First Lady Scholarship Luncheon

2007

“Building a Legacy of Scholarship Success at South Carolina State University”

Sunday, June 10
Three O’clock p.m.
Reception and Tea
Ryan Nicholas Inn
Simpsonville, South Carolina
PROGRAMME

Ms. Lillian M. Adderson, ‘81

Assistant Vice President for Alumni and Community Relations

Presiding

The Gathering ...................................................... The Roland Haynes Jazz Quartet

South Carolina State University

Welcome ................................................................. Mrs. Abbiegail H. Hugine, ’71, ’75

First Lady, South Carolina State University

Invocation ............................................................... Mrs. Betty Corbitt

First Lady, Springfield Baptist Church

Greenville, South Carolina

Occasion ............................................................... Ms. Lydia Braggs

Student, South Carolina State University

University Center of Greenville

Greenville, South Carolina

Solo ................................................................. Mr. R. Emerson Haynes, Jr.

Vocalist

Recognizing Distinguished Honorees ........................... Dr. Mary L. Grimes

Assistant Professor

Mrs. Susan Beattie

Student

University Center of Greenville
(Please limit your response to 1 minute)

**Greenville**
- Business, .................................................. Mrs. Cathy Verndell Haynes McCray
- Civic .......................................................... Mrs. Anita Frye Jackson
- Civic .......................................................... Mrs. Shirley J. McPherson
- Education, .................................................. Mrs. Brenda G. Humbert ’72, ’74
- Government .................................................. Ms. Roberta C. Weathers, ’72

**Greenwood**
- Health Care .................................................. Mrs. Brenda B. Byrd

**Simpsonville**
- Civic .......................................................... Mrs. Dawn Eyvette Thompson

**Spartanburg**
- Education .................................................. Mrs. Esther A. Leslie Avery
- Education .................................................. Mrs. Mary Ann Washington Deku, ’67, ’73
- Solo ........................................................... Mr. Haynes
- Acknowledgements ....................................... Mrs. Hugine

**Meet and Greet the Honorees**
GREENVILLE

Cathy Verndell Haynes McCray, a Lorain, Ohio, native, moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 1986, where she graduated from Georgia State University with a BBA in management science. She married her very supportive and loving husband, Dean McCray in 1997, and in 2001, they took a job transfer to Greenville, South Carolina where they currently reside. It was in Greenville that she answered the call to educate people about the truths concerning financial and housing issues.

Cathy McCray has real estate broker’s licenses in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. She also possesses licenses in life insurance, health insurance and mortgage loans. She is certified as a housing counselor, financial counselor, and a foreclosure prevention counselor. Her business, Victory Realty Corporation, has made Cathy’s dream of home ownership a reality for many would-be home owners who may never have realized their dreams otherwise.

In 2004, along with her partner Sandra Bullock, Cathy began a not-for-profit organization named Victory Plus, Inc which focuses on housing, financial literacy, biblical financial management and transitional housing for single women coming out of crisis centers. Additionally, the organization is currently teaching financial literacy classes to 28 men at the Salvation Army.

Mrs. McCray has recently joined with Greenville Technical College to begin teaching employment readiness and financial literacy classes at the Leath Correctional Institution in Greenwood, South Carolina for incarcerated women who will soon be reintroduced into the society. She is also currently writing finance and housing articles for the Community Informer, a locally circulated newspaper, on a weekly basis.

In August, Cathy will retire from the United State Army Reserves after 21 years of service to her country. As always, she is looking forward with great anticipation to continuing to empower others towards financial independence, home ownership and spiritual growth.

Mrs. Anita Frye Jackson, the First Lady of New Birth Greenville Kingdom Life Center, is devoted to promoting a clear understanding and relevant application of scripture in order to bring about changes in urban communities by teaching the Kingdom of God principles in a way that even a child can understand. Assisting her husband, Pastor Getties L. Jackson, Sr., she feels chosen by the Lord to help bring forth a vision through their shared ministry. Under their leadership, the church that they founded in 1997 has grown continuously to a present membership of more than 700 members. The grand opening celebration, a 20,000 square feet edifice, includes a gymnasium, fitness center, bookstore, classrooms, nursery and administrative offices. In 2008, the unfinished 20,000 square feet will be completed to bring the total to 40,000 square feet. The additional space will include a Kingdom Youth Center with a theater, bowling alley, a computer lab and learning center, children’s chapel, restaurant/snack bar, fitness center, arcade center, barber shop, beauty salon, additional Sunday School/sunday group classrooms, and additional bathrooms.

First Lady Anita Jackson is a devoted wife and mother to her husband and their three children; Getties Jr., Angelica, and Crystal. She is also a graduate of Chapman High School, where she played basketball, ran track for four years, and attended state and upper state championships. She has also worked as an assistant coach for Junior Olympics in North Carolina, assistant coach in T-Ball, with her husband, and coach for the Green Creek Hornet Cheerleading Team in North Carolina. She has been a seamstress over 25 years including being employed at Tanners Ladies Outlet. She is a certified cardio and step aerobics instructor through the YMCA and healthy life style Principles instructor. She became a MasterLife certified religious trainer at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1991.

Mrs. Shirley J. McPherson, a native Charlestonian, is the First Lady of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church in Greenville, South Carolina. She is a member of the Daughters of Sara, Female Rites of Passage Ministry and advisor to the L.J. Coppin Missionary Society. In 2006, she was awarded the Mount Pleasant Hall of Fame Award for Outstanding Service to the community. She is also the proud owner of Charleston Church Supplies in her hometown. An optimistic and motivated person, she believes that God uses ordinary people to do extra ordinary things. Shirley is married to The Reverend Samuel McPherson, Pastor of Allen Temple A.M.E. Church of Greenville. God has blessed their union with three children, Samuel Jr., O’dell, and Atiya.

A former consultant for the Mount Pleasant District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and mentor for the Female Rites of Passage Ministry at Greater Goodwill A.M.E. Church of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Mrs. McPherson presently serves on the advisory board of Reid House of Christian Services in Charleston.
Mrs. Brenda G. Humbert is a 1972 and 1974 graduate of SC State, who currently serves as principal of Fuller Normal Charter School in Greenville, South Carolina. Brenda credits her special talent as her gift of working effectively with children.

During her nine years as principal at Lakeview Middle School, the students’ math scores increased by 12.8% and language arts 1.9%. She also received several grants; initiated tutoring and recreational programs for students, such as Breakfast Buddies, Middle School ROTC Program, and Team Building Experiences; and implemented strategies to help teachers understand standards and how to implement a prioritized curriculum via workshops, speakers, and sending teachers to conferences. Additionally, she has served on the Governor’s Task Force of Middle Grades and the Governor’s Task Force to review middle school principals’ training.

Her most notable achievement was being asked by the South Carolina State Department of Education’s Office of School Quality to work with two failing schools in Hampton County School District 2: Estill Elementary and Estill High. As a result of her efforts as a member of the Technical Team, Estill High received the South Carolina SILVER Improvement Award of $25,000 for 2004-05 and 2005-06. During the 2005-06 school year, Estill High School also had the highest SAT score increase in the state.

Ms. Roberta C. Weathers is a 1972 graduate of SC State. For over 34 years, she has been employed by the Social Security Administration where she presently serves as a technical expert who mentors and assists claim representative trainees on a daily basis. In addition, she is the “go to” person who assists the newer employees with difficult interviews, and provides answers to questions about social security policies and procedures. Roberta has received numerous awards from the federal government for her exemplary performance.

In addition to her work at the Social Security Administration, Roberta served as a member of the United States Army Reserves for 22 years. She was a member of the Equal Opportunity Board, provided training, advised the commanders, adjutants and other staff members on personnel administrative activities, and kept them informed of potential problems.

As an undergraduate student, Roberta was a member of the SCSC choir for two years. She participated in the SCSU choir reunion which was held during homecoming weekend several years ago. For over 25 years, she has been a member and a strong alto and tenor in the Allen Temple AME Church choir in Greenville.

GREENWOOD

Mrs. Brenda B. Byrd is a 1975 graduate of North Carolina A&T University. She completed her Master of Nursing degree at the University of South Carolina in 1988, and she has spent over thirty years in the nursing profession. For the past 18 years, she has been employed in public health nursing in several positions, including direct care, supervisor, coordinator and manager. Mrs. Byrd has worked in a variety of programs including immunizations, WIC, TB, STD and HIV. Recently, she has worked extensively in the area of STD HIV due to its significant impact on the African American community.

Over the years in Greenwood County, Brenda initiated the Save Our Children Organization (SOCO); organized the SOCO banquet; organized several Back to School Marches and Rallies; conducted numerous health sessions on high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV, and STD at churches and other events; organized several HIV testing sites in the community; received the Excellence in Nursing and Who’s Who in Nursing Awards; and organized Living Well Health Ministry and had a seminar as a kick off celebration of the new ministry. Presently, this Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society member is enrolled at the University of South Carolina and hopes to complete requirements to become a family nurse practitioner in August 2007. Her goal is to open a clinic and serve those who otherwise may not be able to get needed care. Her specific interests include hypertension, diabetes and nutrition with a focus on obesity, cancer, STD and HIV prevention.
SIMPSONVILLE

First Lady Dawn Eyvette Thompson is the wife of Dr. U.A. Thompson, Sr., senior pastor of the Bride of Christ Church in Simpsonville, South Carolina. They are the proud parents of four beautiful children, Uldrick Antonio, II (10), Jessica Dawn (9), Joshua Nehemiah (6), and Emily Anne (2). First Lady Dawn is a homemaker and supporter of her family because her family is just as important as being a first lady. She believes that one of the most important roles of being a pastor’s wife is to support and encourage her husband, of which she does. To her, being a first lady is more than just a title, as it is for some, but she thinks of it as a ministry that is given by God and must be fulfilled to the best of one’s ability. She encourages all first ladies in their roles and acknowledges them as being women of great influence with integrity and virtue. She believes that the position is a ministry and should be used to effect lives of the community in a positive way.

Lady Dawn graduated from the Greenville County Schools, and earned an Associate of Science degree in Accounting from Greenville Technical College. She also received the Diploma of Banking from Bankers of America University and a degree in Paralegal Studies from American Institute of Paralegal Studies. Lady Dawn also studied Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center of Atlanta, Ga. Prior to becoming a stay at home mom, she worked in banking and in education.

SPARTANBURG

Mrs. Esther A. Leslie Avery, a native of Belize, Central America, is the Assistant Chief Financial Officer of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and an MBA from Central Michigan University. She is married to Dr. Reginald S. Avery, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Upstate. They have three children and two grandchildren. Esther is a member of the Finance Advisory Committee of the Girl Scouts of the Piedmont, a member of Spartanburg Historical Association, and a recent graduate of the prestigious Leadership Spartanburg. She has chaired the United Way of the Piedmont-Panel 5-Health and Wellness. Esther is a member of Silver Hill United Methodist Church, and her hobbies include reading, gardening, and traveling.

Mrs. Mary Ann Washington Deku was born in Gastonia, NC, but reared in St. Matthews, South Carolina. She attended the public schools in St. Matthews and was valedictorian of her class. She matriculated at South Carolina State from 1963 to 1967, graduating in the top 10% of her class. This member of Who’s Who Among American University Students completed the M.Ed. degree from South Carolina State in 1973 and continued to study at Clemson University, Converse College, and the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg.

Mary Ann Washington Deku believes in making a difference by helping others. Her teaching career began in Spartanburg School District 5 at Florence Chapel High School. The next year, she became the first female African American to integrate D. R. Hill Middle School where she remained for 17 years. For 20 years, Mary was a full time school counselor at Mary H. Wright Elementary School where many national, state and local awards were achieved for the school, students, and the honoree. In 1999, she began the Mary H. Wright Achievers’ Project, researching former students of this previously all black school who have become doctors, lawyers, teachers, judges, business owners and other outstanding professionals. Since the ’70’s, her community projects have been Voter Registration and collaborating with church and community organizations.

In March 27, 2007, Mrs. Deku was selected from among thirty-seven candidates to become the first recipient of the Mary L. Thomas Civic Leadership and Community Change Award. Other awards include the Humanitarian Award, Spartanburg Branch of the NAACP in 2006; and Citizen of the Year by Omega Psi Phi in February 2007. Mary was also listed in the 2005 edition of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers because of her success in getting alternative high school students to complete college.

Mary has been a very “staunch” bulldog for approximately 38 years, attending each class reunion since graduation. She enjoys traveling, entertaining, reading, international bridge and organizing and planning events.
Committee

Ms. Lillian M. Adderson, '81, Co-Chair
Dr. Mary L. Grimes, Co-Chair
Ms. Mary L. Smalls, '74, Co-Chair
Mrs. Susan Beattie
Ms. Lydia Braggs
Dr. Mary L. Grimes
Ms. Anna Ladd
Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, '57
Ms. Mary L. Smalls, '74
Ms. De’Chancela E. Williams, ‘94

Hostesses

Mrs. Susan Beattie
Ms. Lydia Braggs
Dr. Mary L. Grimes
Ms. Anna Ladd
Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, ‘57
Ms. Mary L. Smalls, '74
Ms. De’Chancela E. Williams, ‘94

Mrs. Susan Beattie
Ms. Lydia Braggs
Dr. Mary L. Grimes
Ms. Anna Ladd
Ms. Patricia B. Lott, ’63, ’79
Mrs. Teresa McCarrol
Mrs. Pamela B. Pinson
Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, ‘57
Mrs. Wendelyn C. Shaw, ‘89
Mrs. Kay E. Snider
Ms. Helena Tillar, ‘04
Ms. De’Chancela W. Williams, ‘94

Mrs. Sonja Bridges
Mrs. Deloris H. Brown
Mrs. Yvonne Byrant
Mrs. Betty Corbitt
Ms. Patricia S. Holmes
Mrs. Abbigail H. Hugine, ’71, ’75
Dr. Linda C. Jolly

Mrs. Deloris H. Brown
Mrs. Yvonne Byrant
Mrs. Betty Corbitt
Ms. Patricia S. Holmes
Mrs. Abbigail H. Hugine, ’71, ’75
Dr. Linda C. Jolly

Ms. Anna Ladd
Ms. Patricia B. Lott, ’63, ’79
Mrs. Teresa McCarrol
Mrs. Pamela B. Pinson
Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts, ‘57
Mrs. Wendelyn C. Shaw, ‘89
Mrs. Kay E. Snider
Ms. Helena Tillar, ‘04
Ms. De’Chancela W. Williams, ‘94
Menu

Shrimp Cocktail

Italian Antipasta Salad

Seasonal Fruits/Berries with Whipped Cream

Basil Marinated Tomato and Fresh Mozzarella Slices

Pinwheel Sandwich with Roast Beef and Cheese

Carved Ham with Spicy Mustard and Pineapple Chutney

Carved Turkey with Cranberry Pecan Relish and Country Turkey Gravy

Miniature Desserts, Pastries and Petit Fours

Lemonade Fruit Punch

Assorted Herbal Teas

Water