As Black History Month comes to an end, remember that creating a history of your own leaves a legacy for the people behind you to share. Remember: every person you have interacted with is now apart of your “history textbook”. This month’s newsletter showcases the history our residents and employees are creating one interaction at a time.

Dr. Jennifer Wilder

Florida A&M University’s Office of University Housing Residence Hall Association (RHA) returned from the annual Florida Association of Residence Halls (FARH) Conference which was held at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

The three-day conference consisted of multiple activities, challenges and other Residence Hall Associations at universities like University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Barry University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida State University, and Florida International University.

FAMU is the only Historically Black University (HBCU) to attend the conference. When asked to reflect on their experience RHA leaders had only positive things to say.

“I had a great experience it was my first at the conference, and I met a lot of new people” reflected RHA treasurer Antania Coney.

“What I enjoyed most about the conference is being able to represent FAMU with other FAMU RHA members and give university who are predominant-ly white institutions (PWI) a taste of our HBCU,” said Ciara Brown FAMU RHA liaison and Gibbs Hall Resident Assistant.
“Exposing our HBCU culture to them [the conference audience] was exciting for me,” said Brown.

When asked what her favorite experience was, Brown mentioned learning from others.

“I learned different activities involving inclusiveness that other RHA members do at their school, for example, Florida Gulf Coast University RHA held an LBGTQ week giving students a chance who are a part of the community and not apart of the community a chance to celebrate and learn,” said Brown.

FAMU RHA won third place in best roll call.

“Attending the conference was an experience I learn different techniques, skills that can be used for the beliefs of housing, residence life, and personal life.

I hope to attend again next year,” said Jarius Williams.

The Office of University Housing would like to congratulate RHA for the hard work and proper Rattler representation at FARH.

NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK: RESIDENT MALACHI SOMERVILLE

By: Jennifer Osias

Malachi Somerville

This month’s National Entrepreneurship week was Feb. 15 - 23 and this month we chose to spotlight a resident entrepreneur, Malachi Somerville.

A collaboration of creativity and photography sparked the mind of Malachi Somerville to start his own digital multimedia business known as “Who Vizualized You,” which is now taking Florida A&M University (FAMU) by storm. Somerville is a first-year business administration from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania currently resides in FAMU Village.

“Who Vizualized You” was created during his junior year of high school.

Any great entrepreneur knows starting a business comes with its challenges.

“The challenges I faced when I first started my business is starting up money, getting people to believe in you to help fund you because they might not see the end goal in sight, or see exactly of what you’re trying to accomplish,” said Somerville.

Somerville feels as if FAMU is a great location to watch his business flourish.

“I enjoy being at FAMU while having my own business because it gives me an opportunity to network and an easy conversation starter.

“Having my own business and living on campus gives me an opportunity to have my pop shop in the lobby area, community room or just on my floor,” said Somerville.

Somerville’s drive spreads through his residence hall, according to Kiera Mitchell a FAMU Village West RA, he is supported by his floormates.

“I enjoy Malachi’s hustle, he always tried to make himself available to any opportunity that comes his way, he takes advantages of the resource that he has, for example, his floormates help him a lot with promoting his brands with the apparels they wear, explained Mitchell.

“My favorite product from Who Vizualized You is the vest I can’t wait to purchase once they are restocked,” Mitchell exclaimed.

“I enjoy the content that Malachi puts together with his apparels, photography, and videography and he’s only getting better,” said Elijah Watkins, one of Malachi clients.

“Looking at Malachi work would make you think who visualize you.”

Somerville has plans to follow into the footsteps of his idol, hip-hop mogul Jay-Z and expanding his photography skills and the reach of his brand.

For more information about “Who Vizualized You,” please visit shopwhovizualizedyou.com and follow them on Instagram at @whovizualizedyou.

On February 16, the Palmetto Phase III Community Room was lit with fun-spirited competition as it was host to “So You Think You Can Cook?” cooking competition for Palmetto South residents.

The “So You Think You Can Cook,” cooking competition gathers residents across the board of dormitories to find the best student-cook Florida A&M University has to offer while encouraging students to practice cooking at home.

“Cooking is something every student should learn, it helps them to be more well-rounded,” said William Johnson, the FAMU Resident Education Coordinator.

“In today’s society, a lot of our young adults don’t have the skills that when I was growing up, had to learn being in the kitchen,” Johnson continued. “Students need to learn how to cook, that’s part of their development, these skills are good for restoring our youth so that when they get out, they can utilize these skills they’ve learned.”

The need for student sustainability stems from not only satisfying hunger, but from finding ways to creatively provide a meal with any given ingredients, a practice of survival that has led to creation of “Soul Food” and other classic cuisines whose formation have been credited to African-American slaves who were forced to feed their families with scraps.

“Being able to make something out of nothing is an essential skill because you will never be without anything if you can make something out of nothing,” said Jordan Spells, a first-year history education student and winner of the Palmetto South Qualifier.
“It’s definitely important for students to learn how to cook, it’s one of the life skills that’s crucial for you to learn because you never know where you’re going to be in life, and you never know what you’re going to be surrounded by,” said Nathania Germaine, a Resident Assistant for Palmetto South student apartments.

“This is a skill you need to survive, and it’s very important for you to learn some of the basic skills if we can teach it to you here then (that’s) awesome.”

The next stage of the “So You Think You Can Cook?” competition will feature an array of resident champions across the FAMU residence halls to compete in the final competition later in March.

Have an RA or Staff Member you think should be featured in our next issue? Email Aaliyah Wilkerson (aaliyah.wilkerson@famu.edu) with your nomination and why you think your Office of University Housing team member stands out!