Distinguished Graduates Invited to Speak

Morris College alumni are vital to the ongoing success of the college. Their accomplishments say something about the quality of the education they received during their undergraduate studies. Distinguished individuals like Mr. Mandrake T. Miller, Dr. Mack T. Hines, III, and the Honorable J. Wayne George are among the college’s most aspiring, dedicated, influential and passionate graduates. These three South Carolina natives have been invited to address the student body and campus community during upcoming assemblies.

The Annual Fall Convocation is the official opening assembly for the academic year. During the convocation, new students, faculty and staff are recognized, and pertinent information is shared.

Mandrake T. Miller, a 2007 graduate, is the keynote speaker for the convocation. It will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 10 A.M. in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center. Miller’s professional career in higher education has always been “student affairs” focused. His invaluable experiences at Livingstone College, Bethune-Cookman University, Chowan University and Virginia Union University ranged from residence life and housing, campus ministry and student life and development, to name a few. The former dean of students at Tuskegee University, he was recently appointed Vice President for Student Success and Engagement at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida.

Miller, an ordained minister and Army veteran, is completing the Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership with a concentration in Christian Ministry from Grand Canyon University.

The President’s Lecture Series will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 10 A.M. in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. Instituted by the late Dr. Luns C. Richardson, the series exposes students to interesting and illuminating speakers whose thought-provoking and inspiring lectures bring unique insights and experiences which help enhance the college’s learning environment.

Mack T. Hines, III, a 1993 graduate, is the keynote speaker for this year’s fall series. Deeply committed to the vital role educators play in the lives of young students and the difference they make, Hines is widely known and regarded for his work in the areas of race, culture, diversity, and inclusion.

His dynamic, down-to-earth approaches and strategies focus on the success of students, especially African Americans. He has written numerous articles and is a featured speaker in more than 200 conferences and symposiums across the country. His most recent book, White Teachers, Black Students: In the Spirit of Yes to African American Student Achievement, was released August 2017.

The Fall Honors Day Convocation will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 10 A.M. in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. Students named to the President’s and Dean’s Lists during the 2018 Spring Semester will be recognized and applauded for their commitment to academic excellence. J. Wayne George, a 2000 graduate, is the keynote speaker. On January 2, 2018, George began his tenure as the executive director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The Municipal Association offers “services, programs and tools that will give municipal officials the knowledge, experience and tools for enabling the most efficient and effective operation of their municipalities in the complex world of municipal government.”

His political career began when he was elected mayor of the City of Mullins and served from 1988 until 2004. Prior to becoming mayor, he served on the Mullins City Council from 1980 to 1988. He was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and represented District 57 in Dillon, Horry, and Marion counties from 2012 until 2016. He is an insurance and real estate executive at The George Agency, which he founded in Mullins, SC.

These three distinguished gentlemen are excellent examples of what it means to adhere to the Morris College motto: “Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve.” We are pleased to have them back to the campus. Everyone is invited to the assemblies.
New Freshman Class

Starting out, I did not want to venture far away from home, so I decided to come to Morris College. I heard wonderful things from family members who graduated from here. I participated in the Fast Track program and was amazingly pleased. This is a good place for me to sharpen my sense of responsibility and independence. I want to major in Criminal Justice. I have always been fascinated with chemistry and forensic techniques.

Aaron D. Chisolm
Summerville, SC

I came to Morris College because I was looking for a family atmosphere. Everyone I met were saying great things about the college. After I arrived on campus I felt right at home. Morris College is the right place for me. I have always loved children, so I want to major in Early Childhood Education. I remember teaching my brother to read. The way his face lit up because he had learned something was so rewarding.

Bryanna N. Fleming
Conway, SC

I attended a HBCU fair in high school and decided to come to Morris College. I feel being here will help enhance my sense of independence and responsibility. I want to major in English because I love writing. The programs offered here will definitely help me become more proficient in the art of “communication and expressions.” I want to become an acclaimed poet and a creative writer. This is a good place to start.

Kayla Matthis
Harlem, NY

The professors at Morris College care about student success. I participated in the Fast Track program and was sold on the idea and importance to taking education seriously. They helped me understand the responsibility I have if I am to succeed. I knew I would be coming back majoring in biology. Doing my part, I know that the college’s pre-nursing requirements will place me on my pathway to success.

Lauren Wilks
Florence, SC

Members of the “Class of 2022” arrived on campus Saturday, August 18, 2018 to begin orientation. Events and activities were designed to help make their transition smooth as they move from high school to college. They were encouraged to meet new friends from across the country and to immerse themselves in all the college has to offer in preparing them for the rest of their lives.
As part of the freshmen orientation events to welcome new students and their families, “The Journey Begins Worship Service” was held on campus in the O. R. Reuben Chapel on Sunday, August 19, 2018. The message was delivered by Reverend Ricky Simmons. He is the Youth Pastor at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church. A Sunday brunch followed in Daniels Dinning Hall.

Because religion plays a vital role in helping students deal with issues of life and faith, Dr. Leroy Staggers announced that Sunday morning worship services will be conducted on campus this academic year from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The purpose of the one hour service is to remind everyone that a close walk with God is critical in setting the trajectory of one’s life. Minister Jonté McFadden, a Mass Communications major delivered the message on Sunday, August 26, 2018. Services will resume Sunday, September 9, 2018 with Minister Gerald Richardson delivering the message. He is pursuing studies in pastoral ministry. Dr. Staggers asked that the services be coordinated through the offices of Student Affairs, Church Relations and the College Minister.

New Marquee Attracting Attention

Morris College’s new Main Street marquee is quite an attraction. We are grateful to Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr., for his very generous matching gift, along with board members, our Baptist family, alumni, faculty, staff and all our friends for helping to make purchasing the Main Street marquee a reality.

Another signage, located on the corner of the library, is the LCR marquee. It too will convey information on campus. Also, hyper-signs are strategically located in buildings throughout the campus, and a sign will be placed outside the Student Center where students congregate.

An easier way to get our message across, these signs are remotely updated and will increase the flow of external and internal information being made available to the campus and the community.

In addition to conveying information and improving the appearance of the campus, these digital displays are being used to promote an even greater interest in activities and events.
Very Important Message to Students

Ms. Tanika Mangum will be on campus for the UNCF College Tour on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at 11:00 A.M. in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. During her visit she will share important information with all students about UNCF opportunities such as the UNCF Student Profile. According to Mrs. Sandra Gibson, the college’s financial aid director, completing the UNCF Student Profile is a great way for students to maximize their chances to obtain additional financial aid.

Students who have not yet completed their profile will have the opportunity to do so during the presentation. Take the initiative to be present to receive information that will help you.

Please contact the Office of Financial Aid at (803) 934-3238, for additional information.

Students to Participate in Pre-Screening

Morris College student leaders will participate in a special pre-screening for the new CBS show, “GOD Friended Me,” on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. According to Ms. Quanda D. Sims, Director of Counseling, screenings will be held in the Film Lecture Room located on the third floor of the Learning Resources Center.

After the screening, Ms. Sims will be working with Mrs. Ivana Popovic, Assistant Professor in the Division of Religion, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Mass Communication students conducting interviews. For additional information call this number (803) 934-3238.

Maintenance Employees Trained and Certified
In Mold Inspection and Mold Removal

Mr. Lenn Ramsey (1), the new Director of Physical Plant at Morris College, and four additional Maintenance Employees (Mr. Lewis Dargan (2), Ms. Jo Ann Dennis (3), Ms. Terrence Haynesworth (5), and Mr. Luke Stewart (6)) were trained and certified in mold inspection and mold removal on June 30-31, 2018. The two-day course was conducted on campus by Mr. William Fisher, Jr. (4), of the Southeastern Mold Institute, Inc., a national and international mold training organization located in Chipley, FL. Maintenance Employees received training in theory, hands-on practice, and demonstration in the proper techniques of mold identification and removal. Posing with them is the college president, Dr. Leroy Staggers (7).

Freshmen Told to Pursue Purpose

Bailey Brinson is a professional “edutainer” known as “The Enlightened Entertainer.” Bailey B. brought his “Let’s Talk Live” show to Morris College on Sunday, August 19, 2018 in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. “Pursue Purpose” was the theme as he encouraged our new freshmen to understand their reason for being in this place at this time. He engaged students in meaningful interactive conversations while providing them with the communication and coping strategies needed to navigate through this new academic experience and throughout their lives. He did all this while keeping them entertained with music and humor.