

# FAMU announces in-person ceremonies for spring graduates

**Tatiana Camacho**

Staff Writer

The outbreak of the COVID-19 has completely changed the country's education system. From teacher-led protests and Zoom class sessions to graduation ceremonies being held online, the pandemic has impacted the lives of students and educators everywhere.

For the spring graduates at Florida A&M University, that nightmare is near over.

The university announced on Tuesday that they plan to hold their Spring 2021 commencement ceremony in-person.

"We look forward to celebrating this significant milestone with all of our spring 2021 graduates," according to an email from FAMU Info.

Officials are planning six ceremonies that begin Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25. The Rattlers have been hosting graduation online since May of last year.

For those alumni graduating during that time period, the news is even sweeter. Officials say that they will allow them the opportunity to walk across the stage as well.

"The university will host an in-person ceremony for 2020 graduates this summer. Dates and details will be announced at a later date," according to FAMU Info.

As the news spreads about the in-person ceremony, seniors say they are waiting anxiously for more details. Upton Fisher, a graduating Social Work student at FAMU says there is no better time than now to change the restriction.

"Now that we know that there will be



Photo courtesy WFSU News

an in-person ceremony, that relieves a lot of stress and tension on starting the process of sending out invites and purchasing necessities for the big day; like cap and gown especially," said Fisher.

It is a great opportunity that the university plans to also celebrate the 2020 graduates but some alumni feel it is a little too late.

"It is considerate and all but it's too late for that. I will just wait until I gradu-

ate from grad school for graduation," said alumna Deja Allen.

Tyronisha Williams, a psychology graduating senior, spoke about the updates of graduation ceremonies.

"I honestly don't think it is a good idea to hold an in-person ceremony, but if everyone followed the CDC guidelines and wore their mask & social distance, I don't think there would be any problems," said Williams.

FAMU says they will continue to adhere to all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Board of Governors guidelines to ensure the health and safety of the students, parents and faculty.

More detailed information on the schedule for each college and school is imminent and will be posted on the commencement website at [www.famu.edu/commencement](http://www.famu.edu/commencement).

# Student Senate working on bills

**Tashante Evans**

Staff writer

Florida A&M University's Student Senate held their seventh session meeting Monday evening. The committee met on Zoom for the first-time post-election, to discuss committee updates, student government updates and more.

Each committee chair gave an update on committee projects that are developing, and committee plans for the rest of the semester.

The Activity and Service Budget Committee budget was reported by the Organization and Finance Committee chairman, sophomore Senator Amon McKinney.

McKinney was happy to report that the ASBC was 50% done and is in the approval stage. He also informed the committee to be prepared to discuss the budget in the next meeting.

Judicial and Rules Committee chairman, senior William Walter, reported that some senators who have failed to uphold

their duties may be in hot water with the senate.

"If they do not attend Wednesday's meeting without an excuse, it is very likely that they will see the senate with an unfavorable recommendation or an impeachment recommendation coming from the J&R Committee," Walter said.

Senate President, Shanel Brown, wrapped up the legislative branch reports with some crucial branch head updates.

Brown's report included a bill regarding health and wellness days for the remainder of the semester, that are to take place once a month. The bill was received by administration yesterday morning and will be presented to other designated administrators for approval.

Brown also reminded the committee that senate nominations will be occurring in 2 weeks for the 51st student senate president.

Student Body President, senior Xavier



Photo courtesy [sga.famu.edu](https://sga.famu.edu)  
FAMU student senate seal.

McClinton, was also present at yesterday's meeting to give updates on the executive branch.

McClinton informed the committee on an update from the Florida Senate and House Bill 1, intellectual freedom bill, and Senate Bill 96.

The FAMU senate is also looking to file two bills, one being a renaming solution to rename Gamble Street after the Perkins family.

"We think that it's time that we acknowledge someone who is a FAMU alum, who was very successful in the civil rights movement in Tallahassee... As opposed to carrying the name of Gamble, who was a former slave owner, segregationist and a couple of other things," McClinton said.

McClinton also announced the names of the individuals who were nominated for cabinet positions, as well as the judicial

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# Expect to keep paying more at the pump

**Deiana Abdel-Gadir**

Staff writer

Gas prices are increasing all across the country, and they show no sign of coming down soon.

Harsh weather conditions halted oil production at many refineries, and with hundreds of thousands of power outages in Texas and other areas, consumers can expect the demand to eclipse the supply during the coming weeks.

The American Automobile Association reported last week that crude oil prices have gone up and, along with restoring the refineries from tough winters, has led to a continued increase in gas prices.

"Gas prices continue to increase, with the national average up nine cents on the week to \$2.72. That is a 30-cent increase from the beginning of February, 28 cents more than a year ago and the most expensive daily national average since August



Photo courtesy WCTV

Rising gas prices, average price of unleaded in Florida is \$2.52.

2019. The latest price jumps are a direct result of February's winter storm that took 26 U.S. refineries offline and pushed refinery utilization from an average of

about 83% down to an atypical low of 68%, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA)," AAA reported this week.

The report also stated there is likely to be a boost in travel due to the vaccine rollout, and many people are finding their way back to normal day-to-day activities. Also, with the implementation of another government stimulus check, you can expect to see more people driving, and that will also cause gas prices to go up.

Some find this information to be relative to past years. Ohio native Anje Files says the weather has always been a factor in gas prices regardless of the pandemic.

"I can already see people are quick to place blame on the Biden administration for gas prices and are quick to forget there are other factors at play here, especially in states where the structures are not equipped for harsh winters like Texas. People have a tendency to gripe about a lot of nothing

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# Minneapolis prepares for Chauvin trial

**Samirra Demry**

Staff writer

On March 8, the state of Minnesota is scheduled to begin its prosecution of Derek Chauvin, the main police officer involved in the death of George Floyd. His trial is for second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. According to the Minnesota Star Tribune, the state can also charge him with third-degree murder.

The remaining three officers involved will have a separate trial together beginning in August.

The city of Minneapolis — my hometown and where I spent the fall semester before returning to Tallahassee to complete my degree at FAMU — has begun taking measures of protection in the downtown area where the trial will be held. They are calling it “Operation safety net (OSN).” The initiative consists of law enforcement and local health agencies.

An estimated 3,000 police and National Guard officers will be activated at

the start of trial. Minneapolis has already placed barbed wire and barricades surrounding the Hennepin County Government Center.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said the large security presence is in place to protect people and property.

“Safety is a top priority through this

very difficult time in our city. We need to make sure that our communities, our businesses, families throughout the city are safe and feel safe regardless of where they live and regardless of where they work,” Frey said.

Many people have been critical of Mayor Frey’s decision to have such a

heavy load of policing. City Council member Phillipe Cunningham believes last spring’s protests left a lot of Black-businesses vulnerable but now thinks the city is overdoing it.

“How do we make sure that we don’t have a protection gap in the same kind of way, but not do so in a way that’s so heavy-handed that it actually makes folks feel unsafe in a different kind of way?” Cunningham said.

Due to the preparations the city has made to protect property, many believe that city officials are setting a precedent for a “not guilty” verdict. Local activists say they will not let police presence stop them from exercising their First Amendment rights.

Kasey Drayton, an FSU grad student, doesn’t have high hopes for the outcome.

“Seeing the pictures of the barbed wire



Photo courtesy Minnesota Star Tribune

Parts of downtown Minneapolis look like a war zone.

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# King James partners with Rattlers & Nike

**Malcolm Harvey**

Staff writer

Florida A&M University and Nike Inc. have agreed upon a six-year deal that will begin July 1, 2021.

The partnership between FAMU and Nike has lasted well over 20 years, but this is the first time Lakers forward LeBron James would be in the mix of things. Nike will supply the Florida A&M Athletics department with footwear, uniforms, and apparel that is a signature branded by James himself.

On March 2, in a game between the Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Lakers, James wore the LeBron 18 P.E. “FAMU” colorway shoes. The shoes featured orange and light green colors, insoles customized with FAMU’s Rattler mascot and LeBron James’ signature as well as the acronym FAMU prominent on the heel of the shoe.



Photo courtesy: LeBron James’ Instagram  
LeBron James holding FAMU” Nike LeBron 18 PE before tip-off.

He even went as far as giving those a sneak peek into the huge announcement on his Instagram profile where he arrived at Staples Center holding the shoes in his hand with the caption titled, “[I’ll] tell you a secret if you can keep shhh.”

LeBron James has been well regarded as not only the greatest basketball player of all-time but a leader and advocate off the court, for subjects that matter to him the most.

“Nike has long supported Florida A&M Athletics, and I am committed to lifting HBCUs, so I was happy I rocked a pair of the PEs in-game and showcased a piece of what’s to come for the men’s and women’s basketball programs,” James said.

Not only will the sponsorship work with the basketball programs, but the deal also includes other athletic programs.

“Through our continued relationship with Florida A&M Athletics, we’ll have the opportunity to partner with some of the country’s preeminent student-athletes and the next generation of leaders,” said Sonja Henning, Nike’s VP of League Partnerships for North America.

In addition, Nike will offer internships, coordinate networking opportunities for Florida A&M students, and service apparel for the Marching 100. Florida A&M track student-athlete, Zoe Hightower, was gracious to hear that LeBron James has such admiration for the university.

“We are so appreciative to have someone so well-known representing our school by gaining more recognition. I think more people would value black athletes as a whole coming from HBCUs

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# Senate bill addresses free speech on Florida campuses

**Haleigh Porter**

Staff writer

The Florida Senate has been making progress with Senate Bill 264, which addresses higher education and is heavily dependent on federal funding to complete its duties.

After being filed on Dec. 14, the bill is now with the Appropriations Committee where it is waiting on decisions made by Congress about how the federal government spends some of its monies. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the appropriations process addresses the discretionary portion of the budget — spending ranging from national defense to food safety to education to federal employee salaries — but excludes mandatory spending, such as Medicare and Social Security, which is spent automatically according to formula.

las.

The higher education bill, introduced by Republican Senator Ray Wesley Rodrigues, requires the state Board of Education to mandate each public college and university in Florida to conduct an annual assessment related to intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity. “Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity” refers to the exposure of students to a variety of ideological and political perspectives.

The bill will also require the state Board of Education to annually publish such assessments by a specified date, prohibiting the state Board of Education from shielding Florida students from certain speech. To “shield” in this instance means to limit students access to or observation of ideas and opinions they may find



Photo courtesy MGN online

The historic Florida Capitol.

uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable or offensive.

SB 264 gives the right to expressive free-speech activities. According to the Florida Senate website, this expressive speech is not limited to, any lawful oral or

written communication of ideas, including all forms of peaceful assembly, protests and speeches; distributing literature; carrying signs; circulating petitions, etc.

The proposed legislation may clash with Florida statute 934.03(1), which says the recording and publication, including the Internet publication of video or audio recorded in outdoor areas of campus and in classrooms, subject to the protections provided in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

This legislation comes after a series of political demonstrations around the country this past year. From peaceful demonstrations supporting the Black Lives Matter movement to the unpatriotic

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# SJGC's Hunter named to national task force

**Lauryn McDaniels**

Staff writer

Leah Hunter, an assistant professor in Florida A&M University's School of Journalism & Graphic Communication, has been appointed to the Society of Professional Journalists' national task force.

Hunter serves as the adviser for FAMU's SPJ student chapter. One SPJ meeting turned Hunter's ideas to a wonderful opportunity.

“I had a lot to say based on issues I have seen firsthand. They seemed to really like some things I was saying, particularly the national president Matt Hall. He really liked the feedback I was giving and followed up through email to ask me to be a part of the task force,” Hunter said.

Hunter said she is honored to have this position because she knows that she can make changes in the journalism world.

“To be singled out for your ideas that are worthy for consideration, it's an honor



Photo courtesy Hunter

SJGC Professor Leah Hunter.

and great to hear. I am hoping my participation in this will have a long lasting

effect on SPJ and ultimate diversity in media and journalism,” Hunter said.

Some things that Hunter will be responsible for as a member of the national task force is attracting more college students to their campus SPJ chapters and assisting HBCUs and Hispanic-serving institutions in establishing SPJ chapters.

Students and faculty voiced excitement about Hunter being appointed to the SPJ national task force and believe this can open doors for FAMU's SPJ chapter while giving insight to all chapters of SPJ.

“The SJGC family is very proud of Dr. Hunter's appointment to this national task force. Her appointment adds to the diversity of voices related to the Society of Professional Journalists' student chapter development. She is a student-centered faculty member who has successfully advised the SJGC Society of Professional

Journalists student chapter,” Interim Dean Bettie Grable said.

Tazjhani Baker, an SJGC student, has worked closely with Hunter and the local SPJ chapter.

“When I heard the news I was so proud. She's so deserving. When I served as vice president of Society of Professional Journalist alongside her, she was always so helpful and willing to both teach and lead,” Baker said.

Baker also is hopeful that this will bring recognition to the Society of Professional Journalists and that more students will want to join.

Hunter said she making this part of her mission. She wants to make SPJ more attractive to students, offering students skills they need for their future careers and to strengthen FAMU's SPJ chapter.



# All you can eat: Rattlers trying viral TikTok recipes

**Jaelen Patrick**

Staff Writer



Photo courtesy [identity-mag.com](https://identity-mag.com)

3 popular Tik Tok recipes are shown side by side.

It is no secret that Tik Tok has taken over our daily lives one video at a time. Whether it be through trending dances, life hacks, or even advice, Tik Tok has influenced us in many ways.

One trend that has especially made its mark on our lives is the thousands of trending recipes that many have been dying to try as they pop up on there for your pages.

As boredom strikes during this pandemic, many of us college students have turned to trend Tik Tok recipes to not only give us something to do but to also help us avoid going out to eat. I mean, with the substantial amount of free time we have now come across, what better to do than to try out some popular recipes? Whipped Coffee, Cloud Bread, Pancake

Cereal, and Feta Pasta are only a few of the trending Tik Tok recipes that rattlers have tried out, but did they live up to the hype?

Tonique Mitchell, a second-year biology student, took a stab at one of the most viral Tik Tok recipes out right now, feta pasta.

"It wasn't hard at all," Mitchell said. "Tik Tok gave nice, precise instructions and I just followed them."

This feta pasta recipe has had many different reviews where some are in favor of it, while others are not. As for Mitchell, she was impressed with the result.

"I was scared to try it at first because it was receiving mixed reviews, but it ended up being pretty good," Mitchell said. "It lived up to the hype."

Unlike Mitchell, some rattlers found the recipes that they tried to be a bit more challenging. Zaire Shaw, a second-year industrial engineering student, decided to give the cookie bowl recipe a try, but it was not as easy as it seemed.

"It was way harder than the Tik-Tok looked," Shaw said. "It didn't end up the exact way I saw it, but it was okay."

This sweet treat consists of lining cookie dough in a cupcake tin and then baking the dough in the oven. After baking, you are left with a "cookie bowl" which you now can fill with ice cream and other tasty toppings.

"I love chocolate and junk food, so I was content," Shaw said.

Shaw was not the only rattler with a sweet tooth. Jerod Smith, a third-year

business administration student, tried the chocolate mug cake recipe and was very satisfied with the result, to say the least.

"It turned out really good being that I love chocolate and trying new things," Smith said. "The video I watched also topped the cake off with cookies and cream ice cream, which is my favorite, so I enjoyed it."

Tik Tok has taken over our kitchens one video at a time and there seems to be no stopping it now. Trying these new Tik Tok recipes has easily become a new hobby for many rattlers looking to try something new. The only question is, when will you give one a try?

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# Survivor shares haunting tales from notorious Dozier school

## John Matthews

Staff writer

Imagine walking into a school cafeteria, blood is dripping down to the ground from your head, and the only thing other students want to know is: “Did you hold the bed?”

The bed that these students were referring to was in the so-called White House, a small building at Florida’s Dozier School for Boys where hundreds of kids were abused, beaten, molested, tortured, and even killed for over a century.

During Florida A&M University’s 13th Annual Spring Literary Forum, a member of the “White House Boys” — a group of more than 300 men who have come out to share their stories about their horrific experiences at this

Photo courtesy [TheWeeklyChallenger.com](https://www.theweeklychallenger.com)

Pastor Johnny Lee Gaddy from the “White House Boys.

now-closed state-run institution in Marianna an hour west of Tallahassee — pastor Johnny Lee Gaddy, led a most memorable

panel discussion. Gaddy’s candid and vivid memories of his most horrific experiences at the reformatory school were nothing short

of courageous.

Gaddy, who would often skip school to avoid being picked on for his stutter, was sent to the reformatory school for truancy when he was just 11 years old. He stayed at the school from 1957-1961.

“The truant officer lied to my mom and told her that he was just taking me to go see a judge. I knew there wasn’t a judge there at this time of night but my mother, a very easygoing and religious woman, told me to not run and go with him,” he recalled. “When I got there, he put me in a booking cell and said that he wanted me to sit here until the judge came back. After I fell asleep, he came

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# Frenchtown Heritage Market provides low-cost healthy choices

## Tashai Smalls

News Editor

Located at 524 N Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in the heart of historic Frenchtown, the Frenchtown Heritage Market makes healthy food choices available to the community every Saturday morning. The market accepts payment in the form of SNAP, WIC, cash, debit and credit card.

“I feel like people in low-income communities are constantly working just to survive,” said Carolina Bances, Marketing Director of the Frenchtown Market and Garden. “Therefore, they cannot afford high-priced healthy food options in stores.”

Bances shared their thoughts

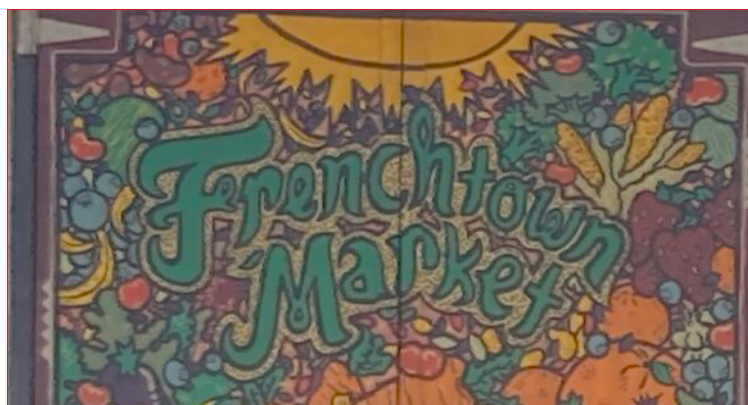


Photo courtesy Tashai Smalls

Frenchtown Market building art.

on the impact that the farmers’ market and garden has on the

Frenchtown community. They expressed that this market and

garden increases local ‘food literacy’ by allowing locals to become exposed to healthy foods, learn how they benefit from eating them and begin indulging in healthy eating habits.

“This market is the only farmers’ market in Tallahassee that allows government benefits like SNAP and WIC to be used to purchase food making healthy food options accessible to all people regardless of their financial background,” Bances said.

Co-director of the market and garden, Rachel Conversi is passionate about the Frenchtown

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# How Rattlers are coping without a spring break

**Elaina Williams**

Staff writer

Pre-pandemic, spring break would have been just around the corner. Typically, Rattlers would have the freedom to enjoy a week full of partying, attending brunches and beaching. However, this year is different.

This year, students at Florida A&M University don't have the option of enjoying the Florida waters or practicing self-care during the week-long recess in March. Instead, they must push through the virtual semester – with no break.

In December 2020, colleges and universities across the nation announced that there would not be a break during the spring semester in 2021. This month, FAMU students are expressing their thoughts on the effectiveness of the cancellation.

“Realistically, I do think it was an effective decision to go ahead and cancel spring break, because it will prevent a



Photo courtesy [forbes.com](https://forbes.com)

lot of people from congregating and not adhering to CDC guidelines,” says Zachary Bell, a sophomore student. “However, I also think it could kind of increase the risk as well because students long for that break. So, I think that it will be really important for faculty and staff to encourage students to remain safe.”

Bell explained that this will be his second spring break where he will not be able to enjoy collaborative festivities, but he still stands by the intent of the decision since, “they’re doing this for our own good.”

Bell thinks the best thing for him to do is to just push all the way through the semester and reward himself at the end of the semester rather than stopping in the middle and distracting himself.

Ashley Laurent, a senior student, was baffled at the news that spring break was cancelled.

“I was just like, ‘so what we gonna do now?’” Laurent said. “Spring break is like that highlight of spring semester. Spring break may not mean anything to some people, but for others it means a lot.”

As many students usually do, Laurent was planning to visit her family that she hasn’t seen since March of last year,

during spring break. Unfortunately, those plans have been cancelled.

Laurent questions the effectiveness of revoking spring break. Since parties are still occurring and students are still attending clubs, they are going to continue going out and doing what they want during spring break.

“The more they see other people going out on social media, the more they’re gonna feel bad for not going out,” Laurent said. “They’re gonna say, ‘they’re having so much fun and I’m stuck inside my room.’ So they’re gonna of course go.”

“Some students are gonna feel like they’re at their breaking point around that spring break time because they’ve already been quarantining enough and have not been experiencing school, or Tallahassee, or that college life,” Laurent added. “They’re gonna reach that breaking point

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# Roboto Tokyo Grill opens near campus

**Shamonee Baker**

Staff writer

Roboto Tokyo Grill, a thriving local business, last month opened the doors to their newest eatery on Railroad Avenue. It is located next door to the nightclub GVO at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Gaines Street.

The Asian-fusion restaurant now has five locations, four of which serve the Tallahassee community and one in Lamont in neighboring Jefferson County.

In 2016, Thrillist listed Roboto Tokyo Grill as one of the “15 reasons Tallahassee, FL is the Best College Town in America” for its yum-yum sauce and “college budget.”

One of the general managers, Jeff Chan, says the motivation for the new location stemmed from wanting to be closer to both FAMU and FSU’s campuses, as well as possibly attract the downtown and



Photo by Shamonee Baker

Roboto Tokyo Grill’s new location on Railroad Ave.

South Monroe crowd.

“We do well with the college crowd and even though this new location isn’t far

from our West Tennessee location, there’s a lot of food options in-between and we wanted to capitalize on it,” Chan said.

Chan says that they haven’t been very busy since they opened and suspects it is from students participating in virtual learning rather than being on campus.

“The first month was a struggle but the last three weeks have started to pick up,” Chan said. “We have full confidence that when classes are back in normal session that this will be a great location for us.”

Elena Cellitti and Kylie Magner, both FSU students, go to Roboto Tokyo Grill to study, eat and catch up with each other. They called it their favorite location by far.

“This location is very well-managed, clean and gives way more food than the other locations I’ve been to,” Magner said. “It is also a lot bigger than the one on

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# College students deserve the vaccine

**Cirsten Jones**

Copy Desk Editor

Over the course of the past year COVID-19 has become a force to be reckoned with. It has claimed the lives of more than half a million Americans and it continues to kill more than a thousand of us daily.

Now, as many of us have overcome doubt toward seeking vaccinations, they've finally arrived — but only for some.

Administering the COVID-19 vaccinations was initially limited to health care workers, health facilities and those 65 and older. It has since been expanded to make teachers, law enforcement and firefighters age 50 and over eligible for the vaccine.

This leaves a question that needs to be answered: Where and when will college student be able to receive the vaccine?

Many college students, along with young adults between the ages of 18-22, have become weary worrying about their health.

Envee Williams, a Hampton University English major, shared her frustration over not being eligible to be vaccinated.

"I feel as though if colleges are going to require us to be vaccinated in order to return to campus, they need to make the vaccine accessible to us," Williams said. "I tried to get a vaccine on Saturday because the site [Hampton University] notified the public that people weren't showing up to their appointment and didn't want them to go to waste, so I went and was turned down because I was too young."

Of course, as young adults we understand the high risk many individuals ages 50 and up are prone to. But as the masses of the younger generations return back to campus and rely on work to produce any income, they should be able to seek some type of balance in ensuring their health remains intact.

Social distancing and mask mandates



Photo courtesy [aamc.org](https://aamc.org)

Students and young adults seek COVID-19 vaccinations.

tend to go only so far for individuals constantly surrounded by multitudes of others.

D'Arya Simmons also acknowledges the fact of first priority vaccinations, yet

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## Students should've been notified about COVID-19 evacuation

**Aiyana Ishmael**

Staff writer

Almost three weeks ago, Florida A&M University's School of Journalism and Graphic Communication's in-person classes went remote because of a positive coronavirus claim.

Many SJGC students, like myself, were unaware of the positive COVID-19 case and only found out about it because of our peers.

Sierra Lyons, a senior in the SJGC program, is required to attend in-person classes for her specialized reporting course. Her professor ultimately sent the class an announcement on Canvas an hour before class was to start on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Lyons explained that her professor had to "quickly leave because they needed everyone out of the building due to a positive case from someone in j-school."

The professor didn't say whether it was a student or faculty member, but ended

class abruptly so that the entire building could be evacuated and sanitized.

The following week, Lyons was back in the building for her regularly scheduled class.

As of today, FAMU's COVID-19 team has reported 514 positive cases on and off-campus since August 1, 2020.

Almost a year into the pandemic, there should be a certain level of transparency between administration, faculty and staff in regard to this deadly virus. SJGC students not being publicly notified when there's a positive case of the virus — even if it's a false alarm — is not fair to a student's learning environment. All SJGC faculty and staff were notified of the situation in an email marked "urgent" — but students were not informed.

Since we returned in the fall of 2020 I routinely populated the SJGC building utilizing the many programs and equip-



Photo courtesy FAMU News

FAMU's School of Journalism & Graphic Communication.

ment that are necessary as a student journalist. If not for my colleague telling me about her classroom experience I would

have been unaware of the positive case within our building.

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# FAMU isn't taking students' mental health into consideration

Kendyll Lurry  
Staff writer

As a result of the university canceling spring break, the spring semester will now end on April 23, 2021, a week earlier than scheduled.

It is understandable why the university decided to cancel spring break. Taking actions to ensure a healthy and safe environment for the students, faculty, and staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic is vital.

“As a result of the impact of the global pandemic and the need to safeguard the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff, Florida A&M University has modified the academic calendar for the Spring 2021 semester. Spring Break has been canceled,” Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Maurice Edington, Ph.D., said in a statement regarding the spring 2021 semester.

Of course, the cancelation of spring break shows that the university cares about the safety and physical health of the students. However, the lack of alternatives for an academic is questionable and whether the university has taken the well-being of its students' health, mentally, into consideration.

Students need incentives to push through the remainder of the semester as their mental well-being is at stake without any substitution for spring break. We are now down to six weeks left, and the university has not offered any form of motivation.

“Of the 195 students, 138 (71%) indicated increased stress and anxiety due to the COVID-19 outbreak,” the study said. “A vast majority of the participants (n=189, 97%) presumed that other stu-

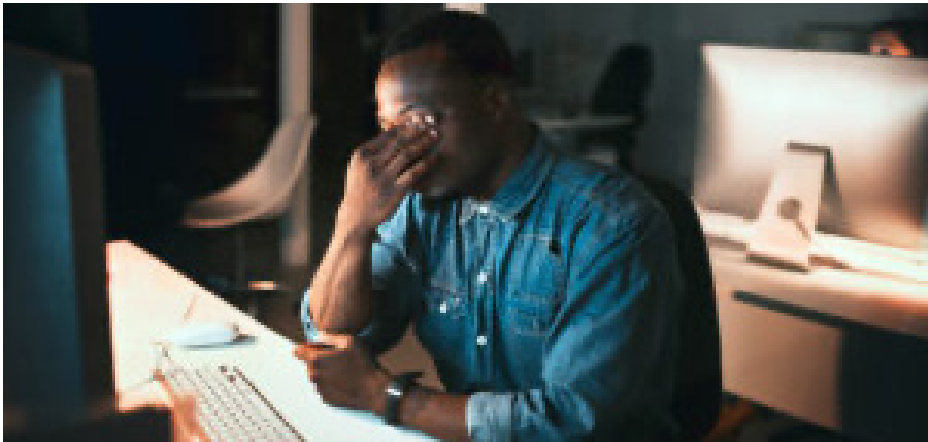


Photo courtesy Getty Images

A snatched spring break has caused burnout amongst students..

dents were experiencing similar stress and anxiety because of COVID-19... at

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# White women play a part in upholding white supremacy

Ebony Houston  
Staff writer

With the aftermath of the recent presidential elections, it was made evidently clear that the state of this country is far worse than most Americans would like to admit. Specifically, the insurrection of the Capitol building that took place at the beginning of this year.

With the progression of women's rights being highlighted more throughout recent years, it was alarming to see how many women participated and encouraged one of the country's worst attacks in history.

Not only were there women playing the stereotypical role of cheering from the sidelines but there were women at the forefront of this attack, helping to carry out the ideologies of hatred and supremacy that set this country back in time at least 60 years. 2020 exit poll data showed that at least 40-50 percent of white women still supported Donald Trump even



Photo courtesy Fortune.com

Many white women were in attendance of the insurrection in January.

though he incited acts of terror amid the election result scandal.

An article from [19thnews.org](https://19thnews.org) written by Ko Bragg, shed light on the women that were a part of the attack at the Capitol. White women were at the forefront of the attack, leading with hateful and dangerous intent.

“We broke into the Capitol...we got inside, we did our part,” Dawn Bancroft said.

Though the face of white supremacy is stereotypically represented by a white male, there has been an increase in women involved in racially targeted attacks and profiling. Out of the 230 091 cases being investigated from the insurrection, 28 of those are women. Out of the 28 women arrested, only five of those

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# Women's History Month should be celebrated by all

**Shakiria Hopkins**

Staff writer

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated every March. It feels like we earned this month only because we weren't appreciated and spoke out about it, so they gave us a day, then a week and then a whole month to silence us.

We are still not appreciated and still aren't given the proper history lessons, or taught about the women in history as we should, especially, in high schools and middle schools. Rosa Parks wasn't the first person to refuse to give up her seat; Claudette Colvin was. She refused to give up her seat nine months before Parks, but she is not widely as recognized. We're still separated as a subcategory rather than a whole.

Dynasty Moore, a sophomore political science student, believes everyone should support Women's History Month, especially men.

"Women, especially Black women, have been the backbone of society for decades," said Moore. "We've encountered great deal of sexism and discrimination, yet, and still, we are always at the forefront of many movements fighting for justice and equality."

To bring awareness to Women's History Month, Moore will be participating in events held by Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program and utilizing Instagram stories to highlight some of the trailblazing women in history.

People, mainly men, don't understand the importance of women and all of the things they have to go through. Women put their lives, mental and physical health on the line every day for the people they love without any recognition, or appreci-

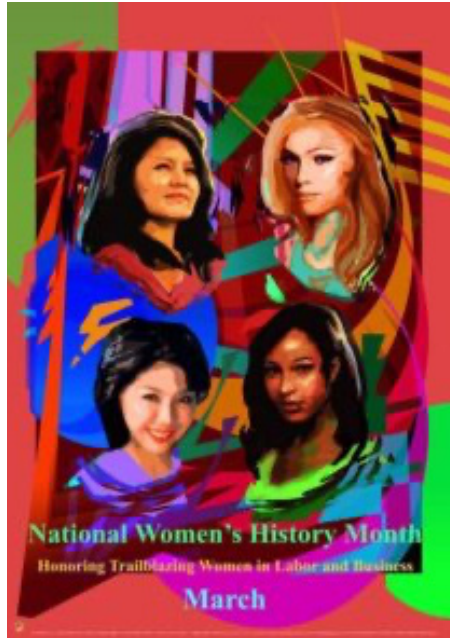


Photo courtesy of [diversitystore.com](https://diversitystore.com)

ation.

Kyle Smith, a sophomore general health science student, feels it is important to appreciate the female workers in our life to a certain instinct.

"Women are over-appreciated nowadays," said Smith. "Through social media they can garner a large fan base of men without too much effort if they are beautiful."

We should appreciate women regardless of the way they look. The number of likes you get, or how many followers you have doesn't not determine how appreciated you are. If women were appreciated, there would be no question as to whether everyone should support women's history month.

Click link to continue: <https://rb.gy/cjpntp>

## Black Gen Z Ladies We Should Celebrate

### Amanda Gorman

Amanda S. C. Gorman is a poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. Gorman was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. She published the poetry book *The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough* in 2015.



### Naomi Osaka

Naomi Osaka is a Japanese professional tennis player. Osaka has been ranked No. 1 by the Women's Tennis Association and is the first Asian player to hold the top ranking in singles. She is a four-time Grand Slam singles champion, and is the reigning champion at the US Open and the Australian Open.



### Mari Copeney

Amariyanna "Mari" Copeny, also known as Little Miss Flint, is a youth activist from Flint, Michigan. She is best known for raising awareness about Flint's ongoing water crisis and fundraising to support underprivileged children in her community and across the country.

(Source:Wikipedia)





# Dillard hopes to go from FAMU to PGA

**Shan'T-Erica Pugh**

Staff writer

Mulbe Dillard IV, a senior business administration major at FAMU, thrives as a student-athlete. Dillard plays golf for FAMU and has continued to compete in the sport despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dillard was exposed to the sport at age 2, when he would watch his father hit balls at the local driving range. Dillard started replicating his dad, and when he got of age, he was able to start competing in high school.

He was able to earn a scholarship at FAMU and began his journey to being a professional golfer.

Although the pandemic has caused changes in how the sport is played on the college level, Dillard continues to be exceptional on the golf course.

Dillard finished No. 1 in the rankings of Black golfers on the collegiate level and top amateur in the Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) tournaments over the summer.

Earlier last year, Brian Howard, a media contact for the Office of Communi-

cations, profiled Dillard with his talents and accomplishments in mind as well.

"FAMU will look to get off to a great start in Feb. 20-21 with the Invitational at Savannah Harbor in Savannah, Ga.," Howard wrote in the profile piece.

It looks as if FAMU did "get off to a great start." Dillard tied for fifth place out of 87 competitors this past weekend in the invitational at Savannah Harbor tournament.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the world of golf has changed drastically for student-athletes.

For example, in collegiate tournaments, it is now necessary to play as a group instead of being matched up with two other golfers from other schools. Collegiate teams now play in a group of five people from the same school to prevent the spread of COVID and keep players in a "bubble," as Dillard describes it.

With so much to focus on, Dillard has been working on the art of patience and "trusting the process."

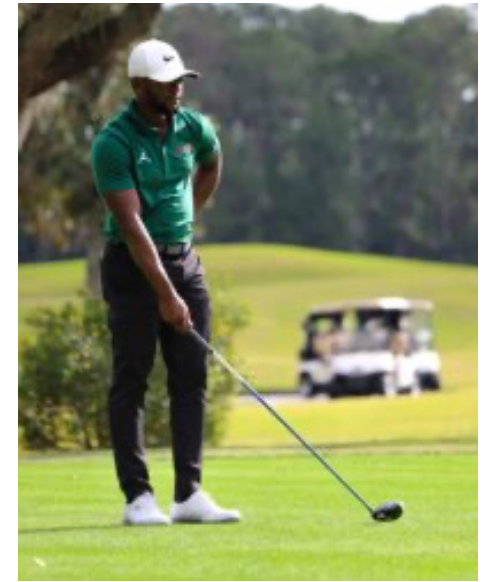
"This year, in particular, everything hasn't come easy," Dillard said. "I've learned being patient more, golf is definitely a game of patience."

Learning to become a person who understands patience and working on that part of his game, Dillard continues to strive to become a professional golfer post-graduation.

Amid the pandemic and challenges he has had to face, Dillard continues to stay disciplined with his practice and understanding that he cannot control what happens in life. Nevertheless, Dillard plans to keep a firm hold on the outcome of his goal to be a professional golfer post-graduation.

"Knowing that after graduation that I will be able to pursue golf as a full-time job keeps me motivated to continue to thrive and work as hard as possible so that I can have a good experience playing the game," Dillard said.

It is essential to be mentally aware that things can happen in life, such as a global



**Photo courtesy Dillard**

Muble Marcellus Dillard IV has a golf scholarship at FAMU.

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# Baseball's tough schedule gets tougher

**Jelani Wheeler**

Staff writer

After tough weekends in DeLand and Tampa, the FAMU baseball team started its season 0-8 after losing all four games to both Stetson and University of South Florida.

That may be considered the good news. The bad news: It's going to get tougher in a hurry.

FAMU lost both both games of a double-header on Friday to University of Florida, the No. 6-ranked team in the nation. That left the Rattlers at 0-10 with a final game to be played today.

The next 13 games on the schedule are against non-conference teams. How will the Rattlers, picked to win the MEAC in their final season in the conference, cope — and stay positive — with their tough schedule?



**Photo by Steve Simoneau**

The FAMU baseball team will be looking for its first win this weekend at USF.

"From a coaching standpoint we have to realize we're coaching from a really tough schedule," coach Jaime Shouppe said.

"We can't really look at the scoreboard, we have to look at our attitude and effort. Stetson is a very good team, and we were in every game we played. We have to play the game and play the game the right way."

Traveling to Tampa this weekend, the Rattlers will face USF in a four game series. USF plays in the American Athletic Conference, which includes national names such as Wichita State and University of Houston. In 2018, USF was ranked in the top 25 and hopes to do the same this year.

Click link to continue: <https://rb.gy/zs4sgl>



# Bragg Stadium is receiving a makeover

**Kaviena Spencer**

Copy Desk Editor

Bragg Memorial Stadium is getting a makeover and with it comes new traffic patterns. Florida A&M University sent out an email to students about the changes to traffic starting March 1.

FAMUInfo sent out an email saying, “The COVID-19 testing site is currently located on the west side of the stadium and will remain open. However, traffic will need to enter from Wahnish Way to Okaloosa Street, utilizing the southwest gate.”

Tanya Tatum, director of FAMU Student Health Services released a statement in the email regarding the changes in parking.

“In spite of the major work that is planned to renovate Bragg Memorial Stadium, our professional staff and construction managers were able to come up with a parking plan that allows for limited parking for athletics behind the field house, the COVID-19 testing site on the north end, the COVID-19 vaccination site behind and just north of the Lawson Center and for ARMY ROTC behind their building,” said Tatum.

According to the email, traffic instructions are as followed:

Bob Hayes Lane is closed to all through traffic.

Covid-19 testing parking – Wahnish-Way (street)

Covid-19 Testing entrance – Okaloosa Street (south gate entrance) and follow the signs.

Covid-19 testing exit – Perry Street  
Covid-19 Vaccine entrance

FAMU received \$10 Million from Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency to start the renovations. The construction will be in two phases.

Due to the timing, right now, the east side of the stadium will be renovated first. They hope to have the renovation done before the start of the season opener.

Preshys Grant, a new transfer student is excited about the new renovations but has some concerns.

“I’m excited for the new changes but I wish that the money could go toward



Photo courtesy [anygivensaturday.com](http://anygivensaturday.com)

something like building new dorms or parking,” said Grant.

President Larry Robinson told [famunews.com](http://famunews.com) the impact the stadium will have on the citizens of Tallahassee.

“The return on this investment will include positive economic outcomes for citizens on Tallahassee’s southside; excitement for persons who attend athletic events in the venue; and inspiration and pride for those who understand the cultural significance of all that occurs inside and around the stadium,” Robinson said.

The official FAMU athletics Twitter page tweeted out “Bragg Memorial Stadium renovations are officially underway. @kortneg wants to know are you “ALL-IN?””

Phase two will start at the end of the football season with the renovation of the underbelly of the stadium and a new press box.



Photo courtesy [anygivensaturday.com](http://anygivensaturday.com)