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Hemingway Look-Alikes Award Scholarships to FKCC Students



Hemingway Look-Alike Scholarship Chair Fred Johnson with FKCC students (L to R): Kerrie Mortimer, Meagan Morrison, Minh Le, Jennifer Thomas, Elizabeth Ranson, Kristen Logan, Kim Gladding, Keia Rahming, and Leilani Mousseau. Not pictured: Shaheen Bobb and Vicki Canter

KEY WEST, FL, July 23, 2010—The Hemingway Look-Alike Society “Papas” kicked-off the festivities of the famed three-day Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, by presenting \$10,000 in scholarships to worthy Florida Keys Community College students. HLAS Scholarship Chair, “Papa” Fred Johnson presented four \$1,000 literary awards and five \$1,000 nursing awards to students on the stage of Sloppy Joe’s Bar on Thursday, July 22. Two recent Key West High School graduates and future FKCC students received the \$500 Kermit “Shine” Forbes Scholarship, named for the boxer and sparring partner of famed writer.

Johnson, who earned his “Papa” status by winning the 1986 Hemingway Look-Alike contest, credits the generosity of his fellow “Papas,” former Look-Alike contest winners, for being able to contribute annually to FKCC’s direct-support organization, the FKCC Foundation. Johnson and his wife, Jean, collect donations throughout the year and fundraise at various events held during the Hemingway Days celebration to support the group’s ongoing philanthropic commitment to FKCC scholarships.

“Most people think that it’s just a beauty contest for chubby old men with beards,” said Johnson, “but we take great pride in funding this scholarship. It’s important for us to help students pursue higher education.”

The Hemingway Look-Alike Society established the FKCC scholarship eleven years ago with the purpose of encouraging education and literary talent in the community where the legendary writer called home in the 1930s and produced some of his most enduring literary works. The scholarship was later opened up to nursing students, as well.

“I am thrilled to be selected for the Hemingway Look-Alike Society Scholarship,” says Meagan Morrison, a second-time scholarship recipient and active FKCC Environmental Club student. “I wish to be a proactive advocate for public health initiatives and environmental advances. This award supports my academics, which combined with my volunteer activities, is creating a foundation for really exciting work in my future.”

For more information about FKCC, visit www.fkcc.edu and for more information about how to give to the FKCC Foundation, contact Patti Carey, Director of the FKCC Foundation at 305-809-3299.

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