Campus and the world mourns the passing of Mrs. Coretta Scott King

By JEREMIAH M. COLSON

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he recent passing of the ‘first lady of the Civil Rights Movement’ Coretta Scott King came as a shock to many Benedict students, faculty and staff as well as people from around the world.

An outpouring of sentiments was expressed by many here over the loss they felt for Mrs. King, a woman who came to symbolize the teamwork and unity of those who worked long and hard to fulfill the dream of the Movement.

Here are some of their sentiments:

S. Malik Whitaker, J.D., Leadership Development Coordinator, TRiO Programs, Benedict College: “I couldn’t stop the tears from flowing this morning as I thought about what we lost today...beautiful, strong, a stoic leader, charming, a model of womanhood and grace...Coretta Scott King...As a 33-year-old, I was not there for the Civil Rights Movement of the 60’s, but I was made to understand the debt that I owed. She was a living icon. She was my connection to Malcolm, Martin, and the Movement. She was the mother that watched over her children as we sought to make our way in this harsh and crazy world.

She was that rock that stood by her man and her movement. She is what I will raise my daughter to be — morally courageous, dignified, a front line soldier for freedom and justice.

Theater professor Dr. Charles Brooks: “On the morning of Mrs. King’s passing I had woken early to check the weather report, and as I listened to it, I heard that she had passed. I mourned immediately. I did not mourn for her death, but instead for her life because along with Dr. King, she represented the end of an era. Unlike today’s generation that is seemingly unaware, and do not participate, hers was a struggle for first class citizenship for all.”

Continued on page 6

College officials express mild satisfaction with Spring enrollment

BY JEREMIAH M. COLSON

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lthough Benedict’s enrollment figures for this Spring semester were down slightly from last year’s total, the number of new students enrolled was up compared to students in the same category last Spring, according to college officials.

 Ups and downs in student enrollment are nothing new; however, officials said they were pleased if not entirely satisfied with the numbers.

According to Benedict’s official enrollment file, the overall number of students enrolled was expected to settle at about 2400 for this Spring, lower than it was in Spring 2005. The head count then was 2508 and the number of new students was 307, but as of early February, the number of new students was nearly 320.

Benedict’s Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness Gary E. Knight said the enrollment numbers were not without merit.

“Keep in mind we have had two scholarships since last Spring and the total number of new students has gone up compared to last Spring.”

Knight also attributed a portion of the decrease to a slow economy.

Asked what were the advantages of having higher enrollment numbers, Knight said, “The more students a college has, the more income it will have. The higher its income, the more flexibility it has in its budget.”

He extended thanks to all faculty, staff, administrators, and students who played their part in getting the enrollment figures to where they are now.

Broadband conference on campus

BY STAFF WRITERS

NADIA J. MUHAMMAD, T.J. HUNTER, AND JORRIE EDWARDS

Swinton outlines Benedict’s role in community development

President Swinton addressed a major technology conference on campus in late February. He outlined Benedict’s role in the development of the community surrounding the college and its involvement in helping to save the only African American founded bank in the state.

Conference touched on a variety of issues including the necessity of depressed and minority communities and towns getting in on the ground level of such new technologies such as broadband.

Tiger News will have more on the conference in next month’s issue.Gov. Mark Sanford was also among those addressing the gathering, which was sponsored by the college’s Division of Community Development and the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
Scholar-Poet Kwame Dawes stresses empathy for the less fortunate

“Empathy allows us to feel what another is feeling. It causes us to move into action.”  
Kwame Dawes

AIDS educator shares dangers about the disease and calls for awareness

“Don’t have to be that statistic. Don’t have to be infected. Do whatever it takes not to become infected with the virus.”

Stephanie Williams

Pepsi Bottling Group donates $100,000 for Benedict’s stadium

Pepsi Cola General Manager Bob Marshall hands over a generous check for $100,000 to President Swinton at a recent press conference.

“Having empathy can be the key to feeling. It causes us to move into action.”

Kwame Dawes

BY STEPHANIE JONES  
STAFF WRITER

It you missed this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Celebration assembly, then you missed an extraordinary event.

On January 17th, in Antisdel Chapel, the Benedict College family had the pleasure of being entertained and enlightened by the Benedict College Gospel Choir, a rendition of Dr. King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” performed by theater professor Charles Brooks, and a speech given by guest speaker Dr. Kwame Dawes.

Dawes, born in Ghana in 1962, is an award winning poet, scholar and writer of South Carolina English professor. Dawes has published nine collections of poetry, one of which won the Forward Poetry Prize of the United Kingdom. He has also edited two major anthologies, a collection of short stories and poems, and two critical studies of reggae music.

In addition to his literary, scholarly, and professorship work, Dawes was recently named founding director of the University of South Carolina Poetry Initiative. He is also founder of the South Carolina Poetry Initiative.

Dawes was presented to the college by Assistant Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Gwendolyn Green, a former student of his. She shared a nostalgic story of her graduate school days in one of Dawes’ classes. After her presentation, Dawes gave a speech that was both thought provoking and amusing.

His speech was centered on the human imagination, empathy, and the importance of the arts.

Dawes stated that “having an imagination is what helps people to get by day to day. If you can see past what is going on in your life today, then you will be lost.”

Dawes also stated that if you want your dreams to come true, you must possess both an imagination and a plan.

He also touched on the importance of empathy in everyone’s life. He said the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr possessed empathy which allowed him to bring great compassion and understanding to his work.

“Empathy is one of the most important feelings that humans can have,” said Dawes. “Empathy allows us to feel what another is feeling. It causes us to move into action.”

Dawes commented that he believes that by participating in the arts as well as reading literature, people can both educate themselves as well as strengthen their empathy for other humans.

He opened and closed his short but powerful speech with a very interesting poem that reads, “When God created the black child, he was just showing off.” Then he asked the question “Now that the child is grown, is he still showing off?”

According to Dawes, the poem means that African Americans are capable of accomplishing anything they want, but oftentimes they stifle their own abilities with their lack of imagination and lack of empathy for others.

He encouraged the audience to hear their imaginations and empathy for others to help them to become the successful people they were created to be.

Williams’ remarks seemed to really hit home when she explained her own story with AIDS. She said she was infected with the HIV virus in September 1991 by a young man who did not inform her he was HIV positive.

“What’s sad is that I’ve been doing this for 10 years (speaking to people about AIDS),” she said. “And still the same number of people are infected every year.”

Williams said young adults must educate themselves on all sexually transmitted diseases, she insisted. “Use condoms, practice abstinence, and even talk to friends and family about the issue.”

“There is still much to be done. The main thing to do now is to educate the community at large. Assume everybody has something, and please use precautions.”

Williams told the assembled, held in Antisdel Chapel.

“It’s time for a change,” she kept repeating. “We’ve been walking and doing these assemblies, but the numbers are still the same.”

LaToya Davis, a sophomore business major, said Williams’ remarks were uplifting. “She is a strong woman trying to help educate everyone. Everyone should follow her advice and practice safe sex.”

Anyone desiring more information can contact Williams at the S.C. African American HIV/AIDS Council (SCAAHAC) at 803-254-6644.
Celebrating a proud African American heritage
Benedict hosts 19th annual Black History Teleconference

BY JUSTIN “JUZ” COOPER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Benedict College hosted its 19th annual Black History Teleconference in February, as the decade wound to a close with various symposiums throughout the college campus. The centralized theme promoted at the teleconference, “The Struggle Continues: Celebrating Communi- ty: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions,” served as the springboard for lectures and debates by the distin- guished guests, many of whom pro- moted their ideologies of the importance that historically black colleges and universities hold for them personally and to society in general.

Dr. Marianna White Davis, executive director of the teleconference and special assistant to President David Swinton and president of CW Johnson, stated in the teleconference notes/program, “How can any educated or uneducated Black American say – ‘We do not need Black Colleges.’” Look at Howard, Fisk, Benedict, Spellman, Morehouse, Bennett, Hampton, Hampton, Claflin, Lincoln, and Allen… these are examples of the private colleges that have made a difference in all of our lives.”

Prior to the teleconference, six workshops were held in the Swin- ton Center simultaneously. The workshops began with legal advisor Douglas Brackett and closed with veterinarian Dr. John Hardy addressing the faculty, staff, and students.

Prominent guest speakers on the teleconference included: Benedict College President and Benedict College alum- nus Aty. Douglas Brackett of New York, N.Y.; archivist Oscar L. Har- ris of Atlanta, Ga.; educational con- sultant Dr. Willie J. Kimmonts of Dayton, Fla.; and Dr. John Hardy of Palis Verdes Estates, Calif., Irene McCollom of Orangeburg, South Atlantic Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc.; Donald Rozier, owner of food franchises from Stamford, Conn., and attor- ney/CFA Donna B. Coxum of Hay- ward, Calif.

After the various workshops with the guests concluded, the program shifted to Antimel Chapel for a plea- nary session. With nearly 100 stu- dents and faculty members being ushered by members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, the program includ- ed music by high schools, Earl Claire trombone choir and the Keenan High string orchestra. In her remarks, AKA-South Atlantic Director McCollon stated, “In life we are carpenters. Life is a do it yourself project… with high ideals and high expectations.” Sup- ported by the sentiment of celebrat- ing community distinguished guest, Harris cited the well known saying, “It takes a community to raise a child.”

The telecast was a joint production of Benedict College, along with South Carolina Educational Televi- sion (SCETV), in association with The Public Broadcasting System (PBS). The telecast consisted of six high school students and one Benedict College student who won the lottery ticket for Benedict College and the ticket came through for $200,000. Johnson has what? I won the lottery and I want to give it to the college.”

But Johnson put it simply, “I bought the lottery ticket for Bene- dict College and the ticket came through for $200,000.” Johnson has since presented a check to Swinton for $200,000. Johnson was also a professional football player for the San Francis- co-49ers and the Baltimore Colts.

Some New Orleans’ students haven’t returned to their colleges

BY KRISTEL ROLLE, EDITOR

Since hurricane Katrina dev- astated the city of New Orleans in August last year, things have been pretty much gotten back to nor- mal— or as normal as they can get — after so much of the city was damaged and destroyed. All of New Orleans’ six col- leges have resumed classes, but with only about three fourths of the student population that was in place before the hurricane. An estimated 11,500 evacu- ated students still have not returned to school after a several- ter off.

As residents and business owners struggle to get their lives back in order, college students remember on the days before the hurricane and friends who have left and enrolled else- where. Approximately one fourth of the city’s 43,000 co-

University of New Orleans (UNO) was damaged and destroyed. When President David Swinton first learned Johnson’s plan, he couldn’t believe it. “He said, ‘Guess what? I won the lottery and I want to give it to the college.’” But Johnson put it simply, “I bought the lottery ticket for Benedict College and the ticket came through for $200,000.” Johnson has since presented a check to Swinton for $200,000. Johnson was also a professional football player for the San Francis- co-49ers and the Baltimore Colts.

BC Board Chairman donates $200,000 lottery winning to Benedict

Louisville, Ken. — Benedict Col- leges Board Chairman David Johnson is a pretty successful business owner in Louisville, South Carolina school quite well. Johnson got a big financial boost earli- er this year, courtesy of a Kentucky lottery winner who knows this year, courtesy of a Kentucky lottery winner who knows this.

Nicknamed “The Big Easy,” the city of New Orleans is one of those places that seems to have something for everyone. If you’re tired of the hustle and bustle of the big city, you can take a step back and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of the Crescent City. New Orleans is known for its rich history, great food, and exciting nightlife. With so much to see and do, it’s no wonder why people flock to this city year after year.

The Louisiana area has a long and storied history. The city was founded in 1718 by the French, who named it after Louis XIV, the Sun King. The city has been a center of trade and culture ever since, attracting people from all over the world. Today, New Orleans is a Hub for tourism, as well as a major port on the Mississippi River.

In addition to its cultural attractions, New Orleans is also home to some of the best restaurants in the country. You can find everything from Creole cuisine to international dishes on the city’s many menus. And don’t forget about the famous New Orleans jambalaya, a dish made with rice, meat, and vegetables.

The city is also known for its vibrant night life. Whether you’re in the mood for a quiet evening or a wild party, you’re sure to find something that suits your fancy. The city is home to a number of bars and nightclubs that attract people from all over the world.

New Orleans is also a major center for the film and entertainment industry. The city has been the setting for numerous movies and TV shows, including “ Apocalypse Now,” “O Brother, Where Art Thou?,” and “Treme.” The city’s film industry has contributed significantly to the local economy, providing jobs for many people in the area.

In conclusion, New Orleans is a city that is full of history, culture, and excitement. Whether you’re a history buff, a food lover, or just looking for a good time, you’re sure to find something to enjoy in this amazing city. If you’re thinking about visiting New Orleans, I would highly recommend adding it to your travel bucket list. You won’t be disappointed!
Famed columnist Chuck Stone speaks for HBCU Newspaper Conference

Some current and former members of the Tiger News (above, left to right) – Tiger News Editor Keystyl Robii, Wafaa Zafar, Ashley Tillman, and Zakayyah Woods and their advisor (center) Mrs. G. Shabazz Abdul-Rashied met and greeted famed columnist and long-time writer Chuck Stone (in glasses), often dubbed the “Dean of the Black Press” at Benedict College during the annual HBCU Newspaper Conference and Job Fair held in February in Greensboro, N.C.

The conference, which was co-sponsored by Black College Wire and the New York Times, also consisted of various workshops at N.C. A&T University’s Mass Communication Building.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ROUNDUP

BC-CDC youth celebrate Black History Month with skits, poems, and songs

Community shows support for youth of Benedict College Child Development Center

BY R. NAZAMI ROBBINS CONTINUING WRITER

About 200 persons of the community came together to support the youth of Benedict College’s Child Development Center (CDC), as they presented the Black History Month program, “To Be Young Gifted and Black,” with emphasis on the topic, “We Can Tell the Story. Can You?” held in the Little Theater of the Henry Ponder Fine Arts and Humanities Center on campus in February.

Opening up with the statement, “We are not only here representing our past, but we are our future,” little Preston Taylor, a student at the CDC, gave the welcome address.

There were performances from the CDC, from infants to kindergarteners up to age five. Each age group represented a different era in black history. In her welcome address by giving a statistical overview of blacks in the United States, “There are approximate 20 million African American blacks in the United States, who make up 13.4 percent of the country’s population.”

Further elaborating her point of the significance of blacks in American society and history, Fabien reminded the audience, “We as black people must believe in our fight and not forget where we came from.”

Guest speaker Carrillo, a native of Englewood, N.J., of Afro-African descent, gave her take on the challenges that she faces as a black journalist in what she calls a “corporate media driven press.”

Carrillo, an accomplished journalist and photographer who specializes in covering African American and Afro-Latino history, literature, and politics, spoke with an afro-centric fervor to the audience.

Wearing her hair in a stylishly chic natural afro with African accoutrements in her hair, her wrist and neckline, she spoke candidly, yet with a serene approach to her endeavors, but Carrillo was proud being black… and as a journalist, I always try to talk to my people,” said Carrillo.

Exhorrning on her point of the differences between mainstream media and black journalism, Carrillo expressed her sentiments in that the black press she perceives has more creative freedom.

“The only difficulty I find in the black press is that times the pay isn’t enough,” Carrillo said.

In contrast, Carrillo advised the audience of the challenges that she faces when writing for the mainstream media. Citing what she has found in publications that do not reflect blacks negatively in the mainstream press, while the black press personalizes black issues in more detail, said the student, referring to news coverage concerning blacks in the United States.

Carrillo, who responded and continued to dialogue with the student during the question and answer section, concurred with his statement.

The student also gave an example of spin and different media approaches that the mainstream media presented during the hurricane Katrina disaster compared with the approaches by specialized and alternative media.

“An example of our negative portrayal in the mainstream media would be where there were photo-graphs of blacks wading through the flooded streets of New Orleans getting food. The mainstream media labeled them as looters, while their selfsame counterparts that were also victimized by the storm, were labeled as simply searching for food,” said the student questioner.

Carrillo again agreed with the student and in her closed addressing mass communication students directly. “It is the job of a journalist to report, educate, and inform your readers,” she told them.

Other highlights of the event included a twirling, hip twisting salsa dance routine “Mara-caniguerra” (mariajuana). Jackson gave an overview of the history of the dance story.

“It is the experience of a young boy experimenting with smoking grass. Its purpose is to show that it is not good to smoke grass.”

Jackson adjoined the program by reminding the audience to seek out black publications to read. She referred to the black press as “FUBU” (For Us By Us).

Carrillo’s articles and photographs have been featured in a plethora of publications throughout the United States and on an English-based website where Carri-lo writes for the “Americas” column.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOST ALL-COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

Afro-Puerto Rican writer challenges journalists of color to report on black issues in the Americas

BY JUSTIN “JUZ” COOPER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Presenting a lecture for the Black History Month program sponsored by the Office of International Programs, renowned journalist Karen Juanita Carrillo told the audience that corporate media often portray blacks negatively in the media.

Presented by Benedict College’s Office of International Programs, the all college assembly was held in the Swinton Center with about 70 students in attendance. Director of the Office of International Programs Dr. Norma L. Jackson hosted the event.

Mass communication student Kamila Fabien set the tone with her welcome address by giving a statistical overview of blacks in the United States. “There is approximately 20 million African American blacks in the United States, who make up about 13.4 percent of the population.”

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**FEATURES**

**Tidbits of wisdom from Kelly**

- "I believe that the number of HIV/AIDS cases on historic black campuses is much higher than one normally would think. As a matter of fact, someone who is sickly or even chronically ill is more likely to consider themselves HIV positive than someone who is healthy."
- "Four of my HIV positive friends passed away last year. Three had died of cancer and one had died of pneumonia. I told myself that HIV can share my body, but it can’t share my mind, my spirit, my hopes, my dreams."
- "What I have that really matters is a praying college whose students, faculty, and staff know me and continue to pray for me. I have the prayers of my family, my church, and positive people who circle around me and pray for my healing. I also have a praying mother. Never underestimate the power of a prayer."
- "I told myself that whether I love or die, everything will be all right."
- "I am looking forward to this Valentine’s Day together, and I buried the old me and celebrated the new me.”

**FEATURES**

**Personal Journey:** Living with the HIV Virus

**By Tawain L. Kelly**

**Contributing Writer**

Editor’s Note: Benedict student Tawain Kelly shares this very poignant story from his survey living with the HIV virus. He hopes others will learn that being HIV positive does not mean one’s life is over. He also wants to help others cope with the illness that is fast claiming a proportion of African-Amercians.

The rate of HIV diagnoses has been dropping among blacks over the past few years, but remains alarmingly high, more than eight times the rate among whites, a new U.S. government report finds. That drop could be because people are getting tested, especially in rural areas of southern states. For some, it may be hard to go and get tested for fear of word getting out that they have the disease. There is still a stigma attached to having HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. Even with the decline of HIV diagnoses, however, diagnoses rates among injection drug users and among heterosexuals, mostly in New York State, seem to be driving the trend, according to the report. Among blacks, the rate of new HIV diagnoses dropped about five percent each year between 2001 and 2004. I believe that the number of HIV/AIDS cases on historic black campuses is much higher than generally thought, but some school officials worry that the reporting of the actual number of people who are HIV positive on their campuses may lead to a drop in the enrollment of students at these schools. Some school officials still think this day will not admit that HIV even exists on their campuses unless people like Jonathan Perry, a graduate of Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, N.C., and others like myself, come out to show the face of HIV. The fact is, the true face of HIV is not Ervin “Magic” Johnson. It’s my face. I can’t afford my medicine, I can’t afford my hospital visits and everything that keeps me alive. I depend on organizations, Medicine, Chicken, government programs just to stay alive. In the black community, especially, it doesn’t talk about HIV/AIDS, people still believe that Magic Johnson is not HIV positive, but he is. He is doing his part to stay alive.

**HIV/AIDS statistics**

The decline of HIV in this state (South Carolina) is wonderful, but the light is still there in our community. As long as I am a black man, a student at an HBCU, an athlete, a resident of South Carolina, and a citizen of the United States, HIV/AIDS is in your community, too. In 2004, the rate of diagnosis among blacks was 76 per 100,000 people versus only 10 per 100,000 people in whites and 29.5 per 100,000 people among Hispanics. State and local health officials face many difficulties in fighting the high rates of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The number of AIDS cases rose 27 percent in six Southern states — Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina — between 2000 and 2002, compared with an 11 percent increase in Midwest states during that same period. In North Carolina, the number of HIV/AIDS cases increased by 36 percent during that same period. The rate of HIV/AIDS in southeastern states also have the nation’s highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Some health officials say that the high rate of poverty, poor health care services and low numbers of people with health insurance contribute to high rates of the disease. The officials also say that things are changing, but efforts to fight the problem do not seem to be working, especially in rural areas of South Carolina. There is not a cure for AIDS as of now…or a few weeks later. The news that keeps me alive.”

**Think outside the box of chocolates**

**By Stephanie Jones**

**So of Winter**

Valentine’s Day, known as the day for love and romance, was just celebrated with hearts and flowers – and that all time favorite, a box of chocolates. But for me, Valentine’s Day, ironically, is one of the least romantic days of the year. How can this be, you may ask. Well, Valentine’s Day is unromantic to me because people seem to celebrate it out of obligation rather than celebration. People run around like robots each year and get the same flowers, the same boxes of chocolates, and the same teddy bear for their loved ones because that is what everyone else is doing. But couples shouldn’t just celebrate their love for one another on February 14th. They should celebrate it all year round.

**Love Notes:**

- Go to a bakery and taste test all the sweets.
- Write a poem for your love and read it from now on.
- Go to a spa together.
- Dress up for an evening and go to a special place together (maybe even at home).
- Go for a romantic walk downtown and enjoy the city lights.
- Stay up all night and watch the sun rise together.
- Make fondue together.
- Hide love notes for your sweetheart to find.
- Celebrate all week by giving each other some small gifts per day.
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**Love Notes:**

- Go to a bakery and taste test all the sweets.
- Write a poem for your love and read it from now on.
- Go to a spa together.
- Dress up for an evening and go to a special place together (maybe even at home).
- Go for a romantic walk downtown and enjoy the city lights.
- Stay up all night and watch the sun rise together.
- Make fondue together.
- Hide love notes for your sweetheart to find.
- Celebrate all week by giving

**By Stephanie Jones**

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Living with the HIV Virus

Continued from page 5

I wouldn’t be HIV positive. The woman I got the virus from in 1995 died before I found out that I had the virus. I came into contact with it in 1997, five years before I found out I had it. HIV can stay in your system for 10 to 20 years without being detected.

Last year I went from 137 to 62 pounds. I almost died. I had a mild stroke, went blind in my right eye, couldn’t walk, and had feeding tubes inside me. What I had that really mattered was a praying college whose students, faculty, and staff who know me continue to pray for me. I have the prayers of my family, my church and positive people who circle around me and pray for my healing. I also have a praying mother. Never underestimate the prayers of a mother. She told me that whether I live or die that everything will be all right. When I heard those words, I got it together. I buried the old me and celebrated the new me. I will be graduating from Benedict College in May 2007, good LORD willing.

Living with the HIV Virus

Continued from page 1

History professor Dr. Marguerite Garvey: “The Kings were examples of people who believed in truth. They were powerful examples of people who were not afraid to speak the truth. Truth and only truth will allow African descendant people to rise again.”

Freshman biology major Joe Johnson: “It was definitely a sad loss. Hopefully her children will carry on. I wish I could attend the funeral, but of course I have classes.”

Senior art major Pam Hall: “Coretta Scott King was a graceful woman. Not only that, she was also strong and carried herself in a dignified manner. Whenever she made a public appearance, she seemed to illuminate any room she entered.”

Freshman music major Jason Hampton: “I really don’t know much about her and the impact that she had. All I know is that she stood by her husband in the midst of all that he went through.”

Student Kristen Williams: “She was a model for all women to live up to. There will never be another one like her.”

Wear It Pink Day

By Tina Sanders

Contributing Writer

T was stated in the December 2005 issue of the Tiger News that the Benedict College Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter hosted a “Think Pink” event on breast cancer. In actuality the event, accurately called “Wear It Pink Day,” was hosted by the Student Public Health Alliance of Benedict College, which was strongly supported by the AKAs.

The organization also gave out a test on one’s knowledge of breast cancer. The test was the beginning of an open discussion led by Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department faculty member Dr. Ifeanyi N. Emenike. There was strong student participation.

The Student Public Health Alliance is led by Dr. Tami Ashford-Carroll, its advisor, and by the group’s president Thaddeus Wallace. The organization is fairly new with two years under their belt.

A future event for the organization is their participation in the Midlands Heart Walk. They are assisting the college in raising funds to donate.

Advisor Tami Ashford-Carroll stated that public health is a multifaceted field. She said a person does not have to major in public health to work in the health field.

The Student Public Health Alliance meets once a month. If any students are interested in information about the club, they can contact advisor Tami Ashford-Carroll at (803) 231-2162.

Mrs. King

Continued from page 1

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"The Kings were examples of people who believed in truth. They were powerful examples of people who were not afraid to speak the truth. Truth and only truth will allow African descendant people to rise again."
Black History Month: Is it necessary?

By G.A. SHABAZZ
A B D R U S H E D
TIGER NEWS ADVISOR

W

hen I think of Coretta Scott King, many things come to mind—proud, resilient, forceful, humble, and dignified. My fondest memory of her was when I had the opportunity to meet with her on her name day at the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She addressed the group of journalists who had flocked to Atlanta for the annual observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his famous “I have a Dream” speech.

Coretta Scott King was a leader in the civil rights movement and a leader in the black community. She was a woman who understood the power of the press, but as journalists she was determined to tell the truth, to tell the story of oppression and justice. She was a woman who understood the importance of commemorating the contributions of African Americans. She was a woman who understood the importance of remembering the past in order to shape the future.

My reminiscences of Mrs. King, who addressed journalists with an important message

By G. A. Shabazz

I was in Atlanta for a conference of the National Association of Black Journalists when I had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. King. She was a kind and gentle woman, but she was also a powerful speaker. She reminded me of the importance of commemorating the contributions of African Americans. She reminded me of the importance of remembering the past in order to shape the future.

In conclusion, I believe that Black History Month is necessary because it should be taught throughout the year. It is not enough to learn about the past, but we must also learn about the present and the future. We must learn about the contributions of African Americans and how they have shaped our society. We must learn about the struggles and triumphs of the past so that we can shape a better future for all.

Tiger Poll

Should Black History Month be celebrated? Majority says yes

By STEPHANIE JONES
EDITOR ASSISTANT

A tter Morgan Freeman created a small stir last month when he told Mike Wallace of “60 Minutes” that he finds Black History Month “ridiculous.” According to Freeman, “Americans perpetuate racism during Black History Month by relegating black history to one month when black history is American history.” Freeman’s comments sparked a lot of emotions in many, especially here at Benedict College. Here are a few comments from students and faculty regarding Freeman’s remarks as well as their own opinions about Black History Month.

Crystal Gordon, mass communications, senior

“Black History should be celebrated as American history, but if we didn’t have Black History Month I don’t think many people would learn that much about black history.”

Tameika Sanford, mass communications, senior

“Black History Month is important because it forces Caucasians to look at the error of their ways and it also educates our people about our heritage.”

Eric Glover, business management, junior

Tameika Sanford

Contact Tiger News at 803-253-5297

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REFLECTIONS

MARCH 2006 PAGE 7
Why we can never give up on each other

BY JOSHUA STROMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I f I were constructing a monument to dedicate to the up and coming generation of leaders and thinkers, and given a chance to inscribe just three words on this monument, I would leave with them the words: "never give up." We can look at history and gain a better understanding of who we are today as unique people. Some of us have experienced disheartening situations. Some of us have come from an environment where there were only a few options for survival, both leading either to an early death or a minimum prison sentence of 25 years. Although these are extreme situations, as an open enrollment college we have to understand that many of our students have come from these types of environments. Too often we blindly judge people according to their actions without understanding what causes them to act the way that they do.

According to one of the seminar instructors here at our college, sometimes professors make the mistake of assuming that each student automatically understands what is required of them as a college student. But of course, this is not always true. This misconception helps to create an atmosphere that steadily alienates students who may have a hard time adjusting to college. With this being said, brothers and sisters we have to turn our weaknesses into strengths and bear the weight of each other in order to survive as a community. For me to look at a self-evaluation to help me understand my own value and the role that it plays in inspiring another to push harder to succeed. It also helped me to hear people say that they are majoring in their respective fields because they like helping people.

Well, if you are one of those persons, please see that everyday you step onto Benedict's College campus, you have the opportunity to do what you like to do, help people. Giving attention to our fellow peers by encouraging them and believing in them, allows us to kill two birds with one stone. We not only enhance our own self-value but also increase the value of our college by encouraging our peers to look beyond their past experiences, in order to take advantage of everything that Benedict College has to offer.

We can't give up because whether we like it or not, we all need each other. We face too much opposition from outside forces to believe that we can possibly achieve our goals without the help of our brothers and sisters. Say kind words, offer to help someone with their homework, anything that you can do to inspire someone to believe in themselves, do it. Although you might not hear them say how much of an impact you have made on them, you will within yourself know that you, in your own unique way, have the power to uplift another human being.

Joshua Stroman

Media specialist Mary Hendrix fondly recalls meeting Mrs. King

Compiled by G. Shabazz Abdul-Rashid
Tiger News Advisor

Benedict's Library Media Specialist Mary Hendrix fondly recalls meeting Mrs. King.

Remembered as a black author and illustrator, Mrs. Coretta Scott King with fondness, not just once, but twice. Dr. and Mrs. King. Hendrix was involved in the King family's work, and in the early 1960s, Hendrix briefly met Martin Luther King Jr. and vice versa. Scott and Martin Luther King Jr. had four children. Bernice, Yolanda, Dexter and Martin Jr. All are dedicated civil rights activists and pioneers in their chosen professions.

However, 1993 was not Hendrix's first meeting with Mrs. King. In the 1960s, Hendrix briefly met Martin Luther King Jr. and Scott King at commencement exercises at Fort Valley State College in Georgia. Mrs. King had to carry the movement on," said Hendrix. "I think she always tried to inspire others to keep his dream alive.

Hendrix remembers King as approachable and warm, adding that she always seemed to have a smile on her face. Hendrix, too, seems to be carrying on that legacy. She always smiles and speaks to everyone she meets on and off the Benedict campus. Additionally, Hendrix recognizes the path paved for her by Dr. and Mrs. King. Hendrix was the first black to integrate the public school system in Oconee County, Ga.

"The process that I had to go through was not nearly as dire as what the King family had to endure because of others' actions earlier," said Benedict, a Benedict alumnus and former campus queen. Note: Tiger advisor G. Shabazz Abdul-Rashid compiled this story from information supplied by Mary Hendrix.

"Kind words, offering to help someone with their homework, anything that you can do to inspire someone to believe in themselves, do it. Although you might not hear them say how much of an impact you have made on them, you will within yourself know that you, in your own unique way have the power to uplift another human being."

Joshua Stroman

Black Is Me

By Patrick Kirton

Black is me
Oh yes, black is me
From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet
To the color of my skin to the rhythm of my speech
Oh yes, black is me

Black is me
Oh yes, black is me
From the courage to stand in a crowd
And be like James Brown saying,
"I'm black and I'm proud!"
For all its worth, I just want y'all to see
That oh yes, black is me

Black is me
Oh Yes, black is me
Thoughts of the Promised Land have my soul dancing
With Martin's vision and Malcolm's passion
I now can see
That truly, black is me

With no hesitation
I come from a people that have
Power to change a nation
With no hesitation
Through hard work, confidence, and constant motivation
With all pride, these words I speak
Oh yes, black is me

Note: Patrick Kirton is a sophomore and music education major. He is also an active member of several student organizations.
Renowned sculptor Richard Hunt brings his prestigious works to Benedict

The art of Richard Hunt. Need we say more about one of the most prestigious sculptors in the nation? He chose Benedict to have his works displayed. For anyone with an eye toth of knowledge or interest in art, this show you won’t want to miss. His pieces, illustrous, inviting, enthralling, will continue to be on display through April in the Ponder Fine Arts Gallery of Benedict College. The gallery is located on the second floor of the building on the far end of the corridor.

Hunt received his Bachelors of Art education from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1957 and upon graduation was awarded the James Nelson Raymond Foreign Travel Fellowship to study sculpture in England, France, Spain and Italy.

Hunt’s works have been collected by museums such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., the Art Institute of Chicago and many, many more. It is a tremendous honor to have an artist of this caliber exhibiting here at the Ponder Fine Arts Gallery of Benedict. Hunt’s reputation precedes him with public works in museums from coast to coast, but closer to home in Greenville (in front of the Greenville County Museum) and in Augusta, Ga. (in front of the Golf Hall of Fame).

Faculty art and jazz showcased at Fine Arts Department reception

Jazz and art came together like water and ice recently in the Little Theater in the Fine Arts and Humanities building and Art Gallery on campus. The event was a smooth and seductive blending of some of Benedict Fine Arts faculty’s finest works in music, speech, and paintings. The event, which began promptly at 6 p.m., was a combination of several faculty members’ performances on trombone, piano, and the vibraphone, along with songs and speeches and various art including printmaking, wood carving, and a visual display of grilled wires and colorful papers.

The program included singing of the traditional gospel song “This Little Light of Mine” by music professor Dr. Ronald High. As a boy, he continued, he enjoyed attending school. This love for learning carried over to adulthood. As he spoke, music professor and Benedict’s band director Isaac Bell Jr. played the piano. He was accompanied by Fine Arts Department Chair and Benedict’s band director Sean Daniels on the vibraphone.

This is his story; he sings the songs

Music professor Dr. Ronald High shares his life story

Music professor Dr. Ronald High sits at a piano in the first floor choir room in the Fine Arts and Humanities building testing the keys while waiting for the clock to strike at 7 p.m. When it does, friends and students of High begin the ceremony by explaining to the audience where High grew up (Texas), and how he was drawn to the piano. “I started playing the piano at age four,” he says, explaining that his father was a pastor and thus he stayed in church most of the time, listening and singing religious songs and enjoying the piano melodies and arrangements.

High speaks to the audience – some of his closest friends and a few music majors – for a program on his life in which he shares some memories of his life and career. The program is called “This Is My Story, This Is My Song.”

As a boy, he continues, he enjoyed attending school. This love for learning carried over to adulthood. “I love seeking knowledge that relates to music,” he says. Last school term, High was selected as a Fulbright Scholar to Germany, one of the most prestigious academic honors for a professor. He still seeks out as much musical knowledge as possible. High says his goals include completing his first book, starting his own conservatory of music, and having his own CD.

Dr. High performs one of his piano renditions.
Powerful new DVD has something for everyone

‘Gotta Serve Somebody: The Gospel Songs of Bob Dylan’

By Marquita A. Watson
Staff Writer

Can 60’s folk singer Bob Dylan, best known for such haunting ballads as “Blowin’ In the Wind” and “My Tambourine,” sing gospel and do it with aplomb, grace, and believability?

Well, yes, he apparently can. Dylan has pulled it off, and enchantingly so, thanks to the help of some of the most prolific and truly pioneering gospels greats in history. He has done an admirable job.

And now his work is available in a new DVD, set for release in March.

Some of the most beautiful, pulsating, heart stopping, and praise-worthy gospel songs have been revitalized by Dylan in this new DVD called Gotta Serve Somebody. It is actually a documentary of the singers’ performances, some with Dylan, some not.

These are some of the most amazing gospel and soul singers on earth. On the DVD documentary, many of Dylan’s old songs are brought back to life. Should we say resurrected?

This documentary helps you to look through Dylan’s eyes and feel what he felt while on stage and performing these wonderful tunes. It takes you into the studio where some of the most powerful singers relive his journey.

Gospel recording group Sounds of Blackness adds a touch of funk to “Solid Rock,” the first performance on the documentary. Legendary gospel artist Rev. Shirley Caesar follows up with the title track, “Gotta Serve Somebody,” Dylan’s most famous and popular song from that period of his musical career, according to Rolling Stone magazine.

Gospel singer Dottie Peoples gives a wonderful performance of “I Believe in You.” Aaron Neville, an R&B artist, records “Saving Grace” and gospel singer Helen Baylor gives a heart-stopping performance of “What Can I Do For You?” Her vocals are strong, touching, moving, and amazingly beautiful.

The gospel recording group The Fairfield Four quartet records “Are You Ready?” Their strong, capella vocal harmonies make the track a wonderful one to listen to. Gospel group Mighty Clouds of Joy sings a joyful version of “Saved” and Regina McCrary, who sang backup for Dylan during his righteous years, returns to sing a mind-blowing version of “Pressing On,” along with the Chicago Mass Choir.

Meanwhile, Rance Allen’s performance of “When He Returns” best demonstrates the festive themes of Dylan’s songwriting.

The overall documentary is a wonderful journey to watch. It shows Dylan at his most spiritual. It is an inspirational show. Listening and watching it, I felt as if I were in the studio with the artists. This is a truly a film that will take you on a joyful ride.

Scenes from HARAMBEE 2006

“Harambee was a jam!”

Black History Month was something else! Talent in so many areas was on display for the campus and the world to see. A plethora of activities ensued, from music, dance, and fashion shows to historical plays to community workshops.

HARAMBEE, an arts and miniscule and crafts explosion, took place in and outside the gym. Put together by coordinator Dr. George Devlin and a host of volunteers, HARAMBEE was an unqualified success.

Devlin said that this year’s turnout was more than expected what with a steady rain all day – even the vendors did not complain. One vendor commented, Devlin said, that he did better this year than two years ago in picture-perfect weather.

The continuous performances kept the near-by 5,000 plus crowd satisfied and desirous for more. But they will have to wait, until HARAMBEE returns, a never-ending showcase of all that this college has to offer and more.
In support of Black History Month, Alltel Wireless is inviting HBCU students to enter our **Words of Wisdom** Essay Contest.

Write an essay with this question in mind...
“What words of wisdom will you pass on to those who come after you?” Winning entries will receive a scholarship to the HBCU of their choice.

See www.alltel.com/wordsofwisdom or store for complete details.

Dr. Maya Angelou
Tigers going down in history?

By Travis Simpkins

As the men’s regular basketball season nears its end, Tiger News took the time to reflect on their stellar performance this season.

In a preseason interview, Head Coach Fred Watson said that his main objective was to win over 20 games, win all home games, and to become conference champions. This may have sounded far fetched going head to head with teams like Tuskegee, Stillman, Morehouse, Paine, etc., but they sought out and conquered.

Not only has the team won over 20 games, but they have also won all of their home games. Their win against Stillman (75-65) Feb. 18 averaged their only previous loss and clinched the conference championship, which makes them number one in the conference and number three in the region. This is the first regular season championship Benedict has won since 1981.

Overall their record is 18-2-2 improving on last year’s 14-4-2 conference record. They lost only to Albany State and Stillman, thanks to a great team effort and individual players such as Joshua Obama, Taiwan Byrd and Zachary Barron, who was selected as the Basketball Freshman of the Year by the SIAC. Part of the team’s success can be attributed to the team’s unity. Watson said, “My team’s accomplishments at this point exceeded last year’s team because they’re more together.”

Another one of Watson’s goals is to become regional champions, a feat that Benedict has yet to accomplish. Presently the team stands in the number three spot and is chasing the number one spot in the region.

Watson added that the regional championship is still up for grabs, but they would have to play at a very high magnitude to rid teams like Delta State, which is number two in the country, and Montevallo, which is number seven to get a chance at the Regional Championships. Both of these teams were once number one and two in the nation.

During the first week in March, the team traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to compete in the 73rd annual SIAC basketball tournament held in the Fair Park Arena. Because Benedict went into the tournament in first place, the team played against the lowest seed team. They sought to bring home the championship but fell short after being knocked out in the first round.

Men’s basketball star player Joshua Obiasanwa takes a jump shot in game against Tuskegee earlier this season.

Track coach has great expectations for the team

By Kristel Rolle

Benedict’s track team hit the ground running this year and hasn’t stopped since. The team’s rigorous schedule, designed to prepare them for the SIAC Spring Championships coming up in April, includes the Morehouse Relays and the University of South Carolina State Championships.

Head Coach Frank Hyland, a recent addition to Benedict College athletics, has great expectations for the squad this year. “The team is very competitive,” he said.

Hyland believes that both the men’s and women’s team will be contenders for the top three awards in the conference. “They can compete with the best of them,” he said confidently. Hyland, who comes to Benedict from Voorhees College, is in his first year here. During his tenure at Voorhees, he received a host of awards including 24 conference ‘Coach of the Year’ awards, 25 conference titles and two regional titles. He fits comfortably in the Benedict College community.

“I like the environment here,” Hyland explained. He described his transition into Benedict as “smooth and easy.”

Hyland has confidence in his athletes and expects only positive results from this year’s team.

Runners to look out for this season include senior Jimmie Jones, junior and business major Joshua Williams, therapeutic recreation major David Wheeler, accounting major Brandon Samuels, freshman Titus Rotich, freshwater Stanley Wright, therapeutic recreation major Kevin Smith and criminal justice major Antonio Williams are among the team’s best.

Hyland expressed his excitement for the season saying, “I feel blessed to be working with outstanding athletes. The team here has a lot of potential. We just haven’t fully tapped into their talent yet.”

Frank Hyland

Benedict’s Track Coach

Chepkoech.

On the men’s side, senior Jimmie Jones, junior and business major Joshua Williams, therapeutic recreation major David Wheeler, accounting major Brandon Samuels, freshman Titus Rotich, freshwater Stanley Wright, therapeutic recreation major Kevin Smith and criminal justice major Antonio Williams are among the team’s best.

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Sprinter Samuels expects for at least half of the team to qualify for the nationals. He believes that the team is strong, but because of its short number, they will probably come in second or third. The team consists of 39 athletes.

Hyland notes that the team is not fully healthy right now, “but,” he added, “we’re on pace to do what we need to do.”

Track and field squad relaxes between practice sessions.

SIAC conference update

Benedict men’s and women’s basketball teams are winners

By Nadia Muhammad

The Benedict College family here at home was in high anticipation as they looked forward to seeing the men’s and women’s basketball teams play ball at the SIAC Tournament Conference in Birmingham, Ala., home of HBCU colleges Morris and Stillman. Stillman served as host of the conference, held March 1-5. Benedict’s men’s basketball team played their first round on Thursday, March 2, in their game against the women’s basketball team of Miles College.

The score was Benedict, 86, and Miles, 80. The Lady Tigers then moved to the semi-final round of the championship against Paine College, but lost after a tight game.

Former Benedict athletes return for Alumni Weekend

By Alan Pace

In mid February Benedict opened its doors and welcomed some of our greatest former student athletes for Alumni Weekend.

Even though the alumni game was never played, because the sponsors were afraid the game would run over into the regularly scheduled game, the alumni still enjoyed the weekend and look forward to coming back together in the fall for homecoming.

Although the athletes were disappointed that the game never materialized, players such as Essence Williams, 1976 graduate, and Philip Wheatfield, a 2005 graduate, expressed their joy to be back and see their old teammates.

Whether, a former football player, said he was happy to see how successful some of the older athletes were. He hopes to return in later years with a success story of his own.

He left advice to current athletes saying, “Be an ‘A’ student in the class and you’ll be an ‘A’ player on the court, the field, and off the court.”

Over 40 former athletes came back from states such as North Carolina, Louisiana, New Jersey, Kentucky, New York, Florida and South Carolina. The sports represented were basketball, football, baseball, track and field, tennis, volleyball and softball.

Players graduating as early as 1954 came for the weekend. Freedman Williams (1959), who has retired from the military, said he was happy to see everyone, but that he was too old to play. He added that he would have enjoyed the game.

Marietta Jeter, a former basketball, softball and volleyball player and 1978 graduate, enjoyed reminiscing with old teammates and seeing the alumni. She also expressed her disappointment in the cancellation of the game saying, “I would have loved to play the game.”

Kim Allen, a 1996 graduate and former basketball and volleyball player, expressed that same wish.

She was also prepared to play, she said. Allen hopes that the event will be bigger next time.

Jeter’s advice to the students was to “Keep a level head, your head in the books and to keep God first.”

Note: Editor Kristel Rolle contributed to this report.