DIRECTOR’S NOTE:
Dr. Jennifer Wilder

“As we bring the 2018-2019 academic year to a close, I am sure there have been good days, bad days, joys, sorrows, and disappointments with your academic performance, relationships, etc. Each of those events in your life is a part of you becoming whom you are designed to be. Remember this: “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” C. S. Lewis

If you are returning to FAMU, spend the time reflecting on what you want to change and commit to making the change.

If you are graduating and moving on to grad school or the work-world, use this opportunity to choose to be your best self in your new endeavor.

I wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe journey to the next chapter in your life.”

FURNITURE RODEO ROUNDUPS RATTlers
BY: NAJA HARDMON

As the construction of the new residence hall begins to take place, the smaller aspects on how the furniture will look was left in the hands of FAMU students. April 3 marked a day of new beginnings as the Office of University Housing hosted the university’s first “Furniture Rodeo” to provide students the opportunity to get involved in the process of selecting furniture for the new housing facility.

The Furniture Rodeo allowed students to survey furniture displays and stylings from a selected variety of vendors, giving them the chance to personally select the furniture to be refurbished in current housing facilities and in the future 700-bed facility.

“I think it was a great opportunity to allow students to influence the direction housing chooses to go as it relates to choosing furniture in the residence hall,” said Larry Cummings, Resident Director of Gibbs Hall.

The event required students to sign in to an electronic survey system where their responses were recorded to gain feedback on the proposed furniture.
The purpose was to get feedback and ideas from students about what furniture we should put in the new building or lounges as the opportunities arise. I think it benefitted students as they got to be engaged in the process, which I’m hearing is something that’s not happened before…,” said Dr. Jennifer Wilder, Director of University Housing.

“The feedback students gave us was very helpful. I have the survey results and it helped me be able to prioritize what they like, what they didn’t like as I’m in the process of getting ready to make furniture purchases,” she continued.

The Furniture Rodeo included a reward for the first responding students with food giveaways, games, and a photobooth to document the moment.

“The overall purpose of the Furniture Rodeo was to show the new incoming furniture for the new building or just what could be refurbished in the old dormitories,” Isis Climes stated, a Resident Assistant.

“[The rodeo] was for [students] to have a hands-on experience in housing, since they live here and pay for it they’ll get that voice to be like ‘I really like this’ or ‘here are some comments on how to make it better’ so I think it was an experience to get some feedback.”

Due to the success of the Furniture Rodeo and the reported helpful feedback, Wilder has stated that there will be more in the future to keep students involved in the process of housing department decisions.

“As long as I’m here I will continue to seek feedback from students about those ideas,” she stated.

Q: How long have you been an RA?
Kayla: I’ve been an RA for three years.

Q: How was your experience being an RA?
Kayla: It was great but also challenging. I gained so many skills that can be transferred to my career especially customer service and conflict resolution.

Q: How did being an RA help you throughout your college career?
Kayla: It gave me better interpersonal skills and kept me involved on campus because I had to be a resource for the students.

Q: What will you miss the most about being an RA?
Kayla: I will miss the community I build with the residents on my floor. If ever needed anything I can always go into the group chat and someone will be willing to help, still having someone to talk to, hanging out in the community room, just the sense of the community.

Q: What advice would you give to the incoming RA’s?
Kayla: Use your campus resources to help you with your position; for example, if you wanted to teach your residents about finance you can find someone who would love to come and speak at your event. Be open-minded and empathetic with your residents sometimes they have things going in their lives and being there for them.

Time management and prioritizing are essential, especially being an RA, so be ready to make some sacrifices because this position requires a lot of your time and effort. There’s going to be times where you’re not going to able to make it to all the fun events or join every organization that you are interested in because school comes first then being an RA.

RA SPOTLIGHT
GRADUATING SENIOR: KAYLA LAWSON
BY: JENNIFER OSIAS

As the spring semester is coming to an end, many students are looking forward to summer and others are looking forward to beginning the new chapter of their life. The Office of University Housing caught up with Graduating Resident Assistant (RA’s) Kayla Lawson to reflect on her last semester being an RA.

Congrats Kayla!
Among the many historical figures that lie on the campus of Florida A&M University there stands a small number of buildings which hold more than just restless students. Among the 14 nationally registered historic places on FAMU’s campus, the most extended surviving member of the list include Housing’s own Sampson and Young Halls. Sampson Hall, constructed in 1937 and originally named the South Hall for Men, provided FAMU’s early male students with housing. Paired alongside it stands Young Hall which was initially named College Men’s Hall and was constructed in 1928 to suit FAMU’s male students as well.

Settled in a nook off the central core of FAMU’s campus lies another registered historical landmark, a lone white building shining with subtle glory for all visitors to see. The Meek-Eaton Black Archives Research Center and Museum continue to serve the residents of Florida with an array of displays detailing the trials, triumphs, and tribulations of Florida’s black residents. Little to shared knowledge is the impact the existence the building holds for not just the citizens of Florida, but for all African-Americans across the nation. The structure, named Carnegie Library initially, was constructed in 1907 after a philanthropic donation made to the campus from acclaimed business mogul, Andrew Carnegie. The library, whose unique architectural design was one of the reasons listed for its placement on the National Register of Historic Places, not only served as a library but as an art gallery and religious center before being deemed The Black Archives Research Center in 1976.

As one of the few active regional black archives in the United States, space was established in 1975 by former FAMU history professor and Chairman of History, Dr. James N. Eaton, who sought artifacts, documents, and memorabilia to help illustrate the African-American experience. Throughout the decades following its formation, Eaton, along with former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, advocated for the preservation and expansion of the building to extend the archives into the multipurpose center it is today. For their efforts, the Florida Legislature approved the renaming the building to the Meek-Eaton Building in 2006 to commemorate the vision of its founder of providing an area of cultural appreciation and placing significance on the history of African Americans, by African Americans for African Americans.

Director of the Black Archives, Nashid Madyun said, “Because of this building and Sunshine Manor that sits next to us, this portion of the campus is a national historic district, it’s a significant building,” continued Madyun.

With the many valuable artifacts such as the legendary “Koon Kollection” to represent all aspects of Black existence in America, the importance of the archives has yet expired and will continue to serve to entertain those who know, educate those who do not and inspire those who don’t know enough.

“As you walk through the galleries, you come across stories that you would not come across had you not visited the museum. What does a KKK uniform look like? What is gator bait? What is the significance of watermelon, what was church life [like] back in the 1930s or ’50s or ’60s? If you don’t have the answers to those questions, then it’s worth it to visit the museum. You visit different museums because to be an active citizen and what we’re doing is cultivating strong citizens of this university, to be an active citizen and represent your culture you need to be familiar with your culture,” closed Madyun.
Where does the Office of University Housing Staff plan on taking their summer vacation?

As the Spring Semester comes to an end, Summer 2019 is right around the corner. Some Rattlers will be back on the hill to take summer classes, interning or working while others plan to spend their time visiting the places below:

- Israel
- Puerto Rico
- The Bahamas
- Mexico
- Hawaii
- Miami, FL
- Catalina Island, CA
- Dubai
- Paris, France
- Jamaica
- Brazil
- Los Angeles, CA
- Thailand

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**Summer**

“One thing I really liked about the summer was that there’s not a lot of people, but there’s also not a lot of activities to do during the summer as there is during the spring.”

Czenobia Christian - Palmetto Phase III Apartments

“During the summer, It's quiet,”

Matthew Stokes - Sampson

“Well, The decrease in people, as were the shorter class load was cool. The heat, and faster pace were not,”

Timothy White - Palmetto Phase III Apartments

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**Spring**

“In the spring, the campus feels more alive,”

Andrea Morgan - Paddyfote Compex

“Having access to just about anything on campus, and not having to worry about if you’re going to be late or not because of transportation, the buses have a weird schedule during the summer,”

Youdline Joseph - Truth Hall

“Living on-campus during the spring included more interactions with other students, because there are more students enrolled,”

Nehemiah Fields - FAMU Village West