



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2022

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***Happy Fathers' Day***  
*to the*  
***Awesome 6T5 Fathers***

**The BIG Boomers**  
*This is us*



HOLD CTRL & [CLICK HERE](#)

*Classmates, grab your favorite snacks & beverage. Get over to that easy chair (or plop on the sofa even). You're ready for the concerts. Enjoy.*



HOLD CTRL & [CLICK HERE](#)

# The BIG Boomers

*This is us*

## **BULL PROFILE: SANDRA LORRAIN MINUS**

*by Clarence Jones, Jr*



The Miami Northwestern Class of 6t5 has been blessed with members who have made indelible imprints on many factions of our society. Our classmates have impacted the community in the fields of religion, education, business and finance and health sciences just to name a few. With a graduating class of close to 600 classmates, few of us have knowledge of the paths that many of our fellow classmates took after graduation. There is however one who has. That one is **Sandra Lorrain Minus**, affectionately known as the Griot of our class. In most West African traditions, a griot is one who absorbs and maintains great knowledge about history and cultural traditions of a people or group. Sandra is by far the most knowledgeable classmate on the whereabouts, the family connections and the plight and status of hundreds of our fellow classmates. She is a walking encyclopedia on who married whom, who lives out of state, who is well or sick etc. She has the

contact information for hundreds of classmates and regularly communicates with many of them. As our class approached and prepared for various past events (Reunions, Holiday gatherings et.al.). Sandra would be responsible for locating and communicating the plans to countless classmates whom no one **EXCEPT Sandra**, had any inkling as to their whereabouts.

When asked how she amassed so much knowledge and information on so many people, She states simply "**I have a real good memory. When I speak to people and they give me information, I remember it**". Sandra was born on May 21, 1947, in West Palm Beach, Florida to parents of Bahamian descent. Her Bahamian accent still permeates as she laughs and responds to question about today's youth, She responds by saying "child don't get me started on that"! As we talked about her life and her past, her remarkable memory shown through as she recalled her experiences at Jackson Toddler Inn and Liberty City Primary school, which was located at the present day Charles R. Drew Elementary School. Sandra even recalled the announcement while in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Dorsey Junior High School that the city of Miami had grown to 1 million residents. Again, displaying her remarkable memory.

The eldest of 10 siblings, Sandra began her post high school education at Miami Dade Junior College studying Nursing. She later worked for a short period at City Laundry. In 1969, Sandra applied for and was one of the first two African Americans to be trained in and pass the Civil Service Examination to be an operating room technician at the then still highly segregated Jackson Memorial Hospital. She worked at Jackson for 38 years before retiring in October of 2007.

# The BIG Boomers

*This is us*

She shared with me that she was so unhappy her initial year that she contemplated quitting and relayed those sentiments to her GODMOTHER, Ms. Lula Mae Monroe, whom she says gave her some choice words before insisting that she keep that GOOD Job. She credits MS. Monroe with teaching her the value of a good career.

Having been a pioneer in gaining professional employment at Jackson Memorial, she witnessed the many changes that African Americans were able to force by their excellence and competence in the performance of their duties. Indeed, she takes great pride in knowing that she helped to bring about this positive change for her people as well as setting a sterling example for her younger brothers and sisters.

Sandra has been a lifelong member of the National Church of GOD. She enjoys decorating and hosting retirement parties at first rate hotels, a task that she gleefully performed for retiring colleagues while she was still employed at Jackson. She is also quite skilled in making floral arrangements.

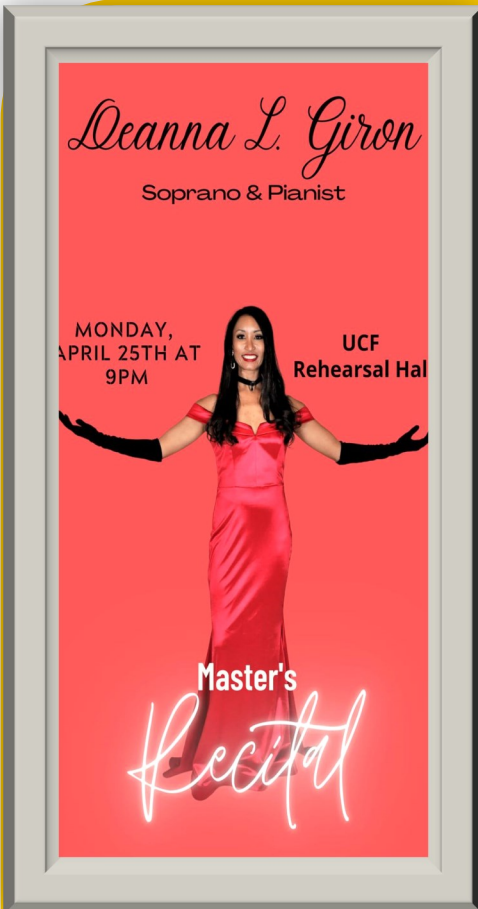


Sandra never married but is and has been a second mother to a host of nieces and nephews. She serves as the matriarch of her family just as she serves as that guiding light for our class. She remembers, like no other among us, those long forgotten golden bulls that are so happy that someone still keeps tabs on them, their families and their lives. Sandra so aptly stated her source of motivation when she said. "**My goal has always been unity and communication to keep our class strong and relevant for the kids and for the communities from which they've come**".

*We are grateful for our classmate, **Ms. Sandra Lorrain Minus.***

## Generation X

*Our children, born between 1965 to 1980. Gen Xers are typically described as being resourceful, independent, and keen on maintaining work-life balance*



**Deanna L. Giron** is the daughter of **Wallace and Sheila Roberts**. She currently resides in Orlando, Florida with her husband and three children. Over the last four years, Deanna has been pursuing her Master's degree in Musical Arts from the University of Central Florida where she also received a Bachelor of Music Education in 2000. While pursuing her master's degree, Deanna did her best to balance family and work life. Deanna is the founder and owner of DLG Creative Solutions and DLG Entertainment where she provides entertainment, digital and consultative services.

Deanna married her high school sweetheart, Joseph "Chris" Giron in May of 2000. In 2004 they welcomed their first son, Joseph Jr. into the family. Three years later, their second son Johnathan was born, and in 2011 their third son, Jayden, was the surprise baby that elevated them to a family of five. Joseph and Johnathan attend Oviedo High school and are involved in the band where they both play the trombone. "JC" and Johnathan had the honor of performing with their mother on her Master's Recital in April. Jayden attends Evans elementary school. Deanna's husband Chris works for the University of Central Florida in the SLAS department as an

IT specialist. Chris has worked for the University of Central Florida on and off since 1996 and has been with this current department for the last six years.

Deanna has been a music educator for twenty-three years teaching in a wide variety of settings. She began her career as a Middle School Choir director and then left public school teaching to raise her family. While at home with her children, Deanna opened her private music studio where she taught many students for over 20 years. She also worked for a private musical theatre studio where she taught voice, piano and group classes.

Deanna was hired as an adjunct professor at Johnson University in Kissimmee, FL where she taught private voice and vocal pedagogy. She has also worked at her church in the children's ministry department where she oversees the creative arts, audio and video tech and worship teams while producing weekly online worship videos.

Deanna has an extensive performance schedule where she performs for private events, weddings, funerals, church services and theaters. She was hired by the City of Orlando to help plan and implement music offerings at the largest Community Center Facility in the Central FL area opened in April. After earning her Masters in May, Deanna plans to expand her businesses, continue to perform, teach and mentor young women of color.

## Generation X

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*Our children, born between 1965 to 1980. Gen Xers are typically described as being resourceful, independent, and keen on maintaining work-life balance.*



Deanna on piano at her Masters recital accompanied by her sons JC and Johnathan on trombone

CONGRATULATIONS to our daughter, **Sergeant Juanita Rogers Stanford**, the recipient of her second "Officer of the Year" award for the Eastern Correction Institute of Maryland. The first was awarded in 2007. Proud parents, **Linette and Larry Rogers**



## Generation X

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Our children, born between 1965 to 1980. Gen Xers are typically described as being resourceful, independent, and keen on maintaining work-life balance

### The Daughter of Choling Bryant-Walker & Donald Bryant

Kendra N. Bryant, Ph.D. | drknbryant.com



**Kendra N. Bryant** earned her Ph.D. in English Rhetoric & Composition from the University of South Florida, Tampa (2012). She has taught at Florida A&M University, University of North Georgia, and Florida International University and is currently an assistant professor of English and the composition director at North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro.

With 20+ years teaching experience—four of which were spent in the high school English Language Arts classroom—Kendra has taught *First Year Composition*; *Advanced Grammar & Argumentation*; *Contemporary Grammar and Rhetoric*; and *African American Poetry II: The Black Arts Movement*.

She was recently awarded the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, *Teaching Excellence Award for Junior Faculty* and twice received fellowships to attend NCA&T's Advance Institutional Transformations (IT) STEM's Women's In-Residence Writing Retreat as well as was awarded a *Furious Flower Fellowship* at James Madison University, where she studied under poet Nikki Giovanni.

Kendra has written and published 25+ works, including the most recently published "Cultural and Historical Background of *The Color Purple*" appearing in Jericho Williams' *Critical Insights: Alice Walker's "The Color Purple,"* which celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is steady working on a poetry manuscript while enrolled in the University of North Carolina-Greensboro's Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Master Program.

# The Pride & Joy of 6T5

*Our Grands*

I am your classmate **Letha Thomas Knight**, and I'd like to introduce you to my youngest grandson **Terrance Kemp Jr.** Terrance is a Junior (Class of 2023), at our own Miami Northwestern Senior High School. He is a very self-driven young man who excels in academics with a G.P.A. of 3.9. Terrance has AP, and honors classes, and is a dual enrollee.

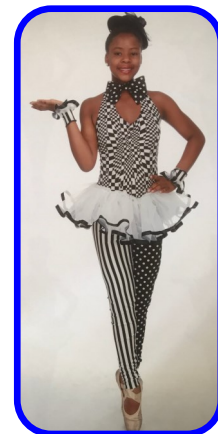
In addition to outstanding academics, Terrance is a member of the MNW varsity basketball team. While maintaining a busy schedule during the week and keeping up his grades, Terrance still finds time for a part-time job as cashier at Publix in Miami Beach.

As he turns 17 on June 4, 2022, he will continue to ponder his college choice. He is contemplating Florida A&M University, Florida International University, Georgetown University and Clark Atlanta University. Terrance is planning a major in Business and Finance / Real Estate.

Our family is so very proud of Terrance's accomplishments. I know my husband Isadore Knight (Class of 6T4) is smiling down upon him. Terrance is a great example of a young African-American male scholar. It's my pleasure to share this fine young man with our class.



**Larry & Linette Rogers'** granddaughter, **Ke'lynn Rogers**, a junior at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts in Jonesboro, GA, was named one of the Captains of her dance team for the 2022-23 performance season. Competitive dancing since age 10 has filled her heart to aspire to become a professional dancer.



# The Pride & Joy of 6T5

*Our Grands*

## Maiya's Black Archives Internship Experience

My name is **Maiya Lyn-Ah-Ping** and I am the granddaughter of **VT and Miriam Williams**. I am a third-year Business Administration student attending Florida A&M University. I am currently enrolled in the School of Business internship program with the Black Archives and Historic Lyric Theater in Overtown. Some of my assignments are filing, collecting and organizing archival documents while utilizing a variety of technical platforms. Additionally, I was trained on the new state-of-the-art Innovative Im-scanner which utilizes I2S LIMB software. This archival process will allow the organization to arrange and store the valuable history of Black Miami indefinitely.



As this is the end of my eight-week internship assignment, it has been a gratifying learning experience to read about and discuss the Black history of Miami. There are gems of information and history that should be shared with all generations and I advise anyone reading this piece to visit the Black Archives and explore the world of Miami's rich Black history. To that end, every day I go to work I am exposed to new and invigorating historic and technical information. It is so refreshing and fulfilling to learn about the historical nuggets that are embedded in our Black communities; and I plan to use the technical skills I've gained during my internship at the Black Archives and apply them to future internships and career opportunities.



## Class of 6T5 Scholars

Our philanthropic class has helped launch two (2) more Miami Northwestern grads into a promising future. On Tuesday, May 24th, our president Vandene Tisdol Samuel and her daughter Inga attended the awards day ceremony. We were able to give our signature, four (4), \$1,000 scholarships to **Arianna Rolle** and **Maliek Collier**.

Lead by scholarship committee chair, **Dr. Clarence Jones**, and indispensably aided by Inga Samuel. seven (7) applications for our 2 scholarships were received and evaluated.

Arianna, an honor student from 9th—12th grade, has been accepted at Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN, the alma mater of several of our classmates. Her 'dream profession' is to be a neonatal nurse, majoring in nursing with a minor in music. Maliek has been accepted to Alabama State University, where he will pursue sports medicine or business. His own shoulder surgeries from sports injuries is leading him toward sports medicine.

The required essay from the applicants was "How Life Changed During the Pandemic, and What Are Your Hopes for the Future". Both of our scholars gave introspective answers that revealed the special challenges for students to live through the quarantine. Our policy is to require each recipient to submit a class schedule in order to receive the first disbursement, and, grades and the new class schedule for the next year.



## Where 'Er We Roam

*Northwestern our Own*



Our very own Bull sang the National Anthem for the 5th game of the Eastern conference finals.  
**Laurana Strachan**

*Copy and paste into your browser*  
<https://www.facebook.com/1323216993/videos/416368110090963/>

### Info for You

How often do you have questions for your parents that you wish you could ask? You can solve that problem for your kids.

Storyworth is your answer. Check it out. Have your kids gift it to you.

**Storyworth.com**



June 4th—Audrey Smith  
June 14th—Letha Knight  
June 15th—Lloyd Cheever  
June 16th—Sherry Pollock Jones  
June 19th—Patricia Robinson Blue  
June 19th—Richard Powell  
June 20th—Jessie Merritt Ball  
June 24th—Jesse Pace  
June 28th—Patricia Thomas

### Directory Update

We are using the class website to update classmate information. NO contact info is visible to the public. **Go Here:**

<https://miaminorthwestern6t5.myevent.com>

Click on **"Classmates 6t5"**

**TO:**

create a profile—Click **"Add Your Profile"**  
update a profile—Click **"Edit Your Profile"**

There is a **"forgot your user name or password link"**

If you can't get in, send an email asking for help to **"reunion6t5@gmail.com"**. Include your phone number.