Hemingway Look-A-Likes Provide Scholarships for College Nurses

(L to R): President of the Hemingway Look-Alike Society, "Papa" Fred Johnson, presents a $5,000 check to Florida Keys Community College president, Dr. Jill Landesberg-Boyle, to fund scholarships for journalism and nursing students of the College.

The Hemingway Look-Alike Society (HLAS) donated $5,000 to the Florida Keys Educational Foundation to fund scholarships for journalism and nursing students at Florida Keys Community College. HLAS President, "Papa" Fred Johnson gladly presented the check to FKCC President, Dr. Jill Landesberg-Boyle. Johnson, who earned his "Papa" status by winning the 1986 Hemingway Look-Alike contest, reported that the funds were raised mostly from generous contributions from members of the Society, which consists largely of former contestants of the annual contest.

Johnson, and his wife, Jean, have been dedicated to finding new opportunities to fundraise for the scholarship at events held during the Hemingway Days Festival. "Most people think that it's just a beauty contest for chubby old men with beards," said Johnson, "but we take great pride in funding this scholarship. It's important for us to help students pursue higher education."

The Hemingway Look-Alike Society Scholarship was established in 1999 in conjunction with the Florida Keys Educational Foundation, FKCC’s direct support organization, for the purpose of encouraging education in the community where the famed writer called home in the 1930s and produced some of his most enduring literary works. The funds are eligible for match from the State of Florida, which could double the impact of the gift. Five $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to journalism students and three $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to nursing students for the fall 2008 semester. The scholarships will be officially presented in a ceremony during the Annual Papa Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe’s bar on Duval Street. The 28th Annual Hemingway Days Festival is set for July 17-20.
Scholarship guidelines and applications are available on the College's website, www.fkcc.edu, as well as in the Financial Aid Office. The last day to apply is March 24, 2008. For more information, please call Professor Pat Silcox at 305-809-3241 or the Florida Keys Educational Foundation at 305-809-3531.