Edward Waters Wins HBCU Awards

Edward Waters College was awarded two 2015 Historically Black College or University (HBCU) Awards presented by HBCU Digest. The EWC Department of Business Administration won “Best Business Program” and Dr. Brian Seymour, Research Director for the EWC Center for the Prevention of Health Disparities, won “Best Male Faculty of the Year.” The EWC Department of Business Administration partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to offer a free Entrepreneurship Certificate Program to the community in an effort to increase the number of minority business entrepreneurs. The seven-week program provided a complete overview of the business skills needed to develop a full, applicable knowledge base of the start-up and business operations process.

Edward Waters College received six nominations in five categories including “Best HBCU of the Year” and Dr. Nathaniel Glover’s nomination for “Best Male HBCU President” for the second year in a row. Other nominations included "Best Women’s Team of the Year" (EWC Tiger Softball Team) and another "Best Male Faculty of the Year" nomination (Dr. Prabir Mandal). “Edward Waters College’s two 2015 HBCU Awards and the institution’s total six nominations represent the unprecedented ways our faculty, staff and students have excelled. It also demonstrates the College’s commitment to become a national leader for innovative teaching and learning to better educate the next generation of global leaders,” said EWC President, Dr. Nathaniel Glover.

Beacon President Speaks at International Conference

Drs. George & Oksana Hagerty presented at the International Conference on Disabilities in Lagos, Nigeria where Dr. George Hagerty was invited to be a keynote speaker. His speech, which incorporated his background experience with the Department of Education as well as his insights as President of Beacon College, focused on the lessons learned through U.S. policies regarding educating students with learning disabilities. Learning Specialist Dr. Oksana Hagerty gave a presentation on the scaffolding approach to educating students with learning disabilities.
As Stetson Grows, Downtown Reaps Benefits

When Wendy Libby became the president of Stetson University in 2009, she had a goal in mind: 3,000 students. That enrollment total could be reached this fall, marking a more than 30% increase during the six-year span. Now it's time for the campus to grow and a $32 million construction project is underway. Machinery removed palm trees and smoothed dirt on a recent Friday behind DeLand Hall, the school's oldest building, to clear space for a 24,000-square-foot welcome center, an $8 million project.

Plans are underway to renovate the Carlton Union Building, a $22 million project, as well as smaller projects at the library and other aging buildings. Parking lots running through the main arteries of campus will be relocated to the exterior, opening up space for more grass, walkways and scenery. “Five years ago, when we met with faculty, staff and students while developing our campus plan and landscape plan, there was great agreement that more open space would contribute to the beauty as well as functionality of our campus,” Libby said in a recent email. “And today, we see learning happening all over campus, not just in classes and laboratories, but in our outdoor spaces as well.”

Stetson's growth does not just impact classrooms and laboratories. It creates a ripple effect that extends beyond the walls of the university and into downtown DeLand, city officials say. Recent developments include an upcoming Marriott hotel, an off-campus housing project for Stetson University students known as Athens Commons, a Jimmy John's sandwich shop, an Avista Hotels & Resorts, and others. “A lot of the recent developments are all being established to support the growth that Stetson has seen,” said Nick Conte, director of the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce, “and I expect more. There are a lot of franchises that are exploring opportunities here.”

Rollins Named the Most Beautiful Campus

Rollins College was ranked the No. 1 Most Beautiful Campus this year by The Princeton Review’s The Best 380 Colleges. This is up from No. 6 last year. Only about 15% of America's 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in the 2016 edition of the college guide book, which includes detailed profiles of colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories, based on the Princeton's Review's surveys on students attending the colleges. “We are delighted that The Princeton Review's new edition of The Best 380 Colleges has recognized the beauty of our campus,” says Rollins President Grant Cornwell. “It is an ideal setting for liberally educating students to be global citizens and responsible leaders.”

In its profile on Rollins College, this year's Princeton Review guide quotes extensively from students surveyed for the book. Rollins students describe the college as “all about individual growth personally and educationally,” while also stressing “responsible community leadership both on and off campus.” The professors create “an open and invigorating classroom environment,” the liberal arts approach to academics “make[s] [students] competitive in an ever-changing job market,” and the “family environment and the closeness of all of the campus bring all the students together as scholars.”

ICUF FACT

When compared with the State University System, ICUF institutions produce more than half of the first-professional degrees, such as law and medicine.
Embry-Riddle Working with NASA on Satellite Project

If a project NASA and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University are working on is successful, Internet access could certainly be more affordable and more readily available because the satellite providing the service would be a lot closer to Earth.

But first researchers have to figure out a way to put something permanently in the sky, high above big cities like Orlando. The challenge is getting the atmospheric satellite, as it’s called, to stay in one fixed location like a tack stuck into a bulletin board.

That’s where an engineering team at Embry-Riddle comes in. The school received a $100,000 grant to develop a concept using unmanned aircraft to utilize wind and solar power 60,000 feet above the Earth — about 30,000 feet higher than commercial airplanes fly. “They are looking for innovative ideas,” said William Engblom, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering. Engblom’s idea certainly fits that description. He wants to connect two gliders using ultra-strong thin cable. It’s like a kite or a sailboat, with one aircraft acting as the sail, and the other as the board. If successful, it would move in a figure-8 pattern and remain within 150 miles of Orlando for a sustained period of time. “The main motivation is the need for the atmospheric satellite,” he said. “It’s been something the aeronautics community has been working toward for decades.” The research is expected to last nine months.

Jacksonville Offers Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling

The Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences at Jacksonville University continues its expansion of the School of Applied Health Sciences with the start of the region’s only hybrid-style mental health counseling master’s degree to equip graduates with expertise in both clinical mental health counseling and marriage, couples and family counseling. The rigorous two-year, 60-credit hour program, which begins in January 2016 and is now taking competitive applicants for its first 12-member cohort, meets the educational requirements for Florida licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, and also offers the option of Florida licensure as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

The Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling is designed to meet heightened demand as stigmas lessen and awareness grows of the need for collaboration by medical personnel and mental health professionals in treating depression, anxiety, stress, behavioral disorders, addictions, physical illnesses and other issues facing all age groups.

Nova Southeastern Teacher Receives Presidential Award for Excellence

President Barack Obama named 108 mathematics and science teachers across the United States as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Carlos Montero, a teacher at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) University School, was among those honored. Montero currently teaches honors and AP chemistry in grades 9-12. He also serves as the chair of the science department for grades 6-12. “Nova Southeastern University is honored to have one of our outstanding teachers recognized with this Presidential Award. Carlos Montero is an example of academic excellence, one of the core values of our university,” said Dr. George Hanbury, President of Nova Southeastern University.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level.
Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) has announced a new Bachelor of Science program in Conductive Education (CE) as well as a certificate program in CE for students currently holding their bachelor’s. The program will be the only one offered at a healthcare University and the only one available in the South. Courses are planned to start during the fall 2015 trimester. The Bachelor of Science in Conductive Education (BSCE) is a four-year program specifically designed for students to gain the skills needed to become a conductor immediately following graduation. Students will receive 1000 hours of direct client care and will serve 2 full terms as a student teacher in The Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO). The certificate program is the only one available in the United States and can be completed in just five trimesters. Graduates will have the opportunity to become a conductor or work in K-12 education with the special needs population.
Webber's Student-athlete Named As Award Recipient

Webber International University announced that current student-athlete, Rachel Fredrick, has been awarded the NAIA Dr. Leroy Walker Champions of Character Award for The Sun Conference. Fredrick, a two year starter for the Lady Warriors Cross Country and Track and Field teams, has currently earned a 3.50 grade point average, on a 4.0 scale. A junior, academically, Fredrick is seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

The Dr. Leroy Walker Champions of Character Award for student-athletes is one of the most prestigious awards in the NAIA and was created in association with the National Sports Foundation, a group of sports organizations that promote and recognize sportsmanship. The award honors outstanding student-athletes for their academics, athletics, leadership and dedication to living the core values of Champions of Character.

Webber’s Student-athlete Garners Liston Award

Webber International University’s Alberto Coderch has been selected as the winner of the NAIA/The Sun Conference Emil S. Liston Award. This award is named in honor of the NAIA’s first executive secretary and the prime mover behind the men’s basketball tournament. The Emil S. Liston scholarship Award has been presented annually since 1950 to one junior men’s and one junior women’s basketball student-athlete who has shown high athletic and scholastic achievement. Coderch is a junior at Webber International and is majoring in Sport Business Management. He currently has a 3.72 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Florida Tech Alumna Chosen to Fly on Space Vehicles

NASA has announced that Sunita L. Williams, who earned a master’s degree in engineering management from Florida Institute of Technology, was chosen to be among the first group of astronauts to fly the next generation of commercial crew vehicles. Williams, who spent 322 days in space on two shuttle missions, joins Eric Boe, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley as what NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden called “space pioneers.” “These distinguished, veteran astronauts are blazing a new trail, a trail that will one day land them in the history books and Americans on the surface of Mars,” Bolden said in a blog post announcing the astronaut selection. A successor to the 30-year-long space shuttle program, the commercial crew program seeks to send astronauts to deep space by the 2030s on privately built spacecraft. Flight testing, which will involve the four astronauts announced this week, is scheduled to start in 2017.

Williams, a U.S. Navy captain, received her commission in the Navy in May 1987. She became a helicopter pilot, logging more than 3,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft. NASA chose Williams for the astronaut program in 1998. In addition to her nearly year-long stint in space over two missions, Williams currently holds the record for total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut (50 hours, 40 minutes). Preceding her selection into the astronaut program, Williams earned her advanced degree at Florida Tech’s Patuxent site in Maryland in 1995.
Flagler Students Share Research on “Texting while Driving”

Flagler College Professor Dr. Casey Welch and three students shared research findings on a project titled “Attitudes toward Texting while Driving and Laws That Regulate It.” They were featured on WJCT’s First Coast Connect. During the past spring semester, students in Welch’s Sociological Research Methods course collected data on the topic by conducting content analysis, field observations, interviews, focus groups and surveys with over 400 respondents. Three students have continued to work with the professor this summer: Patricia Marquez, Daniel Ross and Ruby Studivant. “This research is important because texting while driving is a rising issue in America,” Marquez, a Criminology and Psychology senior, said. “The data gathered can help politicians know people’s attitudes toward support and awareness of the law….”

The experience has provided students with a greater understanding of people’s attitudes on the topic, as well as critical research skills. In addition to sharing their findings, Welch and the students will directly inform state congressional members of the same, who are debating several bills on the issue.

Nova Southeastern Cancer Researcher Earns Prestigious Fulbright Award

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) cancer researcher Appu Rathinavelu, Ph.D., was selected for a prestigious J. William Fulbright award to conduct cancer research and training in India. Dr. Rathinavelu is associate dean for institutional planning and development at NSU’s College of Pharmacy and executive director of NSU’s Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research.

The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 360,000 participants from more than 180 countries with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

“NSU is proud of Dr. Rathinavelu and his tremendous work in the field of cancer research,” said Dr. George Hanbury, President of NSU. “Our University is dedicated to supporting the highest levels of research that will one day make positive impacts in the global community. To have one of our researchers recognized at this level is a success for all of us to celebrate.”

Warner Ag Student Selected as National Ambassador

Warner University has announced that senior Kaylee Norris has been selected to serve in the exclusive role of a National Collegiate Agriculture Ambassador for the 2015-2016 year. She was one of the 20 students chosen from colleges from around the country from the National Future Farmers of America (FFA). This selection came after a rigorous interview process including creating a video highlighting Kaylee presenting a workshop to a middle school Ag class. Ms. Norris was heavily involved in FFA at her hometown high school in Frostproof and continues at Warner University in the new Agriculture Studies degree program. She currently serves as the 2015-2016 WU Collegiate FFA President, holds an American FFA Degree, has been on the Dean’s List every year, as well as serving as a Warner Presidential Ambassador since 2012. She has also been involved in a various sectors of Ag through her practicum courses at WU, including citrus, Ag education and Ag real estate.
St. Thomas Names New Building after Local Business Leader

A former member of St. Thomas University’s Board of Trustees, Gus Machado has also been a recognized entrepreneur, successful executive and philanthropist in the South Florida community for more than 30 years. He has demonstrated a firm commitment to quality higher education, supporting the University in providing our community with an excellent and rewarding academic environment built on ethics and service. The St. Thomas University Board of Trustees and President announced recently that Mr. Machado’s legacy of business leadership will continue through the naming of the Gus Machado School of Business at St. Thomas University. Mr. Machado’s generous $5 million gift provides the cornerstone of the construction funding to provide current and expanded business programs in a new, state-of-the-art facility. “Supporting our future business leaders means the world to me,” said Mr. Machado. “Being able to make that happen at St. Thomas University – a University that has a reputation for providing an excellent educational experience and developing the next generation of ethical business leaders – is an opportunity I am very pleased to be a part of.”

The twenty-first century facility will house the institutes of Global Entrepreneurship, Cybersecurity, Trade and Logistics and Sports Administration, and have an open architecture design that will feature multi-purpose spaces and combine robust technology with functionalities that will help students learn real-life business practices. Interactive Smart Classrooms with specialized software, audience response technology, networking and audio/visual capabilities, as well as a Trading Room, a Global Conference Auditorium, the Student Business Incubator, and a Communications and Media Lab, are among other innovative spaces.

Prominent Linguist Visits Saint Leo as Fulbright Scholar in Residence

The School of Arts and Sciences at Saint Leo University is hosting visiting scholar and musician Dr. Vasumathi Badrinathan at its University Campus during the fall semester. Dr. Badrinathan, a university teacher from India’s Ramnarain Ruia College (affiliated with the University of Mumbai), is a recognized expert on teaching foreign languages and is the first Fulbright Scholar in Residence to teach at Saint Leo University. She will teach a special undergraduate-level course on language, culture, and communications. Dr. Badrinathan will also be working with other university faculty, sharing her knowledge of teaching foreign language skills. She earned her doctorate in French and applied linguistics at Charles de Gaulle University-Lille III in France. In addition to being fluent in French and English, Dr. Badrinathan is fluent in several languages spoken in India—Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, and Gujarati—with exposure to Spanish and Russian as well. As Dr. Badrinathan is also a vocalist who sings classical music from southern India, she will perform at appearances open to both students and the public.

Florida Southern Honored as College of Distinction for Ninth Year

For the ninth consecutive year, Florida Southern College has been selected for inclusion in Colleges of Distinction for the 2015-2016 school year. FSC is one of a small group of colleges in Florida to earn this prestigious designation, based on its excellence in four categories: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant campus communities, and successful outcomes. Colleges of Distinction is a college guide dedicated to recognizing schools nationwide for their excellence in undergraduate-focused higher education. High school college counselors and educators nominate colleges and universities for recognition by Colleges of Distinction, which then evaluates each school based on qualitative and quantitative research. FSC President Anne Kerr said, “We are proud to be included once again in this elite college guide. This is an important confirmation that Florida Southern is among the best colleges in the nation.”
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