Professor Butler, Chairperson/Professor in the Division of Religion and Humanities, spoke during Thursday's assembly on the occasion of the 103rd anniversary of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Sponsored by members of the fraternity's Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Dr. Butler engaged students in a conversation using the fraternity's theme: "Leveraging Our Resources for Collective Impact." He defined leveraging as "a process in which an individual, group or organization increases the benefits they receive from their activities through more effective use of existing resources rather than having to put forth."

Dr. Butler, in giving statistics on the "positive projectory" of African Americans in the past few decades, presented contrasting statistics which indicate a flip side of their enhanced resource base. Regarding wealth, for example, he noted, "Out of the 20 wealthiest African Americans in the U.S. today, 70% of them are entertainers or athletes whose activities have little impact in terms of creating jobs and incomes for people other than themselves."

Dr. Butler encouraged students to leverage the power of existing resources: "If you were to study with a partner, you are leveraging another resource. You are maximizing the value of what you already have." He encouraged students to utilize all of the college's resources to enhance their capacity to "get better grades, higher GPAs and qualify for more scholarships and grants."

"There is no time for excuses. After almost 400 years of enslavement, legal segregation and other obstacles that seemed impossible to overcome, it will be the ultimate insult to our ancestors for the historical record to show, after all their struggles and efforts, that there were modern 21st century African Americans who didn't know how to handle freedom."

Dr. Luns C. Richardson, in his remarks, thanked Dr. Butler for his challenging address and encouraged students to go and practice the message to the best of their ability.
Capstone Presentations Tomorrow

The campus community is invited to witness the Senior Capstone Research Presentations for the Fall 2014 semester on Saturday November 15, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A total of 30 seniors in five major programs will present the results of their major research projects in a formal setting to be assessed by independent evaluators. Presentations for the Criminal Justice, History and Political Science majors will be held in the Forensic Center. Presentations for the Liberal Studies and Organizational Management programs will be conducted in the H.H. Butler Building. For further information, please contact Dr. Jacob Butler at 934-3433. This event is free and open to the public.

No Turning Back: Still Upwardly Bound

Federally funded TRiO program celebrates half century of nationwide impact

Upward Bound, a Federal TRiO program, turns 50 years old in 2014. This program was one of the first of several federal college-access programs known as TRiO because initially only three such programs existed nationwide.

The Office of Economic Opportunity initiated Upward Bound as an experimental program to help low-income, first-generation students get a college education. This program began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty in 1964.

Upward Bound partners colleges with challenged and under-resourced high schools to expose students to college and prepare them for the challenge of higher education. Students selected to participate in this program receive instruction in college readiness, literature, composition, mathematics, a foreign language and science during the regular academic school year and during a six-week summer session where students reside on a college campus that is designed to prepare them for college life.

Morris College has hosted an Upward Bound program for at least forty-five years. The current program is funded to serve 92 students from three surrounding counties, Sumter, Lee and Clarendon.

Today, there are Upward Bound programs in all of the 50 states and its territories that are located in community agencies, technical schools, colleges and universities.

The value of programs like Upward Bound cannot be measured in terms of its effectiveness in preparing students for a strong highly-educated and competent workforce and a global market place.

Promotion in Rank: Congratulations to Our Faculty

Six faculty members submitted highly impressive portfolios and successfully have met all criteria for a promotion in rank. Each have an impactful teaching history and have made significant contributions to the academic culture of Morris College.

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the following persons on their promotion in rank:

- Dr. Paul N. Ezeji to Professor
- Dr. David R. Magnin to Professor
- Ms. Deloris Y. McBride to Associate Professor
- Dr. Joseph K. Popoola to Associate Professor
- Ms. LaVon Simpson to Assistant Professor; and
- Ms. Valerie Warner to Assistant Professor.

NOTICE: All freshman, sophomore and junior level students interested in attending law school or pursuing other aspects of legal studies after they complete their undergraduate degree are asked to contact the Division of Social Sciences in person at 131 H.H. Butler Building, by phone 934-3251 or via email at jbutler@morris.edu.