Homecoming Week Highlights

First Lady Michelle Obama at the DNC

by Breanna Cole-Blake

This year’s Democratic National Convention was held on September 4, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

First Lady Michelle Obama stood proudly and gave an uplifting and inspiring speech. She told stories about her family’s humble beginnings. She spoke about going on a date with President Obama in a rusted car with holes in the floor.

“How real and sincere could she be?”

Mrs. Obama shared her thoughts about success and what makes a hero: the teacher who educates; the parent who grinds for a vision; the janitor who keeps the school clean.

“Success does not come unless you earn it,” First Lady Obama says. She explained that success is not about how much money you can make, but the difference you can make in the community.

As the first lady stood up and shared her story with grace and wisdom, she stressed that we must work for what we want, stand for what we believe, and keep moving forward.

She spoke about the motivation behind tax cuts and making college education affordable. She said, “... in the end for Barack, these issues are not political. They’re personal. Because Barack knows what it means when a family struggles... Barack knows the American dream because he’s lived it.”

Meet the President: Dr. Swinton

We know him as the President of Benedict College, but many haven’t had an opportunity to learn more about this man of integrity.

Courtyard Mural

Our very own Professor Wendell Brown has taken on the project of creating a mural within the courtyard adjacent from B.C. Cars. I asked one of the contestants, “What have you done to prepare for this pageant?”

J. Ashley answered, “The first thing was showing up for practice where I didn’t have to work, then making sure I had all the necessities. For example, we had to wear purple and gold for the opening act, a suit for business attire, a dress for the formal and evening wearing round, and practice questions I might have been asked during the question and answer round. I also had to make sure my hair and makeup was ready.”

I also asked J. Ashley, “What advice would you give anyone thinking about participating in a pageant in the future?”

Her response: “Preparation is key, and to always have fun, be yourself, believe that you are gorgeous.”

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Meet the President: His Humble Beginnings

by K. Easley

We’ve seen him at orientations, meetings, Convocations and graduations. We see how he carries himself with a regal air whether he’s dressed in professional attire or sporting the President’s robe. We know Dr. Swinton as the President of Benedict College, but many of us haven’t had an opportunity to learn more about this man of integrity.

Most students are surprised to learn that Dr. Swinton is a Harvard graduate; that he was part of a group of people who dared to challenge the Confederate flag tradition in South Carolina; that his work has been published in highly esteemed professional journals as: Harvard. Additional works have also been published in such prestigious journals as: The American Economic Review, The Review of Black Political Economy, Minority Youth Employment, Journal of Urban Analysis, Sociology and Section.

Since then, Swinton’s dedication and hard-work hasn’t stopped. Over the years he’s fought to remove a troublesome station WBCT 90.9FM. The goal is to provide a platform where we can discuss issues that effect our lives and our communities; to create a place where students can be heard; to provide a healthy environment to function as a part of the Benedict College family. I major in Mass Commucations with a focus in broadcasting.

During the fall 2012 Convocation, he shared a few of the many obstacles he’s had to overcome. He also talked about growing up in poverty and having to eat from garbage cans as a child. Despite the hardships he faced, he has always been a natural go-getter and a hard-working, business-minded individual.

During an interview, he described how hard he worked, even as a child. His father was a college-educated man and his mother was a school teacher, but there were times when they struggled. So to help ends meet, Swinton said that he’d go out and pick blackberries to sell and gather vegetables that were left behind in the harvest field. He collected and recycled bottles for change, doubled shows, and carried groceries for tips.

When he was finally old enough to deliver newspapers (newboys had to be 12 years old), he took on the largest newspaper route in the Bronx. Sometimes, he wouldn’t finish that route until 11 o’clock at night – yet he still went to school early in the morning.

He delivered telegrams, sold ice cream on Coney Island, and worked in the cotton fields. Swinton was never without a job. He said he did all of this because he sincerely wanted to help his family – he was more concerned about making sure his younger brothers and sisters were able to enjoy Christmas.

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Note-Worthy Achievements

DR. DAVID H. SWINTON

1980 - Began serving as Economic Advisor to the National Urban League.
Additional works have also been published in such prestigious journals as: The American Economic Review, The Review of Black Political Economy, Minority Youth Employment, Journal of Urban Analysis, Sociology and Section.
1990 - Became a member of Black Enterprise Magazine’s Board of Economists.
1994 - Became Benedict College’s 15th President.
1998 - Became the 1st African-American Chairman of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board.
1999 - Helped organize a group of 50 investors to create South Carolina Community Bank, to preserve the only minority-owned bank in South Carolina.
2005 - Received the Samuel Z. Westerfield Award by the National Economic Association of African American Economists.
2007 - Inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

Students Launch New Radio Show: “The Voice of BC”

by DaQuan Adams

What’s up BC? My name is DaQuan Adams and I am a senior here at Benedict College. I major in Mass Communications with a focus in broadcasting. I just launched my first radio show “The Voice Of BC” at the college radio station WBC’T 90.9FM.

The purpose of the show is the edification of both students, faculty and staff. The goal is to provide a platform where we can discuss issues that effect our lives and our communities; to create a place where students can be heard, and to create an atmosphere where we can function as a part of the Benedict College family.

The show is not limited to the broadcast center but is a campus wide-show. The show aired for the first time this month and our first guests kicked us off with a profound and enlightening discussion about separation and divorce.

Throughout this semester and the next, I will be putting together and hosting fun events for students, faculty and staff to participate in.

We’re planning to be active on social media outlets, so follow me on Facebook @DaQuan Adams Media Page and you can follow on Twitter @BibleBoy_609 for more information! I’ll be posting updates about the show and other events.

We’ve got some great shows planned, so stay tuned and on the look out for “The Voice of BC” on WBC’T 90.9 FM.

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Being a hero is helping people plan for their long-term quality of life. As an AGLA sales associate, you help to safeguard customers’ futures with modern, affordable, consumer-focused insurance plans. It also means being a hero to your family by having the time to be there for them.

AGLA offers:

• Greater work/life balance
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• Team-oriented organization focused on success
• Competitive compensation and benefits

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The Courtyard Mural: More than a Picture on a Wall

by Jones Allen

Professor Wendell Brown has taken on the project of creating a mural within the court yard adjacent from B.C. Cars. Influenced by the upcoming election, Prof. Brown intends for the project in promote voter registration.

Prof. Brown gained his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD and his Master's in Fine Arts at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

He started the project last spring and is hoping to complete the project's scaling's by late September. The mural's projected completion date lies sometime during the upcoming spring semester of 2013.

The mural portrays babies as they are led by individuals who represent each one of our academic departments. All are led by Ms. Benedict who holds a torch to guide the way.

The first step to creating the mural will be to place it within a grid system. From that stage the grid would then be transferred to its scale version. By projecting the image to be drawn in its life-size composition, even students with minimal artistic talent will be able to fill in the blocks. From there, students will simply use the life-sized grids to methodically piece each portion onto the wall to complete the mural.

Prof. Brown profoundly expressed his hopefulness that observers of the mural will at least realize, “Art is far more than just a picture on a wall.”

Students who aren’t enrolled in these courses are also finding their efforts and are gaining service learning hours in return.

Mural Art is typically inspired by, as well as promotes, activism. Erin Douglas, an African American artist who created such works during the Harlem Renaissance, specialized in this realm of art. Public murals are commonly meant to encourage the community to view themselves in spectrums that differ from their internal perceptions and associated stereotypes.

In an effort to save students money while also ensuring that they patronize the bookstore, the bookstore has decided to match book prices found online as long as the student provides proof that they found the same book at a lower price. This means that now of living, especially college life. With textbook prices so high.

Everyone knows that purchasing a textbook means a chance at a better grade and may even be a determining factor for whether you sink or swim in some cases. The problem is that many BC students are finding it harder to afford books after they factor in the price of each one and then multiply that by how many classes they are taking.

For this reason, many are choosing not to buy books at all and are instead finding ways to take on their course load without them.

This may have been an acceptable alternative in the past, but thanks to the Benedect College Campus Bookstore, this year, buying books has become a lot easier.

In an effort to save students more money, we understand that textbooks are expensive and we want everyone to know that we are here to help.

He also explained that Neebo is there to help those who have extra money to spare by telling students to take advantage of buying books online. The problem is that many BC students are finding it harder to afford books after they factor in the price of each one and then multiply that by how many classes they are taking.

So, next semester when it’s time to take that schedule to the Swinton Center, remember that rough textbook times aren’t here to stay and we all have the bookstore to thank for that.

Tarshanie Stevens reports that this is her first year actually buying her textbooks.

“Since freshman year, I never bought books because they were so expensive and I didn’t want to use them.”

“I would just use one of my classmate’s or try to get through the course without them, but this year I found out about the bookstore’s price match and found that it worked in my favor. I think it is a great idea and a win-win situation for the school and for all students. I hope others will have thought of it sooner.”

When I spoke with Neebo’s regional manager, Bill Lowden and he said, “We want to be the complete outfitter, which is why we have our new Best Price Promise. Our goal is to eliminate the competition and help students avoid having to go on the internet or elsewhere for their textbooks. Why go somewhere else when there is such a great bookstore here!”

Lowden also said, “We are here to help students with and without financial aid. We understand that textbooks are expensive and we want everyone to know that we are here to help.”

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Who are we, you ask?

We’re Benedict College Campus Bookstore and we provide everything students need to get more college for their money. From college gear and school supplies to food and beverages and everything in between, we're the complete college outfitter.

OH! We almost forgot—thanks to our Best Price Promise*, you always get the best prices. In fact, if you find a lower textbook price locally or online, we'll beat it by 10%. No questions asked!

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