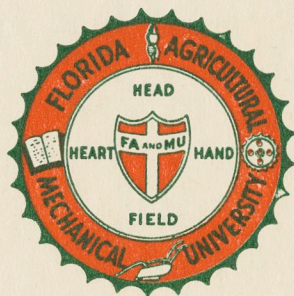


# THE FAMU IMAGE



BY

*GEORGE W. GORE, JR.*

P R E S I D E N T

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA



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BY

*GEORGE W. GORE, JR.*

PRESIDENT



## THE FAMU IMAGE

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED  
AT THE OPENING CONVOCATION,  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1961 BY GEORGE W.  
GORE, JR., PRESIDENT.



regard it as a distinct privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the 75th Opening Convocation at A and M. I sincerely trust that the academic year 1961-62 will be outstanding qualitatively, if not quantitatively. We may not be able this year to boast of a record-breaking enrollment. Because of increased costs of attendance, rigid entrance examinations, limited housing, and the creation of additional junior colleges in the State, our enrollment may become stationary for the next few years. However, it is highly possible that this year we will have a better quality of students because of more rigid selection. Truly, an excellent staff has been recruited, and we trust that it will perform at the highest possible academic level.

Let us begin again today and correct our past errors, regardless as to where they were made. Now is the time for all of us to map our courses for 1961-62. Allow me to suggest to you that you keep a record of your successes and failures and be prepared to evaluate yourself at the end of 1961-62. Start now to earn your grades. Already it may be later than you think for achieving this academic year. The record you make this year is not for one year, but for eternity.

Affectionately, we like to think of FAMU as our Alma Mater. It stands for so much. It means so much for many. It is a monument to constructive leadership and achievement. This year especially, I want to have you concentrate your attention on the "U." It is YOU that will make the difference in the future.

Previous announcements have been made to the effect that a series of tests will be given in October. They will be for the Peace Corps examination, the Foreign Service Entrance examination, and the Federal Service Entrance examination. Recent reports indicate that most of our group who took such examinations failed. They were not ready. They had



not studied widely enough. Allow me to suggest that you prepare yourself for these examinations by improving your general scholarship rating. Persons with an average of less than 3.0 should seriously consider refraining from taking such tests. We need more "A" and "B" students who will take these examinations. Wide, general reading beyond course requirements is needed.

What's new at FAMU? Well, Lee Hall has been completely renovated and air-conditioned at a cost of approximately one-half million dollars. There will be a formal dedication of the auditorium early in 1962. I can assure you the seats will be softer than those which you now occupy. There are many other significant improvements. In January, we are to begin the celebration of our 75th Anniversary. This will be our Diamond Anniversary, paying tribute to those who founded the institution in 1887, and to those who have made its growth and development possible since that time. Since last year, repairs have been made to buildings and grounds throughout the campus area. I trust that all of us are returning with eager hearts and minds, and ready for hard work.

Among the things-to-come will be a new health and physical education building costing approximately \$1 million, an annex to the Student Union Building, and new dormitories. In the immediate future, there will be Homecoming on Saturday, October 14, when we will be host to alumni and friends, and meet our old rival, Morris Brown College of Atlanta, on the gridiron.

In American higher education, from time to time we talk about the image of a university. For example, there is much discussion in academic circles concerning a Harvard man, a Radcliffe woman, a Vassar woman, a Morehouse man, a Spelman woman, a Fiskite, a Howardite. Today I want to raise the question, what kind of person is a FAMUite? It seems to me that a FAMUan's image should reflect certain distinctive characteristics. First, he should be a go-getter—a person with a goal, a purpose, a zeal; always on the go, going somewhere.

In fact, our motto for 1961-62 is "Go Forward With FAMU." The true FAMUan is not a sluggard, a drone, or a nonentity.

In the second place, he should be a good sportsman, one who plays fair, who does his best and who wins if he can, but never cheats nor stoops to low purpose. In connection with the Orange Blossom Classic, I have insisted upon three criteria: (1) that we should invite to the Miami area the best possible gridiron team; (2) that we should have a team at FAMU good enough to make the visiting team play its best possible game; (3) that, if possible, we win the game. I have never requested that Coach Gaither win at all costs.

In the third place, a FAMUan should be a genteel person; that is, a real sincere lady or gentleman. He should be a person of culture and refinement who is never loud or boisterous. A famous English poet has said, "A loud mouth proclaims the vacant mind." A real FAMUan is never noted for "loud talking."

In the fourth place, a good FAMUan is concerned with high scholarship. He places an emphasis on excellence. He is concerned about the ability to master the printed page. He uses the library constantly. He knows that the best way to prepare various assignments and tests is broad knowledge. This means knowledge far and beyond the requirements of any course or textbook. Constantly we say here, "Quality is FAMU's measure."

In the fifth place, a good FAMUan is concerned with moral character. To him, his word is his bond. He will not lie or steal. He respects womanhood. He goes to church. I was very happy Sunday at the church I attended, to find that half of the congregation were FAMU students. Good FAMUans are always found in church on Sunday.

At FAMU we are always hoping to grow. Real progress and success are built on day-by-day improvements in one's



ability. There is a matter of being today a little bit better than you were yesterday.

Furthermore, we must learn how to communicate and have words mean things for us. The **five** most important words are, "I am proud of you." I hope to be able to say this to you when you march across the stage to receive your diploma at college graduation time.

The **four** most important words are, "What is your opinion?" This implies a recognition and appreciation of the point of view of other people. This cannot be ignored, if we wish to win friends and influence people.

The **three** most important words are, "If you please." This implies courtesy and respect for others.

The **two** most important words are, "Thank you." They are the master key. They will open doors when all else fails. Don't forget to use them often.

Finally, the least important word is "I," the word of the egoist. Use it sparingly. Place yourself last. Once upon a time I heard a slogan, "I am third." It said, "God is first, others are second and I am third." Learn to subordinate yourself.

If you want to be successful, learn to see and hear more than you speak. The good Lord gave us two eyes and two ears and only one mouth. This probably was because we are supposed to do more hearing and seeing and less speaking.

We are off! I trust we are off to a good start. The signs of the Zodiac are right. The opportunity is ours. Many have labored to make this day possible. We stand on the threshold of seventy-five years of existence. What will we do with the privileges that are ours today? The answer is up to You and You and You.



