

The *Women* for FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring/Summer 2014



MOLLY BARRON: CELEBRATING A TRUE WOMAN FOR FLORIDA STATE

Molly Barron, former first lady of Florida State University, always liked the name Women for FSU. She liked Women “for” FSU better than both Women “of” or Women “from” FSU because using “for” meant she could be included. Molly definitely was, and is, for FSU. Molly supported inclusion for all women—alumnae, faculty, staff, students and any woman who wanted to support, promote, advocate for and be involved with FSU.

At the very first W4FSU Backstage Pass signature event, the group held only a slight hope that the brand-new first lady of FSU might show up. We were certainly surprised that not only did Molly show up, but she also stayed with us throughout the weekend and wowed everyone with her warmth, authenticity and openness. She then went to President Barron and told him that she knew where their first financial contribution to FSU would go—to establish an endowment for W4FSU. After this first gift, Molly followed up with an invitation letter for others to join her and Eric in supporting this new endowment. The W4FSU endowment has grown to more than \$200,000 and provides the resources that have established the W4FSU Women’s Leadership Initiative!

Molly has continued to do much more than simply “show up” for FSU throughout her short tenure here. Mrs. Barron has put her heart and soul, as well as her time, talent and treasure, into meeting and being with students, the University community, alumni, prospects, donors and others while getting to know them all on a personal basis. Whenever she interacted with individuals and groups,

Molly always advocated for W4FSU and shared her enthusiasm for Florida State. She has been deeply engaged with all aspects of Florida State: attending events; interacting with individuals and groups of all kinds and sizes; traveling miles to meet alumni and donors; entertaining continuously at her home; and always supporting her husband, her immediate family and her Florida State family.

Molly has served on the executive committee of W4FSU, hosted and

attended our events, invested financially in our projects and helped us engage, invest and celebrate all things FSU.

As the Barrons embrace their new tenure as the first family of Penn State University, W4FSU acknowledges that we will continue to miss Molly Barron terribly, but we send her our admiration, deep gratitude and best wishes...even if these sentiments have to be tied up with white and dark blue ribbon! 🎀

—Alicia Crew



Mrs. Molly Barron with her husband, Dr. Eric Barron.



Jaimi Wacksman

W4FSU strives to provide a platform to recognize women's accomplishments at Florida State and to celebrate the success of our University through our contributions. We strive to educate the community about the vital role women play in the past, present and future of FSU and to mentor the next generation of female leaders and philanthropists.

One goal your executive committee set for 2013–2014 is to utilize more technology. We are pleased to announce that we now have a Facebook fan page and mobile app! Stay connected with W4FSU and FSU with news, event information, videos, photos and more. You may like us on Facebook by visiting [facebook.com/WomenforFSU](https://www.facebook.com/WomenforFSU). To download our app on your mobile device, simply search W4FSU or Women 4 FSU in the App Store. If you have ideas for the app or other communication channels, please let us know.

If you are looking to be more involved, please let us know your interest. W4FSU has several committees, including Strategic Planning, Philanthropy, Outreach, Student Engagement, Communications and Program Planning, and we would love your input and expertise. We are also pleased to announce that we have three seats open for members-at-large. You can find more information about the committees and the at-large nomination process on our mobile app or on our website.

All of the exciting accomplishments of W4FSU would not have been possible without our incredible friend and advocate, Molly Barron, former first lady of Florida State. Upon her and President Barron's arrival at Florida State, they started the W4FSU endowment. Through this endowment and your contributions, we have been able to grow and support exciting programs such as the Women's Leadership Institute.

We thank Mrs. Barron—and YOU—for your continued support and contributions. With your help, we can work together to help keep FSU strong. ✨

Warmly,
Jaimi Wacksman
Chairwoman, Executive Committee

LIVING THE DREAM: FLORIDA STATE'S ACABELLES CREATE MEDIA STORM



The AcaBelles

"We're bigger than we ever dreamed. And I'm in love with being queen."

So sing Florida State University's AcaBelles in their cover of "Royals." The video of the all-female a cappella group singing the hit song went viral, racking up more than 5 million views on YouTube and praise from the singer Lorde, who wrote of the FSU cover of her song: "These ladies have the coolest blend; they make this song into something so incredible."

Founded in 2000, the AcaBelles is a student group that performs concerts and competes in competitions, including in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella where the group was named South Champions in 2009 and 2011. The AcaBelles released their full-length album "Seamless" in 2012 on A Cappella Records.

The AcaBelles' video of their performance of "Royals" has been featured on the Huffington Post, "Good Morning America" and many more media outlets.

"This all feels like nothing short of a dream," said Florida State senior Jasmine Edwards, who serves as music director of the AcaBelles. "The fact that major websites, national news stations and Lorde herself, the original artist, have all shared and spoken so highly of us is just so incredible."

The comments posted on the AcaBelles' video speak to the power of music, Edwards said.

"A lot of mothers have commented telling us how their daughters won't stop watching us,

and thanking us for being positive role models for them because we are just performing as we are, completely ourselves. That's what means the most to me."

It is Edwards' hope that the AcaBelles continue to represent a "woman's role in the a cappella world, and music in general, in a positive light."

The group comprises more than a dozen performers who are mostly music therapy, vocal performance and choral music education majors, although there are also social work, exercise science and criminology majors in the mix.

The Lorde single "Royals" has proven to be an ideal song for the AcaBelles to cover, and a recording is available for purchase. The performance video was produced by an a cappella production company, The Vocal Company.

Lorde is a 17-year-old singer-songwriter from New Zealand. She's the first New Zealand solo artist to have a No. 1 song in the United States; "Royals" reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in October. ✨

—Nicole Brooks,
Florida State University
News & Research Communications

Originally published on Florida State 24/7, November 25, 2013. Visit one.fsu.edu/FSU-News-AcaBelles to read the original article and see a video of the AcaBelles performing "Royals."

ENGAGE: DR. NANCY CARTER AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



Dr. Nancy Carter, Ph.D.

Advice Straight Up: An Expert Entrepreneur Speaker Series, which is presented by The Jim Moran Institute, recently hosted Dr. Nancy Carter for an installment entitled "A Day of Dialogue: For Women, About Women, By Women."

As senior vice president at Catalyst Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes inclusive workplaces for women, Dr. Carter leads the company in developing groundbreaking research on issues related to women's advancement and

development in business and other professions. Prior to joining Catalyst, she was a Leverhulme visiting professor at the London Business School and held the Richard M. Schulze Chair in Entrepreneurship at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minn.

Carter's keynote address examined the constraints of leadership stereotypes and the need to integrate more inclusive models of leadership to achieve long-term success.

"Given the complex and global nature of our world today, we must utilize the unique strengths and contributions of all our employees; we must value and capitalize on our differences. As leaders, it is our responsibility to recognize and cultivate the development of all of our team," she said.

W4FSU members Susan Baldino, Jeanne Curtin, Pam Graham, Cherie Rowland and Jaimi Wacksman moderated the event. A diverse group of more than 90 women, representing a broad age cohort and a variety of professions, attended this full-day event.

—Cherie Rowland,
Outreach Committee Chair

CONVERSATIONS IN PHILANTHROPY

The Women for Florida State University is working to: ENGAGE every woman with a passion for FSU; help her find an interest at FSU that warrants her INVESTMENT of time, talent and resources; and build a community of women who CELEBRATE their impact on the ongoing growth and success of Florida State University.

That is a mouthful.

However, our fifth-annual Backstage Pass event demonstrated that we are actively engaging, investing and celebrating! If you were unable to join us for the weekend, we certainly hope you hear about it from friends and in our communications.

Communicating with us is even easier now that both our Facebook fan page and mobile app are available. Research shows that organizations need to go mobile, and W4FSU has gone live!

Research also shows that women invest themselves in activities that offer engagement and a sense of community. Does this idea seem correct to you? Our Saturday night celebration dinner at Backstage Pass gave us a chance to gather a portion of our community, to celebrate Molly Barron's significant support and



Janet Stoner

contribution to W4FSU and to hear Dr. Barron's encouragement to continue developing opportunities for engagement and community-building.

As women, we strive to live by our values; we desire to make the world a better place; and we want to invest our time, talents and resources where we believe we are making a difference.

With your involvement, W4FSU will continue to make a difference in the future of Florida State. 🌱

—Janet Stoner,
Philanthropy Committee Chair



Beth Azor

My passion for Florida State University extends to all areas of the campus. My degree is in English literature, which I love, but my business is real estate. Most recently, it has been in this arena that I have furthered my commitment to Florida State.

I have served on the Real Estate Center Executive Advisory Board for the Business School since its inception in 2002, and I was named the chair of the FSU Real Estate Foundation three years ago. The Real Estate Foundation assists the University in protecting the campus perimeter, sourcing and approving real estate gifts from donors and helping to guide the development of the Arena District/Civic Center Project. These ventures are all very important for the University and will significantly define the future of FSU. It is an honor to be part of an initiative that will have a positive influence on the next generation of FSU students.

I've been able to combine my love for film and travel with FSU by supporting our world-renowned film school and by teaching business courses at our campus in Valencia, Spain. I proudly display my favorite FSU t-shirt while abroad; it states: "I Bleed Garnet and Gold."

FSU has impacted my life in so many ways and for so long; it is a blessing to be able to give back. One of my mantras is "To whom much is given, much will be required." Each of us has unique gifts to share with the people and places that have enriched our lives so deeply. 🌱

WOMEN FOR FSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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TO LEARN MORE, VISIT W4FSU.ORG



The *Women* for
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
2010 LEVY AVE. • P.O. BOX 3062739
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306-2739

BACKSTAGE PASS TO THE VERY BEST OF FLORIDA STATE MARCH 21–22, 2014

Women's stories were shared and celebrated during the fifth-annual *Backstage Pass to the Very Best of FSU*. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event. We hope you will make plans to join us for upcoming activities as we continue to ENGAGE, INVEST and CELEBRATE! ✨

To view a slideshow from the 2014 Backstage Pass, visit W4FSU.org and select "Events."

