

Faculty Spotlight

Name: Dr. Marvin Curtis

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Education: Bachelor of Music: North Park College in Chicago, Ill.

Master of Arts: The Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA

Doctorate of Education: University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA



Department: Performing and Fine Arts

Title: Interim Chair of the Department of Performing and Fine Arts

Describe your teaching style.

"Interactive. I want students to talk with me. I don't lecture. It is a discovery process. I probe their minds, and give them ideas not answers. I try to help them think through things."

How do you see FSU in five years?

Bigger, better and offering the community more opportunities to enjoy music and art.

What is your inspiration?

My parents. They always supported me in everything I did. When I return home I can see pride in my father's eyes. A parents' pride has no boundaries; you cannot put a limit on it.

What is your personal motto?

"Never quit, never give up."

Who do you admire here at FSU?

"Dr. Hilton, the Chair of the Psychology Department."

Dr. Curtis is the first African-American composer commissioned to write a choral work for a Presidential Inauguration. His work, "The City On the Hill" was premiered at President Clinton's 1993 Inauguration performed by The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir of Little Rock, Arkansas and The United States Marine Band.

He has led numerous workshops in African-American music and Multi-Cultural Education and been guest conductor for numerous choral festivals around the country. He led the FSU choirs on their first European Tour to Paris and Belgium in May of 1998. He returned to Belgium and France, by invitation for an all-expense paid tour with the FSU Chamber Singers during December of 1999.

He is also the recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award for the year of 2000 from the Department of Performing and Fine Arts and the College of Arts and Sciences of FSU. He is listed in the 2001 edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, the 1999 edition of Who's Who in America and the 8th edition of Who's Who in Black America.



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Education

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a then boring lecture to many, but it meant so much more to me. Truly, the mere act of choosing to learn and succeed is totally life changing.

It's no secret that most HBCU's don't have the spending dollars or available resources that many larger and predominantly white institutions have. However, attending an HBCU for three years has taught me something. It's not the high priced books or latest

technology devices that determine my path, but the passion for success that flames inside of me.

My old high school teacher put it simply when she said, "It's your attitude, not your amplitude, that determines your altitude."

With this being true, I still wonder why so many of our students are not performing as well as those from bigger schools. Sometimes the school is to blame, but many times it is we students that fail to

grasp the necessary components to ensure our own success. It seems that we would rather join organizations for the perks and power than to implement real changes in others' lives.

How is it possible for us to adamantly make lifelong pledges to organizations when we are so reluctant to make pledges to ourselves? My major is not mathematics, but things are just not adding up.

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