Gen. Colin Powell Offers Resonating Message during SC State University’s Spring Commencement

By Ashley Elliott

Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (RET)

“Always remember, it’s not where you start in life, but where you end up.” This impactful message was echoed by Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (RET) and left resonating in the hearts and minds of 450 graduates during SC State University’s Commencement Convocation on Friday, May 6, 2011.

After being inducted as the first honorary member of the Bulldog Battalion ROTC Hall of Fame, the retired four-star general delivered a dynamic speech to a sea of family members, friends, the SC State University family and the “phenomenal class of 2011,” as he described the graduates that filled Oliver C. Dawson Stadium.

“This is a remarkable day for you, and years from now when memories start to fade there’s some things that happened in the past few days or week that will always bring you back to this day,” he said, describing such historic events as the royal wedding, the assassination of Osama Bin Laden and President Barack Obama’s release of his birth certificate. (Click here for full story).

Congressman James E. Clyburn Gives $300,000 to Alma Mater

By Tameka Kenan

Congressman James E. Clyburn

It was a celebratory time for SC State University during their May Weekend festivities. Along with many others, the Silver Class of 1986 and the Golden Class of 1961 were in reunion. Congressman James E. Clyburn, however, proved to be the highlight during the Alumni Honors and Awards Banquet when he presented University President, Dr. George E. Cooper, and vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement, Mr. Anthony Holloman, with a check for $300,000. (Click here for full story).

Career Center Revives Relationship with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

By Tameka Kenan

Joseph Thomas was exuberant recently when he, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SC State University President, Dr. George E. Cooper, signed an agreement reinstating the University’s partnership with the agency. Thomas, interim director for the Career Center at SC State, has worked tirelessly as an advocate for this cause, and the fruits of his labor will be rewarding.

The partnership agreement between SC State University and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, will ultimately result in additional jobs and co-op experiences for SC State students. “The purpose is to enhance the diverse pool of talent throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” stated Lt. Col. Kirk, engineer and commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. “About four years back, there was an existing partnership in place that for some reason went dormant,” noted Kirk. “We wanted to renew that relationship.”

Thomas was happy for the renewal. “Thank you for championing this course and continuing your support,” stated Thomas. Dr. Cooper agreed, stating, “With the renewed efforts by the corps, the opportunities for our graduates will be enhanced. The proximity to the University will also be convenient for a number of our students.” (Click here for full story).

HIGHLIGHTS from SC State University’s Spring Commencement 2011

Keynote Speaker, GENERAL COLIN L. POWELL

Click here for all photos from this year’s Commencement Activities.

Committed Sons and Daughters of SC State University Return for Annual Alumni Weekend

By Antia Dawkins

In the month of May, the SC State University campus is full of exciting moments. Graduating students are preparing for Commencement and looking for new opportunities, while alumni return every year for Alumni Weekend. Alumni Weekend is held the first weekend in May. It officially began in 1987.

“We are ecstatic by the number of class reunion participants and alumni who returned on Alumni Weekend,” says Adrienne Clinton, director of alumni relations. During this year’s Alumni Weekend, 11 classes were featured. The reunion classes were 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986. The class of 1986 served as the Silver Class, representing 25 years since graduating from the University. (Click here for full story).