item VIII. A. B. C.

Subject: **Approval of FAMU Foundation Board Action Items**
Consideration of the Approval of the FAMU Naming Committee
Honorary Naming Recommendations.

Proposed Board Action: Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the FAMU Foundation, will present the consideration of approval of the FAMU Naming Committee Honorary Naming Recommendations.

The FAMU Naming Committee Honorary Naming Recommendations were approved by the FAMU Naming Committee at their May 15, 2023, Committee Meeting.

Honorary Naming Recommendations

- 1) Veronica Wiggins Softball Field
- 2) George "Godfather" Thompson Locker Room
- 3) Kenneth Riley Football Field at Bragg Memorial Stadium

Rationale: This action item is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy Number 2008-05, *"The naming of any Facility or Program requires the recommendation of the President of the University and the approval of the Board of Trustees as a noticed, non-consent agenda item at a meeting of the Board of Trustees."*

Recommendation: **Approve the FAMU Naming Committee Honorary Naming Recommendations.**

Attachment: Honorary Naming Recommendation Packets.

Veronica Wiggins Softball Field
Honorary Naming Recommendation Packet



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Tallahassee, Florida 32307-6400

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3868

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

May 2, 2023

President Robinson,

I am officially recommending that the FAMU softball field be named after FAMU alumna and former head softball coach, Veronica Wiggins '90. Wiggins began her career as FAMU's head coach in 1990 and spent 30 years leading the Rattlers. During this time, she amassed over 700 collegiate wins and won 13 MEAC Championships. In 2017, she became the first softball coach to record 700 wins at an HBCU. Her teams made 11 NCAA Tournament appearances.

Three of her student-athletes (Amber Alford, Danielle Brown and Kimberly Browning) were inducted into the MEAC Hall of Fame.

The alumna was named MEAC Coach of the Year five times and was named Outstanding MEAC Tournament Coach thirteen times. She was inducted into the FAMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006 and the MEAC Hall of Fame in 2022.

She continues to mentor young coaches in various sports at FAMU and in the greater softball community.

Wiggins earned both her B.S. and M.S. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from FAMU in 1990 and 1991, respectively.

She has made an indelible impact on FAMU, the City of Tallahassee, and the softball community. I wholeheartedly believe that an honorary naming of this facility is the appropriate recognition for her widespread impact and accomplishments.

I have included supporting documentation for your perusal. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes

Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics



FLORIDA A&M RATTLEERS

March 24, 2023

To Whom it may concern,

Coach Wiggins was not only the greatest Softball Coach in FAMU history, but is a friend to all. When she speaks people listen. While attending FAMU as a student athlete I often turned to her for guidance when my Coach wasn't around. She had an impact on so many students over the years. Whenever you sit down and talk to her about her journey she never talks about the more than 700 victories or the 13 Championships. She will tell you about her former players that are Doctors, Lawyers, entrepreneurs and teachers. Those are the stories she likes to talk about because that's what is most important to her. The FAMU Softball Field should no doubt be named after the greatest Softball Coach in History, Coach Veronica Wiggins!!!

Mike Rice
FAMU Head Men's Golf Coach

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Rice", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32307-3100

DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3868

FAX: (850) 599-3810

3/22/2023

To whom it may concern,

It goes without saying that Veronica Dottery-Wiggins former head softball coach of Florida A&M University (FAMU) from 1993-2020 bleeds orange and green. Whether you choose to recognize her legendary tenure at FAMU with the accumulation of wins and championships cementing her as the winningest coach in HBCU softball history. Or her countless hours in efforts she has committed given back to the community. Or her commitment to moving her players forward to become future professionals and contributors to a better society. Coach Wiggins has impacted so many in positive ways over the years serving in the role as a mentor, counselor, and moral compass for many including myself. I believe it would be the ultimate display of appreciation and gratitude (a sentiment shared by current and former colleagues) naming the FAMU softball field after coach Veronica Dottery-Wiggins with a plaque highlighting her illustrious career.

Rochelle "Nikki" Houston
Director of Tennis
Florida A&M University



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32307-3100

DEPARTMENT OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3868

FAX: (850) 599-3810

Camise Patterson
Head Softball Coach
Florida A&M University
1835 Wahnish Way, LSB RM 108
Tallahassee, FL 32307
March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is time to give Coach Veronica Wiggins the flowers she is due by naming the softball field after her. Coach Wiggins' heart and soul has been poured into the softball program, Florida A&M University and the Tallahassee community since she became the head coach in 1990. It is hard to meet a Rattler or Tallahassee resident who has not been positively impacted by the legendary Coach Wiggins. The best way we can honor this wonderful Hall of Famer is by making sure this renaming of the field happens in a timely manner.

As the most winning HBCU coach (across all sports) Coach spent her entire 30-year head coaching career at FAMU and it is time to make sure her legacy is forever remembered. Her passion lead the Lady Rattlers to a 281-90 overall MEAC record, as well as more than 700 career wins. When Coach Wiggins had the opportunity to go to bigger schools she chose to stay because to her this was more than a coaching job. While it is impossible to know just how many lives she has changed one thing is for certain, Coach Veronica Wiggins is the true embodiment of all things FAMU, and that needs to be honored.

I am honored to be the Head Coach of this great university, but even more honored that I can help make sure a legacy lives forever.

Sincerely,
Camise Patterson
Head Softball Coach, Florida A & M University

After 30 years as head coach, Wiggins to retire

February 20, 2020 10:11 pm by [Tracey Belizaire](#) | Staff writer



Veronica Wiggins has been FAMU's head softball coach since 1990. Photo courtesy FAMU athletics

With years of experience and a passion for Florida A&M University, longtime head softball coach Veronica Wiggins recently announced her retirement after this year's season.

Wiggins was born and raised in Miami. Growing up, she was the oldest daughter of nine and had responsibilities that everyday teenagers wouldn't care to think about.

"I was the oldest girl. My job was to take care of the family," Wiggins said.

Playing softball was Wiggins' escape from having to grow up at a young age. It was where she could be a kid.

"Softball was my outlet; that was the way I was able to express myself on the field from being put to being an adult at a young age," Wiggins said. "It was like a place where I was able to be a kid and I fell in love with it."

Wiggins believes that her obligations at home equipped her for the job she has held at FAMU since 1990.

“It taught me how to understand, be patient and nurture,” Wiggins said.

It specifically taught her how to “work with different personalities.”

Assistant softball coach Constance Orr spoke on her personal growth while working alongside Wiggins and Wiggins’ role in instilling qualities in her life and their players’ lives.

“...just to see that there’s more than softball and these girls are here for loving, nurturing environment for people to support them and Coach Wiggins is their biggest supporter,” Orr said.

Wiggins said her oldest brother, Willie Whiting, helped develop her love for softball. Whiting played baseball and always supported her desire to play softball.

“He knew the game, he was knowledgeable and he played the game well,” Wiggins said.

When Wiggins first got to FAMU she started out as a volunteer. As she continued to make her way up she knew that she wanted to be involved and make an impact within the program.

Wiggins earned two degrees at FAMU, earned a bachelor’s in health, physical education and recreation and in 1991 a master’s in health, physical education and recreation.

Throughout Wiggins’ career at FAMU she became the first HBCU coach to win more than 700 games, 12 conference championships and earn nine NCAA appearances. Inducted into the FAMU Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, she has won the MEAC Outstanding Tournament Coach Award eight times, and is a four-time MEAC Coach of the Year (1993, 1997, 1998, 2006). Wiggins was also able to contribute to FAMU’s switch to fast-pitch in 1984 as a member of the staff.

“I would recruit slow-pitch players and I would bring them here. We grew and we were determined to change it and we did,” Wiggins said.

Alongside her countless accolades her greatest accomplishment was the impact she’s made in the lives of her players.

“The greatest one is the kids that graduate and go on to having their own families,” Wiggins said as she scanned the wall of pictures of former students and their children on her office wall. “Seeing how they go out and move mountains, and they do,” she said.

Senior occupational therapy student Jamesia Stoudemire is a co-captain with FAMU’s softball team. Stoudemire works closely with Wiggins and appreciates the part Wiggins plays in her life.

“She’s shaped every aspect of my life. Taking the role under her brought so much out of me which helps me bring more out of my team,” Stoudemire said.

As Wiggins reflects on her journey at FAMU she is humble and grateful to be part of something as meaningful and significant as coaching one of the sports that changed her life.

“FAMU has given me everything. I couldn’t have been at a better place,” Wiggins said.

Once the season is over Wiggins plans on going on mission trips to different countries and serving her community as she has always done.

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Veronica Wiggins to be inducted into MEAC's 2022 Hall of Fame class



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By: FAMU Athletics

Posted at 4:32 PM, Jan 13, 2022 and last updated 4:32 PM, Jan 13, 2022

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (famuathletics.com) — Florida A&M softball's Veronica Wiggins is one of five members to be inducted into the 2022 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Hall of Fame.

"We are elated that the MEAC has recognized the contributions of this icon," said vice president and director of athletics Kortne Gosha. "We salute and celebrate Coach for her legacy and lives she impacted for many years."

Florida A&M softball was dominant in the MEAC, and that dominance can be credited to the leadership of Veronica Wiggins. Wiggins stellar coaching career is highlighted with 13 MEAC Championships, 11 NCAA Tournament appearances, five MEAC Coach of the Year awards, and 726 total wins.

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13 MEAC championships (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

11 NCAA Tournament appearances (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

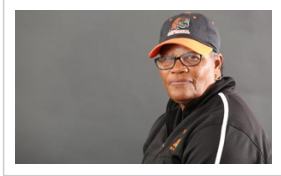
MEAC Coach of the Year (1993, 1997, 1998, 2006, 2017)

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Hall of Fame

Wiggins, Veronica



VERONICA WIGGINS

CLASS:

INDUCTION: 2022

SPORT(S): Softball, 2022 Inductees

Serving as softball coach at Florida A&M from 1990-2020, Wiggins won more than 700 games in her illustrious career – including a sterling 281-90 mark in MEAC play. Wiggins’ teams won 13 MEAC championships (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) and made 11 NCAA Tournament appearances (1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2016, 2017). Wiggins was named MEAC Coach of the Year five times – in 1993, 1997, 1998, 2006 and 2017 – and she was inducted into the Florida A&M Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.



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MEAC Title IX 50th Anniversary: Veronica Wiggins

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[MEAC Title IX 50th Anniversary Page](#)

Veronica Wiggins is the most successful softball coach in the history of the sport in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), and her resume makes her one of the most accomplished coaches in the sport anywhere in the nation.

A 2022 inductee into the MEAC Hall of Fame, Wiggins served as head softball coach at Florida A&M from 1990 through 2020. She won more than 700 games in her illustrious career -- including a stellar 281-90 mark in conference play. Wiggins' teams won a startling 13 MEAC championships (1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) and made 11 appearances in the NCAA Softball Championship.

A five-time MEAC Coach of the Year (1993, 1997, 1998, 2006, 2007), Wiggins was inducted into the Florida A&M Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

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Tallahassee Democrat.

FAMU

FAMU softball head coach Veronica Wiggins to retire at the end of the season



Rory Sharrock

Tallahassee Democrat

Published 3:03 p.m. ET Feb. 10, 2020 | Updated 3:27 p.m. ET Feb. 10, 2020

Veronica Wiggins has enjoyed several memorable moments throughout her career as the softball head coach at Florida A&M.

While each season has its identifiable highlights, 2020 will stand alone as one for the ages. This year marks the final run for the FAMU Sports Hall of Famer as she'll retire from coaching this spring. FAMU confirmed this announcement on Monday.

Wiggins has been the face of FAMU softball since 1990. She's won 771 games with 13 MEAC championships and nine NCAA appearances. In 2017, she became the first HBCU coach to win 700 games.

"It's a happy and sad occasion," Wiggins said of her last season. "When you do things you really have a joy doing, it doesn't seem like work. You're going to miss it. I've been at this long enough. It's time to share it with the younger generation."

The gap for wins established by Wiggins on the HBCU level is wide beyond measure.

Bethune-Cookman head coach Laura Watten has 723 wins overall. However, nine of those seasons were at the University of Maryland. Watten has 443 victories with the arch-rival Wildcats.

As the veteran skipper embarks upon her farewell tour, she is being showered with reverence from colleagues.

This past weekend, FAMU was in Baton Rouge to compete in the Tiger Classic at LSU. Before the start of Saturday's game, LSU softball head coach Beth Torina presented Wiggins with a bouquet of flowers at home plate.

FAMU assistant coach Constance Orr has been groomed under Wiggins. She will take over the reins of the program after her retirement.

Orr has known Wiggins since her high school days playing travel softball in Charlotte, North Carolina. She credits her for developing her as a coach. Orr holds an even higher level of respect for Wiggins as a person.

"Coach Wiggins is a blessing. She's been a blessing in my life for a long time. She knew me when I was younger and played travel ball. I got the chance to have a closer relationship while working here," Orr said.

"Anybody she crosses paths with, she touches. That's her ministry. She teaches about your well-being. A lot of schools you go to, you're just a player. For Coach Wiggins, these girls are her daughters. Professionally, she's one of the best mentors you can have. I don't know where I'd be with her right now."

The successes of FAMU and Florida State have ranked Tallahassee as arguably the college softball capital of the world.

Former Seminoles coach JoAnne Graf has known Wiggins for years. She joined in paying tribute to the Rattler as she closes her career.

"I think Veronica is one of the classiest people I know. I really enjoyed when she first came to FAMU, she was so excited about everything," Graf said.

"Her passion for the game and her passion for helping her players achieve their goals I think is extraordinary. She has done so much for that program and has been such an inspiration to the young women at FAMU. She has such high expectations for her players, on and off the field. She is a class act and is going to be missed for sure."

The Rattlers and Seminoles play Wednesday at JoAnne Graf Field at the Seminole Softball Complex.

FSU is planning to honor Wiggins before the game. Current FSU softball coach Lonni Alameda recalls with fondness her conversation with Wiggins following the 2018 national championship.

"She called and left me a voicemail. It's like family and you made them proud," Alameda said.

"Coach and I see each other at Publix all the time. Sometimes it's in the parking lot. Sometimes it's in the checkout line. She's so personable. She just gives you a big hug. It's

almost like having a big sister here. She calls whenever she needs something. I'll call whenever I need something. Whether it's a ruling on a call, rainouts or equipment, we'll help each other."

Wiggins, a two-time FAMU alum, earned a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation and a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation.

Follow FAMU beat writer Rory Sharrock on Twitter @rattlernews and @married2game1.

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Tallahassee Democrat.

FAMU

FAMU softball coach Wiggins showered with praise at Florida State



Rory Sharrock

Tallahassee Democrat

Published 10:44 p.m. ET Feb. 12, 2020 | Updated 1:07 a.m. ET Feb. 13, 2020

The 2020 softball season at Florida A&M is the farewell tour for soon-to-be-retired head coach Veronica Wiggins.

Every road venue the Rattlers visit, the FAMU Sports Hall of Famer will be greeted with well-wishes and cheers of congratulations from her coaching peers.

On Wednesday night, the send-off party was held at JoAnne Graf Field at the Seminole Softball Complex as FAMU and No. 5 Florida State renewed acquaintances on the diamond.

The pregame festivities featured current Seminoles head coach Lonni Alameda and former coach Graf exchanging the lineup card with the umpires at home plate.

Alameda and Graf donned a FAMU T-shirt as they hugged the FAMU legend. They also presented her with a gift basket. Afterward, Wiggins and Graf threw out the ceremonial first pitch. These events were welcomed by a standing ovation from the crowd.

"Coach Graf and I were talking about how we can honor her. She texted me and said it'd be so cool if we show up in the shirts. This is really special," Alameda said.

Aside from their love for softball, Alameda highlighted the off-the-field kinship with Wiggins.

Alameda shared highlights of their conversations in the grocery store. She also discussed the positive impact of FAMU and FSU softball on the city.

"Coach Wiggins does so much for NCAA softball and the coaches association. It's nice to know someone five minutes down the road appreciates the big picture of softball," she said.

"We've done a lot of community service stuff. My most special moments are running into her in Publix. We'll sit in the aisle talking softball. I love Tallahassee for that. They do a great job at FAM and we do a great job at Florida State."

During the on-the-field presentation, Graf addressed the crowd joking about retired life and looking forward to hanging with Wiggins watching games as fans.

Graf also acknowledged the greatness of Wiggins as an elite coach who has contributed heavily to the sport.

"We'll be coaching from the stands where always coach perfectly. I coached for many years against Veronica. She is one of the classiest, nicest and professional people," said Graf during the pregame celebration.

"I think all for the young ladies that have played for her in the past and now, she's a great role model. Good luck in the MEAC so you guys can be in the NCAA tournament."

More FAMU Athletics: FAMU launches Rattler Athletic Fund as top philanthropic campaign to support programs

More FAMU Athletics: FAMU men defeat N.C. A&T to remain undefeated at home, women falter in second half

More FAMU Athletics: FAMU men edge out Howard 82-78 in OT, women shoot poorly and lose in rout

More FAMU Athletics: Does N.C. A&T's departure from the MEAC mean similar action for FAMU

Wiggins, the winner of 771 games, is downplaying the grand gestures to keep the attention on her team. However, she is humbled by the national admiration. She was especially pleased to see her longtime friend Graf at the game.

"Lonni (Alameda) wouldn't have got me out of the dugout if coach Graf wasn't out with her," Wiggins said. "To see both of them there really touched my heart. I want to say thank you to Lonni and coach Graf for taking the time to say, Veronica, we love you."

FAMU habitually plays a tough non-conference schedule. This has proven to be a formula of success for the Rattlers under Wiggins. The program has won 13 MEAC championships since 1993.

FSU has been on fire to start the season. The Noles haven't played past the fifth inning in their last four games. They jumped out to a 3-0 lead after the first and cruised to a 10-2 win over FAMU.

FSU outfielder Chloe Culp went 2-for-2 with a home run and 4 RBI. First baseman Elizabeth Mason was 1-for-2 with a homer and 3 RBI. She also scored 2 runs.

FAMU's offensive production came from first baseman Brandice Boatwright and shortstop Serial Brokenborough. Boatwright hit 1-for-3 with an RBI. Brokenborough drove in a run while going 1-for-2 at the plate.

Wiggins sees the potential for a strong conference output in 2020. Following the game, she discussed the hopes of a return trip to the stadium in the postseason.

"We have some work do to and we'll get it done. Our objective is to be back here or in the regionals at the time when they start," she said.

FAMU players enjoy watching the showers of love for Wiggins. The seniors on the team have grown under her mentorship. For leaders such as outfielder Jamesia Stoudemire, the reality of Wiggins' retirement adds extra fuel to close out with a title.

"My first year here, she welcomed me with loving arms. Now, this is her last year here. It's unbelievable," she said.

"Coach Wiggins is phenomenal. She's a second mother, aunt, grandma, sister – all of the above. She's an all-around woman. We're going all out for coach. Nobody deserves a title more than coach does. It's 100% all out from the LSU tournament until the last game."

Follow FAMU beat writer Rory Sharrock on Twitter @rattlernews and @married2game1.

Never miss a story: Subscribe to the Tallahassee Democrat.

**George “Godfather” Thompson
Locker Room**

Honorary Naming Recommendation Packet



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Tallahassee, Florida 32307-6400

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3868

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

May 4, 2023

President Robinson,

I am officially recommending that the FAMU football locker room be named after FAMU alumnus, George “The Godfather” Thompson ‘54.

Thompson led a successful fundraising campaign in 2019 to replace the football team lockers. It was advertised to donors that a successful campaign would be celebrated by naming the football locker room for Thompson. It was published that the formal dedication of this locker room would happen on September 14, 2019.

This project was completed in Summer 2021 and to date, the renaming has not happened.

Thompson was a close confidant of FAMU Jake Gaither, who hired him as an equipment manager. Thompson, a 1985 FAMU Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, served as the FAMU football equipment manager for 49 years

The former FAMU football player earned his degree in Physical Education and Health from FAMU in 1954.

I support honoring the commitment made by previous administrators to rename the football locker room in honor of George “The Godfather” Thompson.

If approved, I would like the naming rights to be granted in a way that allows the naming of this space to be shared with a company via the “Gift Related Naming Policy.”

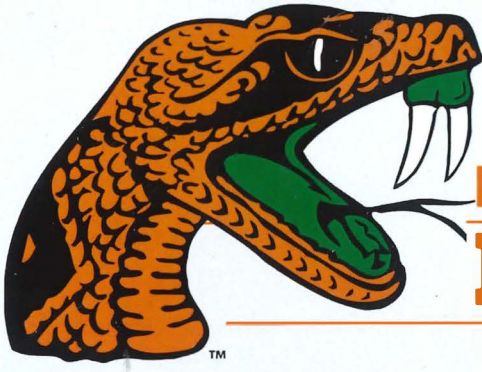
I have included supporting documentation for your perusal. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes".

Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes

Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

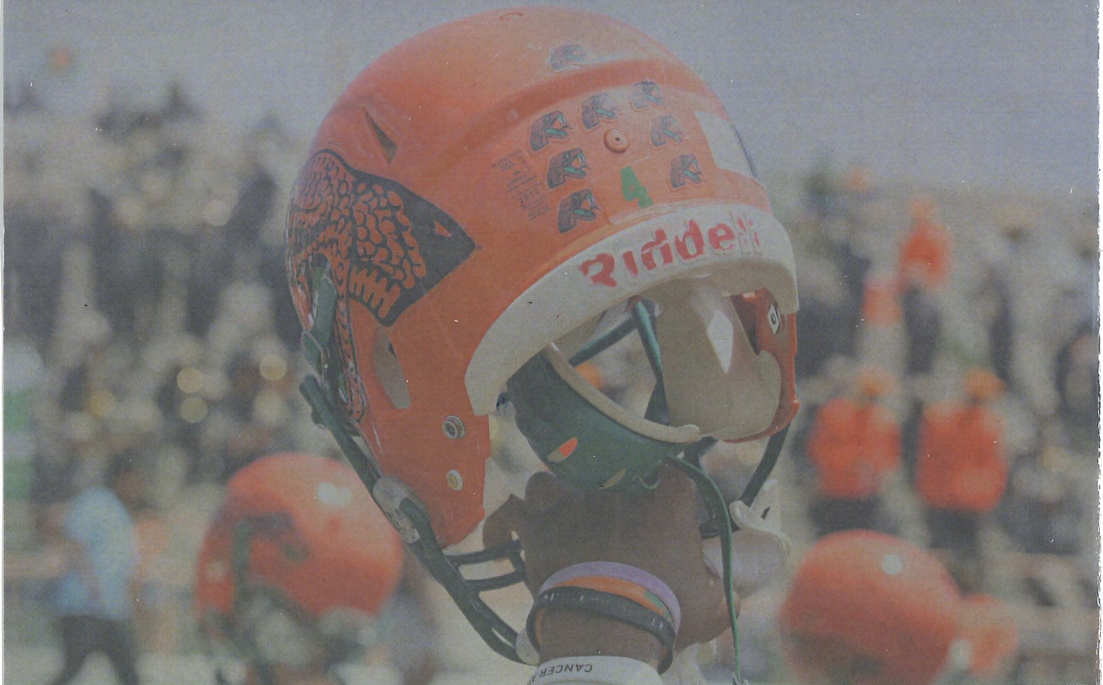


A&M FOOTBALL



GALIMORE-POWELL FIELDHOUSE IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN







The Godfather

For over fifty years, George Thompson served as a mentor, friend, disciplinarian and surrogate father to thousands of athletes at Florida A&M University. “Godfather”, as he is affectionately known was the backbone of the Rattler Football Program for a tenure that extended from the eras of Coach Jake Gaither through Coach Billy Joe. He selflessly gave of his time, financial resources, and wisdom to positively shape the lives of student-athletes and trainers under his tutelage. We now take this opportunity to salute his efforts in naming the football locker room located in Gallimore-Powell Fieldhouse in his honor.

To facilitate this endeavor and enhance the student-athlete experience for current and future Rattlers, we are asking former players, coaches, trainers, managers and friends of FAMU Football,

to financially contribute to an upgrade of the current football locker room. This project will include the purchase of new lockers, flooring, lighting, wall wraps and other field house upgrades. No amount is too small, however, with a minimum contribution of \$650, you will receive naming rights for a locker. You will also be invited to the formal dedication of “The George ‘Godfather’ Thompson Locker Room” which will take place on September 14, 2019, before the Rattlers take on Ft. Valley State. We kindly ask that you honor Mr. Thompson by pouring into the future generations of Rattlers as he so graciously has done for decades.

****Note* All prior donors to the Lockers of Legacy Campaign will receive naming rights for their contributions.***



A&M FOOTBALL

To purchase a locker or to donate, please enclose a check or money order and put *Field House Enhancements in the MEMO section* and mail it to:

FAMU Foundation
625 E. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, Fla. 32307
ACCOUNT#: 2048

DONOR INFO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How you would like to be recognized on your locker plate (Max 30 characters) *For donors who donate more than \$650:*

To donate online: <https://my.famu.edu/famurising/athletics>
Make sure to put **Fieldhouse** in the comments section.

For more information on purchasing a locker or contributing to the campaign, please call the FAMU Foundation at: (850)412-5755

Contributions made to the campaign are tax deductible. Donors will be sent a statement at the end of the year detailing their tax deductible contributions.



BRYANT 18

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
RATTTLERS

Tallahassee Democrat.

FAMU

Living legend George 'Godfather' Thompson remains as the gold standard of FAMU Athletics



Rory Sharrock

Tallahassee Democrat

Published 3:27 p.m. ET Aug. 24, 2019 | Updated 1:24 p.m. ET Aug. 26, 2019

In conjunction with the onset of the 2019 season, rattlernews.com presents FAMU Football 30 for 30. This daily series includes commentary, analysis and information of the Rattlers during fall camp. The 30 days of reporting serves as a prelude to the FAMU-UCF game on Thursday, Aug. 29 in Orlando. Day 26 of 30: George "Godfather" Thompson remains as the gold standard FAMU Athletics

George "Godfather" Thompson is a walking time capsule of FAMU athletics history.

The 90-year-old former equipment manager celebrated Rattler touchdowns, home runs, slam dunks and relay races from 1954 to 2003.

He was a confidant of head coach Jake Gaither and a mentor to countless people.

Despite the massive accolades, Godfather remains genuine, brutally honest and faithful to all things FAMU.

Thompson was born on Sept. 1, 1927 in Melbourne.

He learned the lessons of the Bible from his mother, Julia, a devout Christian. He gained a sharp edge from his father, George, Sr., whom he described as a gambler.

Thompson attended FAMU and was a member of the football team. He did the iron man role of playing running back and defensive back.

After graduating in 1954 with a degree in physical education and health, he stayed close to the school working in various capacities. Thompson's primary duty was serving as the equipment manager.

His ties with Gaither went beyond football.

The two men discussed matters from politics to religion. When Gaither traveled for speaking engagements or recruiting trips, standing alongside him was Thompson.

Their communications were heartfelt and raw.

Thompson once hit a man for cursing him. As quickly as his punch landed, Gaither reprimanded him. It was out love and the betterment of the program.

"Once a big guy cursed me and I knocked him out," Thompson said. "Jake sent for me and I had to go to his office. He told me I don't know where you get your ideas from. I told him they cursed me. He said you're better than that and that's how you should live. I'll let you still work with me. You're doing a good job. Just don't hit anybody."

More FAMU Football: FAMU to play tough non-conference schedule in prep for MEAC

More FAMU Football: All in the FAMUly: James and Jalen Spady enhance father-son bond on the Rattler gridiron

More FAMU Football: FAMU starting roles solidified on offense and defense

More FAMU Football: FAMU's MEAC schedule to include four home matchups

Throughout his career, Thompson dealt with all types of personalities across the FAMU landscape. However, one thing remained the same - his demand for punctuality.

Thompson was a stickler for being on time. When it came to work, he let all those under him know there were penalties for tardiness. This rule was also applicable extended to family members.

"If you worked for me, you couldn't be late. I'd put down people's name and two squares. If you're late, you'd get a check. If you're late three times, I'd tell you to get out of here," Thompson said.

"The first person I fired was my son Teddy. I told them if I don't fire my son for the same thing I'd fire them for, if they do it, they wouldn't understand life. Whatever you're plans are, you do them right. You treat everyone the same no matter who it is."

Thompson has a strong sense of black pride, economics and cultural awareness.

He lived under Jim Crow laws but didn't participate in marches against segregation.

Thompson had a loving spirit. However, he wouldn't stand for someone hitting him or

throwing debris his way without retaliating.

Perhaps his most telling story of the civil rights movement was a brief encounter with James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. These men were the civil rights protesters murdered during the Freedom Summer campaign of 1964 in Mississippi.

"I talked with them before they left. I wished them luck and said God's in control of it all. They told me they were going to try and do the best they can. I shook their hands and gave \$100," Thompson said.

Every football coach at FAMU had a tight bond with Thompson.

Gulf Coast Offense architect Billy Joe credits Godfather for an intimate encounter with Gaither before his death.

Joe was hired to lead the program in 1994. He first applied to coach the Rattlers in the 1970s. However, Gaither, who was the athletics director, told him he needed more experience.

Gaither was gravely sick, but Thompson took Joe to visit him. He shared the news he was finally working with the team.

"I met Godfather when I first got on campus in 1994," Joe said. "He was there to meet and greet me. I asked him to take me to see coach Gaither. Coach was very ill and couldn't speak. I had an opportunity to tell coach I'm the head Rattler. It was all because Godfather had a close relationship with coach Gaither. Godfather and I are conjoined twins and locked at the hip. We have a very close friendship."

Thompson's worked spanned generations. His influence is vibrant in present-day FAMU Athletics equipment manager Dakarai Calhoun.

"I was one of the last people he brought on as a student. He taught me the meaning of hard work, being on time and learning to serve. He's one of the reasons why I got into this field," Calhoun said. "If you ask former players or administrators, they'll tell you he's the gold standard. He's seen it all. He still calls me every Monday to check how I'm doing."

Currently, plans are being developed to revise the Galimore-Powell Field House. The locker room and equipment room will be named in his honor.

To this day, Thompson is still unsure as to how he earned the nickname Godfather. Nevertheless, whenever the moniker is uttered, every Rattler knows it's a phrase of reverence to the iconic George Thompson, Jr.

**Kenneth Riley Football Field at
Bragg Memorial Stadium**

Honorary Naming Recommendation Packet



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Tallahassee, Florida 32307-6400

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3868

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

May 6, 2023

President Robinson,

I am officially recommending that the FAMU football field be named after FAMU alumnus, Ken Riley.

Riley is the only Rattler in FAMU history to compete as a football student-athlete, serve as the head football coach and as the Director of Athletics.

As a student-athlete, Riley quarterbacked our team to a 23-7 record and 3 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) titles. While at FAMU, he embodied the term "student-athlete." He excelled not only athletically, but academically. He was named a Rhodes Scholar candidate and served as the senior class president. The Bartow, FL native was selected in the 6th round of the 1969 Common Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals.

Riley spent 15 seasons competing in the NFL. At the end of his NFL playing career, he spent 2 seasons as an assistant for the Green Bay Packers. Then, he returned to his alma mater in 1986 as the head football coach. He led the Rattlers to 2 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Championships and was twice named MEAC Coach of the Year. In 1994, he was named Director of Athletics at FAMU.

He was enshrined in the FAMU Hall of Fame in 1982. Then, in 2015, he was inducted into the Black College Football Hall of Fame. The All-Pro performer was inducted into the Cincinnati Bengals inaugural Ring of Honor in 2021. Later this year, he will be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. He is only the second Rattler to earn this extraordinary honor.

I wholeheartedly believe that an honorary naming of this field is the appropriate recognition for to honor his commitment to FAMU and his accomplishments. If approved, Rattlers will drive on Bob Hayes Lane, take their seats in Bragg Memorial Stadium, and watch championship football on Ken Riley Field. Truly, a winning experience.

I have included supporting documentation for your perusal. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes".

Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes

Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

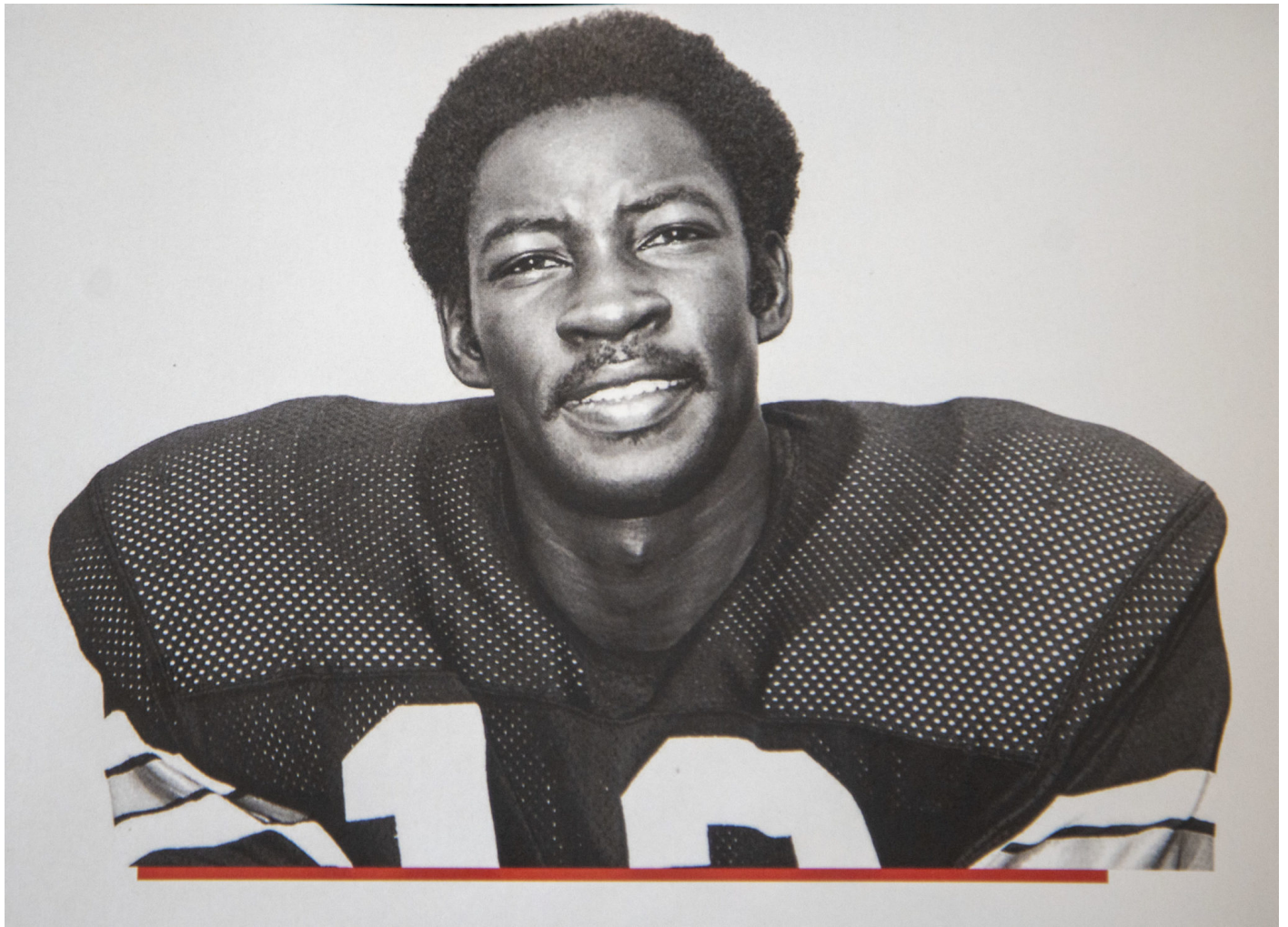
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FAMU Alum Ken Riley Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame

February 09, 2023 | *Andrew Skerritt*

Tallahassee, Fla. -- Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., and the University community welcomed the election of Rattler and Cincinnati Bengals legend Ken Riley to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Riley, who retired from the NFL 40 years ago, was elected as a member of the 2023 Hall of Fame Class unveiled during the NFL Honors broadcast from Phoenix, Arizona, Thursday night.



Riley died in 2020 at the age of 72. He played for the Bengals from 1969 to 1983. During his career, he recorded 65 interceptions in 207 starts for the Bengals, a tally that ranks fifth in NFL history and first for the Bengals.

“Ken Riley went about his life with dignity and humility. His results alone tell the story. He has not played in four decades, but he’s still the fifth all-time leader in interceptions in the NFL,” Robinson said. “This honor is long overdue, but so well deserved. Unfortunately, Ken is no longer here to celebrate with us, but we know his family and the FAMU are overjoyed with this news. This will be recognized as a “Great Things Moment” for FAMU and Ken’s family. He has now received his due.”

Riley made his mark as a FAMU student-athlete, championship-winning head coach, and long-time athletics director.

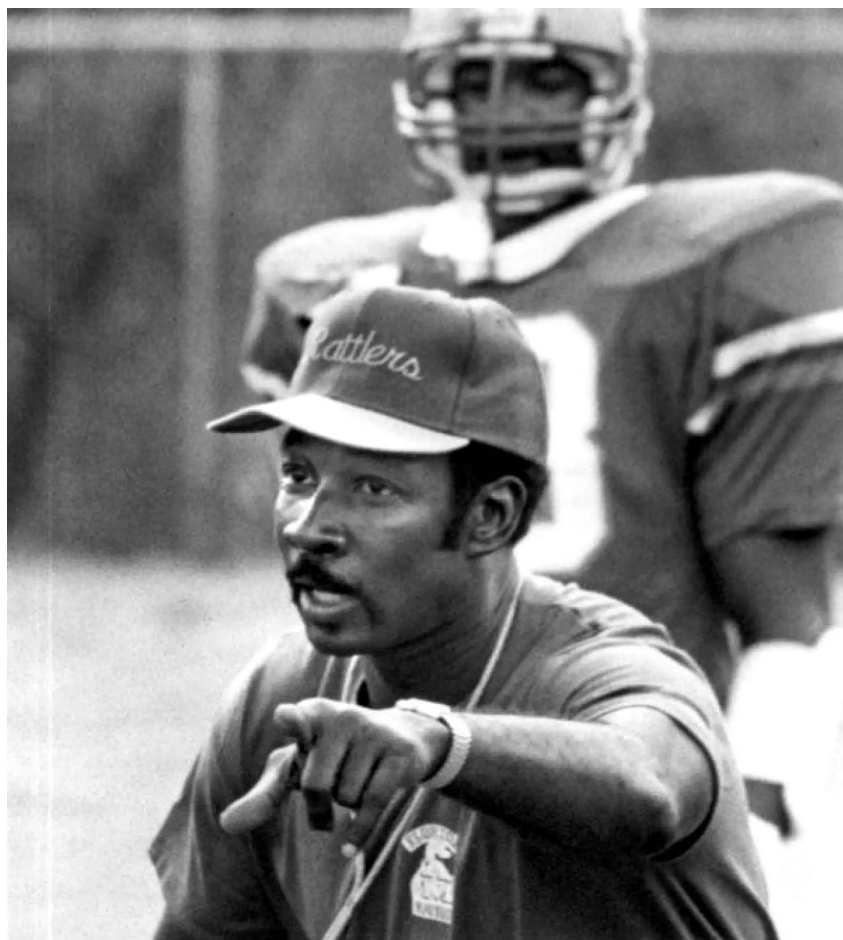
As a four-year starting quarterback for FAMU, Riley guided the Rattlers to a 23-7 record and three Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles. During his eight-year tenure as FAMU head football coach, beginning in 1986, Riley led the team to two Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championships and earned a pair of MEAC Coach of the Year honors. Riley also served as the Rattlers' athletics director from 1993-2004. Riley was inducted into the FAMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1982, the Black College Football Hall of Fame in 2015, and the Cincinnati Bengals inaugural Ring of Honor in 2021.

“Congratulations to FAMU alumnus Ken Riley and the Riley family on his posthumous selection as a 2023 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee,” said Vice President/Athletics Director Tiffani-Dawn Sykes. “It’s no surprise to members of the Rattlers community that he has earned this honor. Riley has shown that an HBCU can prepare you to excel anywhere, at anything, on any level.”

FAMU's Ken Riley becomes the second Rattler to enter the NFL Hall of Fame

WFSU | By [Adrian Andrews](#)

Published February 13, 2023 at 4:52 PM EST



Mark Foley / State Archives Of Florida

FAMU football coach Ken Riley at a practice session - Tallahassee, Florida. 1986.

From his collegiate days on the “highest of seven hills” in Tallahassee, to “The Queen City” of Cincinnati, —Riley has found a home in the National Football League’s Hall of Fame following Thursday’s honor ceremony.

WFSU

Planet Money/How I Built T...

“Your historic career is one that we know all too well on the highest of seven hills and with the Cincinnati Bengals and it’s great that you are finally being recognized by your peers as one of the all-time greats,” said FAMU head football coach Willie Simmons in a social media post.

Riley, a former FAMU Athletics director and championship-winning coach, is the second player in FAMU’s history to be inducted into the NFL hall of fame. He shares that honor with ex-Dallas Cowboy, “Bullet” Bob Hayes.

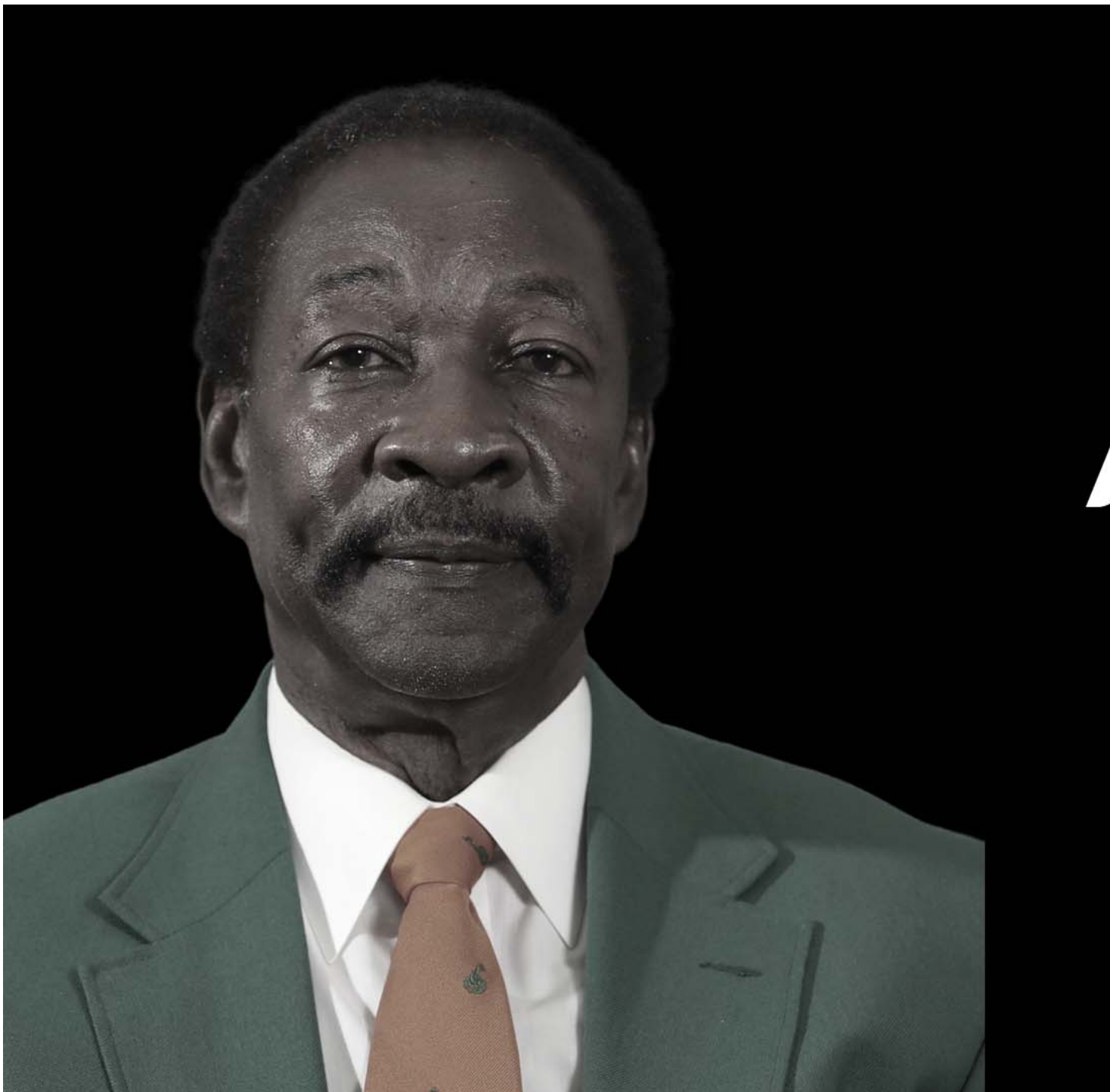
“Ken Riley went about his life with dignity and humility. His results alone tell the story. He has not played in four decades, but he’s still the fifth all-time leader in interceptions in the NFL,” said FAMU President Larry Robinson in a statement.

“This honor is long overdue, but so well deserved. Unfortunately, Ken is no longer here to celebrate with us, but we know his family and the FAMUly are overjoyed with this news. This will be recognized as a 'Great Things Moment' for FAMU and Ken’s family. He has now received his due.”

Riley died in 2020 at the age of 72. He played for the Bengals from 1969 to 1983. During his career, he recorded 65 interceptions in 207 starts for the Bengals, a tally that ranks fifth in NFL history and first for the Bengals. Riley was inducted into the FAMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1982, the Black College Football Hall of Fame in 2015, and the Cincinnati Bengals' inaugural Ring of Honor in 2021.

Tags[WFSU Local News](#)[sports](#)[Florida A&M University](#)[Rattlers](#)

Florida A&M



Former Rattler Football Legend Ken Riley Passes Away

Brian Howard, Director of Athletic Communications

Football

Posted: 6/7/2020 10:09:00 AM

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. | The football world and the Florida A&M University family lost a legend. Ken Riley, former FAMU football standout, former head coach and athletics director, passed away early Sunday morning at the age of 72.

"FAMU Athletics and the entire Rattler Nation is deeply saddened of the passing of former FAMU football player, Head Coach, Athletics Director and NFL great Ken Riley," Vice President and Director of Athletics [Kortne Gosha](#) said. "We wish his family our deepest condolences."

"I woke up this morning with a heavy heart as I learned of the passing of FAMU and NFL great Ken Riley," FAMU Head Football Coach [Willie Simmons](#) said. "Coach Riley was one of the first to welcome me to the FAMULY and having him speak to our team before our first Orange and Green game is definitely at the top of my list of unforgettable moments as head coach here at FAMU. My deepest condolences go out to his family and we as football community will surely honor his memory."

Riley was a four-year starting quarterback at Florida A&M and a Rhodes Scholar Candidate. In addition, he was the Senior Class President in both high school and college.

Riley's football career didn't end in Tallahassee as he was selected in the sixth round, with the 135th pick by the Cincinnati Bengals during the 1969 NFL Draft.

Riley, who had a stellar 15 year professional career for the Bengals (1969-1983), was converted to cornerback in training camp by legendary coach Paul Brown. During his rookie season, he racked up four interceptions and returned 14 kickoffs for an average of 23.9 yards per return. He also caught two passes.

Riley recorded 65 interceptions in his career, which was the fourth most in NFL history at the time of his retirement and is currently fifth on that list. Three of the top five players have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. While he is fifth on the NFL All-Time interceptions list, he remains the only player not enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame.

[#BREAKING #FAMU](#) legend Ken Riley has died at the age of 72. [@FAMUAthletics](#) [@Bengals](#) <https://t.co/jjQmksMNYt>

— RattlerNews.com (@RattlerNews) [June 7, 2020](#)

In his 15 seasons, Riley, who rarely missed a game, recorded three or more interceptions in all but three years. In 1976, Riley racked up nine interceptions for 141 yards, a team record that stood for 30 years. He returned one interception for a touchdown and also set a team record by intercepting three passes in one game that season. Riley matched that feat again in 1982. In 1981, he recorded five interceptions as the Bengals went on to their first Super Bowl appearance. In 1983, Riley registered eight interceptions, two being returned for touchdowns and was selected NFL All-Pro.

He retired after the 1983 season with 65 career interceptions for 596 yards, and five touchdowns, which both still stand as Bengals records. He also recovered 18 fumbles in his career. Riley, who is a member of the Cincinnati Bengals Hall of Fame, is third all-time in NFL history with 141 interception return yards in a season. In addition, he was also the Bengals' defensive captain for eight seasons (1976-83).

Statement from Mike Brown on the passing of Ken Riley.

RIP to an all-time [#Bengals](#) legend. <pic.twitter.com/eisx3m1hUA>

— Marisa Contipelli (@BengalsMarisa) [June 7, 2020](#)

After his professional career ended, Riley spent two years as an assistant coach for the Green Bay Packers. In 1986, Riley took over the head coaching duties at his alma mater, Florida A&M. While at FAMU from 1986-93, Riley compiled a 48-39-2 record, with two Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championships and a pair of MEAC Coach of the Year honors.

Riley, who was inducted into the FAMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1977 and the Black College Football Hall of Fame in 2015, served as the Florida A&M Athletics Director from 1993-2004, before retiring in Bartow, Fla. A member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Riley was named to the Florida High School Association All-Century Team, which selected the Top 33 players in the 100-year history of high school football in the state of Florida's history.

#Follow The Rattlers

For complete coverage of Florida A&M athletics, please follow the Rattlers on social media at [@FAMUAthletics](#) (Twitter), [/FAMUAth](#) (Facebook), [@famuaathletics](#) (Instagram) or visit the official home of Florida A&M Athletics at famuaathletics.com.

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HOME > HBCU LEGENDS > SWAC > FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Florida A&M University Legend Ken Riley Honored by Cincinnati Bengals

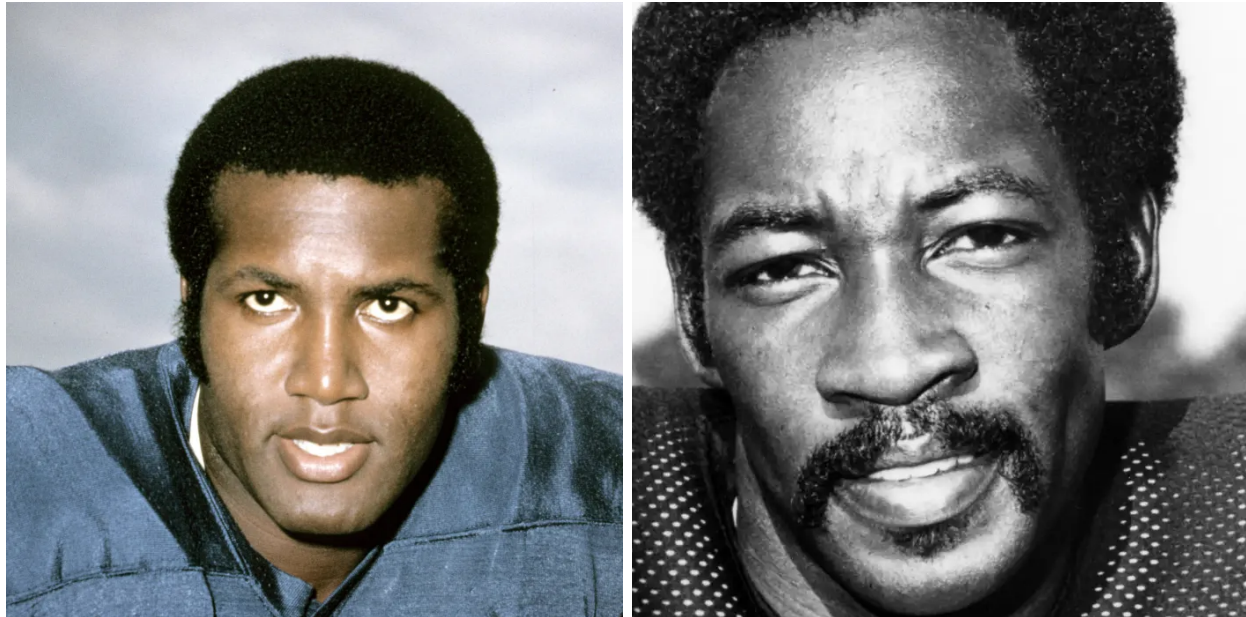
Florida A&M University football legend Ken Riley was honored by the Cincinnati Bengals as the team hosted the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday Night Football.

KYLE T. MOSLEY • OCT 1, 2021 12:58 PM EDT

I needed an honest and accurate assessment of Ken Riley, so I turned to the best source – James "Shack" Harris.

"His body of work merits his placement in the Hall of Fame," said Harris. He played at a high level for 15 years with one team. In almost 40 years after being in the NFL, he is still at No. 5 in interceptions. That has to account for something."

James "Shack" Harris and Ken Riley



Harris and Grambling State played against Riley and FAMU in the Orange Blossom Classic – later they became good friends.

"He deserves to be in the Hall of Fame," exclaimed Harris.

Does it? Riley's 65 interceptions rank behind Paul Krause (81), Emlen Tunnell (79), Rod Woodson (71), Dick "Night Train" Lane (68), and tied with Charles Woodson (65), one notch above Ed Reed (64) and two above Ronnie Lot (63). The only difference is that Riley isn't in the Hall of Fame.

"It's a mystery to me," Riley said on the Talk of Fame Network broadcast. "That's out of my control. The only thing I can do is be solid and go out and be consistent. And I was consistent every Sunday when I played football. And I played in more games than anybody in Cincinnati. I was durable."

Clark Judge of Sports Illustrated's Talk of Fame Network

BENGALS INAUGURAL RING OF HONOR

Florida A&M University football legend Ken Riley was honored by the Cincinnati Bengals as the team hosted the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday Night Football.

Riley was a 2015 inductee into the Black College Football Hall of Fame after playing for 15 years in the National Football League. He served as head coach at his alma mater Florida A&M.

He played quarterback for coaching legend Alonzo "Jake" Gaither for four seasons at FAMU before being drafted by the Bengals in the 6th round of the 1969 NFL Draft (Common Draft).

The Bengals were set at quarterback, and head coach Paul Brown decided to switch Riley to cornerback. He started the position, returned kickoffs, and played sparingly at wide receiver.

Riley's son, Ken Riley II, and his family were at the football game to accept the honor at halftime of the Bengals' Ring of Honor ceremony, including former Cincinnati greats Paul Brown, Ken Anderson, and Anthony Muñoz.

He returned to Florida A&M as the Rattlers head coach from 1986-1993 and led the team to a 45-40-2 record.

Ken Riley had a heart attack on June 7, 2020, and died at the age of 72 without the NFL voters inducting him into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Longtime Saints reporter and Hall of Fame voter Jeff Duncan messaged me on Riley's candidacy:

"I think he has a great shot through the senior committee. I know he's long been one of the top candidates there for sometime. But with only one going in each year, there's a bottle neck." Jeff Duncan

In August 2021, Riley became one of the senior finalists for Hall of Fame consideration. Hopefully, this is the year that Ken Riley will rightfully be immortalized by the institution he helped to build, the National Football League.

KEN RILEY FYI's

- Rhodes Scholar Candidate at FAMU
- Returned 5 Interceptions for Touchdowns
- 18 Fumble Recoveries
- 214 career games (including the playoffs) and didn't miss one in 11 of his 15 seasons.
- Prolific Quarterback at FAMU
- Florida High School Association All-Century Team member
- Born August 6, 1947 in Bartow, FL

Ken Riley becomes second Rattler in NFL Hall of Fame

February 21, 2023 3:32 pm by [Trelvin Payne](#) | Staff writer

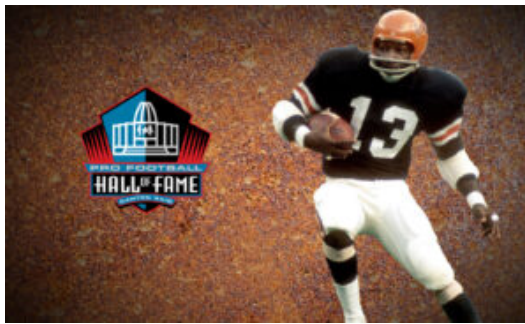


Photo courtesy of hbcugameday.com

Florida A&M University's very own Kenneth 'Ken' Jerome Riley will officially be enshrined into the 2023 Pro Football Hall of Fame Class this upcoming Fall.

During Riley's time at FAMU as an undergrad, he was a four-year starter at quarterback. Under his leadership, Ken led the Rattlers to a 23-7 record and 3 Conference Titles. Also, while at FAMU, Bro. Ken Riley crossed into the Beta Nu chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. in the spring of 1967.

In 1969, Ken Riley was drafted to the Cincinnati Bengals in the 6th round as the 135th pick. While in Cincinnati, Riley intercepted 65 passes and returned 5 for touchdowns. He ranks 5th for interceptions in NFL history. Riley also holds the record for the second most games started by a player in franchise history at 207 for the Bengals.

Ken Riley is only the second FAMU Alum elected into the Pro Football Hall, following the great Bob Hayes. Riley was also inducted into FAMU Athletics and the Black College Football Hall of Fame, followed by the Cincinnati Bengal's inaugural Ring of Honor.

Upon retiring at 40, Riley returned to FAMU as Head Football Coach from 1986-1993. As Head Coach, he led FAMU to 2 Conference championships and 2 Coach of the Year honors. He also served as Athletic Director from 1993-2004.

FAMU's current Head Coach, Willie Simmons, spoke about Riley's historic career in a social media post.

"Your historic career is one that we know all too well on the highest of seven hills and with the Cincinnati Bengals, and it's great that your peers are finally recognizing you as one of the all-time greats," said Simmons.

Riley, who died suddenly at age 72 in 2020, did not live to receive his enshrinement phone call, but Ken Riley Jr was the recipient.

"I've been praying for this call. It's surreal," Riley Jr said during the phone call with his dad's former teammate and Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz.

Riley has come a long way from the 135th pick in the 6th round to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. On August 5, 2023, the Hall of Fame induction will occur in Canton, Ohio.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees
INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Agenda Item: IX.

Subject: Update on Divisional Activities

Background Information and Summary:

Dr. Shawnta Friday-Stroud will provide an update on Divisional activities.

A. FY 2022-23 University Advancement Updates

- **FY 2022-2023 Fundraising as of May 10, 2023**
 - **Progress as of May 10, 2023:**
Raised \$23,408,762.28
(156.06% of \$15M Goal)
 - New Cash Goal - \$15M
Current - \$16,507,452.34
(70.52% of Total 110.05% of \$15M Goal)
 - Pledges & Planned Gifts Goal -\$15M
Current - \$6,901,309.94
(29.48% of Total & 46.01% of \$15M Goal)
- **Update on Advancement Readiness Assessment (Alexander Hass)**

B. DSO Updates

1. FAMU Foundation, Inc.

- FAMU Foundation Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting will be held on June 1-3, 2023, in Schaumburg, IL., in conjunction with the FAMU NAA Convention.
- Investment Value - \$145,532,162 as of March 31, 2023, compared to \$145,211,670 as of December 31, 2022.
- Endowment Value - \$108,505,004 as of March 31, 2023, compared to \$108,975,752 as of December 31, 2022.

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2. FAMU National Alumni Association (NAA)

- The FAMU National Alumni Association's Annual Convention will be held in collaboration with the FAMU Foundation Board Meeting June 1-4 at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL.
 - This will be the first alumni convention hosted under the new leadership of the FAMU NAA's 19th President Curtis Johnson.
 - Highlights include workshops on best practices and operations essentials for our alumni chapter leaders, the changing landscape on student recruitment, a luncheon and town hall focusing on the importance of FAMU's Direct Support Organizations, and meaningful endeavors that align with the University's strategic initiatives and benchmarks.
 - One of the culminating events is the Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala which will honor 12 FAMU Alums for their service, and professional accolades. There will also be a heartwarming salute posthumously to our Rattler Legend Ken Riley who will soon be inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame in August in Canton, OH.

2023 FAMU NAA Distinguished Alumni Award Honorees

- | | |
|--|---|
| ○ Angelia Williams - Tampa, FL | ○ Dr. Nannette Williams - Houston, TX |
| ○ Rashidi Hendrix - Mableton, GA | ○ Belinda Reed Shannon - Glendale, CA |
| ○ Karla Eccles-Taylor - Mableton, GA | ○ Roshell R. Rinkins - Hollywood, FL |
| ○ Dr. Asegun Henry - Hyde Park, MA | ○ Kenneth Jerome Riley, Sr. - Bartow, FL
<i>(Posthumous)</i> |
| ○ Yao Dinizulu - Chicago, IL | ○ Marco A. Purty - Northville, MI |
| ○ Tracey Payne-Tellis - Southfield, MI | |
| ○ Levasseur Tellis - Southfield, MI | |

3. FAMU Rattler Boosters

- Track Women and Women Equipment
 - Two Real Runner Tread Mills
 - One AirGo Curve Treadmill Elite
 - Freelap Timing System
 - Total Cost of Project \$9,715.07
 - Nutritional snacks for SWAC Conference Meet

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
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INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- Women Tennis
 - Nutritional Snacks for SWAC Conference Finals

- All Sports Sponsorships
 - Student Athletes Fang Awards Program
 - Student Athletes Fun Day
 - Maintain Student Athletes Nutrition/Snacks for the Summer

- In Partnership with the 220 Quarterback Club
 - Secured the Football Cooling Station
 - Established the Weight - Goal Board in Football Weight Room

- Organizational Change
 - Added Seven New the Board of Directors
 - Updated Rattler Boosters Website

- Upcoming Event – Preliminary Plans for the Volleyball/Football Rattler Booster Kick Off Luncheon.