The Class of 2027 is a well-rounded group of 20 academically ambitious students, eager to launch their undergraduate studies. The new scholars, comprising 17 female and 3 male students, showcase a wide range of interests, including science, business, healthcare, communications and more. They aspire to pursue careers in nursing, neuroscience and behavior, computer science, civil engineering, elementary education, psychology, and other fields.

The diverse group of students represent 16 cities throughout Florida. Some of these first-generation students have families who immigrated from various countries, including Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, and Nigeria.
First and Proud Week

Celebrating Our First-Generation Scholars

Florida Atlantic proudly celebrated National First-Generation Day (November 8) with a week-long series of events and initiatives from November 3-15, called “First and Proud Week.” From recreational celebrations to volunteer events and networking brunches, the events honored first-generation students’ achievements and unique journeys, bringing them together to develop new skills and give back to the community. Highlights included a day of service on November 7 with Deerfield Beach-based charity, In Jacob’s Shoes, during which students dedicated their afternoon to cleaning and preparing shoes for distribution to underprivileged children; and a networking brunch on November 8 with entrepreneur, Alexandra Silva Labarr, who shared valuable insights on the art of forging meaningful connections with industry professionals.

Beyond the Nest

Spring ‘22 Alumna Alyssa Lowe

The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program proudly boasts 34 distinguished alumni. As this community continues to grow, we are committed to following and showcasing these graduates’ remarkable achievements and endeavors.

After graduating in 2022, Alyssa Lowe embarked on an inspiring journey in the healthcare industry. In July, she passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the premiere nurse licensing exam, and began her career as a registered nurse at Advent Health in Orlando in September.

As the program’s first nursing graduate, Alyssa is paving the way for others to follow in her footsteps. Her dedication and passion for nursing shine through her work in the cardiovascular unit, where she tirelessly cares for patients during their most critical moments.

Alyssa’s commitment to patient care and ability to quickly transition from higher education to the workforce showcase her strong skill set and passion for the nursing profession. It also serves as an inspiration to other aspiring nurses, underscoring the power of access to mentors, internships, administrative support and financial aid. These vital resources were provided through the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program, which not only instilled confidence in Alyssa, but also empowered her to thrive in post-graduate endeavors.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GRADUATES
The Power of Education
Board Member Glen Stein

Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, board member Glen Stein recognizes the transformative power of education as a catalyst for economic opportunity. His firsthand experience of economic disparities in his home country fueled his passion for creating pathways to the middle class through learning.

Currently serving on the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program Board, Stein is dedicated to facilitating first-generation students’ access to academic and professional resources through the program, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their educational pursuits. In his professional role, he serves as partner of Integrated Dermatology, the country’s largest independent dermatology practice. Stein received his bachelor’s degree from Amherst College and his J.D. from Columbia Law School.

“Helping people pursue their goals is a joy,” Stein said. “Being educated in America gave me an opportunity for a great life, and I want to share that with others.”

Want the Opportunity to Graduate from FAU Debt Free?

We are excited to announce that the application for the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program is officially open, just in time for National First-Generation College Student Day.

The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program is designed to support and empower first-generation students on their journey towards academic and professional success. The application opened on November 1, 2023 and will close February 1, 2024.
Show your support for our Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars as they work toward achieving their goals.

Contribute to Our Program Today

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Keven Allen Jr., Ph.D. at kallenjr@fau.edu

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