Audience Challenged to Be Socially Responsible

The Neal-Jones Auditorium was a hub of enthusiasm on Thursday morning, November 7, as the Division of Business Administration held its annual assembly. The speaker was Dr. Kevin Richardson, the division’s newly appointed chair.

Speaking on the theme, “A World of Opportunity,” Dr. Richardson simplistically, yet substantially, talked about how the theme can be a life-developing way to move forward socially while being more responsible in the decision-making process. “We are here at Morris College,” he said, “to change the world.”

Descending from the stage to get closer to and personal with students, Dr. Richardson shared a story of an opportunity he missed to help change someone’s life. A young man came seeking his assistance in getting a job overseas. Richardson missed the opportunity because of the young man’s appearance. Continually making excuses for why he could not talk to the young man, he admitted that he did not see the opportunity to help change someone’s life. “I failed to see the student, his passion, or where the young man was going.” Richardson went on to say, “Sometimes, self or our ego will blind an opportunity. When ego outshines the opportunity or is larger than the authentic self, we begin to destroy ourselves.”

Stressing the importance of social responsibility, Dr. Richardson presented a very brief video to show how we can accomplish anything when we stand in unity and work together. He challenged students to change the world, be creative, innovative, to find value in each other, and be Morris College strong. His address ended with the audience standing on their feet affirming: “We can; We will!”

Dr. Richardson holds a doctorate in business and is currently pursuing a second doctorate in technology. He also holds a master’s degree in Information Systems Engineering, Industrial Psychology, and Natural Resources and Sustainability.

He has 25 years of experience as an active business technology consultant and solutions professional. His many areas of specialties include change management, infrastructure solutions, IT management consulting, data center technologies, disaster recovery, and enterprise solutions.

Student Leaders Morris College Strong!

Several student leaders joined Ms. Dinasia Nathan in accepting Dr. Richardson’s challenge. Affirming their unity and appreciation for the institution, the 2019-2020 Student Government President responded, We accept your challenge, and I am Morris College strong!”
Dr. Staggers Honored

The grand marshal of Voorhees College’s 2019 Homecoming Parade was one of its outstanding alumni, Dr. Leroy Staggers. Our distinguished president is also a 2019 Hall of Fame inductee. The ceremony took place during Voorhees’ Hall of Fame Banquet that was held on Friday evening, November 8. The parade took place on Saturday morning, November 9, in downtown Denmark.

Dr. Staggers joined the Morris College faculty in 1993 as an Associate Professor of English. He was later appointed Chairman of the then Division of Religion and Humanities and director of faculty development. For 16 years, he served as Academic Dean and Professor of English. Before coming to Morris College, his higher education experiences include having served as Chairman of the Division of Humanities and Assistant Professor of English at Voorhees.

Dr. Staggers was named the tenth president of Morris College on July 1, 2018.

Daughter of Morris College’s 7th President Succumbs

Professor Wilhelmina Matilda Reuben-Cooke, Esq., was the eldest of six children of the late Reverend Dr. Odell R. and the late Dr. Anna Mays Daniels Reuben. She made her “Transition to Glory” on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Professor Reuben-Cooke was one of the first five African-American undergraduate students at Duke University, where she opened doors and broke down barriers for generations of students of color who have followed. A Phi Beta Kappa member and a Woodrow Wilson Scholar, her election as Duke’s first African-American May Queen was noted in the New York Times.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Law School (1973), Professor Reuben-Cooke began her legal career in Washington, DC, as an Associate Attorney at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. She later became a Full Professor at the University of the District of Columbia’s (UDC) David A. Clarke School of Law, after serving as UDC’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Previously, she was Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Syracuse University’s College of Law. Earlier, as Associate Director of Georgetown University Law Center’s Institute for Public Representation. She engaged in and supervised litigation before the Federal Communications Commission and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Professor Reuben-Cooke is survived by 1st Lieutenant Edmund D. Cooke, Jr., her devoted husband; her adoring daughters, Ms. Wilhelmina Nilaja Cooke (IV) and Ms. Shani Malika Cooke; her loving siblings, Dr. Lucy J. Reuben (Dr. John A. Cole), Ms. Anna Marie Reuben, Mr. Odell R. Reuben, Jr. (Mrs. Earnestine Reuben), Dr. Jayne S. Reuben, Ms. Janice S. Reuben, and Mrs. Barbara Anne Sims (Mr. Thomas Sims Jr.), and numerous relatives and friends.

A private family service was held Thursday, October 29, 2019, at the Covenant Christian Community at Seekers Church, Washington, DC. A public memorial service will be held at the Duke University Chapel on the afternoon of December 14, 2019, in Durham, NC.

Professor Reuben-Cooke’s father was the seventh president of Morris College (1948-1970). Her mother started as an Instructor of English and History at the college (1948) and served as Academic Dean from 1973-1983. Dean Reuben was also President of the Woman’s Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina from 1978-1983.
Chairperson, Division of Business Administration

From Dr. Kevin Richardson’s bio that was printed in Thursday morning’s program for the Division of Business Administration, it is evident that he took every opportunity that came his way. When asked why he came to Morris College, he stated that it was the motivation and commitment of Dr. Jacob E. Butler, Interim Academic Dean, to the institution. The interview was unlike anything he had ever experienced, as Dr. Butler was very passionate about change and moving the college forward.

Hoping to add value to the college and the lives of students, Dr. Richardson has already gained the respect of his students by presenting himself as a genuine and authentic individual. Also, his interest in what he does has students asking questions and wanting to know more.

In keeping with the theme, "A World of Opportunity," Dr. Richardson believes that his experiences and knowledge will enable him as the leader of the division to help students understand that their being here presents a world of opportunity to them. The college's vibrant, innovative, and engaging new chair embraces the concept of storytelling to enhance what he does as a professor. "Narrative, which is the story we carry from generation to generation, is the only thing that connects us and links our lives.”

Accredited by the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs, the Division of Business Administration offers majors in Business Administration and Organizational Management.

Canvas With the Lambdas

"Canvas With the Lambdas" was one of the weekly activities sponsored by Phi Beta Lambda during Business Week.
In collaboration with the Kappa Beta Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, the Division of Business Administration held its annual assembly. This year’s theme, “A World of Opportunity,” is a reminder of the opportunities that exist for making a better world.

Ms. Shameka T. Perry (l) and Ms. Shateka A. Perry (r)
Freshmen, Biology Majors

“We enjoyed the assembly and the message Dr. Richardson delivered. It was full of inspiration and encouragement. We also admired his being passionate about taking advantage of every opportunity to help make a difference in the world.”

Mr. Derek Whack
Division Manager for Waffle House, Inc.

Mr. Whack, in addition to recruiting for Waffle House, shared with interested students the opportunities and benefits of working for his company.

Mr. Pairrion D. Whaley (l) and Ms. Sarah M. Johnson (r)
Freshman, Business Administration Major and Senior, Health Science Major

Mr. Whaley is majoring in Business Administration because he feels its curriculum and programs can prepare him to meet opportunities to help change the world.

Ms. Johnson, a Phi Beta Lambda member, enjoys the opportunities offered by the organization for professional and leadership development.

Mr. Isaiah W. Williams (l)
Phi Beta Lambda Member
Mr. Kevin Richardson (r)
Chairperson, Division of Business Administration

The Audience Chanting, “We Can; We Will!”

Business Administration Staff and Students
Handing Out Programs