The Sophomore Class Assembly on Thursday, February 20, 2020 honored Black History Month. The theme for the assembly was, “Never Would Have Made It”, led by Dr. Evelyn Cohen, Acting Chairperson of General Studies and the Sophomore Class advisor. The speaker was Rev. William Miller who is a 1978 graduate of Morris College. Rev. Miller is the Pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Kershaw, S.C. He is currently employed by the Diocese of Charleston, and is a 5th and 6th grade teacher at St. Martin de Porres Catholic School in Columbia, S.C.

Rev. Miller spoke from the theme “Martin had a Dream, but I have a Revelation”. He discussed the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Miller reminded students of the words of Dr. King, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.” He shared with students that the smallest light can dispel darkness. He encouraged them to let their lights shine, that men shall see their good works. Rev. Miller challenged students to accomplish their mission and adhere to the College’s motto, “Enter to Learn ; Depart to Serve”.
PASTOR INVITED TO CAMPUS

The newly elected pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church of Darlington, SC, the Reverend M. DeWayne Mack, visited the campus on Wednesday, February 19. The purpose of the invite, by Dr. Leroy Staggers, was to showcase the institution to Reverend Mack and to ensure an ongoing relationship with one of the college’s strong supporters.

The two-hour visit began with a brief overview of the college. Dr. Jacob E. Butler, Jr., the Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, talked briefly about the college’s academic offerings and educational services. Dr. Juana L. Davis-Freeman, Dean of Student Affairs, spoke about the programs and services that are provided to students by the college. Student leaders, who were present, spoke of the college's impact on their lives and their plans for the future.

Following the overview, Dr. Staggers took Reverend Mack on a tour of the campus. Stops included the Wilson-Booker Science Building, the Learning Resources Center, the Forensics Center, and the Student Health and Wellness Center. The visit concluded with lunch in the dining hall.

Reverend Mack, the fourth pastor of the 150-year-old congregation, is a native of Washington, DC. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA, and a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. He has completed coursework toward a Doctor of Ministry at Virginia Union University Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology in Richmond, Virginia.

Reverend Mack succeeds the Reverend Dr. Ernest B. Burroughs, who retired after 55 years of pastoral ministry at Cherry Grove. He is also a 1964 graduate of Morris College.

Dr. Staggers hopes to make this a featured attraction of the college to bring new and established pastors to the campus. “Too often pastors come to the campus to attend an event in the auditorium or the gym and they leave. This will give them an opportunity to truly see what the institution is doing. Hopefully, they will leave with a better understanding of what the College does to prepare students to lead successful lives.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

College alumnus and former Board of Trustees member Reverend Dr. Isaac Holt, Jr. was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International African American Museum. Holt along with three others will make up the 31 members of the board that will add value to the African American Museum.

The Alabama native is a Navy Veteran and a 1998 honors graduate of Morris College where he was also awarded an honorary Doctorate degree.

He has served as senior pastor of Royal Missionary Baptist Church for 26 years. Under his leadership, the church has grown from a 200-member congregation to a 3,000-member congregation and continues to grow daily.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Lakewood High School here in Sumter, S.C. celebrated Black History Month with a program on Thursday, February 20, 2020. The theme of the program was, “African Americans and the Vote”.

Rev. Reginald S. Floyd, Esq., Director of Institutional Advancement at Morris College, was the guest speaker. In attendance for the program was, the Sumter School District Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Penelope Martin-Knox.
The annual Religious Emphasis Week services will take place February 25 - 28. Services will be held Tuesday through Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Neal–Jones Auditorium. The evening services will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the O.R. Rueben Chapel. The speaker for the week will be Reverend Dr. Robert C. Scott, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Mid-Winter Banquet will be held on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center. The speaker for the occasion will be Reverend Dr. Ralph D. West, pastor of the Church Without Walls (Brookhollow Baptist Church, Houston, Texas). For more information please contact Rev. Melvin Mack, Director of Church Relations, in the Solomon Jackson, Jr. Administration Building, or at (803-934-3401).

The cost of the banquet is $50 per person.

The deadline for verifying cap and gown measurements for graduation is February 28, 2020. Please contact Mrs. Holmes in the Bookstore (803-934-3989) immediately to verify your measurements.
Hornet Nation let’s congratulate these students from Baptist Hill High School (Hollywood, S.C.). These scholars have conditionally accepted an offer to attend Morris College along with three others not pictured. Welcome to Hornet Nation!

The Career and Job Fair was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Garrick–Boykin Human Development Center. The Job Fair provided an opportunity for students and others to meet with prospective employers. Students were able to gather information concerning careers and job opportunities with various companies and agencies. Hats off to our Career Services for a job well done.

THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

· The financial aid application process has begun for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students who need assistance in completing their FAFSA may report to the Financial Aid Office for help.

· Students who have been awarded College Work Study for the spring semester and have not been placed in a job assignment need to report to the Financial Aid Office immediately.

· All students receiving the South Carolina Tuition Grant are requested to report to the Financial Aid Office immediately for assistance in writing and submitting their Tuition Grant Thank you letters.

· Students are reminded to register with UNCF scholarships at www.scholarship.uncf.org. You must complete the Student Profile and the General Scholarship Application. If you have already registered, you should check the website periodically for new scholarships.