



The Campus Report

Dr. Leroy Staggers, College President



Volume One

2019 Summer Edition

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Morris College Freshmen are on the Fast Track to Success

This year a number of incoming freshman have entered the gates at 100 West College Street to stand by the motto “enter to learn; depart to serve.” The Morris College Fast Track program, which is under the direction of Mr. Lorne Lee is in its fourth year and is doing exceptionally well. The program is designed to offer incoming freshman the opportunity to earn up to nine college credits with no out-of-pocket costs. Funded by the college’s federally funded Title III program, eligible students are able to receive free tuition, books, as well as room and board during the Summer Ses-

The program has seen an increase in the number of participants since last year. When asked what he thinks has contributed to that boost in enrollment, Mr. Lee attributes its success to early recruitment and collaborating with other departments. “This year we had an earlier start date for recruiting” he mentioned. “But the Morris College athletics department has a lot to do with our boost enrollment. They saw an opportunity to help incoming athletes acquire college credits.”

Students who participate in the program have the opportunity to complete developmental courses such as mathematics and English to help give them a head start in their undergraduate career. “This program has the unique benefit of giving students intensive, focused training in math, English, and reading skills.” Lee expressed. “For students who test into developmental courses, the Fast Track program allows them to complete their college degree one to two semesters sooner.”

Students that participated in the program stated that it was well worth the sacrifice of summer fun to get ahead of their peers and a great opportunity to take advantage of.



Summer School 2019

Summer school got off to a great start this year as students began their first day of classes on June 4, 2019. The six-week session granted students the ability to earn up to nine credit hours in their program of study. This year Rev. Jerome McCray, Assistant Professor/Recreation Administration Division of Education, served as the Summer School Director assisting more than 150 students with their academics.

When asked why students should take advantage of summer school, McCray spoke on the opportunity students can achieve by focusing on their academics. “A student may earn up to nine credit hours, which could result in early graduation, improvement in grade-point average, reduction of future course loads and getting the course of study back on track.”

Summer school gives traditional as well as non-traditional students the ability to take advantage and manage their academic careers along with their social skills. Due to its fast-paced, rigorous workload, time management skills are essential for academic achievement, according to Rev. McCray.

“Most likely, a student’s college experience will be the first time in their life they will have the flexibility and independence to set their own schedule....Soon they will discover that managing their coveted, free or unstructured time is more than they had planned.” he acknowledged.

“Therefore, it’s important that students learn very quickly how to balance academic time and free time,” said McCray. The summer term wrapped on July 16 following final examinations.

College President Meets With Alumni

Dr. Leroy Staggers, in an effort to increase alumni engagement and support, met with a number of alumni chapters to discuss ways alumni can help enhance the college and recruit more students. During the summer months, he has travelled the state and visited areas such as Greenville, Charleston and Jasper County. He also traveled to Charlotte and Atlanta where the alumni chapter donated more than a thousand dollars to their alma mater.

On July 27, three alumni chapters will host Morris College Day to help with recruitment as well. High school students can have their application fee waived and received on-site acceptance by participating in Morris College Day in Columbia, Charlotte, or Atlanta.



Dr. Staggers (*seated center*) with Piedmont Alumni Chapter, (*also seated far left*) Mrs. Mary Jo Walker, First Vice President, MCNAA President and Ms. Recharnda Daekins, Chapter President



Dr. Staggers (*standing center*) with Beaufort-Jasper Hampton Alumni Chapter, and Ms. Bernadette Hampton, Chapter President



Dr. Staggers (*seated center*) with Atlanta Alumni Chapter, (*also seated 1 to r*): Mrs. Ruth M. Pendergrass, MCNAA President and Mr. Ericson Lanier, Chapter President



Dr. Staggers (*standing center*) with Sumter Alumni Chapter and Mr. Stanley Scriven Chapter President

Morris College Students Accepted In Summer Internships

A 2019 graduate and a senior biology major are both taking their educational experiences beyond the classroom after accepting summer internships in partnership with the United States Department of Energy.

Whitney Wright, a recent graduate of Morris College, is one of nearly 50 students accepted into the Savannah River Remediation internship program. With her undergraduate degree in biology, Wright will continue to expand her knowledge of the nuclear industry by examining the liquid waste mission to treat disposition legacy radioactive waste and close waste tanks safely.





Kenton Kelly

Kelley named 2019 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities announced that **Kenton Kelley** had been named one of the 2019 HBCU Competitiveness Scholars. Kelley, along with 43 others from 34 other historically black institutions received the Initiative's highest student recognition.

Kelley distinguishes himself as a student who is committed academic excellence and service. He has served as president of his freshman class and the recreation administration club. He was recently named the Basileus (president) of the Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated.

In addition to having served as a student orientation leader, Kelly's meritorious efforts have extended beyond the classroom. He has traveled to the U.S. Capitol to advocate for the Communities In Schools Program (CIS). He was also a panelist at the 2019 Milliken Dialogues and Policy Summit where he voiced his appreciation for CIS and its instrumental sound in expounding the voice of hope amongst at-risk youth.

Competitiveness Scholars are nominated or endorsed by their institution's president and are recognized for their academic achievement, community involvement, commitment as campus leaders, and entrepreneurial ethos or "go-getter" spirit.

Kelly, a recreational administration major, has proven himself to be a deserving recipient of such a distinguished honor. The rising senior is a native of Charleston, SC.

Local Teens Bound for Success

Forty-three high school students across three Midlands counties are bound for success after they received the opportunity of a lifetime this summer.

The Morris College Upward Bound 2019 Summer Component helped to jumpstart the college process for high school students in Sumter, Lee, and Clarendon counties.

Over a four-week period, 43 rising ninth through twelfth grade students participated in the Summer Component of the Upward Bound program. Daily, students received individualized instruction in math, science, English, computer literacy, and STEM related areas to assist with their comprehension of the ACT as well as general education. Students received a taste of the college life as they lived on campus in a residential hall and were served breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks that were provided by the college's cafeteria.

Aside from general core classes students also participated in a number of workshops to include an ACT Boot Camp, Drone Certification Class, and Robotics program. Rising seniors also completed Capstone Research and presented information near the end of the program. The "bounders" were asked to research a college of choice and present facts about the institution as well as reasons for interest in the chosen school.

For the annual year-end trip students traveled to Orlando, Fla. They stopped in Savannah, Ga to take a tour of Savannah State University, as well as Daytona Beach, Fla., where they took a tour of Bethune-Cookman University as well as Mary McLeod Bethune's home.

The program ended with tons of fun as students took a break from their academics and travelled to Universal Studios to enjoy a summer vacation.



Save The Date

Bishop **Jonathan Holston** has been named the guest speaker for the President's Lecture Series on Thursday, October 24, at 10 AM in the Neal- Jones Auditorium. The resident Bishop of the South Carolina Conference, Bishop Holston serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops as the chairperson of Missional Engagement and as Liaison to the Pan-Methodist Bishops. He has also served on the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Catastrophic Disaster Response Team and as the Church World Service Disaster Consultant in Georgia.

2 Sumterites elected to Morris College Board of Trustees

The Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, during its 142nd-annual session, elected two Sumterites as the newest members of the Morris College Board of Trustees. Kenney Wyndell Rose and James V. "Ted" Wilson were elected at the convention's board meeting on May 7.

Dr. Rose, a former director of the Counseling and Testing Center at Morris College, is a 35-year veteran in administration, education and counseling of colleges, universities and the public schools of South Carolina. A 1985 graduate of Morris College, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, he holds a Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State University and a doctorate in Education and Administration with two interdisciplinary areas of Religious Studies and Counseling/Psychology Education from the Union Institute University.

Rose has served as director of Guidance at Crestwood High School, a guidance counselor at Sumter County Adult Education Center and an adjunct professor in the Education Division at South Carolina State University. He is also the senior pastor and



Dr. Wilson majored in elementary education at Morris College and later worked as a teacher in the Orangeburg County School District. After changing his career as a classroom teacher, he became an agent at Interstate Life Insurance Co. where he excelled in leadership. In 1981, he opened his own agency, Wilson and Associates, during a time in which blacks providing financial services were few and far between. He went on to graduate from the American College of Life Underwriters in Advanced Business. Today, he is the founder and CEO of Universal Benefits Marketing Firm Inc. This multi-billion dollar corporation is the third largest, independently owned final expense marketing firm in the country and employs 25 in-office staff members, as well as 1,500 active independent field agents along the East Coast and throughout the country.

Trustees elected to the board are eligible to serve three-three year terms.

Morris alum named Fall Convocation Speaker

Morris College alum, Frederick A. Prince has been named the Fall 2019 Convocation Speaker. The ceremony will be held in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 12.

Prince is a graduate of the Morris College Class of 1988 in which he graduated with honors with a B.S. degree in Business-Accounting. The Sumter native is a proud member of Hornet Nation as his mother, father, sister, and brother are all graduates of the prestigious institution.

During his matriculation at Morris, Prince was a star inside and outside of the classroom. He was a member of the Hornet Basketball team where he was honored to be a three-year starter. He also joined numerous clubs and organizations to include the Epsilon Lambda chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. During his senior year he served as President of the Student Government Association.

Currently he resides in Bakersfield, California and serves as the President and Founder of Omega Financial and Insurance Services. Omega Insurance brokerage was established in 2000 and specializes in providing community insurance solutions in home, auto, life, property and business insurance needs.

Fred and his wife Stephanie are blessed with three children Jonie, Zachary, and Braxton.



Athletics Department Recruits Star Athletes

Talented students have been accepted to attend Morris College in the fall to play sports ranging from indoors such as basketball and volleyball to outdoors including baseball and track and field.

Students have been accepted from a number of cities throughout the state: Aniyah Vereen of Mullins, SC and Ormondo Graham of Kingstree, SC. Tevin Tisdale, RayQuan Kinloch and Tyler Middleton are from Andrews, SC.

Among the out-of-state students attending this fall is Jayla Carter of Jonesboro, Ga. Julio Carmona, III, the furthest athletic recruitment is from St. Croix, one of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.



RayQuan Kinloch, Tevin Tisdale and Tyler Middleton are surrounded by Andrews coaches and administration on April 15 during their signing ceremony. (Richard Caines)

RayQuan Kinloch, Tevin Tisdale and Tyler Middleton, recent graduates of Andrews High School in Andrews, SC, signed letters of intent to further their academic and athletic careers at Morris College. The trio will run cross country and play soccer for the Hornets.

High school basketball coach, Rodney Giles, believes these well-round athletes will be a great as-



Jayla Carter's (center) shooting numbers improved over her junior year.

Jayla Carter, a recent graduate of Mundy's Mill High School, located in Jonesboro, GA, is continuing her academic and athletic career at Morris College.

Jayla, during her senior year picked up 13.5 points and was credited with 74 rebounds and 74 steals.

Jayla will play basketball for the Lady Hornets.



Julio Carmona III is a native of St. Croix, which is one of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. Excited about attending Morris College this fall, Julio will play baseball for the college.



Arthur McBride Jr. Memorial Scholarship recipient Ormondo Graham, left, pictured with Richard McBride, the youngest son of Deacon Arthur McBride, Jr. (Photo Provided)

Ormondo Graham, a recent graduate of Kingstree High School graduate, located in Kingstree, SC, signed his national letter of intent to play baseball at Morris College.

Ormondo is also the 2019 recipient of the Arthur McBride, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship was presented to him following his graduation on June 8, 2019.



Aniyah Vereen (center) pictured with family members. Milton Bell, the college's cross country and track coach, stands behind her.

Aniyah Vereen, a recent Mullins High School graduate, signed a national letter of intent to join the Morris College track program. The two-year member of the Lady Auctioneers track & field team was a lower state qualifying shot putter both years. Vereen plans to major in sociology.

Fall Semester 2019

Freshman Orientation
August 17-21, 2019

Registration
August 21, 2019

Classes Begin
August 22, 2019

Apply Now!

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