Hodges University Announces New President

The Board of Trustees at Hodges University has announced Donald W. Wortham, Ph.D. as the new President of the institution. Wortham will lead the university, which offers career-focused undergraduate and graduate degrees on campus and online. Wortham comes to Hodges from the College of St. Scholastica (CSS) in Duluth, MN where he has served as the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives since 2012. Before he entered his current role, Wortham served as the Executive Director of Extended Studies at CSS from 2009 to 2012. He has previously held senior positions at the American Higher Education Development Corporation.

Wortham began his career in higher education when he served as the Executive Director of Unext/Cardean Learning Group in Deerfield, IL. John Agnelli, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, “Dr. Donald Wortham is the kind of leader who we envisioned when we launched our search for the next president of Hodges University. His depth of experience in new delivery models and track record of pursuing innovation is a strong fit with the university’s needs at this important juncture in its history.”

Wortham earned his Ph.D. and MS in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before attending graduate school he graduated from Northwestern University with a B.A. in history and the literature of religions. “Hodges University is poised to become a national leader in higher education,” said Wortham. “I am honored to have been selected to lead Hodges into its next phase, and build on its legacy of excellence. I am very pleased to be joining the communities of Fort Myers and Naples, and the greater southwestern Florida area.”
Florida Tech Among World’s Best Universities

Florida Institute of Technology has joined an elite group of U.S. and international universities on a Times Higher Education exclusive list of the world’s best universities. The list is comprised of the top 20 universities with 5,000 students or fewer in 2012-13 when the data was collected. The student population calculation includes main campus and Extended Studies students, but not online students and other educational programs. It features only five U.S. institutions. Others are from Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and all teach or research in at least four of these areas: arts and humanities, clinical/medicine, engineering and technology, life sciences, physical sciences and social sciences. “This ranking sheds light on a singular perspective of higher education institutions that might easily be overlooked,” said Phil Baty, editor of this and other THE World Ranking lists. “The fact that CalTech tops this ranking as well as the overall World University Ranking reveals that there is something very powerful about scale and focus, when it comes to university performance.”

Several students at Florida Tech wrote about their experiences at the request of Times Higher Education, touching on how smaller classes, improved access to faculty and an overall environment of inclusion among one of the nation’s most diverse student bodies make their education unique and powerful. That is by design, said Anthony J. Catanese, Florida Tech’s president and CEO. “Though Florida Tech has grown steadily over the years, we understand how having more focused classroom and campus engagements can strengthen both educational outcomes and student experiences,” Catanese said. “We are pleased our practices have once again placed Florida Tech among the best universities in the world.”

Southeastern to Launch Doctor of Ministry Program

Southeastern University has announced a new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program to start this upcoming fall. The Doctor of Ministry is the highest degree for people in vocational ministry, such as pastors, associate pastors, chaplains, missionaries, and those in denominational leadership and parachurch ministry. This will be the second doctoral degree to be offered at Southeastern, following the introduction of the Doctor of Education in 2014. “SEU has been recognized in recent years as the leader in Pentecostal scholarship, and as the fastest growing Pentecostal university and the largest university ever in the Assemblies of God, Southeastern is postured to deliver the most innovative and effective DMin available,” said Dr. Alan Ehler, dean of the college of Christian ministries and religion. DMin courses will consist of a blend of live intensive, online, and individually mentored coursework. Students will meet for five five-day intensive sessions over the first two years of the program. The program will offer individualized contextual ministry courses, in which each student will be partnered with a faculty mentor to develop a project related to a ministry problem or opportunity in his or her ministry. This will happen in the second and third semester of the program. This work may be applied to the student’s culminating dissertation, which will be developed during the third year of the program. “The DMin will give ministry leaders top-notch skills in reading and responding to cultural and church changes and challenges by innovative approaches to applying the unchanging truths of the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” said Ehler. “DMin students will be given cutting-edge training in research, leadership, theology, and spiritual formation.”
Barry Honors Alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards

Barry University has honored 12 alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions to society. Following in the university’s 75 years of dedication to both education and community, the Distinguished Alumni Awards honor members of the Barry community who exemplify the university’s core commitments: knowledge and truth; inclusive community; social justice; and collaborative service.

This year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are:

- Dr. Jennie Weiss Block, class of 1988, 1998 & 2007: theologian and author as well as chief advisor to Dr. Paul Farmer, United Nations Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti under President Bill Clinton; founding director of the Center for Dominican Studies at Barry University; and co-founder ZanmiBeni, a center for abandoned children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Dr. Marvin Diaz Lacayo, class of 1991: physician and hematologist / oncologist, renowned for his study of how best to treat cancer patients and emphasis on treating the 'whole person'
- Joseph Fernandez, class of 1994: President of the Florida Region of BNY Mellon Wealth Management as well as a board member of the Dranoff International 2 Piano Foundation; Board of Governors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; and trustee of the Miami Foundation
- Rai Johnson, class of 1996 & 2013: social worker and Health and Wellness Director, board member and alumna at Lotus House Women's Shelter
- Eileen Maloney-Simon, class of 1975: CEO of YWCA of Greater Miami Dade and the recipient of the 2015 Most Powerful Influential Women Award from Florida Diversity Council
- Roymi V. Membiela, class of 1986: Corporate Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer at Baptist Health South Florida as well as the recipient of the South Florida Business Journal 2015 Influential Business Women Award; and a board member at Goodwill Industries South Florida and The Children's Trust
- Laurie Weiss Nuell, class of 1983: Board of Directors of The Children's Trust and Network of Sacred Heart Schools as well as the founder of Jay Weiss Center for Social Medicine and Health Equity at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- Jorge Plasencia, class of 2011: Co-Founder, Chairman & CEO of República as well as co-founder of Amigos for Kids and Vice Chairman of the Miami Dade College Foundation

Additionally, the following are being honored as Rising Stars:

- Natalie Bieule, class of 2011: United States Paralympic Athlete
- Elizandra Pierre, class of 2009: Volunteer with Doctors Without Borders
- Matthew Sherman, class of 2011: Founder and CEO of JugoFresh
Edward Waters Kicks Off its 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Edward Waters College kicked-off its 150th anniversary with a balloon release and celebratory cake-cutting during its Sesquicentennial Celebration in January. President Nathaniel Glover, EWC faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered to honor the rich history of Florida's oldest historically black college and private institution of higher learning. There were spirited performances by the Triple Threat Marching Band and EWC Concert Choir. The program also concluded with the release of 150 biodegradable purple and orange balloons and a cake-cutting. EWC’s 150th Anniversary Celebration will continue with events throughout the year. Formerly named Brown’s Theological Institute, EWC was founded in 1866 by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church to educate newly emancipated slaves. The school met the needs of its community by offering courses at the elementary, high school, college and seminary levels. Construction on the first building began in 1872 on ten acres of land in Live Oak, Florida.

In 1892 the school's name was changed to Edward Waters College in honor of the third Bishop of the AME Church. The school moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1893 where the campus was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1901. In 1904 the Board of Trustees purchased the present site of the school on Kings Road where it was rebuilt. Decades later, Edward Waters College continues to educate students of all races and religions. The College continues its mission of advancing students in a global society through excellence of scholarship, research and service for the betterment of humanity.

Everglades Alumnus Breaks National and World Records

Everglades University’s Alumnus John S. Craparo flew with Dayton A. Dabbs in their Magni M16 Gyroplane aircraft which Craparo built in 2014. The two pilots’ intent was to prove the safety, stability, utility and comfort of flying the modern Gyroplane on long cross country flights. The Magni M16 is a two place open cockpit aircraft with dual controls driven by a Rotax 914 turbocharged 115 hp engine. The duo’s secondary goal was to go where others have not. The two pilots accomplished that goal and broke three World Records and one National Record. Under a sanction from the National Aeronautic Association (NAA), they decided to fly three major cross country routes. The routes were: Dallas, TX to Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles, CA to New York City; New York City to Dallas, Texas. These routes had never been flown for a speed record in a Gyroplane with a take-off weight under 500 kg or 1,102 lbs. The pilots left on October 4, 2015 and completed the flights on October 14, 2015. Their total flying time was 73 hours in the air. The claims await official recognition by the NAA and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). John Craparo graduated from Everglades University with a Master’s Degree in Aviation Science.
**Florida Memorial Students Join Mayor’s Executive Internship Program**

For the first time since its inception, five Florida Memorial students were selected to participate in the prestigious Mayor’s Executive Internship Program. The students, Tekeya Crenshaw, Camille Sands Katherine Beltress, Yolanda Christophe, and Stephanie Derolus, represent a range of majors. As an introduction to the complex governmental agency, students were briefed with orientations from department heads within Miami Dade County government including Human Resources, Finance and Internal Support and Communications. Florida Memorial University students will work cooperatively with students from Florida International University on projects around the county to get better acquainted with operations of county government.

**Flagler Students Win Creative Excellence ‘ADDY’ Awards**

Flagler College took home 10 American Advertising Federation-Jacksonville (AAF) “ADDY” awards, including student Matthew Quann’s “Student Best in Show” win for his “Prism Pasta” design. The highly-recognized awards honor advertising creative excellence. “The awards competition was very cool — it was amazing to be surrounded by so many talented professionals,” Quann said. “Some of the work that we saw was incredible.” Quann’s accolade — originally a gold award that was graduated to “Best in Show”— was presented to him for work he did as part of a Flagler College Graphic Design Branding class. The idea of Prism Pasta, he said, originated from the concept of a kaleidoscope, and transitioned into a hexagonal-shaped box, with “funky patterns” that you might see when looking through one. He used the six-sided shape to create six serving sizes inside the box as, he added, “this can be a common problem when deciding how much pasta to cook.”

In addition to Quann’s award, Flagler College claimed three gold and six silver awards. The annual AAF-Jacksonville dinner and awards presentation was attended by over 140 individuals of the local advertising and media community. A total of 23 gold ADDY awards and 34 silver ADDY awards were presented. Entries were judged based on creativity, originality and creative strategy. Flagler College Assistant Professor Chris Smith emphasized the importance of earning an ADDY. “This means a lot as the ADDY awards are nationally-recognized within the advertising and graphic design industry,” he said.
Florida College recently honored René and Dee Anderson with the Friend to Youth award, the most prestigious honor awarded at Florida College. René and Dee first came to Florida College as students in 1970 and brought strong musical talents. They were both members of the chorus and sang duets together while René played the guitar. Their common love of music soon became a love of one another, and the two were married in 1971. Forty-five years later, anyone who knows René and Dee can hardly imagine them apart. It wasn’t until René retired from full-time work that the two decided to become dorm parents. René and Dee moved to Florida College in 1995 and have been parenting hundreds of young men each year ever since. René and Dee truly love their “boys,” as they would call the students who live in their residence halls, and they play a vital role in the Florida College experience. They are currently serving as the dorm parents of Boswell Hall, the only men’s residence hall on campus.

For more than 20 years, René and Dee have been giving of themselves for the benefit of Florida College students. Florida College would like to thank René and Dee Anderson for their outstanding service to Florida College students and congratulate them on receiving the 2016 Friend to Youth award!

Nova Southeastern Undertakes Largest Fundraising Campaign in its History

The initiative, named "Realizing Potential," has set a goal of raising half a billion dollars by 2020 through philanthropy and research funding. Scholarships and research opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. Breakthrough stem cell research. New therapies for patients with cancer and autism. Interdisciplinary collaboration in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). These are just a few of the goals on which Nova Southeastern University (NSU) has its sights set as it launches Realizing Potential: The Campaign for Nova Southeastern University, the largest externally-funded campaign in the university’s more than 50-year history and in the history of Broward County. $250 million will be raised from philanthropic gifts with another $300 million to come from externally funded research. “At NSU, change and lofty goals are not new concepts; in fact, they are part of our foundation and have propelled us to become the institution we are today,” said NSU President Dr. George Hanbury. “As we enter 2016, we do so at an exciting time for the university with tremendous energy building. As a result of the generous support we have received from the community and those who believe in NSU's Vision 2020, we are proud to announce the public phase of Realizing Potential.”

Through this campaign, NSU seeks to raise $250 million to support excellence for its students, faculty and 21st century educational initiatives by December 2020. Coupled with the university’s goal of also raising $300 million in sponsored research, the Realizing Potential campaign is part of NSU’s Vision 2020 goal to raise more than half a billion dollars in external funding. NSU has already raised more than half of the support in both philanthropy and sponsored programs since launching the silent phase of the campaign in July 2008.
Saint Leo Hosts Florida Supreme Court Justice

Saint Leo University celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by hosting Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince. Justice Quince, who was raised by a single parent in rural Virginia as one of five children, spoke to the audience about combatting poverty among American youth. “Economic disparities still exist in this country, and there is a lot of poverty and low income people,” she said. “It’s virtually impossible for a family of four to subsist on less than $23,500 a year, yet many people begrudge them welfare.” With her quiet strength and down-to-earth personality, Justice Quince spoke about growing up during the civil rights movement and Dr. King’s crucial role: “Dr. King not only fought for civil rights but economic justice as well. Most people don’t realize that the March on Washington in 1963 was actually called ‘A March for Jobs and Freedom,’ ” she stated.

In 1993, Justice Quince became the first African-American female to be named to one of the district courts of appeal with her appointment to the 2nd District Court of Appeal. In 1998, she was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor-elect Jeb Bush. She served as the chief justice from July 1, 2008 until June 30, 2010, making her the second African-American and third woman to serve in that role.

Stetson Says Goodbye to Executive VP and Provost

Seven years after she first stepped onto Stetson University’s campuses, Executive Vice President and Provost, Elizabeth L. "Beth" Paul, Ph.D., announced she is leaving in mid-June to become President of Capital University near Columbus, Ohio.

As Stetson University’s executive vice president and provost, Paul is the University’s senior academic officer and leads the University’s strategy for its colleges and schools, academic offices, library and digital learning technologies, institutes, centers and programs, campus life and student services. Under her leadership, faculty revised and updated many existing academic programs. New undergraduate and graduate programs have been added, including data analytics, public administration, public health, and innovative new graduate programs including the “MFA of the Americas,” in creative writing and an M.Ed. in Education for Social Justice. Paul’s extensive experience with undergraduate student research and experiential learning are now hallmarks of a Stetson education. “I’m delighted for her but recognize the loss her departure is for our university,” said Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D., president of Stetson University. “She has worked tirelessly to support faculty, lead program development and launch new learning opportunities for Stetson University students. I know the university community members will miss her on both a personal and professional level.” A national search for Paul’s successor will begin immediately. An interim Provost will be named shortly.
Flagler Receives Approval for New Major

Flagler College’s newest program in Hospitality and Tourism Management crossed its final hurdle in becoming a major with its recent approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Courses will begin to be offered this Fall. “Tourism has long been a driving force in the economy of the state of Florida,” Sport Management Department Chair Dr. Calvin Hunter said. He cited tourism’s foothold in the sunshine state and the need for qualified individuals to manage hotels, resorts and the like as good reasons for students to choose the new major.

To complete the 62-credit major, a student will earn 32 credit hours in Hospitality and Tourism Management courses, along with 12 hours of core courses in Business Administration, eight hours in a foreign language, six hours in selected liberal arts courses, four hours in Sport Management and 120 apprenticeship hours in the hospitality industry. Graduates with this major will be prepared for entry-level professional positions in guest services management, theme park and attraction management, tourism management, event planning and food services management, and will have the foundation for more senior management positions as their careers advance.

University of Miami’s Fourth President, Passes Away

Edward Thaddeus “Tad” Foote II, who had a tremendous influence on the growth and development of the University of Miami for more than two decades, passed away in February. As the school’s fourth president, he significantly raised the academic and research stature of the school, spearheaded a capital fundraising campaign that was the second largest in the history of American higher education at the time, and instituted a series of other reforms that ranged from improved facilities to new academic programs. "President Foote’s tenure as president from 1981 to 2001 was marked by a far-reaching and rigorous pursuit of academic excellence that helped to distinguish our students and faculty among the finest in the nation," said UM President Julio Frenk. "Together with his late wife, Roberta “Bosey” Fulbright Foote, they made Miami their home, and we are a far better and stronger institution and community thanks to them."

"He was a remarkable leader and a real gentleman," said former UM President Donna E. Shalala. "The University improved greatly under his tenure."

A former dean of the law school at Washington University in St. Louis, Foote was only 43 when he succeeded Henry King Stanford as UM president in 1981.
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