The freshmen journey begins

Proper dress stressed during Orientation Week

By Marco Brooks

They said their good-byes and entered into another world of hellos. FRESHMEN. Graduating from high school with the status of seniors, now they are back at the bottom of the barrel, not to mention being classified as the Benedict College Class of 2007.

So, what is expected of the Freshmen Class? Why did they choose Benedict College? What training is required of them to earn their stripes?

These and other questions were discussed during this year’s Orientation Week for new students. Approximately 776 new students walked onto the campus this fall, partaking in a new life. In Tigerland the students were required to attend intensive training known as Freshmen Orientation, designed to equip the students with moral, emotional, and academic standards.

“Much emphasis is being placed on the dress code, to assure that the students obtain the appropriate business attire. It is very important that the students practice being leaders early in their community and school,” said Rufus Watts, director of Student Leadership Development, as he discussed the emphasis of Orientation Week. One of the points addressed during orientation was that dressing professionally needs to be practiced early. Therefore, by the students’ senior year, they will know the importance of having a professional look.

Senior Patrick Mills put it this way: “Wanting to be professional is nothing compared to actually looking like a professional. Preparing yourself in advance is the key to any beginning. Simply because a suit is just a small portion of the professional package.”

Orientation, which was coordinated by Angela Woodward, assistant director of Service Learning, was mainly focused on freshmen and sophomores with discussions and workshops on how the students can become professional leaders.

The students were told they are expected to wear business attire to seminar classes and campus functions. Each student was informed that he or she had to purchase a business suit, with the cost to be charged to his or her account. Students who already own a business suit, however, can present it to their seminar instructors, and they will not be charged for a new suit.

The orientation program lasted two weeks and included several activities: a pep rally, a fashion show, and such recreational activities as card games, pool, and a cookout.

“The activities were designed to help the new students learn how to work together, understand each other, and maintain under pressure,” said peer mentor DeJuan Taylor.

Katrina Pitts, an administrative assistant for Service Learning, asked what they hoped students gained from the orientation program, said, “It is our hope that the students will understand what Benedict College stands for and will uphold the true standards of the college. We want students to develop qualities to lead and to become true leaders, and not be influenced by the negative but the positive.”

Asked why he chose Benedict, freshman Christopher Peay said, “I chose Benedict College because I wanted to be close to home and...

Continued on page 3
Warning: Don’t ignore the W/A policy
It could affect your academic status

By Rayminda Miller
Staff Writer

Have you heard about the new W/A policy for this year? If not, then you are not alone. It seems that many students have not heard about it. The truth is the W/A policy is not new; it has been in the Benedict College Handbook since 1982 and it has been rigidly put into effect since last spring.

W/A is a grade, based on attendance. If a student accumulates seven unexcused absences, he or she can be dropped from the student’s academic status based on the Satisfactory Academic Progress Scale (SAPS).

Scott Blanks, senior advisor, said students need to make sure they carefully understand the W/A policy, as well as their overall academic standing. “Many students have no idea what is going on because they think their advisor is going to ‘baby’ them and make sure that everything is okay, and they’re wrong. It’s their responsibility to see that all of their academic information is correct.”

Full-time students who have a minimum of 32 attempted credit hours must meet the quantitative and qualitative goals of the SAPS. (For part-time students the minimum credit hour is 1). The quantitative scale consists of the number of credit hours that a student is attempting and the amount of credit hours that must be earned. Students must earn at least two thirds of the hours they are attempting. The qualitative scale demands that for whatever number of credit hours a student earns, he or she must have a specific minimum grade point average.

Most of the student academic dismissals last school year occurred because those students didn’t meet the requirements of the quantitative scale, the set number of hours that could be dropped and the number of classes withdrawn from or accumulated over a four-year period. II students do not meet the SAPS requirement, one of three consequences could happen: (1) Probation; (2) A maximum one year suspension from the college; (3) Dismissal from the college.

Even if a student drops a class, that still is considered an attempted credit, and shows up as a W/C (withdraw or dropped class), which could affect the student’s quantitative progress.

“One of the biggest problems is that some students are not going to class... They need to understand that we are serious... We will send them home.”
—Richard Miller, Vice President

Assembly speaker Les Brown motivates students on healthy living, finances and wealth

By Sherry Prince
Staff Writer

Benedict College’s first All College Assembly this semester gave students insight into how to achieve a healthy and promising future.

With the theme “Changing the Legacy,” Les Brown, a professional motivational speaker, author, and television personality, gave a packed Benedict audience of students, faculty, and staff much to hope for.

In a powerful and motivating speech — his visit was sponsored by Benedict’s Student Health Services department and the Palmetto Health Alliance — Brown touched by Benedict’s Student Health Service assembly speaker, Leslie Brown, a very successful business entrepreneur himself, gave some very practical advice to achieve wealth. “You have to think wealthy. You have to think about your personal goals and how you plan to achieve them. Those who have money will have access. The rest will die,” he stressed.

Brown continued to repeat the phrase ‘you got to be hungry’. “You have to know what you want, and go after it,” he said. “In order to become successful, you must be willing to do today what others won’t do. In order to have the things tomorrow that others won’t have. So as the 2003-2004 school year begins, remember your dreams. Stay focused, and remember, your health is your wealth. You got to be hungry.”

“Are you hungry?” he asked.

The shouts and prolonged applause from the audience told him yes.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVERS:
Three environmental health science majors spend summer conducting research at Savannah River laboratory

By Rosemary Forrest
Contributing Writer

Three recent Benedict graduates — William Drayton, Tanjeree Paulin, and Carol Stricklin — spent a ten-week period at the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and on the Edisto and Ashepoo Rivers of South Carolina (the ACE Basin) this summer conducting some important research for the laboratory.

The three students - May 2003 graduates - were nominated for the research project, which involved field training and laboratory research, by Environmental Health Science faculty member and program chair Milton Morris, who is on the advisory board of the Savannah River Site Science and Field Station.

Morris said students are selected for the research project as part of a collaborative agreement between the Savannah River Laboratory, Benedict College, and South Carolina State University.

Benedict has sent other students to the project in the past, he said, and given them some very valuable training and research experience.

The three students who went this year loved it, he added.

Paulin, who is from St. Stephens, worked with Dr. Charles Jago and Heather Brant looking at the effects of salinity on mercury uptake in fulid crabs. Drayton, who is from Charleston, worked with Drs. J. Vasin McArthur and Ramunas Stepanauskas looking at ways to prepare bacteria for study without killing them. Stricklin is from Columbia. All three were environmental health science majors.

Paulin suspected that the bioavailability of mercury might be lower in salt marsh than in fresh water. Mercury, a poisonous metallic element, is present in the ACE Basin. She compared samples taken from both the ACE Basin and freshwater areas and examined the relationship between crab body size and mercury concentration. An analysis of 141 specimens showed no size difference among the two groups.

Drayton compared various processes for counting bacteria including flow cytometry, centrigufing and microscopy. He used six different types of sediment ranging from sandy to heavily organic from the ACE Basin. He found the flow cytometry, which uses fluorescent dyes and laser light, is faster than other methods and can count live bacteria.

The students were part of SREL’s annual Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, funded by the National Science Foundation.
Faculty had rich experiences abroad this summer

BY DRONNE CHANDLER STAFF WRITER

Several Benedict faculty did so much traveling this summer, you could almost say they were not lagging behind students studying abroad in different countries. Ghana visit

A select group of 14 highly educated professors, teachers, and administrators were selected to go abroad to Ghana, West Africa, from June 2 to July 2, 2003. The trip was linked to a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright grant, which they applied and were accepted for. The intent for this expedition was to immerse faculty in Ghanaian and other African cultures, so that they could teach what they learned in their disciplines and schools and enhance their existing courses and curricula.

After applying and qualifying for the Fulbright grant, which paid for their travel, the Fulbright participants, including Benedict faculty, pose for a picture in front of the W.E.B. DuBois Monument in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. Shown with them is Akon Nkrumah, son of the late President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

The Fulbright participants, including Benedict faculty, pose for a picture in front of the W.E.B. DuBois Monument in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. Shown with them is Akon Nkrumah, son of the late President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

have been producing for the last 70 years. “African American literature no longer focuses solely on slave narratives or protest literature,” he said. “It has become more narcissistic and some of it devalues African Americans.”

Few scholars really understand African American culture, however, he said. “They know how to appropriate it, but they don’t know anything about its origins or what inspires it. They are mainly (acquainted with) the European culture.”

On his France and Austrian trip, paid through a fellowship, Qualls was able to share his work with other experts in the field of African American literature. Qualls has also has been working on a book, set to be published in January 2004, called “Post Rebellion Fiction: The Continued Journey in African American Literature.”

Editor’s Note: If other faculty, staff, or students would like to share their study abroad, foreign, educational, or unique experiences of this summer, please contact the Tiger newsroom at TigerNews@benedict.edu or call 253-5297.

New counseling initiatives and services aid students

BY TERRELL BRYANT STAFF WRITER

If you are feeling down and think no one understands what you are going through, you might want to give Benedict’s Counseling, Testing Services and Special Student Services a visit.

The department offices are located in BC Care, as it is aptly named.

Students who may feel their whole world is collapsing from under their feet. “We consider ourselves to be advocates for students,” said Weeks. “They can come to us if they have issues or concerns about things going on in or around campus.”

One of the services offered is a “We Care” program, for students who may have an illness or death in the family. They can contact the office to intervene for them with teachers and administration, so that they won’t fall behind or become subjected to withdrawal.

The tutoring services also focus on many, many years, provide help to students who need tutoring, readers or note takers in the classroom. She also implements a “We Care” program, for students who may have an illness or death in the family. They can contact the office to intervene for them with teachers and administration, so that they won’t fall behind or become subjected to withdrawal.

The two offices also serve as a testing and a group sessions center. Administered tests can be given to select or special needs students and educational outreach can take place on several self help topics.

The Counseling and Testing Services department is also currently working on new initiatives involving helping students in areas related to substance abuse prevention and awareness information on sexually transmitted diseases. They have formulated an Alcoholic and Other Drug Prevention Task Force initiative, whose aim is to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, as stated in its philosophy and mission statement.

Both departments feel strongly about helping students and encouraging them to seek help for problems or preventing problems before they occur. “My doors are always open,” said Knightner. “I want to help assist students in any way I can.”

SGA

Continued from page 1

ing a coat drive this fall. For this event, the officers will solicit coat donations from the faculty, staff and students as well as other residents of Columbia, and distribute them to the needy.

In addition, they are also working on a Christmas toy drive. Francis said that no child should be without at least one present for Christmas.

And of course there is Homecoming! The SGA members are hoping to line up such acts as Loon, T.I., Youngblood, and Floetry for this year’s entertainment. Francis assures students that there will be a host of other activities that will “blow your mind,” he stated. Students should be prepared for another fashion show because “we are focused on change,” he said.

Continued from page 1

because I heard the Social Work department was excellent here. I also wanted to gain that black experience. I knew attending Benedict would give me that, along with an education.”

Seminar Instructor Laronda Robinson commented on what she hopes for new students. “We are hoping that the legacy will contin-ue with the next batch of students. All the students come here ‘striped,’ but by the time their senior year arrives they will have taken many steps. I encourage the stu-

ents to strive to earn their stripes.”

Freshmen

Peer mentors, looking on at one of the orientation sessions in the chapel, helped assist the new freshmen during the summer new student orientation.

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Environmental justice is a movement that involves social, political, and spiritual aspects... We want to increase environmental justice knowledge. People are sick and dying of various pollutants... The environmental justice learning conference, whose theme was “There Is Hope,” was spread over three days. Dr. Samuel said the committee is already planning for next year’s conference, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2004. This year’s conference had numerous sponsors, committee members, and special volunteers and included keynote or plenary speakers: Jim Connolly of the Environmental Law Clinic from the University of South Carolina; Dr. William Gunn, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department; Dr. Robert Wingfield, a professor of chemistry and an environmental justice researcher from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Larry Lowe, chair of the Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Health Science department; S.C. Rep. Joseph Neal; and Harold Mitchell, director of Regenesis Project in Spartanburg.

THE FIFTY POINT CLUB:
Highly motivated English lab students more than make the grade

Mary Linda Samuel

BY ANNE COLGATE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At the end of the fall 2002 semester, 20 freshmen assigned to the English Lab should have earned 30 points to be applied toward their grade for efforts in their freshmen composition courses. Many students made the grade, but there were those who clearly valued the opportunity to earn even more points because a flexible point system allowed students to attend as many labs as they wanted and work for extra credit. While tallying the points for each student, I realized that five students had earned 50 or more points! I was pleased that these students took the initiative to go beyond the requirement; they were self-directed. Being self-directed is right out of the Affective Domain of Bloom’s Taxonomy — the ultimate frontier for this instructor as I thought back in the classroom. To give recognition for the student’s effort, I posted an announcement on the classroom cabinet and Lab door in 48-point font. The Fifty Point Club. Students who had 50 or more points in Fall lab: Shavon Fouche, Micheal Goodwin, Jasper Gurley, Latoya Rapp, and Tina Williams. When the lab students returned for the spring semester, I pointed to the names on the door and recognized those returning Club students with praise. The students knew that the 50 Point Club was not a formalized club, but just a title to denote that these students were special in terms of their achievement. It wasn’t long before other students, however, started saying that they wanted their names posted and some friends who had lab together began competing against each other to make the most lab points.

By the end of the Spring semester, some lab students who had come close to making 50 points asked to do extra credit work to make the Club, while those students who had planned more carefully were making the Club, with 56, 52, 50, 72 and the highest score of all — 80 points! (For Jasper Gurley, 80 is his personal best. He thinks there needs to be a lab of Fame Club were!).

Whether or not the Club will formalize itself is not as important as the fact that it managed to sustain itself for two semesters, and more than tripled in membership, including two of the original members. (One no longer had lab; one didn’t make the grade this time; one failed to come.) Now the entire length of the cabinet and Lab door will feature the following: The Fifty Point Club. Students who had 50 or more points in Spring Lab: Brittany Berry, Kimberly Brown, Delmeria Callaway, Jondale Dorch, H. Chisholm, Keosha Cooke, Franower Grant, Jasper Gurley, Lisa LaCox, Bovel Mahser, India T. Puch, Paulette Royal, Sherika Tinesdale, Christopher Whitaker, Nativia Williams and Shavon Wilson. I am very proud of these students and am confident that their instructors will appreciate the fact that these students gave “the old college try.”

Editor’s Note: Ms. Colgate, who is the Learning Specialist for the English Lab, wanted to share all of the wonderful successes of her lab students. Tiger News welcomes reports or articles on other success stories in and out of the classroom. Contact TigerNews@benedict.edu

THE LITERARY AWARDS COMMITTEE PRESENTS.....

A LITERARY CONTEST for Benedict Students
Deadline for Entries November 15, 2003

Submit your original work today (not previously submitted or published elsewhere). Poems (up to 20 lines, do not have to rhyme, nor any restrictions on meter, stanza, etc.). Short Stories (500 to 2500 words). One-Act Plays, and Essays
Entries will be judged anonymously. One entry per category, typed or computer generated, double-spaced, one page per. No handwritten entries. Each submission must be the author’s unpublished original work. Plagiarism will immediately disqualify entries. Send a cover page with the title of the entry, author’s name, phone number, and student ID number to the contest committee at Fisk University in a college ceremony and may be published in the Benedict Tiger or a literary magazine.

For more information, contact: Ms. Charles Brooks, FAHC 325. Further rules available in the Fine Arts/English Department offices.

Benedict’s health science program conducts major environmental justice listening conference

BY WAFFEF ZARFI STAFF WRITER

David A. Dorch is prepared to fight for environmental justice, even if it means losing another job. On August 21-23, the Benedict College Environmental Health Sciences Program, along with the Environmental Protection Agency, sponsored an Environmental Justice Listening Conference at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in northeast Columbia.

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and involvement of all people when developing, implementing, and enforcing environmental laws. Several of the speakers at the conference suggested that potentially polluting corporations skip over affluent neighborhoods and set up shop in mostly minority ones because they know the predominantly minority community most likely lacks the resources to fight them.

Dorch, a member of the leadership team in the activist environmental group Concerned Citizens Against Toxic Contaminants, spoke on the need for community organizing and accountability.

He said that a company has been dumping chemicals in the wetlands of the town of Williston since the 1960’s, but the people in the community weren’t told.

“It’s affecting the population of the elementary and high schools because it is polluting the ground water,” said Dorch, who feels he has been labeled a troublemaker because the people of Williston are ignorant about what is going on.

“It’s about poverty and ignorance. When people are ignorant, they can come in and do these things,” said Dorch.

“We go to hearings and don’t get heard. People in the community don’t want to hear from us because they’re ignorant and scared,” he said.

Dorch holds local ministers particularly responsible for this ignorance. In his area, he said, churches get money for new buildings, then he sarcastically asked, “Where’s the money coming from?”

“Once you get the ministers silenced, you can keep the community in check,” Dorch said in an interview.

Benedict’s Assistant Director of the Environmental Health Science Program, Dr. May Linda Samuel, who chaired the steering committee that planned this major conference on Columbia, cited Williston as an inspiration for the conference.

“Environmental justice is a movement that involves social, political, and spiritual aspects,” said Samuel.

“We want to increase environmental justice knowledge. People are sick and dying of various pollutants. The mercury and lead contamination in the lake at Sesquicentennial Park can cause learning disabilities,” she said.

Samuel also cited what is happening in another South Carolina city, Allendale, as an example of environmental injustice taking place.

Virginia Sanders, of the South Carolina Sierra Club, spoke on water and air issues. She said this state has a poor history in dealing with environmental issues. “South Carolina has lax environmental laws,” she said.

“The rest of the country sees South Carolina as a dumping ground for what they don’t want. In the past, we thought that was what we’d have to settle for to get (money making) industries,” said Sanders.

Sanders also said the situation is worse in minority areas. “It’s understood if a landfill is built, it goes into a black community,” said Sanders, who later said that people take air and water for granted.

“They think they’ll always be here, and that’s not true,” she said. “Our main job is to educate the public on these issues. If we pollute all our water, we can’t just reacquisition more,” she said.

The environmental justice learning conference, whose theme was “There Is Hope,” was spread over three days. Dr. Samuel said the committee is already planning for next year’s conference, to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2004.

This year’s conference had numerous sponsors, committee members, and special volunteers and included keynote or plenary speakers: Jim Connolly of the Environmental Law Clinic from the University of South Carolina; Dr. William Gunn, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department; Dr. Robert Wingfield, a professor of chemistry and an environmental justice researcher from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Larry Lowe, chair of the Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Health Science department; S.C. Rep. Joseph Neal; and Harold Mitchell, director of Regenesis Project in Spartanburg.
BENEDICT'S BAND: Not Drumline, the movie, but a styling, musical reality

BY TAWAIN E. KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Unlike the popular movie Drumline, starring Nick Cannon, about life in an HBCU band, the real life of an HBCU band is much different. While many of the scenes from the movie stretched the truth, the real deal about an HBCU band is not a myth. Take a look at Benedict’s own proud marching 90. Like Drumline, BC’s band has fancy moves and drummers’ beats, “but it’s more to the band than the drums,” as one band member says. “It is about hard work, dedication, and total commitment.”

“We have some ‘off the chain’ drumming and fancy moves,” says its member, “but it’s more to the band than the drums.”

Through the hard work and dedication of these two stars, Benedict’s band is becoming one of the region’s best.

The band came into fourth place recently at the Battle of the Bands competition in Charlotte, N.C. The band performs tirelessly throughout the year for athletic games, fests, and numerous events. The band has been in the top five competitions around the region and has gotten many accolades and positive encouragement from other established band programs, such as Howard University’s, North Carolina A & T’s and Florida A & M University’s, which have been around for decades.

Benedict’s latest band program is fairly new — just seven years old — but it is making its presence felt. The program has grown from little more than 25 members in 1996 — it came in the same year as the rest of Benedict’s football program — to about 90 members today.

Much of the reasons for the band’s phenomenal success in so short a time is with the director and assistant director. Both are strong believers in hard work and in bringing in fine talent.

Said Assistant Director Bell: “(Daniels) and I are both graduates of Alabama State University, where we were both under Dr. Thomas Lile (imminent band director) and his philosophy was instilled in us, to always try to build quality over quantity.

“We would rather have a 100 piece band that’s excellent than a 200 piece band that’s sloppy. We try to instill in our members’ integrity, pride, and work ethic. Budget time, time on task, as we say. That really means a lot.”

“We have to practice, practice, practice to become proficient. We tell our students the perks don’t come without the work… what keeps them going is that they want to be good. That’s what drives them.”

As the directors continued to talk about what drives the members, the band practiced in the background, mixing horns, winds, and drums, playing one of Steve Wonder’s songs. Their blend was so clear, and as their “Jazz Band Let Me Whip it” came in, the horns sounded louder and hotter. Tapping my feet to the beat, they practiced another one of the summer’s hottest jams. “Crazy In Love.”

The music made me want to get out my seat and go. Beyoncé would know to hear this band, but they didn’t stop there. They took their styling to a new level, breaking it down for Heather Headly’s “I Wish.”

After their practice session, the band members shared some of the secrets of their closeness and commitment.

“We have become one big family,” said Tayi Sewell, the only female tuba player in the band. Daniels and Bell are not only the leaders of the band, she said, they also represent father figures to them. Sewell, along with first year band members Maria Olge of Columbus, Ohio and Ahmad Eddy of Monks Corner, spoke about the hard work and dedication the members have.

During band camp in August, members practiced four times a day with practice beginning at 4 a.m. Once school started, the practices continued. Now they practice every times later.

Not only do they have to practice the music, they have to learn the moves and precision steps. Band members are also expected to read their music and learn what ever style the band is focusing on at the time.

For incoming freshmen, transitioning from high school band to college band can be hard, sometimes, especially if you are used to one style of playing, but they have adapted.

Sewell and Eddy said they were on a “core style band” high school, so they had to adjust to actually stepping as a form of marching. The band’s recent participation in the Charlotte competition was a great learning experience, they said.

Band president Mekesharia Williams said the competition was a challenge. “We had to deal with the heat; a lot of students were not used to that kind of weather. But we were up for the challenge.”

The band is a job, she continued. “It’s our job to entertain those who come to the games. We keep the spirit alive by entertaining the fans.”

When new members come on board — 47 incoming freshmen joined this fall — the first thing they have to learn is how to be big brothers and sisters to each other. Some members of the band dropped out, said Williams, because they felt it wasn’t like the movie Drumline. “No, the band is not like the movie,” said Nevell Bien, band vice president. “We work hard; some students cannot adjust to that fact. They couldn’t separate reality from fact. Our practices are not easy, unlike the movie. This is real life, this is our job, and we are doing it. It takes all the instruments to make the band.”

Speaking of the band’s closeness to directors Daniel and Bell, band member Cortin Gordon, a senior, said, “They are like father figures to every member. They guide us to be our best, not just being a good band member, but a good person. They instill values in each member which makes them excellent role models.”

Oree Simmons, one of the band’s three drum majors, said, “Being a drum major is not an easy job, but we hope we are doing a good job. We practice sometimes up to four times a day, but we enjoy what we do.”

Not only do they have to practice constantly, but the band members also have to keep a good grade point average. Several members have a 3.0 GPA or higher. “We give 120 percent in everything we do,” said Simmons, who credits the band directors with instilling in them the desire to strive for more. Felicia Burley, the first female drum major for the band, added, that though the work is hard she was selected for drum major because she has shown that she is a leader. “Some of the guys test me and it’s all in fun, to see if I’m strong enough to be in the position. But I don’t let anyone keep me down. If you have goals, you should go after them. Don’t let someone steal that away from you.”

Sometimes art does reflect reality. In some ways Drumline is like Benedict’s band, but in many ways it is not. Benedict’s band consists of individuals with goals; they are one unit. They are also strong individuals who want a lot out of life. This is a band that wants to be the best. They are one big family. “As one, we are strong,” as the mother in the movie Soul Food says. Benedict’s marching band is proving that’s true.

Band Director Daniel and Assistant Director Bell have many years of experience between them in music conducting, instrumentality, and directing. Besides his work with the marching band, Daniels directs Benedict’s jazz and percussion ensembles; Bell directs the brass ensemble and the jazz combo. The symphony ensembles mix jazz with hip-hop and classical music into what is essentially 20th century funk.
EDITORIAL

Leave the past in the past

BY ALI OMAR
EDITOR

I f we’re not careful, history is doomed to repeat itself. Ignoring the past will get you no where fast. It’s time to get back into the swing of things and realize it is time to get serious. Really. The longer you wait, the harder it is to catch up. Just ask the seniors.

For us returning students, we all know that last school year represented “the best of times and the worst of times,” as Charles Dickens so elegantly put it. For many of us students there was more “worse” than best: tuition increases, late registrations, a poor economy, financial freezes, and war, to name a few.

Dwelling on the past, however, will not fix your current problems. Let us hope you have learned from your mistakes and have moved on. Benedict’s Financial Aid and Enrollment departments sure did. The speed of registration this semester improved drastically compared to last year — didn’t it?

For the freshmen and new students, it doesn’t matter where you come from, it’s where you’re going. Life at Benedict is whatever you make it. There is really no perfect formula to making it through your first year of college, let alone all four years.

All I know is that your old lazy study habits need to take a back burner. College is no joke. Life rarely offers us second chances. I’m sure I’m not the only who has regretted slacking off or over estimating my memory for a final exam. Bad habits catch up with us sooner than we think.

No matter your classification, in my opinion, no one has it better than the other does. The freshmen are entering a whole new world where they are bound to learn more about themselves, while the seniors are doing the same by leaving the comforts of college life and starting their careers, in a virtually job-less economic climate.

As for the sophomores and juniors, they are trying to cope with constant changes and may be haunted by them until they finally leave.

Nevertheless, don’t put off things till spring semester what you can do fall semester. Take precautionary measures to assure your graduation. Hound your academic advisors; apply early for everything (financial aid, internships, graduate school, etc.), and remember if you drop classes, you are adding semester credits.

Let us hope you have learned from your mistakes and have moved on. Life at Benedict is whatever you make it. There is really no perfect formula to making it through your first year of college, let alone all four years.

Since Benedict is a Baptist based institution, I think, it is appropriate to say that the positive changes may not be there when you want them, but they will be there right on time.

Classifieds


WE HAVE A SUREFIRE WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. HIRE YOU TO INVENT IT.

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MUSIC REVIEW:

T.I., Young Bloodz and Nappy Roots’ new albums criticize the ignorance of the times

BY STERLING MCGLOWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Dirty South rapper T.I. representing S.W.A.T (south-west) Atlanta, Ga., swung by Columbia’s Palace night spot recently to promote his new album, “Trap Muzik.” The 22-year-old rapper, who has his own label called Grand Hustle, used to be signed to Ghetto-Vision/Arista Records. He recently renegotiated a contract with Atlantic Recording Corp., which now distributes his music. The album is selling well regionally and globally.

Some guest performers on the album include: Bun B of UGK, T.I.P (PSC), and Eight Ball and MJG. Don’t sleep on T.I.’s “IN Da Streets Pt.3” CD either. Trap Muzik is filled with head-nodding songs like “24’s,” “Look what I Got,” “Let’s Get Away,” and “Don’t My Job.” Jazze Pha and Kanye West, well-know producers, laced T.I. with some heat, along with many others.

Young Bloodz, also Atlanta natives, have a new album called “Drankin Patnaz” on So So Def recording, which merged with Arista Records. Their album has the new club banger “Damn” featuring Lil John, “Lane to Lane,” “Te quilla” and “Some Fools” (T.I. and PSC). The album is simply loaded with crunk-like tracks.

Dem country “boyz”, straight “outta” Kentucky are at it again with their sophomore album “Wooden Leather” on Atlantic Recordings. They still express country grammar and philosophy over the flame production. The track “Sick and Tired” has a con-cept to it. They seem to be fed up with ignorance, criticism and being pushed around.

Some other tracks like “Push On” have meaning and encouragement for those people struggling in the world. Their albums are designed to look at hip-hop music from another angle. The CD features special DVD “Half the Truth” footage.

‘Uncharted Waters’ on display at gallery

Three of the works on display as part of the “Uncharted Waters” exhibition now under way in Benedict’s Ponder Fine Art Gallery. Works are by faculty artists Gina Moore, Michael Hale, Susan Dugan, Tyrone Center, and John Wright. The exhibition will continue through Oct. 3.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

* Chapel/Worship Service every Sunday at 10:30 am

September:

18 FALL CONVOCATION (HRC Arena) 11 a.m.
19 Graduate School Visitation (Atlanta, Ga.) Pool Party (HRC Pool) 6 p.m.
24 Honors Summer Intern Symposium (School of Honors Lecture Hall) 6 p.m.
25 SERVICE LEARNING EXPO (Swinton Center) 8 a.m.
30 All College Assembly (Busi. & Econ) 11 a.m.

October:

3 Student Research Day (NO CLASSES)
6 Stress Management (Health Ctr) 6:30 p.m.
10 CORONATION / Fall Ball (HRC Arena) (Adam’s Mark Hotel) 8 p.m.
11 Hip-Hop Stomp Jam (Location TBA) 7 p.m.
10-15 MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS
15 Last day to Submit Svc Learning Forms

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Noonday prayer every Wednesday and Friday, SGA conference room
Bible study each Thursday, Starks Hall, 8 pm
B.A.S.I.C. meetings Thursdays, Starks Hall, 7 pm
Fellowship of Christian Athletes Tuesdays, Starks Hall, 8 pm
Praise Service, Antisdal Chapel Sept. 19, 7 pm
First Calvary worship service Sundays, Swinton Center, 10:30 am
Special Sunday worship service Sept. 28, Swinton Center, 10:30 am
Praise service TBA, Oct. 10, 7 pm
Special Homecoming Sunday worship service Oct. 28, Swinton Center, 10:30 am

(Call Rev. Prince at 253-5409 for more details)
Coach John Hendricks’ era starts on a good note

BY JASON JAMES
SPORTS WRITER

O n a hot and humid night, earlier this month in the highlands of North Carolina, Head Coach John Hendricks and the Benedict Tigers defeated the Elizabeth City Vikings 18-6.

The Tigers defense totally dominated the game. Forcing three fumbles, Benedict scored a touchdown and held the Vikings to a total of 45 offensive yards. Hendricks, who is also the defensive coordinator, had the Viking quarter backing the ground all night.

Both offenses came out of the gate hot but the Tigers scored first on a 27-yard pass from quarterback Calvin Drummond to Josh Grant. The Tigers failed on the extra point attempt, which would be a problem all night. Nevertheless, the Tigers would be the first half, 6-0.

Despite first half woes, the Vikings came out strong at the beginning of the third quarter. They returned a punt for an 81-yard touchdown. However, that would be the only time the Vikings would see the end zone.

In past games, the Tigers have had their share of fourth quarter problems. But cornerbark Lamar McGill and strong safety Gerod Washington would not let them lay down.

McGill served a crushing hit on one of the Viking running backs that woke up the Tiger sideline. They were further amazed on the next play when Washington forced a fumble that was picked up by cornerback Tony Wilson and ran in for an 11-yard touchdown.

With only a touchdown lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter, Hendricks felt confident enough to place his second team defense on the field. After forcing a Viking punt, the Tigers put the game away on a 27-yard pass from Drummond to number 84, Gerald Robinson.

Drummond was 8 for 26 with one interception and one touchdown. “It wasn’t pretty, but it was a team effort and we will take it,” said defensive linemen Herman Mc Cord, who led the Tigers in total tackles.

Promoters and events staff prepare for the second annual Palmetto Capital City Classic

BY BRYAN SIMON
SPORTS WRITER

T he Tigers are not only anticipating an upset victory over last year’s Palmetto Classic City winners, the South Carolina State Bulldogs, but Benedict as well as the rest of Columbia, it seems, are expecting one of the biggest football party bashs this town has seen at the upcoming second annual Palmetto Capital City Classic.

Columbia police, S.L.E.D and the University of South Carolina have teamed up to make this Classic a showstopper. The promotions team has been working to prevent traffic jam problems like the ones that occurred at last year’s Classic. The 2002 Classic was a success in terms of the numbers that turned out and the media coverage, but kinks needed to be worked out.

Bobby Gist of USC has partnered the Palmetto Classic marketing team to assure supporters that there will be few traffic problems on game day.

“We are preparing for at least 55,000 to 60,000 people (up from last year’s total of over 46,000) at this year’s Classic,” said Gist.

Former South Carolina State head football coach Willie Jeffries was on hand at a kick off press conference on campus, as well as Benedict’s director of Athletics Willie Washington.

They spoke to the media about the events surrounding the game between the historic rivals that will take place Sept. 23-28. Game kickoff is 4 p.m. at Williams Brice stadium.

Several pre and after game events are being planned including a coaches media luncheon, a blood drive, step show and a jazz and R&B social.

Head football coach John Hendricks spoke briefly on the Classic predicting that his team will come into the game with a two game winning streak. He hopes that someday the Palmetto Capital City Classic will rival such classics as the Battle the Border and the Bayou Classic, also sponsored by State Farm.

Tickets can be purchased at outlets throughout Columbia such as Publix’s grocery chain. Ticket master’s, and the National Guard Armory.

A satellite ticket office for Classic tickets has also opened at 2363 Taylor St. near the main campus. Ticket costs range from $15 to $25 for the football game. For more information call (803)255-8903 or visit www.palmettocapitalcityclassic.com.

Volleyball Tigerettes eager to pounce

BY McKIEFER JONES
SPORTS WRITER

A fter coming off a promising season last year, the Tigerettes are looking to exceed their third place finish in the S.I.A.C earlier this year.

Head coach Gwendolyn Rouse strongly believes her squad will leave spectators amazed this season.

The team already captured their first win over Morris College earlier this month. 30-21, 30-21, 30-23. “I expect for a big improvement this year because the team has bonded as one,” said Rouse.

The Tigerettes are built around strong leaders and supporting bench players who look to finish on top of the conference this season. Seniors Tia Wilson and Reenoshia Ashford should be ready to accept major roles in the team’s success and make a big impact on the volleyball court as well.

Coach Rouse has ignited a flame that she predicts will never burn out because the Tigerettes believe that they can succeed at anything. Their blueprint is clear: Take No Prisoners!

Rouse hopes members of the BC family will come and support the Tigerettes volleyball team and see what they have been missing.

BC FOOTBALL

Upcoming Sports Events

September:

19 Volleyball - Tri-Match (HRC Arena) 4 p.m.
20 Football - BC @ Morehouse 7 p.m.
26 Palmetto Classic Pep Rally (Finley Park) 5 p.m.
27 PALMETTO CLASSIC GAME (Williams-Brice Stadium) 6 p.m.
30 Volleyball - BC vs. Winston-Salem (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.

October:

1 Volleyball - BC vs. Morris (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.
7 Volleyball - BC vs. Columbia (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.
9 Volleyball - BC vs. Fort Valley (HRC Arena) 5 p.m.
11 Football - BC vs. Clark Atlanta (Balden Stadium) 5 p.m.
13 Volleyball - BC vs. Miles (HRC Arena) 5 p.m.
15 Volleyball - BC vs. Claflin (HRC Arena) 6 p.m.

Attention clubs, organizations, departments, programs: All information for the October 03 issue must be received in the Tiger newspaper by Wed., Oct. 1 or earlier.

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