

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**FAMU Board of Trustees Retreat  
Direct Support Organizations Committee Meeting  
Friday, August 16, 2019  
10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.  
The Westin Tampa Waterside  
725 Harbour Island Blvd., Tampa, FL**

**Committee Members:** Thomas Dortch – Chair \* Dave Lawrence – Vice Chair  
Ann Marie Cavazos, Kelvin Lawson, Rochard Moricette

**AGENDA**

- |     |               |                      |
|-----|---------------|----------------------|
| I.  | Call to Order | Thomas Dortch, Chair |
| II. | Roll Call     | Ms. Angie Wiggins    |

**ACTION ITEM**

- |      |                                 |                              |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| III. | Approval of Honorary Namings    | Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D. |
|      | 1. Althea Gibson Tennis Complex | Vice President               |
|      | 2. Polkinghorne Village         | University Advancement       |
| IV.  | Adjournment                     | Chair Dortch                 |

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**ACTION ITEM**

**Direct Support Organizations Committee  
Friday, August 16, 2019  
Agenda Item: III. 1.**

**Item Origination and Authorization**

Policy _____	Award of Bid _____	Budget Amendment _____	Change Order _____
Resolution _____	Contract _____	Grant _____	Other _____

**Action of Board**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Approved w/ Conditions \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Continued \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject: Approval of Honorary Naming: Althea Gibson Tennis Complex**

**Rationale:** This Honorary Naming request is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy No. 2008-05, Naming Opportunities:

*The naming of any Facility or Program requires the recommendation of the President of the University and the approval of the Board of Trustees as a noticed, non-consent agenda item at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The President shall appoint an Advisory Committee on Honorary Naming Facilities and Programs which will review and make recommendations to the President for consideration...*

**The Advisory Committee met and has made a recommendation to President Larry Robinson to name the Tennis Complex in honor of the late Althea Gibson.**

Gibson was the first African American tennis player to compete at the U.S. National Championships in 1950, and the first black player to compete at Wimbledon in 1951. She also broke racial barriers in professional golf. Gibson was born in Silver, South Carolina. She graduated in 1953 from Florida A&M University.

**Attachment:** Bio of Althea Gibson

**Recommendation:** Approve the Honorary Naming of the Tennis Complex as the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex



**Ms. Althea Neale Gibson**  
**Professional Tennis Athlete and Professional Golfer**  
**Florida A&M University Alumna**

**Personal Background:**

Birth Date: 8/25/1927

Passing Date: 9/28/2003

**Education:**

Institution:	Degree:	Degree Year:
Florida A&M University	Bachelor of Science	1953

**Notes:**

Ms. Althea Neale Gibson was mostly known as an exceptional tennis player, but more notably she is also remembered for her efforts in breaking the color barrier in the 1950s as the first African American to compete in national and international tennis. Born in Silver, South Carolina, in 1927, Ms. Gibson became the dominant female athlete of the late 1950s in a sport well known for its custom of racial segregation. Ms. Gibson also participated in boxing and basketball in addition to being the first African American woman to compete in professional golf on the pro tour.

Ms. Althea Gibson grew up in New York City, where she began playing tennis at an early age in the New York Police Athletic League. In 1942, she won her first tournament, which was sponsored by the American Tennis Association (ATA), an organization founded by African American players. In 1947, she won the ATA's women's singles championship and held that title for ten consecutive years. While attending Florida A&M University in 1953, she continued to compete in tournaments around the country and in 1950 became the first black tennis player to enter the national grass-court championship tournament at Forest Hills in Queens, New York. Also, during Ms. Gibson's sports career, she was the first African American to win the French Open in 1956, Wimbledon from 1957 to 1958, and the U.S. Open from 1957 to 1958 in singles and doubles championships. Ms. Gibson also won the award for Female Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press, becoming the first African American to receive the honor.

In 1964, Ms. Gibson entered professional golf and was the first African-American member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. From 1975, Ms. Gibson was active in sports administration by serving as the commissioner of athletics for the state of New Jersey for ten years while being a member of the governor's council on physical fitness. Ms. Gibson's self-written autobiography, *"I Always Wanted to Be Somebody"*, was made public in 1958, and in 1971, she was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees**



**ACTION ITEM**

**Direct Support Organizations Committee  
Friday, August 16, 2019  
Agenda Item: III. 2.**

Item Origination and Authorization				
Policy _____	Award of Bid _____	Budget Amendment _____	Change Order _____	
Resolution _____	Contract _____	Grant _____	Other _____	

Action of Board				
Approved _____	Approved w/ Conditions _____	Disapproved _____	Continued _____	Withdrawn _____

**Subject:**                    **Approval of Honorary Naming: Polkinghorne Village**

**Rationale:**                This Honorary Naming request is submitted for approval in accordance with FAMU Board of Trustees Policy No. 2008-05, Naming Opportunities:

*The naming of any Facility or Program requires the recommendation of the President of the University and the approval of the Board of Trustees as a noticed, non-consent agenda item at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The President shall appoint an Advisory Committee on Honorary Naming Facilities and Programs which will review and make recommendations to the President for consideration...*

**The Advisory Committee met and has made a recommendation to President Larry Robinson to name the FAMU Village in honor of the late Lt. James Polkinghorne.**

Lt. Polkinghorne was a native of Pensacola, Florida. He was entering his senior year at Florida A&M College when he enlisted in the military. He became the first FAMUan accepted into the U.S. Army Air Corps and was the first FAMUan to become a Tuskegee Airman. He lost his life when his plane was shot down during World War II.

**Attachment:**              Bio of Lt. James Polkinghorne

**Recommendation:**    **Approve the Honorary Naming of the FAMU Village as the Polkinghorne Village**



**Lt. James Reed Polkinghorne**  
**Tuskegee Airman and Pensacola, Florida Native**  
**Florida A&M University Alumn**

**Personal Background:**

Birth Date: 6/16/1921

Passing Date: 5/5/1944

**Education:**

Institution:	Degree:	Degree Year:
Florida A&M University	N/A	N/A

**Notes:**

Lt. James Reed Polkinghorne, was a Tuskegee Airman born on June 16, 1921 and was a native of Pensacola, Florida where his father was a pharmacist. Lt. Polkinghorne was entering his senior year at Florida A&M College when he enlisted in the military. He became the first FAMUan accepted into the U.S. Army Air Corps and was the first FAMUan to become a Tuskegee Airman. After graduating from flight training on February 16, 1943, at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, he was deployed to Italy with the 301st Fighter Squadron in December during World War II. Lt. Polkinghorne was the flight leader of a squadron of fighter planes when his plane was shot down over Italy on May 5, 1944.

Unfortunately, he was later declared deceased and posthumously awarded an Air medal and a Purple Heart medal for his military service. Lt. Polkinghorne's name is included on the Tablets of the Missing at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy. Also, Lt. Polkinghorne was one of twelve members of Tallahassee's Aviation Wall of Fame, honored in the second floor museum of the passenger terminal at the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

Lt. Polkinghorne's life would later be depicted in a book titled "*Lost in Heaven*" by Dr. Leo F. Murphy, a retired naval flight officer and aeronautical science professor at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.