The Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics presented its Science In Action Week Assembly on Thursday morning in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. This year’s speaker was Dr. Rodney Kenneth Alan. Dr. Alan, an orthopaedic surgeon, is affiliated with McLeod Orthopaedic Associates in Florence, Darlington and Dillon, SC. He is also affiliated with Palmetto Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center at Tuomey Medical Center in Sumter.

Opting to speak on one word from the general theme — “Science and Technology: A Path to Challenging Careers” — he focused on the word “path.” Referring to a path as a “route a person takes to get to a certain place,” he challenged students to be actively involved in the planning of their educational and career goals. For those students committed to moving toward challenging careers, Dr. Alan pointed out ways “how to get on the path” and “how to stay on the path.”

The beginning of one’s path starts with having “career goals.” He stated, “It really does not matter how oddly diverse your goals are. It’s just that you have them, and it’s something that motivates you, gives you something to hope for and strive for.” Keenly aware of how the paths we choose may well impact the rest of our lives, he referred to something he told himself throughout his undergraduate years: “Live like no one else will today, so you can live like no one else can in the future.” Choosing one’s path will present many decisions such as going along with the, striving to reach individual goals, or preparing for challenging careers.

Moving along one’s path will reveal the need for help, such as those valuable experiences and opportunities that will get one closer to his goal. “There are hundreds of companies looking for interns and they need educated and motivated students.”

Dispelling a few myths regarding pursuing careers in science, Dr. Alan urged students not to give up easily. “When you’ve fallen short, get back up, figure out what the problem was and make the necessary changes to be successful at your long-term goals.” He went on to say, “Your path to a career in science and technology will require planning, preparation, persistence and patience. The reward is great but only for those who stay on the path.”

Dr. Alan earned the BS degree in Biology from Morehouse College (1996) and the MD degree from Duke University School of Medicine (2000).

Dr. Richardson thanked the division for an excellent program. He complimented Dr. Alan for coming and sharing with us and urged students to stay on their path to success. The president also recognized and thanked two of the college’s stellar graduates: Mr. Curtis White, II (2011) a Ph.D Candidate in Optical Engineering at Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA, and Ms. Lateasha Harris (2003) Principal at William Thomas Academy in Sumter. He thanked them for returning to their alma mater to share with us what they are doing and to see what the college is doing. The president urged students to give more time to studying and staying on the career paths they have chosen.”
Religious Emphasis Week, an integral part of the Morris College experience that highlights worship and religious principles, will be observed February 17–20, 2015. Morning worship services will be held Tuesday–Friday at 10 and evening worship services will be held Tuesday–Thursday at 7 in the Neal-Jones Auditorium.

The Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr. will return for his 15th year as the preacher for the week. He is senior pastor of the Brookland Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC, and chairperson of the Morris College Board of Trustees. During Religious Emphasis Week, Dr. Jackson will be preaching a series of sermons entitled “God’s ‘Greater’ For You.” He feels that God has given him these messages to help encourage others to become a “greater” people for God. Students, faculty and staff, along with the community, are invited to attend.

On Friday evening at 7:30, the Mid-Winter Banquet and Rally will be held in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center. The event, sponsored by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, is the college’s second major fundraiser. Dr. J. L. Carter will be the banquet speaker.

Dr. Carter is senior pastor of Ark Church of Baltimore, MD, and is a member of the college’s board of trustees. The cost of attending the banquet is $45 per person.

Religious Emphasis Week
Mid-Winter Banquet and Rally

CYBERSECURITY: A New Career Path

Morris College has received a $1,049,879 grant, over a five year period, from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The grant is part of a consortium of 13 HBCU colleges and universities, two national laboratories (Lawrence Livermore and Sandia), as well as a public school in the Charleston School District and a Department of Defense facility also in Charleston, SC. Designed for the development of a Cybersecurity Workforce from our students, the grant’s ultimate aim and goal is to train students to become cyberguardians who will work to solve cybersecurity problems in the U.S. government and in private industries.

Selected students will take introductory courses in cybersecurity on campus. Advanced courses and training will be taken at other consortium member institutions. “We are looking for students,” states Dr. Ali, chairperson of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, “who are going to commit themselves to a future career in cybersecurity.” Students must have a 3.0 GPA.

For more information and an application form, all interested students should go to the office of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, located on the first floor of the Wilson-Booker Science Building.

Religious Emphasis Week
Mid-Winter Banquet and Rally

URGENT REMINDERS!!

1) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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.