ETV Radio Features SC State University’s Brass Quintet

by Tameka Keaton-Norman

“This is my baby,” says Dr. Steven J. Reid of SC State University’s brass quintet. That’s why the music professor of six years at the University was so excited to receive an invitation from ETV Radio to participate in the festivities for the grand opening of the company’s new state-of-the-art facilities. “I am immensely proud of these music majors,” says Reid. “These students have shown diligence and dedication in their preparation.”

ETV Radio hosted the grand opening of their new facilities at the ETV Telecommunications Center, 1044 George Rogers Boulevard in Columbia, SC, on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public was invited to tour the studios and view actual recording sessions, such as the recording of SC State University’s brass quintet.

According to Reid, the SC State performance took place for one hour. The quintet, comprised of two trumpets (Desmond Kelly and Justin Watts), one French horn (Darius Davis), a trombone (Gerald Lancaster), and a tuba (Hussein Davies), performed music from various genres.

“We performed a wide variety of classical music from the Renaissance through the 20th century. We also included jazz music and excerpts from ‘West Side Story.’ As a result, we gave them music arranged specifically for brass quintet,” says Reid.

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Give to SC State TODAY!
2011 has been a challenging year-consistent cuts in the state budget, a decrease in donations, and a decrease in enrollment. However, 2012 is almost upon us and as the New Year expeditiously approaches, despite the challenges of this year, SC State has remained positive and focused. As the old saying goes, “what doesn’t kill us will make us stronger.”

Regardless of the obstacles, SC State University does remain strong and has made many lofty accomplishments this year. Additionally, the upcoming initiatives for 2012 will persist in branding SC State University as a leading university and will allow us to become more than just an African American University. This recognition has become even more credible this year with our recent separation from the University of South Carolina. The Class of 2001’s total contribution to SC State University did take things to another level, as Kendra Speed and Jameel Allen have both given $10,000 to be used toward the area which it is designated. It is very encouraging to see that while your donation may not be large, all donations are significant. “There is a clear path and plan ahead for the University, and contributions to this path may begin with a small, simple gift of $50 to $100 or even $10 a month. All of the gifts are helpful and will go toward the area which it is designated. It is very rewarding and it’s a small token considering what we have gained from the University.”

SC State University Stand-Out, Robert Porcher, Hopes $300,000 Donation Will Plant Seed of Giving

by Tamika Kenan-Norman

At 6’3, Robert Porcher’s dominant stature and 13-year career in football has always commanded respect. However, the former defensive leader and first-round draft choice for the Detroit Lions believes that SC State should not cease to be a foundation to be one of the most feared defenses in NFL history. Porcher often alludes to enrolling at SC State as his “turning point” in life. “It was a good foundation. It was just the whole atmosphere of being on campus. I got the feeling that everyone, the professors and coaches, even the cafeteria staff genuinely cared about you,” says the Wando, S.C. native. “I just think it’s important that you give,” emphasizes Porcher, whose first gift to SC State Athletics Department after he was drafted was a set of new warm ups for the football team. “I hate the warm ups that we wore when I was a senior, so I bought the team new ones.”

Porcher’s sentiments on giving is derived from his many experiences at the University, including a visit from former SC State alumnus and New York Giants stand-out, Harry Carson. “My senior year in college, Harry Carson, the highest NFL draft pick we’ve ever seen, flew in from New York and gave the insight of what it means to be a professional,” says Porcher. “He talked about the importance of setting a path and plan ahead for the University, and apply it to an institution that serves our future leaders.”

The Class of 2001’s total contribution to SC State University was a gift of $21,785. If you are interested in making a donation of unrestricted or restricted funds to SC State University, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (803) 536-8143. Says Speed, “it is boiled down to choosing a University that would afford me an opportunity.”

SC State was only the beginning for the Sales & Marketing Program and the Nuclear Engineering Program, one of the world’s leading and largest engineering, procurement and construction companies. Now, Allen, an Atlanta, Ga. native, can support his employer while working with counterparts and business leaders across the globe in which he often gives credit back to SC State for his remarkable college experience. “I am proud to say that I graduated from SC State and I definitely owe that to give back when the University afforded me an opportunity to pursue the required educational path in concert with my career aspirations.”

Allen and Speed, a Herndon, Va. native who succumbed to a University that had become a staple in her family, say that their commitment to SC State University will continue beyond this gift. “I enjoy being a part of the Business of University, recruiting students and sharing my experiences,” says Speed. “This is not a one-time gift but what I view as the first of many large gifts that will come our way about me but that would help students at the University.”

Porcher continues to cultivate the Robert Porcher Endowment Fund with the goal of raising $500,000. “In a way, it is a little easier for student athletes majoring in either criminal justice or business office their room and board, book and tuition expenses. With the assistance of businesses and former teammates, Porcher hopes to establish this feat within the next year and a half. "I just think it’s important that you give," emphasizes Porcher, whose first gift to the SC State Athletics Department after he was drafted was a set of new warm ups for the football team. "I hate the warm ups that we wore when I was a senior, so I bought the team new ones."
SC State University’s Latest Centerpiece is Unveiled

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

SC State University’s Division of Institutional Advancement has surprised the largest technological advancements with a groundbreaking fundraiser. In Sept. 2010, SC State University officially launched their partnership with Connect2Give, Inc., an authorized application service provider through the Mobile Giving Foundation, providing an opportunity for parents, students, alumni and patrons of SC State to donate to the institution utilizing a mobile phone and text messaging.

When Anthony Holloman, vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement, announced the first phase of the campaign during a home football game, visitors simultaneously pulled out their cell phones and began texting BULLDOG to 52000 to donate $10. You may also donate via the University’s website, scsu.edu. For more information, call (803) 536-8143.

SC State University’s Mobile Giving Campaign Deemed a Success

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

SC State University’s students and alumni have a golden opportunity to add their name to the legacy of former coach Willie Jeffries, current head football coach, and former player Jeffries, also chairperson for the Bulldog Wall Campaign, encourages everyone to participate in this exciting new fundraising opportunity.

“The Board has approved for us to move forward, so we are working to identify volunteer leadership and to work on timelines, and we feel very confident that we’re going to be able to raise some major support for the campaign in the coming months,” says Holloman.

Holloman hopes that partnerships with major companies will go a long way in generating support for SC State’s athletic programs. “Our goal is to sell 500 bricks, and thus far we have only reached 60,” says Holloman. “I think that this is an opportunity for us to generate the kinds of resources that it takes to sustain a public university.”

Within the past few years, the economic peril of our nation has created a daunting outlook for many colleges and universities. Unfortunately, SC State University is one such institution that has felt the wrath of limited resources resulting from a continued state decline in appropriation. Holloman says that this latest undertaking will create an opportunity and it’s almost in perpetuity. I use that word loosely,” says Jeffries. “It’s a golden opportunity and it’s almost in perpetuity. I use that word loosely, but I’m hoping this wall will be there for a long time.”

Indicative of the beginnings of this growth was Homecoming Weekend 2011 when SC State University received three large gifts from SC State alumni. Robert Porcher contributed $300,000 towards an endowment to support athletics, and young alumni, Jameel Allen and Kendra Speed, each donated $100,000.

“This is a significant in that the sense that these individuals have been out of school for years and they made a significant, personal commitment to support SC State,” notes Holloman. “That’s what we’re trying to do, develop relationships with our graduates and allow them to support their Alma Mater, and I think we’re doing that.”

SC State University Homecoming, alumni and supporters gathered near the entrance of Oliver C. Dawson Stadium to view the University’s latest showpiece—the Bulldog Wall. Anthony Holloman, vice president for Institutional Advancement, was happy to unveil the Bulldog Wall, a compilation of bricks reaching almost 5,000 bricks. “I think that this is an opportunity for us to generate the kinds of resources that it takes to sustain a public university,” says Holloman. “That’s what we’re trying to do; develop relationships with young alumni, Jameel Allen and Kendra Speed, each donated large gifts from SC State alumni. Robert Porcher contributed $300,000 towards an endowment to support athletics, and young alumni, Jameel Allen and Kendra Speed, each donated $100,000.

Beyond the phone-a-thon and Annual Fund Appeal, Holloman has begun the planning stages of a widely publicized Capital Campaign. The first in the University’s history, the Capital Campaign, currently in the planning stages, is greatly important and will be designed to solicit immensely large gifts for SC State.

“The Board has approved for us to move forward, so we are working to identify volunteer leadership and to work on timelines, and we feel very confident that we’re going to be able to raise some major support for the campaign in the coming months,” says Holloman.

A huge execution, the Capital Campaign may last anywhere from five to seven years, and the initial project in which funds will go towards the campaign, is the Legacy Society, a recognition society for any individual who has left the University in their will or estate plan.

“We are going to focus more on planned gifts,” says Holloman. “We believe that’s the way we allow individuals to make larger gifts, by utilizing the assets they have available to them.”

Holloman believes that these planned gifts should make up 25 percent of the money raised in the Capital Campaign.

All in all, Holloman is lending his 10 plus years in fundrais- ing experience to SC State University. With these initiatives in place, Holloman has set the foundation needed to provide scholarships for students, to gain additional alumni assistance and lastingly support from partners of major companies. The differentiation between the division in prior years to now is significant and creates a brighter financial picture for SC State University, so bright that alumni like Porcher are encouraged to give.

Jeffries, also chairperson for the Bulldog Wall Campaign, encourages everyone to participate in this exciting new fundraising opportunity.

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SC State’s Marching “101” Band Chosen for 10th Annual Honda Battle of the Bands

by Antia Davolite

The nation’s marching band fans have spoken and have chosen SC State’s Marching “101” Band as one of the top eight marching bands at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase. Now marking 10 years of celebrating the heritage, showmanship and scholarship of HBCU bands, the Honda Battle of the Bands will bring “The Homecoming” to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. for the Invitational Showcase that will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 at 3 p.m.

SC State’s Marching “101” Band is known from coast to coast as the “busiest band in the land.” The members have entertained tens of thousands of spectators at football games throughout the south and millions by way of nationally televised professional football games. Ms. Eddie Ellis, director of bands, is extremely excited about this endeavor. “I am really excited to go back and the students are too. To be asked a second time to participate in the Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase is an honor. Attending the Honda Battle of the Bands does many things for the University. It makes alumni and friends happy and it widens the base for recruiting students. Most of all, it recognizes the dedication of our talented students.”

The selected HBCU marching bands will earn a $20,000 grant for their music education programs and an all-expense-paid trip to the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase. The other HBCUs chosen to attend are: Albany State University’s “Marching Rams Show Band” (Southwestern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference); Bethune-Cookman University’s “Marching Wildcats” (Southwestern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference); Jackson State University’s “Sonic Boom of the South” (Southwestern Athletic Conference); Prairie View A&M University’s “Marching Storm” (Southwestern Athletic Conference); Temple University’s “Waitfords” (Independent); Virginia State University’s “Marching Trojan Explosion” (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) and Winston-Salem State University’s “Red Sea of Sound” (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association).

For the eight winning bands, the journey to the invitational showcase will involve months of practice and training, all in preparation for their Georgia Dome performances where each band will have 12 minutes to showcase their musical excellence, distinctive style and superior showmanship that earned them a place in the 2012 Invitational Showcase. The showcase bands were chosen via online voting, with votes by fans, students and alumni accounting for the final vote.

Miss Mary L. Smalls, ‘74, Dr. Leola Adams, ‘69 and Ms. Leola Adams, ‘69.

They showed their enthusiasm and excitement when reuniting with individuals that have included the University in their wills and estates as well,” says Minor. “In an effort to show additional support to the University, it takes finances, and having a relationship made this an easy sell.”

Minor notes that this important contribution from Nationwide Insurance is not the first time that Nationwide has given to support SC State students. However, this donation from Nationwide Insurance is not the first time that Nationwide has given to support SC State students. However, this donation from Nationwide Insurance comes at a prime time, when assistance is critical for a state institution that has suffered a loss of millions in state support. This funding will support SC State University’s mission, which includes providing meaningful educational experiences for students and preparing them to excel in a global society.

Realizing the challenges, Minor, based in Columbus, Ohio, says that giving to any institution, particularly an HBCU (Historically Black College or University), can be set up for success is if they have the tools and the resources to make them successful, and the only way they get the tools and the resources is for large organizations or philanthropists, to give their time, talent and their treasure to what matters most, and that is continuing the legacy of our diverse individuals.

Donates $15,000 for SC State Student Scholarships

by Antia Davolite

Retirees Reconnect during SC State University’s Inaugural Breakfast

by Ashley Ellison

Faithful members of SC State University's family congregated on campus during the inaugural retirees' breakfast, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011. Loyal retirees who devoted more than 30 years of service to SC State University or to the state of South Carolina collectively, met all smiles upon entering the K.W. Green Student Center. They showed their enthusiasm and excitement when reuniting with former colleagues and friends such as committee co-chairs, Dr. Leola Adams, ‘69 and Ms. Mary L. Smalls, ‘74.

Adams, who retired from the University in 2008 after serving more than 35 years in various capacities, to include dean for the School of Applied Professional Sciences and interim vice president for Research and Economic Development, told the distinguished group that she wants “this inaugural breakfast to serve as the beginning of a reconnection between SC State retirees and the University. “I would like for us to reconnect with each other, whether that is through regular meetings, establishing a book club, travel club or investment and photography groups,” stated Adams. “We all have these interests and this will be a way in which we can connect with each other.”

Smalls, who also devoted more than 30 years of service to the University after retiring as dean of the Miller F. Whitaker Library in 2008, shared the dynamic motion of reconnecting and the importance of maintaining a family structure. “The University has been our foundation either through getting our education or employment. It has touched our lives in so many ways,” shared Smalls. “The day you enrolled, graduated, returned to employment, or was employed and retired, you became a member of the SC State University family, and you will always be a member.”

In addition to announcing the launch of the South Carolina State University Retirees Society, the pair emphasized the significance of giving back to the University that has given much to them, whether that be through scholarships, annual or planned giving.

“The University gave you when you needed an education or a job,” stressed Smalls. “The University is our essence, so as a family, we should be taking care of our home because it is in our best interest. Adams concurred stating, “If we were students, I am certain there were times when some of you didn’t know how you were going to make it. Someone reached out to you. The University has students with real needs and that is why it’s important to support the University in educating our students,” noted Adams.

Vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement, Anthony Holloman, says he is grateful for the commitment of Adams and Smalls to assist the University in re-engaging a dedicated group that’s so important to the University. “I am very excited to work with Dr. Leola Adams and Ms. Mary L. Smalls to launch the South Carolina State University’s Retirees’ Society. This initiative, along with the establishment of the Legacy Society, will allow the University to reconnect and recognize those individuals that have included the University in their wills and estate plans. These gifts help the University to grow its endowment and develop resources that lead to long-term stability and growth,” stated Holloman.

Reflecting back on the overall experience, Adams said, “The breakfast turned out beautifully. It achieved the purpose of the University’s reconnection with retired faculty, staff and administrators. It really put the ownership of all of this on the University to reach out to individuals. They need to know that there is still a place for them, that their presence at activities is wanted and appreciated and just by having them for breakfast is a first great step.”