**Foster Foundation Presents Conductor’s Podium During Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Marching 100 Summer Band Camp**

**July 22, 2024 Contact: Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation**

**(850) 566-3872**

**TALLAHASSEE** -- The internationally famous Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU) Incomparable Marching “100” Band wrapped up its summer band camp recently in Tallahassee.  From July 14-20, at FAMU’s Alfred Lawson Multipurpose Center, more than 421 middle and high school students, locally and from around the nation, traveled to FAMU to participate in the band camp.

The Marching “100” Summer Band Camp is one of the most comprehensive band camps in the country.  The band camp offers middle and high school students the opportunity to improve their music proficiency, improve their marching concepts, play in small chamber groups, as well as perform concert band and jazz ensemble music.

During the Summer Band Camp, the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) participated in various activities, including the opening ceremony, the parade, and book-signings. Board Member Anthony F. Foster is the son of the late Dr. William P. and Mrs. Mary Ann Foster.

This year, the Foundation presented the Marching 100 and the Department of Music with a conductor’s podium, to be used for special events and performances, in honor of the directors and faculty who made exemplary contributions to the instrumental music and band programs at Florida A&M University.

The podium with engraving on the side with the Band Director’s names and years of service was included.

The front of the podium – the side facing the band include:

**Dr. William P. Foster**

**Chairman and Director of Bands 1946-1998**

The five names and years on the left side of the podium include:

**Phillip Amos von Weller 1892 - 1897**

**Nathaniel C. Adderley 1910  
Herman A. Spearing 1918  
Arnold W. Lee, Sr. 1924 – 1928  
Captain W. Carey Thomas 1928 – 1932**

The five names and years below go on the right side of the podium include:  
**Leander A. Kirksey, Jr. 1932 – 1945  
J. Richmond Johnson 1945 – 1946**

**Dr. Julian E. White 1998 – 2012  
Dr. Sylvester Young 2013 – 2016  
Dr. Shelby R. Chipman 2016  –**

In addition, the Foundation presented a check fior $2,500 to the support the music program, the Marching 100, and the Summer Band Camp. Every year, the Foster Foundation financially supports students who participate in the Marching 100 Band and the Summer Band Camp with scholarships.

The FAMU Band Camp is the result of a concept that Dr. William P. Foster developed in the early 1950s. After several years of contemplation, Dr. Foster devised a program to meet the needs of an increase in recruitment of talented and competent instrumentalists, an increase in the size of the FAMU Marching Band, and bring an increase in majors in the FAMU Department of Music.

**About the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation**

The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) promotes increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of Dr. William P. Foster and his contribution in creating the legendary incomparable Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU) Marching 100 Band. He is known as the Maestro, the Law and the Legend. Through his creation, the Marching 100 became the brand of FAMU. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to music education and historical legacy of Dr. Foster and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity in the public arena. It financially supports students who participate in the Marching 100 Band and the Summer Band Camp. The Foundation supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy, conferences, educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular.

Dr. Foster authored two books, *The Man Behind the Baton*, and *Band Pageantry* and are available through the Foundation’s website at www.drwpfosterfoundation.org . Proceeds help with the Foundation’s mission to assist the Marching 100 Band, Summer Band Camp, and music education.

**###**

**For additional information:**

**Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation**

**P.O. Box 5393 Tallahassee, Florida 32301**

**http://www.drwpfosterfoundation.org**

Here’s a recap of the FAMU Summer Band Camp Halftime Show, 2024.

[Famu Summer Band Camp | "Halftime Show" (2024)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNzRBdxIEM0)

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