Valdez Advises Juniors to Move Beyond Comfort Zone

Junior Class President Adonis Valdez spoke at the Junior Class Assembly on Thursday morning. He wisely advised his peers to begin preparations for the competitive high tech global job market. He strongly cautioned them not to wait until senior year. “The time is now,” said Valdez.

Expounding on the class theme, “Expanding Our Horizons: Moving Out of Our Comfort Zones,” he shared three essential actions necessary to embrace the theme. First, “be willing to travel nationally and internationally.” Valdez shared that opportunities for jobs, professional training and learning will increase when an individual is willing to travel.

Second, Valdez said, “We must work hard to improve our communication skills.” He elaborated that both oral and written communication skills need to be excellent to compete in a global job market. Third, Valdez shared, “The need for a foreign language.” He explained that one must master a foreign language to be taken seriously because a global job market requires bilingual and multilingual skills.

In closing, Valdez shared his personal efforts to embrace the theme. He advised his classmates to take their future seriously by improving academic performance and participating in Institutional Service activities. He also stressed that quality resources exist on campus to improve communication skills—the QEP Reading Lab.

Providing evidence that the goal of improving communication skills is attainable, Mrs. Gail China, director of the Quality Enhancement Project, recognized 29 students for attaining placement on the “QEP Wall of Fame” as of spring 2013. She explained that mastery on the vocabulary post-test is 80%. Students on the wall have attained 90% or better. The students are: Dominque Wells, Iyeshia Broughton, Brittney Simmons, Hawanna Smith, Shanice Walden, Diane Smoot, Warren Lykes, Shaleigh Smalls, Nicole Jeffcoat, Afya George, Tiffany Swinton, John Nelson, Shauntegia Rivers, Jasmine Flowers, David Cooper, Tinnie Lincoln, Brandon Brown, Lisa Williams, Katrina Davis, Steven Sharpe, LaQuindra McCall, Jennifer Washington, Carrie Bovill, Nicollette Coward, Areanna Driffin, Tonji Brown-Lester, Sanedra Staley, Martin Jackson, Shameka Catoe.

In closing remarks, President Luns C. Richardson commended the Junior Class for an excellent program and he applauded Valdez for an outstanding presentation. He also stressed the significance of QEP and praised those who made the “QEP Wall of Fame”; encouraging all students to strive to reach the goal. He also praised Mrs. China and Academic Dean Leroy Staggers for their tireless efforts.
**Alpha’s to Hold Founders Day Assembly**

The Xi Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will hold their Founder’s Day Assembly on Thursday, October 31 at 10 a.m. in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. The guest speaker will be Dr. Jamey O. Graham, Sr., pastor of Saint John Baptist Church of Columbia, SC, Morris College alumnus and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He serves also as regional vice-president for the Baptist E and M Convention of South Carolina and the vice-moderator of the Gethsemane Association. The Founder’s Day program will culminate the activities for Alpha Week.

**Seeking Morris College Royalty**

Would you like to join the Morris College Royal Family? The competition for the titles of Miss Homecoming, Mr. Co-Ed and Miss Co-Ed is underway. Please pick up solicitation letters in the Office of Student Affairs. Friday, November 16 is the deadline for reporting funds for the competition. Winners will be announced at the Pre-Fall Harvest Rally Assembly on Tuesday, November 19.

**Study Abroad Offers Learning Opportunities in China**

Would you like to study in China during Spring Break 2014? The Morris College Study Abroad program will feature a travel component in two courses, BUS 465 (International Business Management) and GEO 401 (Cultural Geography). For information regarding eligibility, course credit, cost, financial arrangements, passport and visa, contact Dr. William Salyer or Dr. Patricia Ali.

**Campus Mourns the Passing of Mr. Rodney Johnson**

Morris College regrets the passing of one of our own, long-serving and committed employee, Mr. Rodney Johnson, who served as director of management information systems and the computer center. Sadly, Mr. Johnson passed away on Wednesday, October 23, 2013. Final arrangements are pending. Details regarding his homegoing service will be posted when they become available. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.