

# YouTube chooses Marching 100 for homecoming tribute

Arjani Claitt

Staff Writer

The incomparable Marching 100 has done it again. Despite the coronavirus pandemic causing many universities to cancel their annual homecoming festivities, including FAMU, YouTube has invited the Marching 100 to participate in its virtual “HBCU Homecoming 2020: Meet Me On The Yard” show.

Homecoming has a deep cultural significance at historically Black colleges and universities, so the cancellation of FAMU’s 2020 homecoming disappointed the thousands of students attending the university. Despite this, hundreds of thousands of HBCU students can experience the magic of homecoming through the live-streamed show, which will be hosted by rapper 2 Chainz and social media influencer La La Anthony.

“HBCU homecomings are an integral slice of Black culture,” said Shawn Gee, executive producer and president of Live Nation Urban to The Source Magazine. “It is my honor to work with YouTube Originals and my friends at Jesse Collins Entertainment to bring this virtual celebration together to celebrate what is a cultural pillar of the Black community.”

“The high profile events bring a lot of excitement to our program because we get to show off and show out for FAMU and The Marching ‘100’ legacy,” said former Marching 100 drum major Nehemia Fields.

The Marching 100 has been an integral part of FAMU’s culture since its inception in 1946 and the band is no stranger to high-profile events.

“For the last 70 plus years, [the March-



Photos courtesy of WTXL

The FAMU Marching 100 will participate in the virtual “HBCU Homecoming 2020: Meet Me On The Yard” show on Oct. 24.study room.

ing 100 has] performed [in] countless Super Bowls [and in] performances with celebrities like Prince. Even our alumni — long after they served their time in the Marching 100 — are still asked to perform with Beyonce,” said Moises Martinez, the current head drum major for the Marching 100. “The Marching 100 has a rich, rich

history and its legacy is what keeps us going forward as we continue to build on that legacy.”

Martinez maintains that despite the change in scenery from Bragg Stadium to national platforms like YouTube and BET, the Marching 100 prepares like it would for any performance.

“The band is preparing for the show like any other time; the only difference is now, we are being more cautious of Covid[-19] restrictions. [The band is] making sure that everybody is socially distanced, [using] masks .. when not playing, [getting] same-week testing done whenever we have those performances where other people are coming in... [and] keeping that distance at a minimum of six feet.”

“Basically, the band prepares just how we normally do for practices. When we’re in front of the cameras, there’s nothing different,” he added.

Just as marching bands have a cultural significance to HBCUs, so do their leaders. Martinez spoke of his personal preparation to lead the Marching 100 for the upcoming virtual show.

“I currently serve as the head drum major for this year for the band and it’s an amazing opportunity. I’m lucky to have this position and I prepared for this moment through [training last year] and learning as a drum major for this head spot. There’s a lot that happens [and] that goes on [within the] mechanics of the marching band, but it’s a part of the process. The real teacher is experience; experience being in the band [is the only thing that can] help you lead the band.”

Fields, who was a drum major during the Marching 100’s victory in the “Hot” Battle of the Bands competition hosted by rappers Young Thug and Gunna earlier this year, elaborated on the band’s prepa-

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# FAMU students weigh in on new amphitheater and dining hall

**Paris Wilson**

Staff Writer

Although the pandemic has caused many students to halt their return to campus, Florida A&M University has continued to innovate the space as they await their return.

Craig Talton, who serves as FAMU's Director of Facilities, Planning and Construction, has been working diligently on two of the most anticipated projects on campus: the amphitheater and the new dining facility.

The pandemic has caused a reworking of timelines across the nation for everyone, and the construction team has had their share of setbacks during the process.

"COVID-19 impacted factories, construction material cost, and the shipment of materials and equipment. The project was affected further when workers had to stay at home and quarantine because of positive COVID tests. Adhering to CDC social distancing guidelines has slowed down the construction," Talton said.

Both projects are set to be complete soon and will be open for the Spring 2021 semester.

It might have come as a surprise to some seeing as the university just updated the food court a year before with the inclusion of the Chopping Block, new flooring, new seating arrangements and expansion of their popular Tropical Smoothie location.

The new dining hall will include a much larger selection of options and services provided.

"The dining facility layout consists of a business center, C Store, Pizza Station, Deli Station, Hot Station, Grille Station and salad area," Talton said.

Although the new eateries will intrigue the on-campus students, Bryce Collier, a sophomore biomedical medical engineering student, doesn't feel it's enough of an incentive to venture to campus.



Photo courtesy gaceng.net

The FAMU Amphitheater.

"I feel like it won't affect me in a major way. If I planned to eat on campus it would definitely be rare," Collier said.

On the other end of campus, the new amphitheater will be taking the place of long-standing residence halls McGuinn, Diamond, Wheatley and Cropper.

Angel Tolliver, a senior African American Studies student, is awaiting the new change but feels that it will ultimately infringe on the history of the university.

"The idea is good, but I feel like those dorms that were there before and the space that it will be taking up messes with the culture and history of the set," says Tolliver.

The amphitheater will provide a space outside for different student organizations to comfortably host events. The new addition will be able to bring new innovations to campus such as an increase of



Photo provided by eaarchitects.com

One of the cafes that already resides on campus.

wheelchair accessibility, green space and seating.

With students not being able to congregate on campus due to the virus, the

overall objective for each project won't be met until the pandemic itself can be contained and student life can go back to some form of normalcy.

# Faculty and staff voice many concerns about spring semester

**Stephan Symonette**

Staff Writer

Florida A&M University's faculty senate meeting was held Tuesday, Oct. 20 via Zoom. The meeting, led by Faculty Senate President Professor, Ann Marie Cavazos, discussed

concerns about face-to-face classes, which are projected to begin again this spring.

FAMU plans for more face-to-face teaching to occur next semester, but still much is in the air. So far, all that is known about the 2021 semester is that it will start on Jan. 6, and the first three days of classes will be remote. In-person classes will begin the following Monday, on Jan. 11.

There is a proposal that students will have the option to choose between remote classes or face-to-face classes. This raises concerns for many professors who believe

that the university will not be able to successfully track people who have contracted COVID-19.

Another major concern for the upcoming semester is government funding. With financial issues within the state of Florida, adjustments have to be made pertaining to how some schools will receive funding.

"USF has already decided to cut funding for their education department, what could that mean for us?" asked Roscoe Hightower, a professor at the FAMU School of Business and Industry.

FAMU's administration feels confident that they will handle these hard situations in a fair way.

"We must be consistent. We are hoping that each college and school is working out what is most appropriate," Provost Maurice Edington said.

With a lot of major concerns as the spring semester approaches, the university administration is hopeful that all faculty, staff, and students will come back to campus safely.

"We are all in this together," says Edington.

Other topics discussed included the process of reviewing hardcopy applications that have taken longer than expected due to safety precautions with the pandemic.

Even with concerns, faculty and staff continue to prepare for the upcoming semester. The university is still working out details to ensure safety of an in-person semester. The deadline for deans, faculty, and staff to finalize their spring schedule is this Friday.



Photo courtesy famu.edu

FAMU official crest

# Virtual graduation ceremonies aren't going to feel the same

**Jashawn Johnson**

Staff writer

As COVID-19 runs rampant throughout America it continues to steal opportunities from those who deserve them the most. With the end of the semester approaching many seniors are anticipating their well-deserved graduation that they have worked years for, only to be let down by the effects of the pandemic.

Following the transition from an in-person graduation to a virtual graduation in May, many students impatiently anticipated FAMU's decision on whether an in-person ceremony will be held in December.

On Oct. 19, FAMU INFO released an email to students of Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University providing steps and information on how to properly prepare and apply for a virtual commencement ceremony.

Many students and alumni were disappointed by this news and feel as though they have missed out on a crucial chapter to closing out their true FAMU experience.

Twitter user and FAMU alumnus @AyeYoJay\_1 tweeted, "Famu is killing me without graduation."

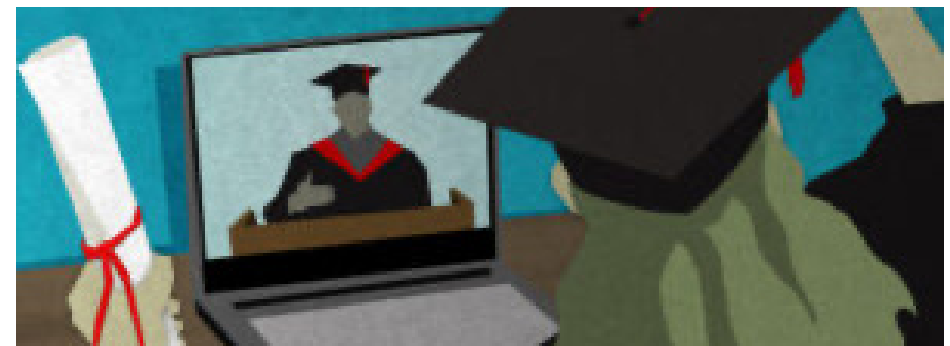


Photo courtesy CNN.com

Graphic of an online graduation commencement ceremony

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# Child-care centers ride out the pandemic

**Diamond Robinson**

Staff Writer

Finding a safe daycare is essential for parents.

A local child care facility, Bright Stars Learning Center, has successfully conquered the challenges presented by the pandemic.

“My husband always told me it was a dream of his for us to own a childcare center. That vision led me to take the courses and open up the facility on June 4, 2018. Since then, I have grown a bigger passion for children and what we do in the community,” said owner Lakeisha Thompson.

The deadly virus caught the nation off guard in February when the disease made its entrance in the United States. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, corporations were forced to close temporarily to slow the spread of the virus. The government declared that only essential workers were authorized to continue going to their jobs.

Bright Stars Learning Center was one

of the lucky few that did not have to shut down.

“Working through the pandemic was very challenging in the beginning because we did not know exactly what we were up against. We were constantly in fear of contracting the virus or losing the business. It was rewarding when we qualified for the PPP loan, which provided additional funds for the employees payroll,” Thompson said.

Several new methods were put into effect immediately to reduce any chances of the staff and children catching the virus. All staff members are required to be in uniform and masks must be worn at all times. It is mandatory for children who are age 2 or older to have on a mask as well. Anyone who enters the building is obligated to have their temperature checked.

“I have been in the childcare industry for over 25 years and have never experienced anything like this. It was overwhelming not knowing from who or when I may contract the virus. I made it my priority to teach the kids how to protect themselves from getting the disease,” said Bright Stars Learning Center employee Tamiko Glenn.

Other local daycare centers have been able to recover from the pandemic and adopt the new safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“I am very happy that we have begun transitioning back to normal full-time hours. The pandemic caught us all off guard. We are excited about welcoming new students and keeping everyone as safe as possible,” said Heaven Sent employee Kiara Mills.

Both facilities are now accepting new student applicants at this time and have returned to full-time hours this October. All kids and their parents or guardian must complete a form at the center’s

location, and provide proof of a negative test, to qualify.

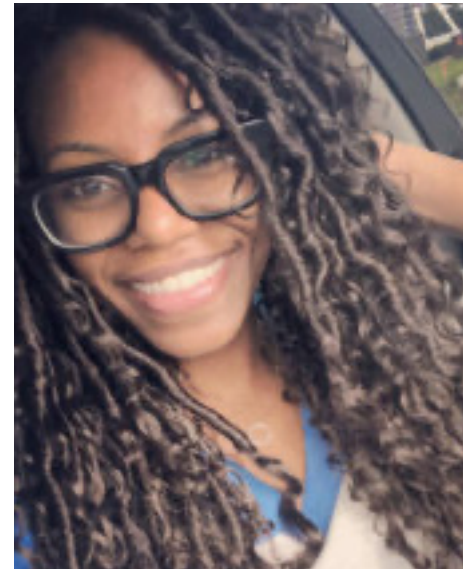


Photo courtesy Thompson

Local daycare owner Lakesha Thompson.

# Lines form as early voting begins

**Kamryn Marshall**

News Editor



Photo courtesy tallahassee.com

There has already been a record number of mail-in ballots cast in Florida as the heated election enters its final two weeks. Now Florida voters have the chance to vote at the polls in the early voting period that started Monday.

Voters have the option to cast their ballots early at 10 polling locations in the county before election day on Nov. 3. Adhering to the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks and hand sanitizer bottles are available to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but it is not a requirement to vote.

Mark Earley, supervisor of elections, ensured Leon County residents that voting at the polls is “easy” and “safe,” according to an op-ed story he wrote for

the Tallahassee Democrat. There has been a record 85,000 ballots sent to voters in Leon County and, as of Monday, about 30,000 had been returned. Earley is hoping to continue this high participation count as Leon County residents stand in line to vote.

“In my 34 years working elections, I have never seen the kind of interest we are seeing now,” Earley said. “For the most part, this high level of engagement is good news, because the success of our democracy depends upon the participation of our voters.”

The Leon County Courthouse and Florida A&M University are just two of the locations that will host early voting. Residents needed to have registered in Florida by Oct. 6 to participate in the early

voting process and 2020 election. However, those who are not registered in a Leon County precinct have the option to change their address at a voting site.

This election remains important to early voter Howard Eardue, 78, who came out bright and early to help campaign for Florida House of Representative candidate Allison Tant. After already voting by mail three weeks ago, Eardue wanted to share the significance of voting early in this election.

“This is the most important election in my 78 years of living,” Eardue said. “We have a very divided country, we have administrative leadership that is the worst in my lifetime and any lifetime that I have read about. It’s time for a change.”

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# STRIKE THE VOTE



[www.FAMUNAA.org](http://www.FAMUNAA.org)

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# Making Strides 2020: Breast cancer events are virtual this year

Elaina Williams

Staff writer

The fight to end breast cancer starts with a single step.

Breast cancer survivors and supporters across the nation are uniting online this month to celebrate the fight to end breast cancer.

Hundreds joined a virtual event this weekend to attend the public celebration with the American Cancer Society. ACS started Making Strides Against Breast Cancer to unite communities in the fight against the deadly disease. Today, Making Strides is the largest network of breast cancer awareness events.

This year, the annual celebration looked different due to the pandemic. Usually there would be a large event with hundreds of attendees dressed in all pink parading through Cascades Park in Tallahassee as a part of Making Strides Leon. This year, Making Strides was a virtual event. Nonetheless, the passion to end breast cancer was the same so you could still spot supporters at the park getting their strides in.

Folks were encouraged to still walk in their own groups, and document their strides on social media using the hashtag #stride-slave to unite.

The livestream began with Louise Santosuosso, executive director of American Cancer Society, announcing this was the



Photo courtesy Hali Tauxe/Democrat Files

first ever national celebration broadcast for Making Strides. Surrounding her were pinked out cars and supporters cheering and shaking their pink pom poms in celebration for the event.

“Even though we all can’t be together this year we’re bringing that Making Strides spirit right to you today,” Santosuosso said. “That’s right. We are going coast to coast to celebrate our amazing breast cancer survivors and thrivers and we will spotlight communities taking up the fight in new and unique ways.”

Clips from supporters across America were shared showing their support for breast cancer awareness and research. Folks from New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida, Puerto

Rico, Texas, and Louisiana all showed their support to kick off the celebration.

A powerful musical performance was presented by Kirk Franklin and his choir.

The livestream ended with various breast cancer survivors sharing their stories and encouraging the viewers to continue to make donations.

Santosuosso reminded viewers that all of their support helps them fund the future of breast cancer research and advanced critical programs and support for breast cancer survivors, patients and caregivers across America.

Jenny Nash, breast cancer survivor, said this weekend’s event was important to her.

“I was diagnosed and had a

double mastectomy in January of 2014 and when you get that diagnosis you’re just petrified,” Nash said. “Then I went through 52 weeks of chemotherapy. During that time, American Cancer Society provided wigs for me. It was chilly that January and February when I started losing my hair. So it’s super important to me to raise funds for research and for local support. I don’t think people understand how much they’ve done here locally with Making Strides for Breast Cancer.”

Nash participated in Sunday’s event by creating a fundraising chain that her peers can donate to.

“Every year since I was diag-

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# Agapé's Lemonade is family oriented

**Aolani Brown**

Layout Editor

Often located near the intersection of Tennessee Street and Ocala Road, a local lemonade business is sharing a piece of love, shedding a bit of light, and selling a lot of lemonade.

Agapé's Lemonade is an upcoming local roadside lemonade company "inspired by awe-tism," as stated in its Instagram bio.

Jontae and Vermetra Jackson, the owners and founders of Agapé's Lemonade, named the business after their 9-year-old son with autism, Agapé.

"The short story is that we wanted to create a business that he could take over," Jontae Jackson said, regarding their son. "He's wonderful and amazing but I know that people with autism do struggle sometimes."

"We wanted to create an avenue for him to have a means of sustaining his life and being productive, all while having the

ability to socialize," Vermetra Jackson said.

"And lemonade is his favorite drink," she added with a smile.

Despite having been in business for almost two years, Agapé's Lemonade began its mobile roadside service about a year ago.

"Initially our plan was to not only do day to day roadside mobile food but to also serve at events such as the North Florida Fair, FAMU Homecoming, Strawberry Festival, and Raccoon Festival," Jontae Jackson said. "COVID hit and we had to adjust on the fly but in the near future we want to get back to that."

The Jacksons both attended Florida A&M University where Jontae graduated from the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

Jontae is currently a registered dietitian but has a long history working



Photo by Aolani Brown

Jontae and Vermetra Jackson in front of Agapé's Lemonade stand.

in nutrition and has applied his knowledge to their product. What makes their lemonade so special? The Jacksons are confident in not only the quality of their

product but also its nutritional value.

"I know no one else uses a lower

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# Afro Juice, a FAMU student's answer to skin care

**Dynasty Williams**

Staff writer

Finding a perfect skin care regime can be a difficult task for those of us without perfect, easy going skin. However, that task is even more of a challenge when trying to balance having clear skin while having to constantly wear a mask, maintaining new make-up habits and starting a new life.

Yet, businesses like Afro Juice, have tried to ease the process of finding accessible skin and hair care. Afro Juice, owned by 21-year-old Florida A&M student Omari Harris, a business administration major from Pensacola, provides Afrocentric and hygienic products to the Black community, including FAMU students.

Many college students aren't educated on the best products to use for their skin, and adding stress from 'the college experience' into the mix doesn't make it

any better.

According to HCP.com, researchers from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University conducted a study published in the journal Acta Dermato-Venereologica that stated, "Results showed that compared to low stress individuals, the high stress group suffered more often from pruritus (itchy skin), alopecia (hair loss), oil, waxy, or flaky patches on the scalp, hyperhidrosis (troublesome sweating), scaly skin, onychophagia (nail biting), itchy rash on hands, and trichotillomania (hair pulling)."

For Black students, although social media has made it a bit easier, you have to search for natural products specifically for Black skin.

Dr. Jenna Lester, a dermatologist at University of California, San Francisco,

told NBC, "To have someone tell you a description of how something looks in darker skin, but not show you a photo of it, is really not sufficient and it's not comparable to how we learn about rashes and people with lighter skin."

Harris opened Afro Juice on June 13, to help, educate, and steer Black students on their personal journeys to clear skin and healthy hair.

"The idea started when I asked what can the Black community benefit more from when it's made in our own communities, and that's how Afro Juice was born," Harris said. "It took over a year of planning, but I'm happy we took the time necessary to have a good plan."

Harris emphasized that one of the major skin care questions he's asked about is healing dark marks and the



Photo courtesy Harris  
Omari Harris holding Afro Juice products.

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# The numbers don't support COVID policy changes at FAMU and FSU

**Arjani Claitt**

Staff writer

Despite the appearance of the coronavirus pandemic tapering off and the desire to return to life before the pandemic, the threat of infection is still very real. This past Saturday, the state of Florida reported 4,007 new cases — the highest single-day increase in coronavirus cases in two months, according to the Florida Department of Health.

Despite this, Florida A&M and Florida State have been repealing policies and guidelines put in place due to the pandemic.

According to the Florida Board of Governors meeting that was held and live-streamed on Sept. 16, the FAMU fall 2020 reopening plan was unanimously approved for implementation. This plan included the minimal use of in-person instruction, which has already begun on



Photo courtesy famu.edu

FAMU and FSU have been relaxing restrictions despite rising state and campus COVID-19 cases.

campus. Despite some students preferring in-person instruction as opposed to remote learning, the validity and reasoning

behind the plan to reopen is questionable. Is it safe for students, faculty and staff to begin to reopen the campus?

On Oct. 9, the university lifted the student curfew for dorm residents and increased the number of people allowed at events to 30, according to FAMU Forward. During this time, the Florida Department of Health was reporting well over 1,000 new cases of COVID-19 per day in the state of Florida.

On Oct. 7, FAMU Developmental Research School (DRS) reopened after a two-week reprieve from in-person instruction due to positive COVID-19 cases in the faculty and student population. This decision to reopen comes after FAMU DRS teachers hosted an online protest of the opening of the campus at the beginning of the school year.

On Sept. 17 — the day after the Board of Governors meeting — 3,187 new cases were reported in the state of Florida.

Is the university's decision to continue with its reopening plan a bid to return to normalcy or a blatant disregard for the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff?

Florida State University has also begun reopening its campus, which is one of the largest by student population in Florida. Last week, FSU reported 26 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of positive cases at the university to 1,558 since university-wide testing began at the beginning of August. Despite this, FSU is still hosting football games at Doak Campbell Stadium and has returned

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# Ice Cube's message should be redirected

**Paris Wilson**

Staff writer

Ice Cube has inducted himself as the new voice of the Black community when it comes to political affairs but went about it the wrong way.

The West Coast rapper has been advocating for Black rights ever since his N.W.A. days and has asserted his stance within the political field very clear with the group's notable song, "F\*\*\* Tha Police" which was released in 1988.

Since the song's release, Black Americans have been continued victims of police brutality and making strides to defund the same institutions that have caused so much pain in the community.

As of late, Ice Cube has been trying to educate himself further in the political realm.

"Over the last few months, I've been really going deep into this political space.



Photo Courtesy Politico

Rapper, Ice Cube, has had his share of backlash this week as the Trump campaign has confirmed his assistance in the President's Platinum Plan.

[I've been] reading a lot of history, trying to understand how systems work, not get-

ting caught up in anybody's redirect, but looking for my d\*\*\* self and just trying to figure out why we continue to flounder at the bottom," Ice Cube said in an 8-minute long Instagram video he posted on Oct. 11.

In June, Ice Cube released "Contract with Black America" (CWBA), which is a 22-page document that calls to action the urgency to reform educational systems, defund the police and abolish private prisons.

From his publication of the document, Ice Cube says that he was sought out by Democrats and Republicans alike to talk about it, but what differed between the two parties was the time constraint.

"I put out the CWBA. Both parties contacted me. Dems said we'll address the CWBA after the election. Trump cam-

paign made some adjustments to their plan after talking to us about the CWBA," Ice Cube tweeted out on Oct 14.

Ice Cube should be commended for his efforts to educate himself in the political arena. His heart is in the right place when advocating for real problems that plague the Black community, but he isn't the one that should be speaking for us.

His platform should be used to amplify the smaller activists that don't have a voice and have been struggling to get their point across to the masses about the same issues that Ice Cube pointed out in the CWBA.

The Platinum Plan the president has crafted with his help is easily deemed disingenuous and unreliable. It's a ploy for

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# HBO shows redefining ‘Black girl magic’ on TV

Noella Williams  
Lifestyles Editor



Photo courtesy CNN

Uncle George, Atticus and Leti in episode one of “Lovecraft Country.”



Photo courtesy NY Times

Regina King dons her vigilante suit in “Watchmen.”

HBO is paving the way for diversity with its plentiful amount of Black woman-led shows. In a Hollywood world filled with racially ambiguous recurring characters, it is necessary to see HBO fill the void of Black characters. Netflix is frequently under fire for its lack of representation of dark skinned Black women. It is also important that these aforementioned characters are not written in the script to simply serve as the best friend or love interest of the main non-Black character. For example, consider “Clueless,” “I Am Not Okay With This” or “The Vampire Diaries.” Characters like these often do not receive their deserved recognition or character development.

HBO original shows like “Insecure,” “Lovecraft Country,” “I May Destroy You,” “Watchmen” and “Euphoria” feature a Black woman as the protagonist and most of them are directed by Black women, with the exception of “Watchmen” and

“Euphoria.” HBO sketch comedy series “A Black Lady Sketch Show,” written and produced by comedian Robin Thede, also falls under this category of having a Black woman as the protagonist.

“Lovecraft Country” is the newest to join the HBO streaming team, and the show actually just had its season finale on Sunday night. In the show adaptation of the novel by Matt Ruff, “Lovecraft Country” follows a traveling trio on the search for one of their missing relatives. Not only does it take place during the Jim Crow era in 1950, but the trio also encounters deadly monsters. It doesn’t have a confirmed second season yet, according to an interview by Deadline with Misha Green.

“Nothing is official yet, but I envision a second season that carries on the spirit of Matt Ruff’s novel by continuing to reclaim the genre storytelling space that people of color have typically been left out of,” Green told Deadline.

“Lovecraft Country” crafted its own genre by mixing sci-fi, history and horror. Similar to merging the themes of horror and history, “Watchmen” brought attention to the events of the 1921 Tulsa massacre with its protagonist Regina King. The award-winning limited series aired on HBO from October to December 2019. Besides the topic of racism, “Watchmen” is unapologetically derived from a comic book and does not attempt to hide it. A second season is still possible, but it is not likely without the creator Damon Lindelof being involved.

Written and created by the star of “Chewing Gum” and “Black Mirror,” Michaela Coel crushes her performance in HBO’s “I May Destroy You.” The storyline intertwines the horrors of sexual assault and manages to keep a comedic note. HBO gave Coel the opportunity to blossom and develop this show after turning down Netflix when it offered her

an enormous lump sum of money with zero copyrights.

Film enthusiast Nana Ana Marfo believes it is necessary for HBO to produce shows like these with Black women breaking barriers.

“It’s very important to see women that look like me with my complexion,” Marfo said. “I believe that HBO goes in-depth into the different scenarios of a Black person, especially since a lot of white people have this general idea of what Black people are.”

Filmmaker and student Allen Simpson also applauds HBO for its diverse quality of shows.

“HBO has been proactive in focusing on quality over quantity,” Simpson said. “Netflix has kind of developed a cookie cutter formula where they can churn out shows that follow a very similar formula

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# Fear of missing out is real during COVID season

Tazjhani Baker

Staff writer

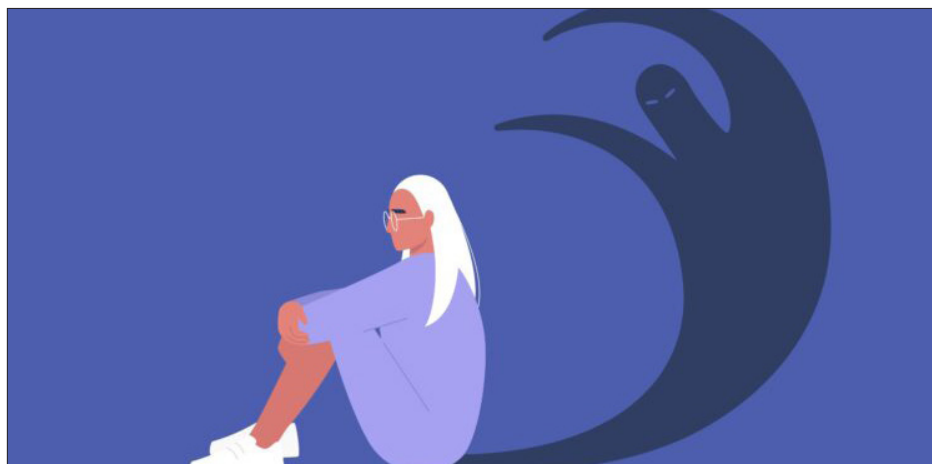


Photo courtesy Getty Images

It is no secret that COVID-19 has put a damper on a lot of our ideas of fun. People are fearful of beaches, bowling alleys and nightclubs. Whatever your idea of fun is, it's pretty much been limited due to COVID-19. However, the fear of missing out (FOMO) may be causing more people to change their mindset to you only live once (YOLO). YOLO originated after Drake's 2012 hit, *The Motto*, was released and has taken on an entirely different meaning in 2020.

On the spectrum of COVID-19 safety guidelines, you have people sacrificing their social life to best protect themselves and stop the spread. Meanwhile, you have those who are not taking the pandemic seriously and continue to endanger themselves and others to socialize. This begs the question, what side of the spectrum are you, and is your way incorrect?

Watching your friends live a care-free life through social media – whether it'd be partying or traveling – can instantly start to make you feel like you've been wasting your days quarantining in fear. While a

lot of us would love to be in Tallahassee's popular night club, Top Flite, singing Fantasia's "When I See You" at the top of our lungs, it isn't so simple.

If you have family members or friends who are immunocompromised, fall into the susceptible age of COVID-19, or are more prone to not survive COVID-19 if contracted, you should do more research and understand why all those roles play a major factor in where you fall on the FOMO to YOLO spectrum.

Mikel Ingram understands that the fear of missing out is an anxious feeling, especially when you label yourself a social butterfly.

"I haven't been to parties because, I'm scared to be in a public place with people I don't know and trust," Ingram said. "I don't know if they have been following the rules."

Most of the events deemed as taboo to those who prefer to isolate themselves are hidden on people's Instagram close friend's feature. Whether it is brunch,

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# TCC teams prepare for tip off

**Marissa Stubbs**

Sports Editor

For student-athletes at Tallahassee Community College, getting back to the court is the common goal. However, so is staying safe. Coaches and staff have been working during the last few months to come up with a safety plan effective for all sports.

The Eagles will officially kick off their basketball season in January.

Rob Chaney, TCC's athletic director, said coming up with a realistic plan involved all staff members.

"It's been a team effort since March. There wasn't a playbook or rulebook ready for how to adapt during a pandemic. For us, the one thing we talked about from the beginning was, we were going to come up with a realistic plan for TCC," Chaney said.

Each week the women's basketball team holds morning practices. Once a week the players participate in three-on-three games, allowing them to work in smaller groups.

Matt Huddleston, head coach for the women's basketball team, thinks this time

is tough for many college athletes.

"Usually during a season you're talking to your players about basketball concepts and the team concepts you're trying to teach. This year has been incredibly unique and a challenge for all coaches I know but I think mental health becomes number one," Huddleston said.

Throughout this time, Huddleston has been encouraging his players by checking in on their mental health and making sure they are checking on their families.

"I think for college athletes right now there is an additional level of pressure because they want to be out here competing but we're asking them to go above and beyond," Huddleston added.

The men's basketball team holds its practices in the evening. For head coach Zach Settembre, focusing on being the best is the goal for this year.

"Our guys are focused on trying to be the best for themselves every single day. I'm proud of our guys and their approach in terms of coming in and working very hard consistently, so we're just taking

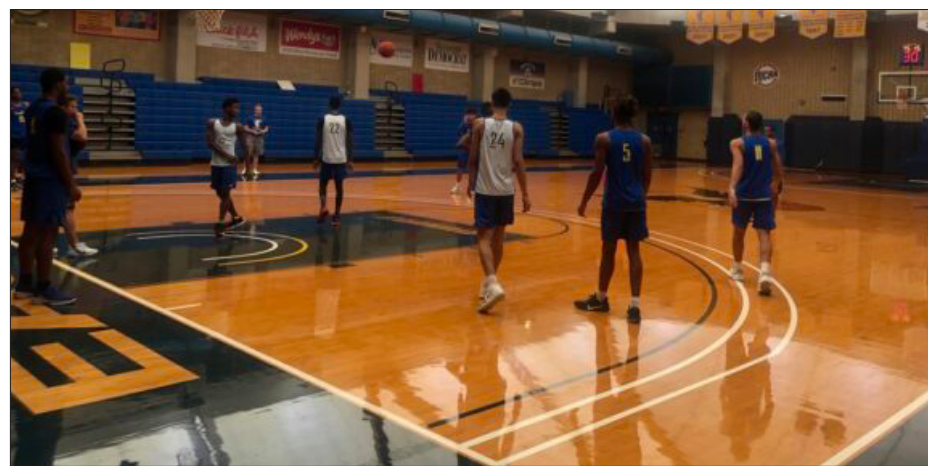


Photo by Marissa Stubbs

TCC's basketball teams won't have any games until January.

things day by day," Settembre said.

Although the Eagles won't officially start their season until January, coaches and staff look forward to improving their skills both on and off the court.

Ladarius Knight, shooting guard for the Eagles, says his team is making the proper adjustments to win.

"Defense is the most important thing. If we want to win when the season gets here, we have to work on defense," Knight said.

To stay updated on the women's and men's basketball schedule visit their website at [www.tcceagles.com](http://www.tcceagles.com)

# FAMU track and field ready for action

**Vladimir Cadet**

Assistant Sports Editor

The Florida A&M men's and women's track and field seasons will look a lot different this year, as practices have resumed.

Based on the university, coaches and the athletic department have plans to provide a safe environment for runners. The NCAA has some rules in place, which requires athletes to get tested regularly and have masks on while indoors. When athletes are outside, they don't have to wear a mask.

Markiel Ross, a sophomore sprinter, expressed his thoughts on the upcoming season.

"I'm excited for this upcoming season. We have a great team, and everyone is

working hard to get better. Of course, the virus plays a big role in everything and has the possibility of affecting our season. I feel that the university is doing everything they can to ensure everyone is healthy and safe during these times," Ross said.

Sophomore, Xavier Green, who originally went to Florida International University, transferred to FAMU because the school didn't have the utensils he was looking for.

"FamU was originally my number one school coming out of high school. The main things I wanted were here at FAMU. I came in and instantly connected with the other runners and the head coach,"

Green said.

Brandon Love, a junior sprinter, says he has high expectations for this upcoming season.

"I'm excited for this upcoming season and have high expectations, if it happens. I am unsure of how the season will operate because of the virus. I'm hoping that everyone can follow safety protocols so that the season will be possible; however, I know that my teammates are practicing," Love said.

Brandon Love made news as he was selected to participate in the NFL events and club business development experience program.

This program is a two-prong ap-

proach serving as both a mentorship and professional development program, that introduces the career path of sports and event production to the students.

Love gave an insight on what he'll be doing in this program and how this opportunity came across his attention.

"This is an experience ship so most of my time is spent with a mentor who will help show me the inner workings of the NFL. I will also spend time sitting in on meetings building a strong network and gaining more knowledge and experience," Love said.

For Love to land this opportunity as a

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# MEAC releases schedules for basketball and football

Amari Jarrell  
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy famuathletics.com

Christopher Williams, a fourth-year computer information systems major at FAMU, is excited that sports are resuming in the spring semester.

"Hearing that the MEAC will be resuming sport activities in the spring semester was some of the best news I've heard all year," Williams said. "This pandemic has been absolutely hectic and has taken away some of the best memories of the college experience, I am definitely looking forward to these spring games."

The Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference on Thursday announced the football and basketball schedules for the 2021 spring semester.

The football season, which usually

takes place during the fall semester, was pushed back due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Bryan Crawford, a red-shirt junior who plays center for the Rattlers' football team, said, "It's always bittersweet when you find out that your dreams and desires have to be put on hold due to the global pandemic."

A statement released by MEAC Commissioner Dennis E. Thomas said, "The mental and physical health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans must be at the forefront. With that in mind, creative and innovative scheduling was required to accomplish our goals. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we

had to restrict travel to regional competition. Hopefully, the type of schedule is for spring 2021 only."

The basketball season is slated to begin Jan. 2, with teams in the MEAC playing a 16-game conference schedule. FAMU's men's and women's teams will host eight home games starting Jan. 16 through Feb. 27.

The football season is scheduled to start on Feb. 20. FAMU's Football team will play a six-game regular season. FAMU is scheduled to host three games. They are scheduled to face South Carolina State University on March 13, North Carolina Central University on March 20 and long-time rival Bethune-Cookman

University on April 10.

FAMU finished the 2019 football season 9-2 overall and 7-1 in the MEAC.

Crawford is ready more than ever to get back to business with the rest of his teammates. "I look at this as more time to get prepared and work on my craft in preparation for whenever we get back on the field," Crawford said. "I'm looking forward to being around my teammates, coaches, strength staff, and just the support system. That's what gets me going. Just being around a supporting cast that wants to win as bad as I do — that's what fuels me the most."

For a more in depth look at the composite schedule, visit [famuathletics.com](http://famuathletics.com)