



First Impressions **FALL 2025**

Introducing Our Newest Kelly/Strul Scholars

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The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program proudly welcomes the Class of 2029 — a dynamic new group of 24 first-generation college students ready to make their mark at Florida Atlantic University. Representing 23 high schools across the state, these driven scholars earned an impressive 4.1 GPA average and are set to pursue degrees in finance, cybersecurity, law, medicine, engineering and more.

Members of this year's cohort bring a variety of background experiences and enthusiasm to Florida Atlantic, weaving together a vibrant community on campus. As they embark on this new chapter, we look forward to supporting their growth and celebrating the impact they will make on campus and beyond.

[Learn More About Our Scholars](#) | ►



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SPOTLIGHT ON

Blandine Youte

Among the many Kelly/Strul Scholars gaining real-world experience this summer, senior Blandine Youte spent hers in Miami as an Audit Start Intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Her days were filled with meaningful work contributing to internal PwC initiatives, sharpening her technical and professional skills through weekly trainings, and teaming up with fellow interns on a project that put their learning into practice. Blandine's favorite memory from the program was the kickoff trip to Disney World, where she formed friendships with interns from around the world.

"The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program connected me with the Career Center and a former Kelly/Strul Scholar who had done the same internship. Their guidance, especially during interview prep, made me feel confident every step of the way."

On campus, Blandine leads Florida Atlantic's chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants as president, with plans to organize a conference linking Florida Atlantic students to career opportunities and industry connections. After graduation, she plans to further develop her skills by securing another internship with PwC and then earning her Certified Public Accountant license while working toward her master's degree, proudly representing the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program every step of the way.



BEYOND THE SYLLABUS: *Building Skills for Life*

The first semester of college can be both exciting and overwhelming as students are learning how to balance independence with new responsibilities. For many Kelly/Strul Scholars, these first months carry even more weight. As first-generation college students, they are navigating an entirely new world, from understanding university systems to building a community of support.

To help scholars make a smooth transition to college life, the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program offers a required Student Life Skills (SLS) course during their first year. Each week, students meet to discuss real-life topics, such as networking, time management, and public speaking, while learning to make the most of campus resources.

"I've seen tremendous growth in students' confidence since the start of the year," said Ryan Williams, an SLS instructor and Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program coordinator. "Academically, they've always been strong. But socially, some of the quietest students are now leading organizations and finding their voices. The course has made a real difference."

Through the SLS course and our supportive wraparound services, Kelly/Strul Scholars are gaining more than academic success; they are developing the skills and confidence to thrive in every part of college life.

[Learn More](#)



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Kelly/Strul
Emerging Scholars



SPREAD THE WORD: Applications Now Open for the Class of 2030

The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program invites first-generation, Pell-eligible, Florida high school seniors to apply for the Class of 2030 and the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree from Florida Atlantic University.

Students can learn more about the program and application process at the annual interest meeting on January 27, 2026, or by visiting kellystrulscholars.fau.edu/apply.

**Show your support for our Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars
as they work toward earning their degree and achieving their professional goals.**

Contact Keven Allen Jr., Ph.D.,
at kallenjr@fau.edu for more information about
the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program
and ways to get involved.

GIVE TODAY ▶

www.KellyStrulScholars.fau.edu  @ks.owls  @KellyStrulEmergingScholars