

THE FALCON FORUM

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COMMENCEMENT ISSUE

Seniors, what do you have to say?

We asked some students (chosen at random), "How do you feel about your time at Saint Augustine's University and what's next?" Here's what they said:



D.J. Harrison

Hometown: Winston-Salem NC
Major: Exercise science

Quote: "Saint Aug gave me an opportunity when I didn't have anything left so I'm forever grateful for that. The three years I've been here have been a journey but soon enough it'll come to an end."

What's next? "I plan to try and further my career in basketball if that's what God's plans are for me but if not then I'll try to pursue a career in my field."



Ja'Quan Phillips

Hometown: Rocky Mount, NC
Major: Business Administration

Quote: "It's hard to say what one thing I will take with me. Being here at SAU, you learn so much not just in the class room but outside of class as well. But one major thing I tell freshmen and others -- it's never who you know, but who knows you! Your name should speak for you when you are not in the room."

What's next? "I plan to continue

working hard to get my photography business known nationally."



DeonDre Johnson

Hometown: Raleigh, NC
Major: Exercise science

Quote: "I've been attending the university since fall 2015, and I've learned great lessons on life, understanding that iron sharpens iron and you're only as strong as your weakest link."

What's next? "This summer I'll start my masters program in athletic training."



Kelsee Arnold

Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Major: English

Quote: "Saint Augustine's University was a challenge, but it was also an unforgettable experience. This university equipped me for the real world -- both good and bad."

What's next? "I'm a first generation graduate, and my plans for

the future are to continue to put my family on the map."



Alston DeVega

Hometown: Smithfield, NC
Major: Criminal justice

Quote: "I'm actually really nervous because I'm leaving one comfort zone to create another one in a different environment."

What's next? "I hope to get a full-time job using my major, or maybe grad school."



Michelle Lee

Hometown: Honduras

Major: Business Administration

Quote: "I was able to see the world from a different perspective and learn many new things. One thing I'm taking with me is all the wonderful people I met and built relationships with. Staff members made it feel like home knowing I was so far away from mine."

What's next? "I'll be working with RSquare Educational Services and eventually go back to school for my Masters Degree."

This article was written by Garrett Davis and Jeydri Urbina

New prez is a familiar face

Students react to Dr. Faulcon's appointment as interim president

By Briana Snipes

Toyin Howell, a senior psychology major, remembers when Dr. Gaddis Faulcon was a vice president of Saint Augustine's University.

"We walked into Dr. Faulcon's office with our hurricane relief buckets asking for donations and giving information on how to help the hurricane survivors," Howell recalled. "Dr. Faulcon pulled out his wallet and said, 'Of course, I'll donate,' then asked how much he could give."

"We had to break the news to him that we were taking items like canned goods, clothes and toiletries but not money," Howell continued. "That just showed how generous he is and how much of a good heart he has and wants to help in any way he possibly can."

On March 12, the university's Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Faulcon as the interim president. The appointment coincided with the beginning of former President Everett Ward's retirement.

Dr. Faulcon is no stranger to Saint Augustine's. He graduated from SAU in 1974, and served as vice president of enrollment management from June 2016 to January 2018.

"I am truly honored to be asked to lead my alma mater at this crucial time in our 152-year history," Dr. Faulcon said in a statement released after his appointment.

Students interviewed by The Falcon Forum were excited about Dr. Faulcon's return.

Jaylon Sneed-Gresham, a junior sports management major and frat brother of Faulcon, said he remembers that Dr. Faulcon had a real connection with the students and was a mentor to some as well.

"He strived to do anything he could for the student body," Sneed-Gresham said. "I can't wait to see what changes will come during Faulcon's return."

Several students said they hoped Faulcon would remain president after his interim period is over.



Dr. Gaddis Faulcon

Student Spotlight:

Senior has sweet dilemma: too many good options

By Elyscia Vaughn Brown

Indonesia Carter has a problem that a lot of people would love to have; she can't decide where to go to graduate school. She has been accepted to three masters programs for social work.

"I got into Columbia University, USC, and NYU," the sociology major from Richmond, VA, explained. Wherever she ends up, Carter knows what she wants to do after that. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and become a social worker. Within 10 years, Carter hopes to have a large-scale nonprofit organization dedicated to homeless youth.

"I just want to help people," she said.

Carter already has a jump on her career; she runs a nonprofit organi-



Indonesia Carter

zation called Grow and Glow with her best friend, a student in Saint Augustine's Gateway program. The

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Faculty Spotlight:

Professor's passion is helping others succeed

By Cathea C. Hardaway

Professor Shakima Ellis is easily identified by her luxurious locks that celebrate the beauty, power and resilience of black women and exude "Black Girl Magic." She walks with an air of confidence that makes you feel as if you should do the same for yourself.

The Raleigh, North Carolina, native came to Saint Augustine's Media and Communications Department in August of 2016. She has a M.A. in English and creative writing from Southern New Hampshire University, a B.S. in technical communication from Kaplan University, a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina Pembroke, and a deeply rooted passion for helping her students reach their



Assistant Professor Shakima Ellis

maximum potential.

While Prof. Ellis reached a professional milestone, she was not always

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