Friendship Nine and Iconic Civil Rights Era to be recognized during Conference at SC State University

By Tameka Kenan-Norman

Most deem the Civil Rights Movement as a pivotal point in history which changed all lives forever. Dr. Larry Watson, associate professor of history and Faculty Senate president at SC State University, would agree. “The Civil Rights Movement energized more than just African Americans. It effectively changed the political, cultural and social landscapes of America and the world,” says Watson.

A movement so strong should always be reflected upon and remembered. That’s why Congressman James E. Clyburn and others are participating in the National Council of History Education’s conference: South Carolina and the Civil Rights Struggle. While there were numerous civil rights movements, one such movement gained acclaim in South Carolina, and it involved the “Friendship Nine.” The conference, to be held in SC State’s Dr. Barbara A. Vaughan Recital Hall on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature the remaining members of the “Friendship Nine.” These men embarked on a sit-in at the McCrory’s lunch counter in Rock Hill, S.C. that led them to choose to serve 30 days in jail in protest of segregation in South Carolina and in the nation. According to Watson, their historic “Jail, No Bail” stand against discrimination was a hallmark of the Civil Rights conflict. (Click here for full story).

Liberty Tax Service and the SC State University Foundation Provide Tax Incentives

By Tameka Kenan-Norman

Liberty Tax Service is working in conjunction with the South Carolina State University Foundation, instituting a program that will provide scholarship dollars and save money for SC State faculty, staff and students. If you did not file with Liberty Tax Service in 2011 and decide to take advantage of their services in 2012, the SC State University Foundation will benefit tremendously. Currently, Liberty Tax Service will donate $20 to the SC State University Foundation for every new client received. Additionally, now through Feb. 14, 2012, each client will be offered $50 for each completed tax return, excluding other discounts or promotions. (Click here for full story).

SC State University Brings Collegiate Readership Program to Campus

By USA Today

SC State University students now have the world at their fingertips. The SC State University Division of Student Affairs, in conjunction with the Student Government Association (SGA), has partnered with USA TODAY to launch the Collegiate Readership Program.

The mission of the readership program is to promote civic engagement, global awareness and media literacy on campus by exposing students to the news in their living, learning and community spaces. SC State is launching this initiative to broaden students’ awareness of current issues through newspaper readership and to help students become more informed and engaged citizens. (Click here for full story).

Busy SC State Alumnus Finds Time to Focus on a Worthy Cause

By Tameka Kenan-Norman

Since his graduation from SC State University in 1985, Melvin Williams has been busy. Frankly, it seems that Williams, a current business developer for S&ME, Inc. in Charleston, S.C. has been so busy that one might wonder how he can juggle these massive responsibilities.

Williams is currently a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Charleston Chapter of the American Subcontractors Association of the Carolinas (ASAC), the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) Eastern Branch, South Carolina Section, the South Carolina State University National Alumni Association, the Charleston Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), the Charleston, S.C. Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Charleston Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), the Charleston Pan-Hellenic Council, the South Carolina State University Industrial Advisory Committee and vice-chair for the South Carolina SmartState Review Board. So, it’s no surprise that for quite some time, Williams denied repeated requests to get involved in yet another professional organization.

Williams, who previously just couldn’t find the time, is now excited about his recent appointment to serve on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Hollings Cancer Center Advisory Board. (Click here for full story).

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