December 2009

Dear SCSU Foundation Stakeholders:

As we approach the close of 2009, I am pleased to share with you my final Foundation update for the year. Looking back over this year, we experienced a very challenging first quarter as the economic crisis continued its downward spiral. The economic downturn subdued during the second quarter and began to show signs of improvement as we concluded the quarter. The recovery began to gain momentum during the third quarter and continues to show improvement. I am pleased to indicate that SCSU Foundation investments are up over 10% for the year in spite of very turbulent and volatile first and second quarters. Over half of last year’s losses have been restored and the recovery continues.

Throughout the first three quarters, Foundation investments were very conservatively allocated toward low-risk fixed income & cash. As the markets improved during the back half of 2009, we began to reallocate investments for a more balanced portfolio mix. Although the economy is strengthening, it remains difficult to assess whether normalization has finally returned. We expect some volatility to continue through the fourth quarter of 2010 when we should have a much clearer picture of the economy and market stability.

Thank you for sustaining your support during these difficult economic conditions. By now, you should have received your annual fund envelope, and I encourage each of you, at the highest level of contribution to support our students during this time of severe economic crisis. As our students return for the spring semester, many will be financially challenged to remain in school. Scholarship dollars will enable those students to remain in school and achieve their educational dreams. Your contribution will make an enormous difference in the lives of many students.

As you make your gift, please consider the Automatic Clearing House (ACH) approach for ease and convenience which allows us to automatically debit your bank account and credit the SCSU Foundation on a monthly basis. To arrange for your ACH donation, visit SC State’s web site homepage (www.scsu.edu) or call (803) 536-7190. And finally, thanks again for your loyalty and support and as we sort out the optimum investment strategy to maximize returns for SCSU Foundation endowments and investments.

On behalf of the SCSU Foundation, have a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jackie Epps, ’69
Interim Executive Director

Dr. Jackie Epps, ’69

International best-selling author, Terry McMillan, served as the 2009 Commencement Convocation Speaker. A Night Among the Stars at the Cotton Club featuring recording artist, Regina Belle.

SC State graduates 364 during the Fall Commencement Ceremony.

inside this issue
- SC State Graduates Challenged to Enrich Perspectives and Change Lives
- The J.P. Starnes Museum and Planetarium Presents a New Exhibit
- The Latest Update on SC State’s Hodge Hall Expansion

South Carolina State University Foundation Scholarship Gala & Tribute

A NIGHT AMONG THE STARS AT THE COTTON CLUB Featuring Recording Artist, Regina Belle

Saturday, February 20, 2010
Smith-Hammond-Middletown Memorial Center
South Carolina State University
SC State Graduates Are Challenged to Enrich Perspectives and Change Lives During Fall 2009 Commencement Ceremony by Ashley Elliott

“I have three simple questions for you this morning that may help you enrich your perspectives,” said John S. Wilson, Jr., executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s). Wilson delivered the keynote address during SC State’s Fall 2009 Commencement Ceremony, held on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, at the Smith-Hammond-Middleton (SHM) Memorial Center.

“If you can find a way to change your perspective, you can gain a brand new brilliance, insightfulness and a new energetic intelligence,” explained Wilson to the 364 SC State graduates.

At the beginning of his message, Wilson told the graduating class that they must continue to excel once they leave SC State. He then asked three simple, yet important questions regarding enriching their perspectives.

“The first question I have for you is, are you rich?” asked Wilson. “You are not poor, but if you think you are, you will never be rich, and I’m not talking about just money,” explained Wilson. “You can be so distracted with what you think you don’t have that you miss the opportunity to be rich in knowledge, rich in ambition and rich in perspective and money as well,” he continued.

Wilson’s challenge for the graduates is to inspire them to do great things upon leaving SC State. Led by two questions, “Are you ambitious and are you going to be a great person that makes a profound difference?” he asked. “You came to SC State so that you might leave here better educated and trained so that you can help solve some of life’s profound mysteries. Are you aspiring to change the world, or are you just selfishly improving your place in the world?”

Wilson’s third and final question regarding perspective was, “Are you beautiful?” “Beauty is not what you look like. It’s what you do, it’s what you achieve, and it’s what you try to fix and heal in this world,” explained Wilson. “You need to know it’s up to you to be beautiful; beauty is a decision,” he added. Wilson also noted that having the right values, ethics and goals makes you beautiful.

As he concluded his message, Wilson left the graduates with a final question and challenge: “Are you true?” asked Wilson. “SC State has over 90,000 alumni, but only 10 percent give back,” noted Wilson regarding financial contributions given to the University. “I challenge you to be true, to your class that makes a difference,” concluded Wilson.

Wilson’s speech to SC State and St. George, SC, native Tinsola Moore said she greatly enjoyed Wilson’s message. “Dr. Wilson’s speech was very interesting,” said Moore. “I really enjoyed his three keys to life, and I’m looking forward to getting the book,” The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born, “that he spoke about,” she continued.

In 2006, Moore obtained her bachelor’s degree in speech pathology and audiology from SC State. After taking a year off, she decided to return to obtain her master’s degree in the same area of study.

“SC State is an outstanding institution. I learned a lot while I was here and gained a lot of valuable experience,” said Moore. “SC State has a very strong Speech Pathology and Audiology Program, which has prepared me for my career,” she continued. Moore currently serves as a speech language therapist at Sheridan Elementary School in Orangeburg, SC.

Reflecting on her journey at SC State, Moore would agree that her most challenging experience was one that many graduate students are all too familiar with. “The most challenging experience I was faced with was working two full time jobs while obtaining my master’s degree,” said Moore. “As I look back, though, I can really say it was all worth it.”

“Modern and Chic”
SC State’s Hodge Hall Expansion Will Soon Lend a New Look to the SC State Campus by Tamoka Kewan

“Quality is the signature of a true craftsman.” These are the words that line the interior of the construction trailer which sits amidst what will soon be the site of the Hodge Hall Expansion, housing the Department of Biology and Physical Sciences. The building, which is adjacent to the Kent Green Student Center and directly beside the current Hodge Hall, is well on its way to completion, thanks to Randolph and Son Builders, Inc. and the project team.

Construction on Lowman Hall is coming along very well. Located on the southwest corner of campus, Lowman Hall is scheduled to be completed before the spring semester. The new building will feature state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom space and provide much needed classroom space and an updated science facility.

The building will be built on a steel frame, allowing for a 3-story laboratory building that will include offices, laboratories, a fitness center and a 250 seat auditorium. The building will be designed to meet the highest green building standards and will be constructed with sustainable materials. The building will feature a green roof, a rainwater collection system, and a geothermal system.

The building will be clad in a combination of glass and stainless steel, with the stainless steel accents providing a modern and chic appearance. The building will feature a green roof, a rainwater collection system, and a geothermal system.

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Creating Alternative Energy: From Vegetable Oil to Biodiesel Fuel

SC State Faculty and Student Create Biodiesel Fuel for the First Time

by Ashley Elliott

History was recently made on the campus of SC State University as faculty members and junior nuclear engineer student, Latarius Belton, created biodiesel fuel for the first time.

Belton along with Dr. Musa Danjaji, associate professor of Nuclear Engineering, drain production. The long-term objective of the project is to be able to produce commercial quantities of biodiesel for use on campus from waste vegetable oils from the University cafeteria and local restaurants.

SC State's James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center also joined in research efforts of creating biodiesel fuel, which assists with meeting the future critical needs of transportation.

“SC State will not be left behind in the area of alternative energy and to purchase two Raven 24 Gallon Biodiesel Processors, which produce the fuel,” said Danjaji. “This is one of several projects that we are continuously working on to ensure our involvement,” said Lewis.

The grant will also provide program and technical support for the program. We are grateful to have support for two new course offerings, soil science and agronomy,“ she continued.

The theme for this year’s conference was, “Embracing the Pathway to Success: Engaging minority Education through Research Collaborations.”

The Savannah River Site Environmental Sciences Field Station (SRESFS) has expanded to 29 colleges and universities across the nation, also known as member institutions, 21 of which are Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). The SRESFS collaborates with the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the US Forest Service to cultivate and initiate hands-on student training and internship opportunities at the Savannah River Site.

“The SRESFS has also provided leadership for activities in emerging technologies and systems analysis, and has delivered new, innovative technologies to underrepresented and limited resource farmers, partners and ranchers. We are very grateful for this opportunity to showcase some of the more positive things we are doing here at SC State,” said Grant. “The SRESFS has a long-standing relationship with the NRCS and its employees. Over the history of the SRESFS, NRCS has provided both financial and technical support for the program. We are grateful to have support for two new course offerings, soil science and agronomy,” she continued.

The Savannah River Site Environmental Sciences Field Station Receives $125,000 Grant to Protect Natural Resources

by Annya Darrozie

The Savannah River Site Environmental Sciences Field Station (SRESFS) was recently awarded a $125,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)/ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the 1990 Institutions Capacity Building Grant (ICBG) Program. The ICBG Program is administered by the Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the USDA.

Dr. Lewis, dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technology at SC State, created biodiesel fuel, which assists with meeting the future critical needs of transportation.

“The SRESFS offers the integrated, multidisciplinary approach necessary to solve society’s resource problems. With training from the SRESFS, students will be prepared to use and protect our natural resources wisely. We need professionals who understand these resources and the social systems that govern their uses,” said Prof. Denise Grant, director of the SRESFS.

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The Environmental Sciences Field Station (EFSF) concept was originally proposed in 1999 by Dr. Ambrose O. Anoruo, a science professor at SC State. The program was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the 1990 Institutions Capacity Building Grant (ICBG) Program. The ICBG Program is administered by the Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the USDA.

For additional information about the SRESFS, contact Prof. Denise Grant at (803)536-8889.
The LI.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium presents the new exhibit, “Twentieth Century Masters from the Cochran Collection”. The LI.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium (The Stanback) is excited to present “Twentieth Century Masters from the Cochran Collection”, an exhibition of the works of some of the most interesting and exciting artists of the Twentieth Century. This amazing collection includes works on paper by internationally esteemed artists including Jacob Lawrence, Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Renzo Breton, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali, James Rosenquist, Alexander Calder, Elizabeth Catlett, Jim Dine, Jasper Johns, Joan Miro, William De Kooning, George Segal, Helen Frankenthaler, Louise Nevelson, Robert Rauschenberg, Camille Billops, John Biggers, Mildred Thompson and many others. This is the first time that the Cochran Collection is being exhibited in all of its diversity, without ethnic differentiation.

“Twentieth Century Masters from the Cochran Collection” will be exhibited from February 19, 2010 through July 1, 2010. The opening reception will be on Friday, February 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This coincides with SC State tradition of opening exhibitions on Founder’s Day. The opening is free to the public.

Mildred Thompson, artist and former assistant editor of Art Papers, in her description of the Collection continues in the SC State tradition of opening exhibitions on Founder’s Day Weekend. “Twentieth Century Masters from the Cochran Collection” will be exhibited from February 19, 2010 to present “Twentieth Century Masters from the Cochran Collection.”

“these works are a profound documentation of the 20th Century’s social and cultural scene. The selections chosen for The Cochran Collection are reflections of the last half of the last century and manage to point toward what we might expect in and from the art world in this millennium. The pop, abstract, representational, real, non-representational and female artists in “The Cochran Collection” portray overall attitudes, definitions, divisions and directions. These are some of the factors making “The Cochran Collection” one of the most significant private art collections in the United States today.”

Wes and Missy Cochran are Friends of The Stanback, and Wes will serve on the newly forming Stanback Advisory Board. They are devoted art collectors with a passion for art rivaling any artist or collector.

“it took a lot of perseverance, hard work and dedication for this annex to be constructed,” says Salley. “It has been very challenging, but I’m glad that we are now able to see our vision come alive.”

Although there will not be a greenhouse as the University originally planned, Dr. Judith Dickinson, once completed, the new Hodge Hall Expansion will be very attractive.

South Carolina State head football coach Buddy Pough has been named the 2009 Palmetto State Coach of the Year. It also means that we have been somewhat successful in what we are trying to do, and a lot of people share in that success.”

Clemson’s C.J. Spiller, who joined Ford at running back on the All-State squad, was named Offensive Player of the Year, while South Carolina linebacker Eric Norwood took Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Support the Marching “101” Band

Thank you for supporting the “Best Band in the Land,” SC State University’s Marching “101” Band as they traveled in post-season play. Let’s continue to cheer our band and all of our teams to victory. GO BULLDOGS!!!