

May 5, 2023

### **From Dreams to Degrees: Kelly/Strul Alumni Soar High**

The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program recently celebrated nine remarkable Spring/Summer 2023 graduates with interests ranging from law enforcement and cybersecurity to marine biology and nursing. Each of these esteemed first-generation graduates demonstrated pride and perseverance in their academic and pre-professional endeavors, and we commend them for their successes.

Computer whiz **Klark Balay** will proudly join the Ignite Leadership Team at NextEra Energy. He will participate in a two-year development program, gaining leadership and functional training while contributing to numerous projects. During his time at FAU, the computer science major was actively involved in various extracurricular activities, including the Asian Student Union and Google Developer Student Club.



**Shernira Hurtault** will begin the next step toward her dream of becoming a mental health counselor by attending graduate school at Florida State University. As a biology major with a minor in psychology, Shernira was deeply involved in FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. She served as the secretary of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the College of Science's student ambassador program and also worked as an Owls Care Leader, promoting physical and mental health on campus.



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**Hannah James**, our second nursing graduate, is studying for her licensure exam this summer and plans to work in a stepdown intensive care unit. Hannah wasted no time immersing herself in campus life by joining the Black Student Union and Student Nurses Association. She also was part of the CARES grant, which allows undergraduate nursing students to work with vulnerable populations, including veterans and those experiencing homelessness.



The journey of our Spring/Summer 2023 graduates does not end with their individual accomplishments. Rather, it marks the beginning of a collective narrative that empowers first-generation college students and graduates alike. Their diverse fields of expertise and unwavering dedication will ripple through our community, inspiring other likeminded students to pursue their dreams, break barriers and create lasting change.