On Thursday, October 4, 2018, the senior class presented their fellow Morrisites with an extra special message. Launching from the theme - “Keep Moving On” - our well-regarded senior class president, Ms. Kaira Grant, delivered a brief message that challenged her fellow Hornets to always be confident, focused, and to be an inspiration to others. Ms. Grant (Kaira) was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She later moved to Ruffin, SC, where she graduated from Colleton County High School in 2015. At first she overlooked her acceptance letter from Morris because of so many acceptance letters from other schools. She chose Morris College, nonetheless, because it was close to home and she perceived it as a sign. It was one the greatest decisions she has ever made. She is a criminal justice major and has aspirations of furthering her studies in forensics at a graduate school of her choice.

Kaira is completely enamored when she speaks about Morris College. To her, Morris College is more than just another HBCU, it is more like an extended family because of the open arms being offered by the warmhearted faculty and staff. She also has the utmost pride in her HBCU. Morris College pride means being a leader and being appreciative of opportunities presented to us. She also feels that the support of her fellow Hornets nurtures Morris College Pride.

Confidence: Kaira talked confidently about confidence and how important it is for college students to have. She believes that every student should have confidence within themselves, as well as faith, that they will graduate with a degree in four years. “No one should be allowed to break you down and discourage you no matter who they are.” She is a firm believer that as long as we are all Morris College students, we should consider ourselves one big happy family. She suggested that students build their confidence by surrounding themselves with others who influence them positively and not negatively. Having a good family and three good friends (Nijah, Rita, and Shadia) played a part in why she is a confident college student today. The support system she has behind her has paved the way for her to do great things. Because of her confidence, she is affiliated with several campus organizations: first vice president of the Morris College Collegiate Section of the National Council of Negro Woman, treasurer of the Criminal Justice Club, and business manager of the Pre-Alumni Club. She is actively involved with the NAACP. A student leader and student ambassador, her accolades speak for themselves. “It goes to show that with enough confidence you can amount to anything.”

Motivation: Kaira mentioned that the hardest thing about motivation is actually staying motivated. She urged students to remember their purpose here at Morris. “The better you know your purpose for pursuing your degree, the greater chance you will have for staying motivated.” Her purpose for being in college goes beyond pursuing a degree to better her life. She is pursuing her degree so she can be a beacon of hope and inspiration to her family. Captivated by the thought of inspiring others, she shared with her listeners how she inspired one of her younger brothers not only to attend college but to attend an HBCU as well. She became his inspiration by going home and sharing her experiences not only about college life but about the importance of HBCU’s and the different opportunities they open up. She inspired him so much that he now attends North Carolina Central University, a fellow HBCU.

Focus: Lastly, Kaira talked about staying focused and how it can sometimes be hard to maintain focus. The importance of balancing one’s personal, academic, and social life can be strenuous at times but it not impossible to do provided one stays focused. She touched on how she had trouble balancing time in her freshman year. Though she did go out to parties and clubs, she prioritized time with her friends over school work and because of this she allowed her GPA to drop. She was not happy with these results, but with the support of her friends she decided to prioritize better and make her school work her first priority. Kaira and her friends quickly boosted their GPA’s thanks to hard work, dedication and the focus applied to their studies.

She ended on a positive note by acknowledging the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and admonishing them to work hard on staying focused. She informed them that they can always reach out to others if they had trouble staying focused. “If you need help, just ask.” Kaira assured them that there are many people at the college who will gladly lend a helping hand to help them stay on track. Morris College has great faculty and staff members. She urged students to get to know them.
Dr. Jacob E. Butler, Jr., in the absence of Dr. Leroy Staggers who was attending the UNCF Annual Fall Meeting in Birmingham, AL, gave closing remarks during last Thursday’s Senior Class Assembly. He asked senior class members to take seriously their role as leaders, mentors and models. “Be examples to the world of what Morris College can produce.” Admonishing students to keep moving on, Dr. Butler placed heavy emphasis on students having pride. “Each and every person in this room ought to be proud to be at Morris College.” He went on to say that all should be proud to embrace the history of the college and the sacrifices made by others to make opportunities possible. “We would not be here at Morris College today were it not for the preparations made by others who decided to create a school for people they did not know. More than 100 years ago, a group of people thought about Morris College being here in Sumter, SC, and it is still here.”

“The themes ‘Keep Moving On’ is about going through tough times, sticking it out and dealing with whatever comes before you. Morris College is a classic example of our experiences and our struggles. We do not have the right to not recognize and appreciate those experiences and struggles.” He also encouraged students to be great, even if they have to be great by themselves. With confidence, motivation and staying focus, students will be great.

Dr. Butler also reminded students that in order to do well, they have to prepare well. He was referring to mid-semester examinations on next week. Be the leaders we know you can be.
The UNCF General Application is now available for students attending a UNCF-member institution.

Complete Your UNCF Profile and General Application!

Students who have not done so should go to the UNCF website and complete the student profile and the general application. The two-step process is very important in order to become eligible for UNCF scholarships.

Students have to apply every year.

It’s FAFSA Time!

The FAFSA website opens Monday, October 1, 2018. Students are encouraged to apply and complete their FAFSA application for financial aid early this year. Help the Office of Financial Aid to better assist you with receiving your awards earlier.

Coronation Rescheduled

The 2018-2019 Miss Morris College Coronation will be held on Friday, November 9, 2018. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center.

In Memory of Class of 2022 Member

In Memory of Class of 2022 Member

May your broken heart evolve into something beautiful and strong as you mourn Solomon’s sudden and tragic passing. May your memories of him sweeten your sorrow, soften your sadness and give you peace.

MR. SOLOMON TALIAFERRO

Rev. John F. Kennedy, Jr. is a graduate of Walden University where he is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. A veteran with 24 years of service, Rev. Kennedy retired from the United States Air Force in 2009. He now serves Shaw Air Force Base as its Team Shaw School Liaison Officer, in which he builds the bridge for the academic success of military students.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I have entered Morris College to learn and I will be an active Life-Long Learner and serve when I depart. I accept full responsibility for my life and for my education. I will respect myself at all times and I will show respect to all others. I will study to learn and fully engage in personal and professional development.
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 illuminating speakers whose thought-provoking and inspiring lectures bring unique insights and experiences that 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 Morris College Family Feud

How would you like to appear on Family Feud? Not the humorous showpiece hosted by Steve Harvey, but the show that will be held on campus.

The campus is buzzing with excitement about competing on The Morris College Family Feud Program. All the organizations should be planning to participate in the event to be held on November 20, 2018 from 6pm – 8pm in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. Prizes will be awarded. Organizations can invite ANYONE to make-up their Family Team.

Groups who have already received the questions and answers that will be used in the activity should contact Ms. Janet S. Clayton, Director of the Learning Resources Center. Her office is located on the first floor of the library. It will be lots of fun so come and sign-up your team right away!!!

Voter Registration Drive Continues

The Morris College campus has taken an active role in making sure students become registered voters. Led by the campus chapter of the NAACP, other organizations such as the National Council of Negro Women, Zeta Phi Beta and Alpha Kappa Alpha sororities have sponsored four registration drives for the semester with the largest being offered to students and families during freshman clearance day. This resulted in more than more than 100 registrants.

The Board of Voter Registration has indicated that the deadline has been extended to October 17, 2018. See any member of the above mentioned organizations or come by the Office of Admissions and Records for a form or information.

Contestant Deadline 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 9, 2018. Winners will be declared during the Pre-Fall Harvest Rally Assembly on Tuesday, November 13, 2018.