

**FOSTER FOUNDATION KICKS OFF
CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF FOSTER-ING EXCELLENCE
EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION**

Releases Book, *The Man Behind the Baton*, and Launches Website

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TALLAHASSEE – With a kick off celebrating 70 years of the Marching “100,” the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foundation) presented its inaugural exhibit, *Celebrating 70 Years of Foster-ing Excellence* and reception on the life and legacy of Dr. William P. Foster and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) Marching 100 Band. During the event, the Foundation presented Dr. Foster’s book, *The Man Behind the Baton*, for sale and launched its website.

The exhibit, held October 22-31 at the Foster-Tanner Arts Gallery, on the FAMU campus, featured selected memorabilia of Dr. Foster and the Marching 100 accomplishments from the Foster family collection.

FAMU graduate, former member of the Marching 100 and international internet sensation, Star Swain performed the National Anthem. Also performed was a staged reading of *Finding My Baton*, based on an event in Foster’s life when, about to graduate, he confronted the Dean of Music about his dream to be a conductor. The staged reading was written and directed by Bev DeMello and performed by Christopher J. Gorsuch, Hillary Copp, and Kyle Hunter.

Joining members of the Foundation’s Board were FAMU’s Board of Trustee’s Vice-Chairman Kim Moore; FAMU President Larry Robinson and First Lady of FAMU, Sharon Robinson; Chief Kent Watson, Economic Development Liaison for Congresswoman Gwen Graham; FAMU Director of the Marching 100 Dr. Shelby Chipman; and band staff members, Dr. Sylvester Young, Dr. Shaylor James, and Lindsey Sarjeant. Other notable guests included Erica Uzzell, Chief Principle, the Uzzell Group; Dr. Pam Hall, Harvard graduate and community advocate; and former Department of Children and Families Press Secretary and Community Liaison Patricia Smith. Selections from the FAMU Jazz Ensemble were performed during the reception and directed by Dr. Chipman.

Foster’s autobiographical book, *The Man Behind the Baton*, is available through the Foundation’s website at www.drwpfosterfoundation.org . The cost of the book is \$20. Proceeds help with the Foundation’s mission to assist the Marching 100 Band and music education.

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