



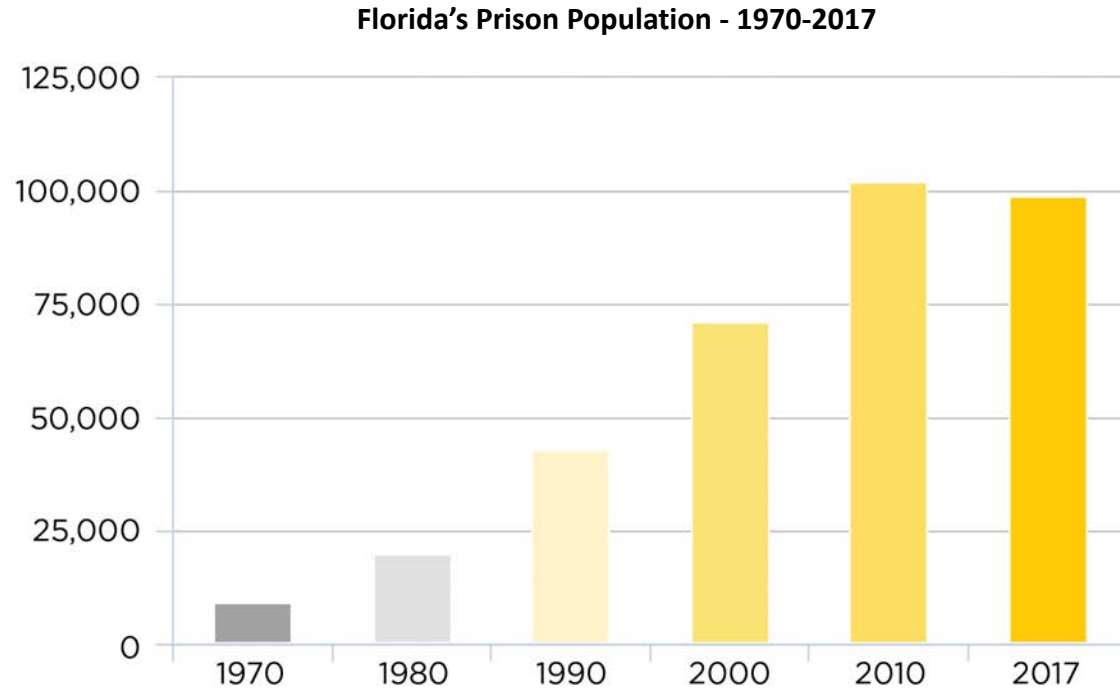
FPEP

Florida Prison Education Project

**Annual Report
2019-2020**

May 27, 2020

Florida's Prison System



- **3rd** largest prison system in America
- Nearly **100,000** people behind bars

Florida Prison Education Project



COST OF PRISON EDUCATION

Spending \$1 per prisoner on prison education saves \$4 to \$5 in the future for decreased rates of recidivism.



RECIDIVISM RATES

The U.S. spends \$31,000 to incarcerate someone every year. Prison education reduces the 54% recidivism rate by 40%.

Source: Office of Justice Programs, The Nation, RAND Corporation



Our Mission is to:

- **Provide educational opportunities** to incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated people in Florida
- **Research** the benefits of prison education
- **Integrate the study of justice** into the University of Central Florida curriculum

This year we:

- Taught **8 classes to 130 students** at the **Central Florida Reception Center** during the Summer 2019-Spring 2020 semesters
- Partnered with the Florida Coalition of Higher Education in Prison Programs (FLCHEP) to raise **\$10,890** and deliver **960 bars of soap** and **70 gallons of hand sanitizer** to **9 prisons** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Updated our **MOU** with the Florida Department of Corrections to expand to:
 - **Lake Correctional Institution**
 - **Lowell Correctional Institution**
 - **Zephyrhills Correctional Institution**
 - **Polk Correctional Institution**
 - **Putnam Correctional Institution**



*Jason Fronczek (BA/BFA '16, MFA '20)
teaching Visual Arts in the South Unit at CFRC
(fall/spring 2019-20)*

2019-20 Highlights continued:

- Collected **5,000+** books for Florida's Prison Libraries
- Received nearly **\$100,000** in internal and external funding
 - **\$12,000** from the Provost's Office
 - **\$11,000** in Foundation Donations
 - **\$60,000** from the Laughing Gull Foundation
 - **\$15,000** from the National Endowment for the Arts
- Applied for **\$250,000** from the National Endowment for the Humanities
- Selected for the **National Alliance for Higher Education in Prison Leadership Cohort**
- Joined the **Southern Collective** of Higher Education in Prison Programs
- Joined the **Florida Coalition** of Higher Education in Prison Programs



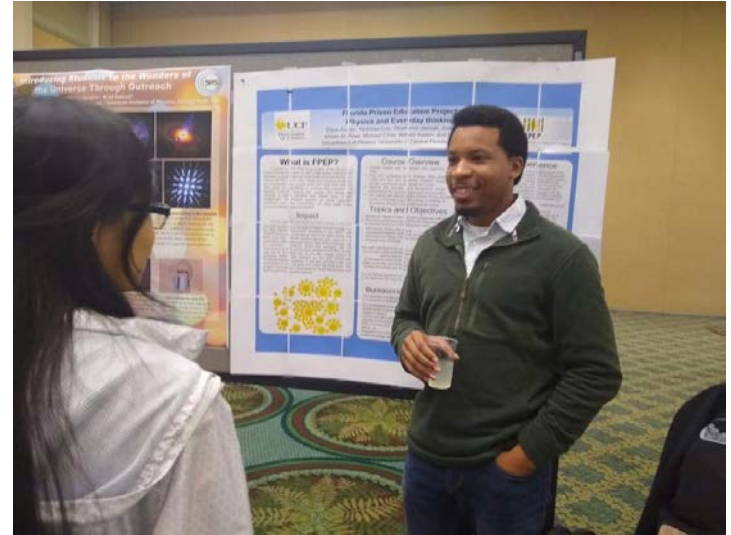
UCF graduate student Sarah Hubert (School of Performing Arts) and UCF undergraduate student Demond Washington (Nicholson School of Communication and Media '20) table outside the Visual Arts Building

2019-20 Highlights continued:

- Hired **2 undergraduate** federal work study students
- Hired **2 undergraduate** student interns
- Partnered with UCF Registered Student Organizations **Black Man's Candor** and **Afro-Artistry**
- Hired **2 graduate** student interns
- Directed a **BA Capstone Project** for Interdisciplinary Studies
- Directed an **MFA Thesis** on mass incarceration and higher education in prison
- Trained **10 new faculty and graduate student volunteers**



UCF student Rhyan Grant (Interdisciplinary Studies) completes a capstone project on FPEP and graduates in Dec. 2019



UCF graduate student Dave Austin (Dept. of Physics) presents his poster on teaching in prison at the Winter Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Jan. 2020



2019-20 Highlights continued:

- Hosted **Baz Dreisinger**, author of *Incarceration Nations*, founder of the Prison-to-College Pipeline at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and the Executive Director of the Incarceration Nations Network, for a *College Behind Bars* pre-screening and panel discussion at the UCF Center for Law and Policy
- Sponsored the airing of *College Behind Bars* on WUCF

Marc Consalo (Director of the UCF Center for Law and Policy), Keri Watson (Director of the Florida Prison Education Project), LaShanna Tyson (UCF undergraduate student, Social Work), Jason Fronczek (UCF graduate student, School of Visual Arts and Design) and Baz Dreisinger at the WUCF pre-screening of College Behind Bars. (Nov. 2019)



2019-20 Highlights continued:

We hosted **Omari Booker**, a Nashville-based visual artist, who gave a lecture in a UCF advanced painting class, visited the prison for an FPEP class, and consulted with School of Performing Arts students on their design for the upcoming production of Dominique Morisseau's *Blood at the Root*.



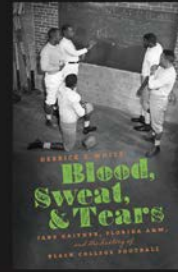
*Omari Booker visits the SPA Design team
(Feb. 2020)*



*Omari Booker visits Amer Kobaslija's Advanced Painting Class
(Sept. 2019)*

2019-20 Highlights continued:

With Africana Studies, FPEP co-sponsored the **James Welden Johnson Lecture Series** and hosted New Orleans-based photographers **Chandra McCormick** and **Keith Calhoun**, who also visited one of our FPEP classes (November 2019).



JAMES WELDON JOHNSON LECTURE SERIES

Championships and Civil Rights:

Jake Gaither, FAMU, and the Early Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Derrick E. White, Visiting Associate Professor of History,
Dartmouth College

Wednesday, November 20, Noon
Trevor Colbourn Hall, Room 351

Dr. White will use college football at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as a means to challenge the assumptions of inferior schools as argued during the civil rights movement.

From 1945 to 1969, FAMU had the best college football program in the state and one of the best in the country. Gaither was among the best coaches in the America. But when higher education was integrated, the programs faced existential challenges as predominately white institutions steadily set about recruiting their student athletes and hiring their coaches. *Blood, Sweat, and Tears* explores the legacy of Black college football, with Florida A&M's Jake Gaither as its central character, one of the most successful coaches in its history. A paradoxical figure, Gaither led one of the most respected Black college football programs, yet many questioned his loyalties during the height of the civil rights movement.

Slavery: The Prison Industrial Complex

Chandra McCormick and Keith Calhoun, award-winning photographers who live in New Orleans and specialize in Louisiana culture

Thursday, November 21, 3pm
Trevor Colbourn Hall, Room 358B

Chandra McCormick and Keith Calhoun began taking photographs at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in the early 1980s. This ongoing series serves as both historical record and testimony of life at Angola, or the "The Farm," as many call it. An 18,000-acre prison farm in rural Louisiana built on the site of a former plantation, Angola has a long history of trading humans like chattel. Although the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery in 1865, its prohibition of forced labor does not apply to convicted inmates. "Slavery: The Prison Industrial Complex" sheds light on the "criminal justice" system and restores visibility and humanity to a population often forgotten by the public at large.

Co-sponsored by the Florida Prison Education Project, a UCF Community Challenge Initiative that brings higher education to those incarcerated in Central Florida.

2019-20 Highlights continued:

- FPEP Presented at the:
 - **National Conference for Higher Education in Prisons** (November 2019, St. Louis)
 - **Many Voices: One Community** (UCF Social Justice Week)
- And Increased our mailing list and social media following by **500%**
 - [facebook.com/FloridaPEP](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaPEP)
 - [twitter.com/FloridaPEP](https://www.twitter.com/FloridaPEP)
 - <https://www.instagram.com/floridaprisoneducationproject/>



Meeting with the Florida Coalition of Higher Education in Prison Programs at the National Conference on Higher Education in Prisons (St. Louis, MO, Nov. 2019).

2019-20 Highlights continued:

- **500% increase** to our mailing list and social media following
- [facebook.com/FloridaPEP](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaPEP)
- twitter.com/FloridaPEP
- https://www.instagram.com/florida_prisoneducationproject/

What's Next?

- **Expand** our course offerings and increase our impact
- **Partner** with Direct Connect State Colleges to offer credit-bearing courses toward an AA
- **Offer online** for-credit courses at Florida Prisons
- **Increase faculty and student** involvement
- **Develop more community partnerships** with reentry programs



You're Invited!

- Join us for *Illuminating the Darkness: Our Carceral Landscape*
- **UCF Art Gallery** August 27-October 1, 2020



Thank you for your continued support!

