Speaking on the theme “Blazing New Paths Through Scholarship, Service and Leadership,” Dr. Tiawana Mayo delivered, what Dr. Leroy Staggers called, a “profound and timely address” during Thursday morning’s Founder’s Day Assembly. Sponsored by the Iota Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Pi Theta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Mayo stated, “An individual’s zeal for scholarship, service or leadership must be grounded in a sound foundation based on personal significance, not on what other people think.” She went on to say, “Determining why one is connected with a club, a cause, or an organization is an initial step in building pathways that will lead to trailblazing in scholarship, service and leadership.”

Highlighting the importance of scholarship in preparing for a successful future, Dr. Mayo said, “Scholarship is the background of cultural and economic achievement.” Alerting her listeners to a shift in attitudes on the importance of academic achievement, she reminded everyone that “the time for excellence in academics is more imperative now than perhaps ever.” “Clubs, organizations and individual students should not let the social aspects of college life cause them to perform poorly.”

Service is a second characteristic of authentic trailblazers. “Individuals, in lifting up humanity, must have a legacy of service,” Dr. Mayo noted. Greek organizations, from their inceptions, have always rendered service. “Service is a Greek letter organization tradition,” she stated before applauding other Greek organizations on their signature projects and initiatives. “All of the divine nine organizations continuously strive to lift up humanity through service.”

Finally, leadership is a characteristic for blazing new paths. “Leadership is more related to the extent and impact of service than it is about a specific individual,” Dr. Mayo said. Leaders set examples through sacrifices and are ready to roll up their sleeves and get in the thick of the action. “Effective leaders do not stand on the sideline observing and giving directions,” she stated. “Rather, leaders set the examples for others to follow.”

Dr. Mayo, a native of Sumter, SC, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC; a Master of Elementary Education and Education Specialist degrees, the University of South Carolina; a Bachelor of Theological Studies, the University of Minnesota School of Theology and the Doctor of Educational Leadership and Policy, the University of Phoenix (2008). She currently serves as president of the Beta Pi Zeta Graduate Chapter, Sumter, and is employed by Sumter School District as Special Services Teacher at Crestwood High School.

Dr. Leroy Staggers, academic dean, gave remarks in the absence of Dr. Luns C. Richardson who was attending to official college business. Dr. Staggers thanked both groups for sponsoring a wonderful assembly and having a great speaker. He advised students to take the message to heart, focus on their studies and make good grades.
QEP Word of The Week  
Mendacious [men-da-cious] adjective; dishonest

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

1) All seniors anticipating graduation on May 2, 2015 must report to their academic advisors immediately for a Senior Audit. This audit involves going through all of the courses that are required for graduation according to your catalog. A signed copy of all audits will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs. A student must complete all requirements for graduation.

2) All students applying for financial aid for the 2015-2016 school year are being strongly advised to complete the college’s application for financial aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 30, 2015. This includes applying for summer school. Students should have their tax returns or their parents’ tax returns completed at least two weeks before they apply for FAFSA.

3) The 2015 Summer School Session will consist of only one session this year. It will run for six weeks, beginning June 8 and ending July 21, 2015. To be classified as full-time, students can carry a minimum of six hours and a maximum of nine hours.

4) Students completing a FAFSA for 2015-2016 must create a “User ID” and “Password.” Pin numbers previously used will be invalid. Students are asked to have everything done before leaving at the end of the spring semester.

Teacher Education Majors Attend SCABSE Winter Conference

Isiah Brown and Derwin Platt, Elementary Education majors, attended the 2015 Winter Conference of the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE) on January 17th at Kingston Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC. The conference, attended by students, teachers, administrators and school board members, recognized exemplary educators and provided leadership training, teaching strategies, and networking opportunities.

Student groups from several Sumter School District schools were included on the conference program. Keynote speakers included TV Judge Glenda Hatchett and Charles Orgbon, CEO of Greening Forward.

The teacher candidates were accompanied by the Director of Teacher Education, Dr. Carol M. McClain.

Concluding Homecoming Week Activities

Homecoming Week concludes on Saturday, January 24th with the following activities:

- 10 a.m. PARENTS’ DAY 2015, in Daniels Dining Hall
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Hornets Tailgate (Old Track Field, located behind the Bertie B. White Center)
- 11:30 a.m. Alumni Basketball Game (Gymnasium)
- 12 noon – 2 p.m. Homecoming Cookout (Daniels Dining Hall Parking Lot)
- 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Homecoming Basketball Games: both teams will play Voorhees College (Gymnasium)
- 8 p.m. Homecoming Step Show (Gymnasium).