First Lady Scholarship Luncheon

Thursday, March 26, 2009
Twelve Noon
Bulldog Lounge
Kirkland W. Green Student Center
Orangeburg, South Carolina

“Embracing Excellence: Meeting Tomorrow’s Challenges”
Inside Front Cover
Thursday, the Twenty-Six of March
Two Thousand and Nine
Twelve Noon
Bulldog Lounge
Kirkland W. Green Student Center
Orangeburg, South Carolina

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Mrs. Diane Shaw Cooper, the First Lady of South Carolina State University, was born in Kingstree, South Carolina, but grew up and graduated from high school in Eustis, Florida. Mrs. Cooper went on to become the first African American student to enroll and graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Human Sciences (formerly the School of Home Economics) at Florida State University. She received her Master of Education degree from Tuskegee University, with a major in Guidance Counseling and Student Personnel Services. She completed further studies from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, Illinois and Trinity College of Washington, D.C.

On June 13, 2008, Mrs. Cooper retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, Maryland where she had enjoyed a successful and fulfilling career as a school counselor and resource counselor. Prior to that, she was a school counselor in the Huntsville, Alabama Public Schools; a Coordinator of Counseling for the ROTC Skills Center at Alabama A&M University, also in Huntsville; supervisor of Counseling and Orientation at the Tuskegee University Job Corps Center, Tuskegee, Alabama; and a teacher of home economics in the Champaign County Public Schools, Champaign, Illinois and the Orange County Public Schools of Orlando, Florida.

She received numerous awards and recognitions for her dedication and commitment to her career to include: Teacher of the Year; Educator of the Year; Apple Award; Eagle Award; Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award; Emerging Leader in the Alabama Association of Counseling and Development, and she was elected President of the Alabama Association for Counseling and Development, Chapter II.

In addition, Mrs. Cooper received major professional development as a member of the following organizations: National Education Association; Montgomery County Teachers Association; Potomac and Chesapeake Association of College Admissions Counselors; American Counseling Association; American School Counselors Association; Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, and the Alabama Association for Counseling and Development.

Mrs. Cooper served her church community in various ways to include Bible study teacher, mission study member and leader, deaconess and member of the Baptist Women’s Leadership Ministries Team for the DC Baptist Convention, Washington, DC.

On June 22, 1968, Diane Shaw married George Everett Cooper, her college sweetheart. They have two daughters, Nikki Angela and Carey Allison.
The Program
Dr. Margaret Felder Wilson
Director, Centralized Advisement and Evaluation Center
Presiding

PRELUDE ......................................................................................... Mrs. Sandye M. Spann
Retired Educator

Welcome ........................................................................................... Mrs. Diane Shaw Cooper
First Lady of SC State University

Mrs. Martha Scott Smith
Member, Board of Trustees, SC State University

Mrs. Bobbie Miller
First Lady of the City of Orangeburg

Invocation ......................................................................................... Mrs. Johnnie M.C. Keller
Interim Administrative Coordinator

Occasion ............................................................................................. Ms. Uchechi C. Egbuhuzo
Miss SC State University

Solo ................................................................................................. Ms. Angela Small Blalock
Soloist

LUNCHEON

Poetic Reading .................................................................................. Mrs. Cedar E. Lawrence
Administrative Assistant, Claflin University

Reading of the First Lady’s Poem written by Mrs. Barbara Randall Clark, Author
Presentation to the First Lady, Mrs. Diane S. Cooper

Recognizing Our Unsung Heros ......................................................... Mrs. Kay E. Snider
Graphics Manager

EDUCATION ...................................................................................... Mrs. Snider
Ms. Wanda L. Green
Dr. Talicia Scriven
Ms. Dawn K. Starks
FINES ARTS
Ms. Harriett E. Hilton
Ms. Arianne King-Comer
Ms. Angela Small Blalock

POLITICS
Ms. Betty Henderson
Mrs. Zelda J. Pelzer
Mrs. Vernell Wright

HEALTH CARE
Dr. Mildred F. Carson
Dr. Tracie S. Furgess
Dr. Keshia Oliver

LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ms. Brandis M. McNulty
Mrs. Geraldine P. Miro
Ms. Elouise J.C. Muhammad

Expressions of Gratitude
Ms. Betty Henderson
Unsung Hero

Solo
“Wind Beneath My Wings”
Ms. Blalock

Passing the Torch to Our Student Leaders in the Academy
Dr. Leola Adams
Retired Administrator

Education
Chassidy Hinton
Sheila Wright

Fine Arts
Chantel Graham
Tawana Jenkins

Health Care
Treasure Holland
Sophie Lee

Law Enforcement
Darcie Evans
Sherita L. Smalls

Politics
Chantel Knowling
Roanna Lalmansingh

Expressions of Gratitude
Ms. Sheila Wright
Education Major

Special Recognition
Ms. Franette O. Boyd
Director of University Events

Response
Mrs. Cooper

Alma Mater
Audience
**MS. WANDA L. GREEN (EDUCATION)**

Ms. Wanda Lavaciette Green, a native of St. Matthews, South Carolina, is the daughter of Mrs. Lottie Green and the late Mr. Benjamin Green. Ms. Green has been teaching for six years, and is currently a four-year Montessori teacher at Guinyard Elementary School in St. Matthews. She received her early education in the public schools of Calhoun County, her Bachelors of Science (Summa Cum Laude), Masters of Arts from South Carolina State University, and post graduate work at the College of Charleston.

Ms. Green was the recipient of the 2007 United States Department of Education American Star of Teaching Award. The U.S. Department of Education recognize and honor superior teachers. “American Stars” are highlighted as representatives of the thousands of teachers who are making a difference in the classroom. In 2008, she was named the Palmetto State Teacher Association (PSTA) “STAR” Teacher. The PSTA “STAR” Program, which is sponsored by the Foundation for Professional Development and PSTA, recognizes and rewards outstanding veteran South Carolina teachers.

**DR. TALICIA SCRIVEN (EDUCATION)**

Dr. Talicia Scriven, a native of Varnville, South Carolina, is a 1996 graduate of South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education. She continued her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi where she received a Masters in Art Education degree in 1999 and her Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2008 from Florida State University.

Dr. Scriven was the only doctoral student selected in her area of study to work with the “Arts In Education: A Home Grown Approach” Grant as the visual arts representative. The United States Department of Education funded the three-year grant with over $3 million to introduce the arts to a rural school, Howard Middle School, in Jefferson County, Florida, where students had some of the lowest Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores in the state. The goal of the grant was to increase students’ literacy through the arts.

While still a doctoral student, Scriven developed a curriculum for at-risk students involved in a study which focused on the theme, “Who Do You Think You Are?”

The results of the study showed that the arts had a major impact on the writing of students who participated in the project, thus improving FCAT scores significantly.

**MS. DAWN K. STARKS (EDUCATION)**

Ms. Dawn K. Starks, a native of St. Stephen, South Carolina, is the 2008-2009 Orangeburg County School District 5 Teacher of the Year and a fourth grade math teacher at Sheridan Elementary School. She is also an ADEPT (Assisting, Developing, Evaluating Professional Teaching) Evaluator that supports first and second year teachers as they start their journey in the field of education.

A national board certified teacher, Ms. Starks assists district personnel in creating testing materials, pacing guides, and other instructional materials for students. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, and in 2006 she was an Early Childhood Generalist recipient of the National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards. A graduate of South Carolina State University, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 2000, and in 2003 she earned a Master of Science degree in Individual and Family Development. Ms. Starks continues to support the Bulldog family by collaborating with 1890 Research.
and Extension, where she organizes and facilitates the Strategies in Math and Reading using Technology (SMART) Academy and after-school programs. She is an active member of the Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

**Ms. Harriett E. Hilton (Fine Arts)**

Ms. Harriett E. Hilton, an accomplished artist, won the 2004 People’s Choice Award from the Orangeburg League of Arts for the acrylic painting “Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church” and first place at the 2004 Orangeburg County Fair Professional Acrylics category for the acrylic painting “Sweetgrass.” Further, Ms. Hilton won an individual grant from the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center to paint a series titled “The Churches of Orangeburg County.” In 2005, she again won the People’s Choice Award from the Orangeburg League of the Arts for the acrylic painting “The Robert Mills House.” Ms. Hilton won Best in Show in 2008 at the SC State University 35th Annual Art Exhibition for the acrylic painting “Revenir de Suite.”

Ms. Hilton founded “The Edisto Sketchers,” an organization that encourages artist interactions, growth and support. In 2006, she was a founding member of DiverseART, a group of local artists who desire to promote the beauty of diversity through ongoing group exhibitions. She created and writes CRASH, the blog of the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium at SC State University and im4oclib, a blog for the Orangeburg County Library.

According to Ms. Hilton, art has the power to transform lives, to bridge cultural and economic gaps, to heal hurt. It encompasses all cultures and societies, and is the link that connects all of humanity.

**Ms. Arianne King-Comer (Fine Arts)**

Arianne King-Comer, now residing in Charleston, lived on St. Helena Island in Beaufort, South Carolina, where she was Director of the Ibile Indigo House at Penn Center until 2004. She received a B.F.A. from Howard University and has studied textiles at the graduate level at the Detroit Center of Creative Studies and Cranbrook Art Academy. She worked as a certified art teacher in Michigan before pursuing art full time and studying the indigo dye process on a United Nations grant in Oshogbo, Nigeria in 1992.

King-Comer creates murals, quilts, paintings, wearable art and wall hangings using the deep violet-blue dye extracted from the indigo plant, once grown abundantly in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Her work, using a traditional indigo dye process and batik technique, was featured on HGTV.

Arianne offers classes and workshops on the indigo process and engages students in learning the many facets of batik textile design. She is active in the community, conducting artist residencies and special projects in schools, shelters, group homes, nursing homes and community centers. She was Artist in Residence for the North Charleston Cultural Affairs Office.

She partnered with Ellen Zisholtz for a community arts project, Creative Roots, which utilized multi-arts with middle and high school students to confront racism in the community. The mural, “Unity,” which she created with the students, can be seen on the wall of the Piggly Wiggly in Beaufort. Recently her batik art was exhibited in Journey from Africa to Gullah at the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium.
**Ms. Angela Small Blalock (Fine Arts)**

Soprano Angela Small Blalock is an artist whose training and performance experience has been almost entirely American. A graduate of Savannah State College and The Ohio State University, with further study completed at the University of South Carolina, she has been an Associate Artist with the Opera Columbus Company, Columbus Light Opera, and the Columbus Ensemble Singers. Additionally, she was the recipient of a travel scholarship from The Ohio State University School of Music for study abroad in Graz, Austria with the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS).

Currently residing in South Carolina, Ms. Blalock serves on the music faculty of Benedict College. She is a former member of the music faculty at SC State University. At both institutions, she worked with students to foster appreciation and performance of classical music. Ms. Blalock has performed benefit concerts for the Orangeburg Arts Council, and made her South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra debut during the 1997-98 season in performance of Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana; she reprised this role in the opening performance of the 2003-04 season. She has also appeared as a solo artist with the Augusta Symphony Orchestra, the University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra, and the Savannah Symphony Chamber Orchestra. In January 2006, she was a guest artist in the Trinity Cathedral Performing Arts Series, the Mozart Festival, which commemorated the 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth. Ms. Blalock was the Guest Artist for the International Music Festival sponsored by the Soroptimist International Club of Jamaica in June 2006.

She is an Approved Artist for the state of South Carolina by the Board of Commissioners of the South Carolina Arts Commission and was chosen a Community Tour Artist.

**Ms. Betty Henderson (Politics)**

Betty Henderson was born in Branchville, South Carolina and is the younger of two children.

She is the former Tax Assessor of Orangeburg County and gave 28 years of public service to the citizens of Orangeburg County before she retired in 1993. Betty was the first African American Assessor in the State of South Carolina and the only African American to be inducted into the SC Associates of Assessing Officials.

Betty currently serves as the Chairperson of the Orangeburg County Democratic Party where under her guidance and foresight she has chartered the party along the greatest historic journey it has ever taken. She coordinated the general election to elect the first African American President, Barak Obama, when the path to the White House came through Orangeburg County.

She was the first African American since reconstruction to be elected to the Town Council in Branchville, South Carolina, where she served for twelve years and ten years as Mayor Pro Temp. She was recognized by the South Carolina General Assembly in the House of Representatives and the Senate for outstanding work and dedication; one of the founders of the Orangeburg County Family Heath Center, Board member of OCAB, Adult Literacy Board, The Regional Medical Center and Orangeburg County Department of Social Services.

Betty resides in Branchville and is the mother of three children: Sheila (Reginald), Ernest (Laverne) and Kathy and four grandchildren: Reginald Jr., Kimberly, Ernest III and Michael.
MRS. ZELDA J. PELZER (POLITICS)

Zelda Johnson Pelzer is a life long resident of Bowman, South Carolina. She is the tenth child of fourteen children and she attended the former Bethune Memorial High School and graduated from Bowman High School. Zelda is a graduate of Claflin University. She also received degrees from the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, Waverly School of Beauty Culture, Columbia, South Carolina and did further studies at the University of South Carolina.

Zelda has served her community by first being elected to the Bowman Town Council where she served two terms. She ran for the office of Mayor in 1990 and was elected the first African American female to hold the position of Town Mayor since the town was chartered in 1894. She was recently re-elected in 2007. Along with being the Mayor, she is also a full time paraprofessional at Bowman High School and is a school bus driver.

Zelda is married to Mr. Jimmie Pelzer, she has three children, Ezetta, Lamichael and Joshua. She has two lovely grandchildren, Somozia and Ta’Maiya.

MRS. VERNELL WRIGHT (POLITICS)

Mayor Vernell Wright, born in the Providence Community of Holly Hill, South Carolina, is the chief executive and ceremonial official of the town of Vance and is the owner of Vance Florists. While Mayor Wright continuously makes numerous contributions to her community politically, she has also made significant strides in the field of education.

A graduate of Roberts High School where she was active in the Student Government Association. Mayor Wright enrolled at Allen University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. After continuing her studies at South Carolina State University, she received a Master’s degree in Special Education. She completed sixteen years of service at Holly Hill School District III, and was the first African American to be elected to serve on the Town Council of Vance. A member of the Rock Hill AME Church congregation, she is married to Johnnie Wright and they are the proud parents of six children and the grandparents of ten grandchildren.

DR. MILDRED F. CARSON (HEALTH CARE)

Mildred Frances Carson resides in Manning, South Carolina. Since 2006, she has worked as a Staff Pediatrician at Black River Healthcare, Incorporated, in Kingstree, South Carolina.

Dr. Carson graduated Summa Cum Laude from South Carolina State University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. During her matriculation, she was a member of the Health Professions Society and the Honors Club. Her academic honors included recipient of the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar and the Burrell E. Workman Memorial Scholar. In 2006, she was inducted into the Health Professions Society at the University.

She continued her graduate studies at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky where she received the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree in 2003. As a medical student, she held memberships in several national associations whose focus was pediatrics, family physicians,
and internal medicine. Following medical school, she participated in the Pediatric Internship and Residency program at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems in Richmond, Virginia. As a member of the medical profession, she is Pediatric Board eligible, Neonatal Advanced Life-Support certified, and Pediatric Advanced Life-Support certified. She holds membership in the American Academy of Pediatrics. 
Dr. Carson continues to support and participate in community service projects. She enjoys writing poetry, cooking, theatre, African American art, and exercising.

**Dr. Tracie S. Furgess (Health Care)**

Tracie Smith Furgess was raised in Springfield, South Carolina, and educated in the public schools of Orangeburg School District 4. She graduated from Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School in 1987 and went on to South Carolina State University in 1991 where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. 
Tracie graduated from Howard University College of Dentistry. She earned the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1997. Currently, she practices dentistry at Palmetto Dental Services in Columbia, South Carolina. She is married to John V. Furgess, Jr. and she has two children, David and Garland.

**Dr. Keshia Oliver (Health Care)**

Dr. Keshia Oliver is a Podiatrist originally from Santee, South Carolina. She attended South Carolina State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1998. She attended Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and received her Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine degree in 2003. She received extensive wound care, primary podiatric care, forefoot and rear foot surgical training at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and St. Barnabas Hospital, level-I trauma center in Bronx, New York.

It has been her mission to return home and provide the best care to patients by educating and working closely with the patients to ensure that they fully understand the importance of foot care. It has also been her goal to use preventive measures to help decrease the overall number of amputations sustained by diabetic patients and patients with cardiovascular diseases.

**Ms. Brandis M. McNulty (Law Enforcement)**

Ms. Brandis M. McNulty, born September 10, 1981 in Landstuhl, West Germany to Margaret and Benjamin McNulty, is a Bureau of Protective Services Officer for the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. She provides protection to all South Carolina State agencies, including the Capital Building and the Governor's Mansion.

McNulty attended South Carolina State University after graduating with Honors from Eau Claire High School, Columbia, South Carolina. While attending the University, she held leadership positions in the Criminal Justice Club, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc. In 2003, after graduating with a degree in Criminal Justice, McNulty worked with the SC State University Police Department, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office, and the SC Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole.
Mrs. Geraldine P. Miro (Law Enforcement)

Mrs. Geraldine (Gerri) Parks Miro is an auditor for the American Correctional Association for the state of South Carolina. She began her career in Corrections in 1977 as a Social Work Supervisor, after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Livingstone College.

In her thirty years of service in the field of Corrections, Mrs. Miro has held positions as a deputy warden, agency accreditation manager, associate warden and deputy director of programs and services. In 1999, she was named Warden of the Year. She is a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and a Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is married to Octavio Miro and they have a son, Rawn E. Miro.

Ms. Elouise J.C. Muhammad (Law Enforcement)

Ms. Elouise J.C. Muhammad currently resides in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She is mother, grandmother, teacher, mentor, friend and law enforcement officer. She is proud of her many accomplishments. Ms. Muhammad has prepared herself professionally having obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice Administration from Claflin University and the recipient of a Master of Arts degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from South Carolina State University.

Additional training include domestic violence and coordinated community response program from the Office of the Attorney General, State of South Carolina; certification by the National Criminal Information Center as Dispatcher; Sexual Harassment and Passive Alcohol Sensor System, P.A.S. III Training.

Currently she serves in a dual role as Supervisor/Security Specialist and Victims Advocate in the Orangeburg area. Her skills are utilized on several University committees and community groups. Her expertise in planning and organization are key to the success of most major events held on campus. She is an active member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.
First Lady Scholarship Luncheon Menu

Assorted Spring Greens/Cherry Tomatoes/Caramelized Walnuts/
Feta Cheese/Raspberry Vinaigrette

Glazed Cornish Hens
Cranberry Chutney
Saffron Rice Topped w/Squash Medley
Hot Yeast Rolls-Butter Roses
Warmed Peach Delight
Tea Coffee Water
Mrs. Diane S. Cooper, *Chairperson*
Ms. Franette O. Boyd, *Co-Chairperson*
Mrs. Martha Scott Smith, *Co-Chairperson*

Dr. Leola Adams
Mrs. Delores W.P. Anderson
Ms. Evelyn Anderson
Mrs. Gwendolyn Bamberg
Ms. Deborah N. Blacknall
Mrs. Racquel Carter
Mrs. Barbara Randall Clark
Mrs. Adrienne F. Clinton
Mrs. Gloria J. Drayton
Mrs. Yolanda D. Drayton
Miss Uchechi C. Egbehuozo, *Miss SCSU*

Dr. Margaret Felder-Wilson, *Program Chair*
Mrs. Carolyn G. Free
Mrs. Geneva Gaffney-Heggins
Ms. Doris Gathers-Dantzler
  Dr. Lillie B. Glover
  Ms. Cammy D. Grate
  Ms. Joyce A. Green
  Mrs. Elaine M. Harley
  Dr. Clemmie F. Hill
  Ms. Mary Hill
  Mrs. Brenda J. Jamerson
  Mrs. Doris Johnson-Felder

Dr. Ethel G. Jones, *Invitations Chair*
Mrs. Johnnie M. C. Keller

Mrs. Cedar E. Lawrence, *Entertainment Chair*
Ms. Janice McCollom
Mrs. Desiray McCoy
Mrs. Bobbie Miller
Mrs. Margaret A. Roberts
Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon

Mrs. Marilyn R. Scott, *Menu Chair*
Mrs. Kay E. Snider
Mrs. Sandye M. Spann

Ms. Reinell A. Thomas, *Hostess Chair*
Mrs. Sharon Wade-Byrd
Ms. Melissa Wingate
Ms. Ellen N. Zisholtz
Sing the praise of Alma Mater
    Let us rally to her call
Lift our voices, send them ringing
    Thru the groves and classic hall.

Hail! Hail! Dear Alma Mater
Hail! Hail! Dear S.C.C.
We’ll defend and honor
    Love and cherish thee.

We are loyal sons and daughters
Proud to own the name we bear
For the truths that thou hast taught us
Ready all to do and dare.

Words written by Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, second president; music written
by Mr. Theodore DeWitt Phillips, faculty member, in 1927.