

THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PRESENT

THE HOUSING WIRE

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1 | AUGUST - SEPTEMBER



WE ARE
HOUSING

FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HOUSING

THE FAMU HOUSING WIRE



SUMMER B MOVE-IN EXPERIENCE

THE FAMU HOUSING WIRE



WELCOME TO THE HILL: SUMMER B MOVE-IN KICKS OFF THE SEASON

On Monday, June 16, Florida A&M University's campus was excited as new students arrived for Summer B Move-In. Families, staff, and student leaders worked together to ensure a smooth and welcoming experience.

The Office of University Housing led a seamless, paperless check-in process, allowing students to move from station to keys in just minutes. "Move-in went perfectly... students could get their keys in two to five minutes instead of being bottlenecked with forms," said Justen Smith, Area Coordinator at FAMU Towers South.

Engagement was also high, with over 240 students completing forms early and actively connecting with RAs and peers. "They're already chatting, requesting game nights, and building community," Smith added.

This year's Summer B Move-In marked a smooth transition and set the tone for a vibrant semester ahead. To all the new Rattlers: welcome home, your journey starts here.

WE ARE EXPANDING OUR TEAM

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**TERREL
NELSON PH.D.**



TERREL NELSON PH.D.

Dr. Nelson, Assistant Director of University Housing – Assignments and Billing, oversees the critical operations that keep student housing running smoothly, from placements to billing processes.

Holding a Ph.D. in Ethical Leadership with a specialization in Higher Education, he brings a wealth of experience in research, strategic planning, and student success initiatives.

Known for his commitment to ensuring students thrive both academically and personally, Dr. Nelson applies practical knowledge to create meaningful support systems.

Outside of work, he enjoys building Legos and lives by the words, “Your success isn’t measured by the likeness of others, but by the commitment you place within yourself.”

**ANDENE
A.HENDRICKS**



ANDENE A.HENDRICKS

Andene, Residential Program Coordinator, is a proud 2019 graduate of Florida A&M University with a deep passion for building meaningful connections and creating engaging programs.

With a background in program coordination and event planning, she brings creativity, organization, and collaboration to every project, fostering an inclusive and positive community for students.

Outside of work, Andene enjoys traveling and cooking, and she finds inspiration in her favorite scripture, Joshua 1:9 – a reminder of strength and courage in every endeavor.

WE ARE EXPANDING OUR TEAM

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



RAYJAE GRANT

Rayjae Grant, the Resident Director of Palmetto Phase 3, is committed to building a supportive and growth-oriented community within Florida A&M University Housing.

He is pursuing a graduate degree in Healthcare Administration and has a strong passion for leadership and student development.

Rayjae strives to create environments where residents and staff can thrive personally and professionally. Outside work, He enjoys working out and spending quality time with friends and family.

He is inspired by Bobby Unser's words: "Success is where preparation and opportunity meet."



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.: Florida A&M University cut the ribbon on Venom Landing, a state-of-the-art, 700-bed residence hall, marking a significant milestone in the university's efforts to expand and modernize on-campus housing.

The new facility at Osceola Street and South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard boosts FAMU's residential capacity from roughly 2,700 to more than 3,400 beds. University officials say the expansion has eliminated the housing waitlist for the first time in years.

"This is more than just a building — it's a bold step forward in our commitment to provide a vibrant, enriching, and supportive community for our students," said President Marva Johnson during the ceremony.

Former FAMU President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., echoed those sentiments, emphasizing the role housing plays in student success. "Venom Landing provides a space where students can truly feel at home, build meaningful connections with their peers, and excel academically," he said.

The project was designed with student input, from the furnishings to the floor plan. Dr. William Hudson Jr., Vice President of Student Affairs, called the hall "a labor of love," adding, "We thank University Housing and the staff, as well as the students who were integral in helping decide the furniture and design."

Students moving in said they were impressed with the upgrades. Resident Assistant Nasze West said she was excited for her first year in the new space. "Having my own bathroom feels like such a change. It feels very homey. I love the communal areas — the study rooms, the kitchens, the spaces where we can all have fun together. It just seems very welcoming."

Another RA, Emily Williams Gonzalez, noted how Venom Landing builds on the best aspects of FAMU's other halls. "The design encourages gathering, communication, and building a strong community," she said.

With its modern design, communal lounges, kitchens, and dedicated study spaces, Venom Landing intends to strengthen student life and academic performance.

For University Housing, the hall represents expanded capacity and a renewed commitment to community. "This is a new chapter for FAMU Housing," one staff member noted. "Venom Landing shows our students that they are the story."



FANGS AROUND THE WORLD

ISSUE #1

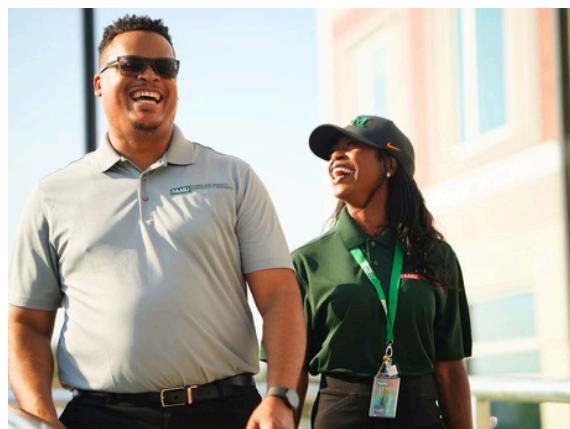
Move-In 2025: A Global Rattler Welcome on the Highest of Seven Hills



A Record-Breaking Week

This summer's Move-In Week was one for the books. With the opening of Venom Landing, a state-of-the-art 700-bed residence hall, Florida A&M University welcomed more than 3,000 students to campus, officially eliminating the Housing waitlist for the first time in years. The addition of Venom Landing increased on-campus housing capacity from 2,700 to over 3,400, ensuring that every Rattler who wanted to live on campus had a space to call home.

"We're excited. This is the most exciting time of the year, seeing the students come back and welcoming new ones," said Dr. William Hudson Jr., VP of Student Affairs.



A Presidential Welcome

FAMU's new leader, President Marva B. Johnson, joined Housing staff, students, and families on the ground. President Johnson, dressed in spirited orange and green Converse, greeted incoming Rattlers, participated in check-in, and even received a symbolic key as part of her #FangsAroundTheWorld Move-In experience.



"I'm so inspired to see our students and families coming together from around the world to be part of the FAMULY," President Johnson shared while touring Venom Landing.

THE FAMU HOUSING WIRE



Community Spirit in Action

From student organizations to RAs and staff, hundreds of helping hands came together to make the transition smooth and welcoming. Student organizations and local volunteers displayed the Rattler spirit, unloaded cars, carried boxes, and greeted families with smiles and energy. Even community leaders joined in the excitement. Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey and longtime Rattler voice Joe Bullard appeared at Venom Landing, reinforcing the city's commitment to supporting FAMU students.

One parent, watching their child settle into a new room, said: "This moment is emotional. Our family has deep ties to FAMU, and to see my child continue that legacy is an incredible blessing.

Why Move-In Was a Success

- **New Capacity:** Venom Landing opened quickly, easing housing pressure and eliminating the waitlist.
- **Operational Planning:** Coordinated traffic control, staffed unloading areas, and clear communication prior to move-in made the process smoother.
- **Student-Centered Marketing:** Authentic photos and videos captured during move-in will fuel Housing's campaigns from Rattler Spaces to wall wraps and digital signage.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Campus partners and local leaders showed up to ensure students felt supported from day one.

Looking Ahead

With the energy of Move-In fueling the start of the year, Housing is preparing for more community-centered events this fall, including pop-up shoots, the Room Decorating Contest, refreshed programming for residents and new episodes of Rattler Spaces.

"Move-In is just the beginning. It's our chance to show students that they are not just residents, they're family," said a Housing staff member.

In short: Move-In 2025 set the tone for a year of excellence, representation, and community. From expanded Housing to heartfelt welcomes, the Highest of Seven Hills proved again why it's always a great day to be a Rattler.

HOUSING EVENT SPOTLIGHT



RATTLERS RISE MEET & GREET

Meet & Greet with RISE Students Hosted by Assistant Director for Student Learning and Success, Derrick Farmer.



The Office of University Housing proudly hosted a Meet & Greet for RISE Scholars at Polkinghorne Village, led by Derrick Farmer. This event marked a significant opportunity for students to connect with campus partners, gain access to valuable resources, and begin building a strong foundation for their journey at Florida A&M University.



Throughout the day, students were introduced to various academic and support services, including scholarship information, study essentials, and pathways to public service opportunities. The event highlighted the University's commitment to ensuring that RISE Scholars are equipped with the tools for academic success and personal growth.



"Events like these ensure our students are not only prepared academically but also empowered with knowledge and confidence to take full advantage of their time at FAMU," said Amanda Williams in attendance.

Gatherings such as this underscore the spirit of community at FAMU. By fostering connections early, Housing and campus partners ensure students feel supported as they begin their journey on the Highest of Seven Hills.

EVENT & ACTIVITIES

STAY CONNECTED AND ENGAGED WITH OUR FEATURED EVENTS DESIGNED TO BUILD COMMUNITY, ENCOURAGE WELLNESS, AND CREATE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

FAMU FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HOUSING

FALL ROOM DECORATION CONTEST



SUBMISSION BEGINS:
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 10, 2025

TOP 3 ROOMS ANNOUNCED:
OCTOBER 17, 2025

Rattler
SPACES
FAMU FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY HOUSING

WINNERS ANNOUNCED
OCTOBER 17TH
DURING HOMECOMING SET FRIDAY

Mr. & Miss HOUSING PAGEANT

Set Gala

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 | 6:30PM
LOCATION: LEE HALL
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM



WE ARE HOUSING

FAMU

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HOUSING

STAY CONNECTED AND EXPERIENCE THE OFFICE
OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING COMMUNITY IN REAL
TIME. FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@FAMUHOUSING1887

FOLLOW US



FOLLOW US

FOLLOW

