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FAMU Law Wraps-Up Third Year Of Mentoring Program With Advice From Judge Emerson Thompson



Judge Emerson Thompson, Ninth Judicial Circuit
ORLANDO – Judge Emerson Thompson, a senior justice with the Ninth Judicial Circuit and a retired judge with the Fifth District Court of Appeal, shared insights on professionalism and ethics as the keynote speaker for the Mentoring Program Recognition event at Florida



FAMU Law Mentoring Program participants
A&M University College of Law on Friday, April 14, 2023. Thompson called on the law students in attendance to take full

advantage of the opportunity to be mentored by experts in the legal profession. He said he counsels his mentees to “tell me what you want me to do to help you,” and then “to show up.”

FAMU Law presented certificates to recognize all 64 lawyers and law students who participated in the 2022-2023 program that began in September and included virtual and face-to-face group sessions as well as individual mentor and mentee interactions. Mentors included nine judges from the Circuit Court, the District Court of Appeal, and the U. S. District Court, along with attorneys from across the state of Florida, Illinois, and California.

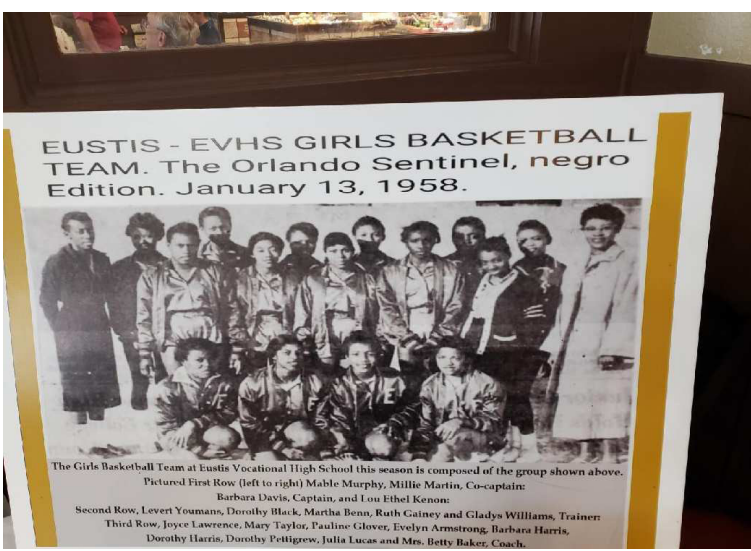
Featuring more than 40 mentors from the legal community and mentees from the law student body, the recognition event wrapped up the third year of the mentoring program,

which is sponsored by the law school’s Dean’s Advisory Council in coordination with the Office of Career Planning and Professional Development.

The Mentoring Program is now accepting applicants for the 2023-2024 academic year. All FAMU Law students are eligible but limited slots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mentors interested in participating must be practicing attorneys in good standing with a state bar, have a minimum of 10 years of experience, have no pending complaints or disciplinary action, and have no 10-year disciplinary history with a state bar.

To learn more about the FAMU Law Mentoring Program, please visit this link: <https://law.famu.edu/career-planning/mentoring-program.php>

Eustis Class Of 1962 Alumni Honors Elsie Broomfield At 2023 Reunion



EUSTIS - EVHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM. The Orlando Sentinel, negro Edition. January 13, 1958.
The Girls Basketball Team at Eustis Vocational High School this season is composed of the group shown above.
Pictured First Row (left to right) Mable Murphy, Millie Martin, Co-captain; Barbara Davis, Captain, and Lou Ethel Kenon.
Second Row, Levert Youmans, Dorothy Black, Martha Bonn, Ruth Gately and Gladys Williams, Trainers
Third Row, Joyce Lawrence, Mary Taylor, Pauline Glover, Evelyn Armstrong, Barbara Harris, Dorothy Harris, Dorothy Feltgore, Julia Lucas and Mrs. Betty Baker, Coach.

BY LOUIS C. WARD
EUSTIS - Imagine this: You graduated from high school 65 years ago. Presently, you’re attending a class reunion. When you walk into the room, your former home economics teacher, who happens to be 99- years-old is there. She sees you and other classmates. The beloved teacher’s face lights up, as she calls out each student by their name.
Imagine: Learning that your former integrated high school was named “Colored School Number 85” during the 1800’s.

Ms. Elsie Broomfield, their beloved home economics teacher, who will be 100-years-old in December 2023, during their Saturday evening program at Golden Corral Restaurant in Eustis. Ms. Lou Ethel Kenon Jenkins, a Class of 1962 graduate, presented a dozen of red roses to the personable teacher who was remembered as “always being sweet to all the students, no matter who you were.”

“I received a lovely plaque that stated “outstanding and special teacher. It was nice,” said Ms. Broomfield, who had no idea that she was the honoree. “I saw students and their classmates and I remembered them. It was a wonderful reunion.”

“Ms. Broomfield was the only teacher that we had that was still alive,” revealed Ms. Jenkins. “We all were very happy when Ms. Broomfield called out our names. She was so excited.”

Longtime Community activist and EVHS student from the Class of 1960 Carla Mitchell provided a very informative oral history with pictures of Eustis Vocational High School, describing how the school was first called the Colored School Number 85 in the 1800’s, then the Curtright School and finally, Eustis Vocational High School, which became one of the first integrated schools in Lake County.

still standing on McDonald Avenue and Exeter Street in Eustis, said Ms. Mitchell, who’s Uncle John Byrd, the only Black member of the school board, petitioned for a new school to be built for Black students, which became Eustis Vocational High School on Bates Avenue. “The new school served students from nine communities, including Altoona, Clermont, Eustis, Groveland, Mascot, Mount Dora, Pittman, Tavares, and Umatilla,” Ms. Mitchell informed the group.

Ms. Mitchell revealed how Leon Hamilton, the principal of the new high school, ordered all the artifacts from the Curtright School – uniforms, band instruments, trophies, photographs - be destroyed instead of being taken to the new school to exhibit the history of the Black students at the new school. Ms. Mitchell and other community residents were able to salvage the items. Those artifacts were purchased from money earned by students and their families selling sweet potato pies, ice cream and peanuts. Ms. Mitchell, with the help of community residents, took them to her house for safekeeping. Eventually, the items were placed in a 12-foot showcase at EVHS.

Reunion Committee member Ms. Barbara Jones Harris, commenting on Saturday evening’s program at Golden Corral on US Hwy 441 in Eustis, said,

“Being with Ms. Broomfield, our only living teacher, was wonderful. Everyone enjoyed themselves.”

Robert Ragin of the Class of 1962 didn’t have Ms. Bromfield for his teacher. But her personality and relationship with students always made a positive impact on him. “Ms. Broomfield was always sweet, even now, today. My sisters Mary Alice and Violet had Ms. Broomfield for a teacher. She will always be a part of the family.”

On Friday evening, classmates enjoyed fellowship and dinner at the Haystax in Mount Dora. Sunday’s event concluded with a worship service at a Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Tavares and eating at Mason’s Jar in Umatilla.

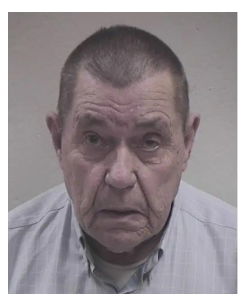
Ms. Jenkins said, “The 2023 reunion was wonderful. It was so many years since we’ve seen each other: we just loved on each other.”

Saturday evening’s event at the Golden Corral restaurant was heightened with the room’s decoration by Crystal Webber. It was appealing to the eyes and relaxing. The Class of 1962 Reunion Committee was composed of Barbara Jones Harris, Pauline Williams Hickson, Lou Ethel Kenon Jenkins, and Marjorie Wall McKinny

Common Mistakes, Uncommon Reactions In 3 Separate Shootings



This undated photo provided by Ben Crump Law on Monday, April 17, 2023, shows Ralph Yarl, the teenager shot by a homeowner in Kansas City, Mo. (Ben Crump Law via AP)



This booking photo provided by the Clay County, Mo., Sheriff’s Office shows Andrew Lester. Lester, the 84-year-old man charged in the shooting of 16-year-old Ralph Yarl in Kansas City, turned himself in Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at the Clay County Detention Center, the sheriff’s office said. Lester surrendered a day after being charged with first-degree assault and armed criminal action. (Clay County Sheriff’s Office via AP)

for one of them to be shot to death Saturday night, authorities said.

In Missouri last Thursday, a Kansas City teen was shot twice after going to the wrong home to pick up his younger brothers, raising questions about the state’s “stand your ground law” and heightening racial tensions.

Below is a brief glance of each shooting and the ensuing criminal investigations in Missouri, New York and Texas.

THE SHOOTING IN KANSAS CITY

Honors student Ralph Yarl, 16, mixed up the address when he went to pick up his twin brothers on Thursday night. Instead of going to 115th Terrace, he showed up at the home of Andrew Lester, 84.

Lester, who is white, told police he had just gotten in bed when he heard the doorbell. Before answering, he grabbed his revolver. Lester said he then saw Yarl, who is Black, pulling on the storm door handle, something Yarl disputes, according to the probable cause statement.

Lester told police he thought the teen was attempting to break into the home and he was “scared to death,” the statement said. Without saying a word, Lester fired twice.

Yarl said the first shot struck him in the head, knocking him to the ground. As he lay there, the

second bullet pierced his arm. Yarl told police he fled as the homeowner yelled, “Don’t come around here,” the statement said.

Lester was charged with first-degree assault Monday and turned himself in Tuesday.

Some civil rights leaders have called for a hate crime charge, but Zachary Thompson, Clay County prosecuting attorney, said first-degree assault is a higher-level crime with a longer sentence — up to life in prison.

The wounded teen is recovering at home, and his mother, Cleo Nagbe, said the trauma is evident. She told “CBS Mornings” co-host Gayle King that her son mostly “just sits there and stares and the buckets of tears just rolls down his eyes.”

Legal experts believe Lester’s lawyers will claim self-defense under Missouri’s “stand your ground” law, which allows for the use of deadly force if a person fears for his or her life. Missouri is one of roughly 30 states with such statutes.

St. Louis defense attorney Nina McDonnell said prosecutors have a strong case but the “stand your ground” defense is a “huge hurdle” to overcome.

But Ari Freilich, an attorney and state policy director with the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said nothing in the law “allows someone to shoot first and ask questions later when someone innocently rings a doorbell.”

THE SHOOTING IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

Kaylin Gillis, 20, was traveling through the rural town of Hebron with three other people Saturday night when the group turned onto a property that was not the friend’s house they were looking for, authorities said. They were met with gunfire in the driveway.

The group was trying to turn the car around when the homeowner, Kevin Monahan, 65, came out onto his porch and fired two shots, according to Washington County Sheriff Jeffrey Murphy.

One round hit Gillis, killing her. They drove to the neighboring town of Salem, near the Vermont state line, and called 911, said Murphy, who noted the area has limited cell phone service.

Monahan was booked into the Warren County jail on a charge of second-degree murder. It wasn’t clear whether he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Murphy said at a news conference Monday that there was “no reason for Mr. Monahan to feel threatened.”

New York doesn’t have a “stand your ground” law.

THE SHOOTING IN TEXAS

A man shot and wounded two cheerleaders in a supermarket parking lot after one of them said she mistakenly got into his car thinking it was her own.

The shooting in Elgin, east of Austin, happened early Tuesday in an area that serves as a carpool pickup spot for members of the Woodlands Elite Cheer Company, team owner Lynne Shearer said.

Heather Roth said she got out of her friend’s car and into a vehicle she thought was hers, but there was a stranger in the passenger seat, KTRK-TV reported. She said she panicked and got back into her friend’s car, but the man got out of his vehicle and approached. She said she tried to apologize through her friend’s car window, but the man threw up his hands, pulled out a gun and opened fire.

Roth was grazed by a bullet and treated at the scene, police said. Her teammate Payton Washington, 18, was shot in the leg and back. Washington was flown to a hospital in critical condition.

Police arrested a suspect, 25-year-old Pedro Tello Rodriguez Jr., who is charged with engaging in deadly conduct, a third-degree felony. Online court records do not list an attorney for him.