Morris College, My Mother, A Shirt, and Me

The Honorable Henry Darby electrified students at Thursday’s Assembly as a part of the President’s Lecture Series. Mr. Darby recalled accounts of his life, which had not always been kind. His father passed on his 3rd Birthday leaving his mother to raise him into the man he is today. He accounted the lack of education his parents were able to attain due to the laws of segregation in South Carolina counties. Mr. Darby recalled walking along the side of highway 52 with his mother, picking up bottles to sell for money. She saved every penny she could in order to send her son to college because he was “going to be a teacher!”

Boldly walking through a white neighborhood in North Charleston, SC, he recalled passing beautiful homes and a large school to get to a dump, seeking items to sell. In this dump, his mother spotted a soiled piece of cloth. With the eyes of a visionary, she instructed him to get the cloth, despite his protests. Using homemade soap she cleaned the cloth as best she could and made him a white long-sleeved collared shirt large enough for him to grow up in for 6 years, 2-3 times a week. His mother worked diligently to save money because as she bragged to her friends, “My son is going to be a teacher.” Mr. Darby went on to explain how after becoming one of the first students to integrate Berkeley High School, he failed the SATs not once but twice, doing so poorly that to this day he would not speak of the scores. His mother maintained faith in him, defended him, fought for him when others said that he was not college material. Despite his low scores, his mother demanded they be sent, paying the extra cost, to as many schools as possible in the state of South Carolina.

Mr. Darby was denied from Baptist College (Charleston Southern University), College of Charleston, Presbyterian College, USC, SC State, Claflin College, Voorhees College, Benedict College, and Allen University. Only one college gave him a chance to obtain his education and that was Morris College. Morris College took him in and said we will work with you if you will put in the work. Morris College pulled Mr. Darby back to the 8th grade, giving him the basics that he lacked and launched him out into the world. He went on to make an A on the National Teachers Examination. Unfortunately, his mother passed his freshman year in college and never got to see him become a teacher in the flesh. Morris College set Mr. Darby on course to sail to great heights. His mother, a praying and noble woman chartered his path from a young age and believed in him along the way. As for Mr. Darby, in addition to being a member of the Charleston City Council, he is the Principal of North Charleston High School, that same high school he saw from a distance as a boy on the way to a dump to collect trash for money. As for the shirt, it hangs in his office as a reminder of the cloth from which he is cut.

Dr. Leroy Staggers, Interim President, explained to students that Mr. Darby is one great stitch in the fabric that is Morris College. We are blessed to have a plethora of alumni doing great things. He posed the questions, Do you know where you are? Do you know why you’re here?
**QEP WORD OF THE WEEK**

*Precarious* pre·car·i·ous \\ un·cer·tainty

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**Graduate & Professional School Fair**

Start planning for tomorrow, today! The career services department has gathered roughly 30 graduate and professional schools to take part in the 36th annual Graduate and Professional school fair on October 17, 2017 in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center from 9:00 AM to 1200 PM.

*B*usiness *A*ttire *R*equired*

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**First African-American Commander to Lead the South Carolina Highway Patrol to Speak at Morris College**

An HBCU graduate of Fayetteville State University, Colonel Christopher N. Williamson is the first African American to hold the position of Commander in the South Carolina Highway Patrol. In addition to his success in the SC Highway Patrol, Colonel Williamson runs a non-profit organization called the Williamson Forward Progress Youth Services Foundation. The organization is designed to provide services to the youth and their families and assist them with problem solving issues that will help them grow and become contributing members of society. Colonel Williamson will be the speaker for the October 19, 2017 Honors Convocation Assembly. All students, faculty, and staff are to be in attendance.

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**Show your school spirit! Wear Blue & Gold every Friday!**

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**Academic Intervention**

Mid-term Academic Intervention is taking place in the Counseling Center with Mrs. Sims and in Student Support Services with Mrs. Rutledge. If you have one or more failing grades for mid-term and received a letter from the Counseling Center or Student Support Services, please follow up accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sims at ext. 3259, or Mrs. Rutledge at ext. 3187.

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**Who Will Win This Year’s Homecoming and Co-Ed Titles?**

All students interested in competing for the titles of Miss Homecoming, Mr. or Miss Co-Ed may pick up solicitation letters in the Office of Student Affairs. The deadline for reporting funds for competition is Friday, November 10, 2017. Winners will be declared during the Pre-Fall Harvest Rally Assembly on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

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**Spring Break in Paris**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2017**

Students interested in the history field trip to Paris and Amsterdam during spring break must enroll before Tuesday, October 31, 2017. For details about eligibility, cost, financing, and passport application, contact Dr. Patricia Ali (HHB 132; pali@morris.edu; or ext. 3250)