

FOCUS

A newsletter for alumni, friends, faculty & staff | March 2009



Orangeburg Massacre 41st Commemoration Ceremony World Premiere of the Documentary: Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968



Survivors' families and the Orangeburg community of South Carolina congregated on the campus of SC State to observe the 41st Anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009.

The Feb. 8, 1968 incident resulted in the killing of three students and the serious wounding of 28 others by state police following student unrest related to picketing at a segregated bowling alley.

Prior to the Commemoration Ceremony, a Sunrise Ecumenical Service was held at Claflin University. Pastors and members of the community gathered seeking reconciliation and growth.

During the program, the audience viewed the world premiere of the documentary Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968, which took more than 10 years to complete due to extensive research.

The hour-long documentary, which received a standing ovation, was directed and produced by Bestor Crem and Judy Richardson of Northern Lights Production Company in Boston, Massachusetts.

"This is one of the most important events of the civil rights movement that Americans don't know. Our job as documentary filmmakers is to shed light on incidents that have not been fully considered; to raise questions that will contribute to the discussion of accountability so as to help ensure that this kind of tragedy never happens again," said producers Richardson and Crem.

President George E. Cooper believes it's important to remember the past. But he also feels the future of the community hinges on its coming together.

"We're not trying to develop instant unity. We can't change

(l to r) Bestor Crem, Judy Richardson, and President George E. Cooper

history, but we can certainly embrace the future," he said. "If we don't understand our history, it's really difficult to frame our future," Cooper said.

The documentary featured interviews with the late Gov. Robert McNair, state troopers, and survivors, among others. Dr. Cleveland Sellers, Voorhees President and Orangeburg Massacre survivor feels that it's important for reconciliation to take place. "We don't need to continue to pretend it did not happen.

"The continuation of having some kind of recognition keeps the flame burning. This is part of who we are, its part of our history," said Sellers.

Following the program, a procession to the memorial monument where the lighting of the eternal flame and planting of the "Tree of Reconciliation" took place.

SC State University's Presidential Inauguration
Friday, March 27, 2009 • 11:00 a.m.



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Dr. Jackie Epps
Interim Vice President
Institutional Advancement

Erica S. Prioleau
Director, University Relations and Marketing

Carl A'zee
Project Manager/WSSB General Manager

Rolando Davis
Student Media Advisor/University Photographer

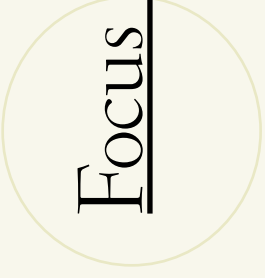
Antia Dawkins
Public Information Specialist

Ashley Elliott
Assistant Director of Public Relations

Tameka Kenan
Assistant Director of Marketing

Andrea S. Milford-Williams
Office Manager

Kay Snider
Publications Manager



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Dr. Anthony O. Parker, SC State Alumnus, '75 and President of Albany Technical College served as Keynote speaker during the 113th Founder's Day Program, "A Heritage Built on Change."

Faculty and Staff Employees of the Year recognized during the 113th Founders Day Convocation



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Faculty Employee of the Year, Dr. Angela Shaw-Thornberg, Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd, and Dr. Rabina



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Staff Employee of the Year, Carrtina Wright Glover, Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd, and Dennis Larrymore



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Carolyn Harris-Brown, and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



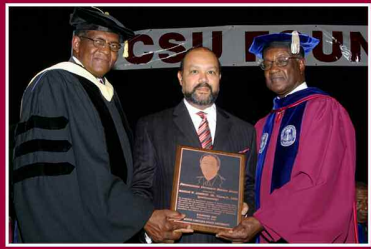
(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Deanna Brown (on behalf of James Brown), and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



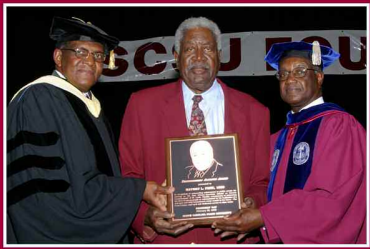
(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Dr. Anthony Parker, and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Dr. George Bradley, and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Mark Jamison (on behalf of Dr. Marion Jamison, Jr.), and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



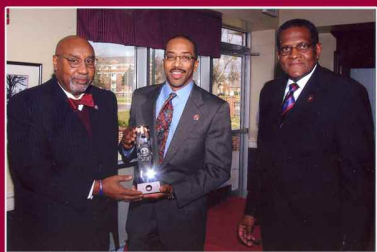
(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Havert L. Feen, and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Col. Isaiah E. Barnwell, Jr., and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



(l to r) President George E. Cooper, Marvin Marshall, and Trustee Board Chairman, Lumus Byrd



(l to r) Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations, Dr. Rodell Lawrence, Henry Allen, and President George E. Cooper

SC State honored two employees during the 113th Founders' Day Convocation, "A Heritage Built on Change," on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 in the Smith-Hammond-Middleton (SHM) Memorial Center.

Dr. Angela Shaw-Thornberg, assistant professor of English in the department of English and Modern Languages, was recognized as the University professor of the year and Carrtina Wright Glover, senior academic counselor/assistant director of new student orientation and SC State alumna, '85, was recognized as the university staff employee of the year.

Glover and Thornberg, who received top honors among seven of their peers, will receive a monetary gift, one year "reserve" parking compliments and parking signs designated for "Staff of the Year and Professor of the Year."

"It's a great honor to have an award such as this bestowed unto you," said Glover. "I enjoy serving the students at SC State and want them to experience success. My joy comes when I see a freshman student achieve their dreams as they walk across the stage and obtain their degree," continued Glover.

Glover, who was also honored for 20 years of service to SC State, obtained her bachelor's degree in Counselor Education and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from SC State University. In 2008, Glover was inducted in The Golden Key international honor society at SC State.

Thornberg, who has served in her role for three years at SC State, was flattered about winning the professor of the Year Award. "Receiving this award encourages me to continue to work hard and provide a strong educational foundation for my students, she said.

Thornberg obtained her bachelors degree in Spanish, English and Philosophy from Wofford College in Spartanburg S.C. and her master's and doctor of philosophy degree in Literatures in English from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in Camden, N.J.

Developed in Jan. 1997, the Professor and Staff Employee of the Year Program provides a method of recognition to employees for their performance and dedicated service to SC State.

"I believe that the Professor and Staff Employee of the Year Program rewards and recognizes outstanding employees, and demonstrates an increased commitment and loyalty to improving and maintaining morale and motivation, said Patricia Gibson-Haigler, chairperson of the Professor and Staff Employee of the Year Program. "This Program honors initiatives and contributions made by employees to SC State," added Gibson-Haigler.

Professor of the Year Awards were presented to: Dr. Gouhua Ma, College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences; Dr. Angela Shaw Thornberg, College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences; and Dr. Wagih G. Abdel-Kader, College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technology.

Staff Employee of the Year Awards were presented to: Ethel J. Bryant, Division of Academic Affairs; Willie Brailey, Division of Finance, Facilities and Management Information Systems; Erica S. Prioleau, Division of Institutional Advancement; Carrtina Wright Glover, Office of the President; Demier Z. Richardson, Division of Research and Economic Development; and Joseph B. Thomas, Division of Student Affairs.

In addition to each awardee receiving personal recognition from President George E. Cooper and Division Vice Presidents, a plaque and monetary gift was given during the Professor and Staff Employee of the Year Luncheon.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Carolyn Harris-Brown, '54 and Mr. Marvin Marshall, '95. Col. Isaiah E. Barnwell, Jr., accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award on behalf of the Class of 1958,

The Distinguished Service awards were presented to Mrs. Annie Jamison on behalf of Dr. Marion Jamison, '55, and Havert L. Feen, '50. Deanna, daughter of James Brown accepted the award on his behalf.

The Thomas E. Miller Society Award recipient was Henry Allen Jr.

The Outstanding Accomplishments and Achievements Award were presented to Dr. Anthony Parker, '75 (President of Albany Technical College) and keynote speaker of the Founders' Day Convocation and Dr. George Bradley, '83 (President of Payne College).

During Founders' Weekend, The I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium opened the exhibition, James Brown: "Preserving the Legacy," on Friday, Feb. 20, 2009 and on Saturday, Feb. 21, SC State alumni, friends and supporters gathered to raise resources to support the University's general scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance to many of SC State's undergraduate students.

During this year's Gala, SC State celebrated the academic achievements of eight students:

- Anthony Beckett, freshman, English Education Major
- Jaime D. Dicks, junior, Physical Education/Sports Management Major
- Brittany R. Green, freshman, Management Major
- Henry R. Guion, freshman, Professional English Major
- Ashley C. Hughes, senior, Professional English Major
- Dashan J. Axson-Lawrence, sophomore, English Education Major
- Sharonda Littlejohn, senior, Biology Major
- Abdalla K. Straker, senior, Business Economics Major

The gala was followed by a special concert performed by former lead singer of Sounds of Blackness, Ann Nesby. This year's Scholarship Gala and Tribute proceeds totaled \$185,817.



Robots “Face-Off” During the 4th Annual Robotics Competition at SC State

Wonderbot, Surge and Red Rover were just a few of the robots featured at the 4th Annual FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge, formally the FIRST Vex Challenge, which was held on Feb. 20, 2009 at the Felton Laboratory School Gymnasium on the campus of SC State.

The FIRST Tech Challenge is a mid-level robotic competition, designed to challenge high-school students to use creative problem-solving skills by enabling them to design and build radio-controlled robotic devices with capabilities to perform various tasks.

“The FIRST Vex Robotics Competition is a great opportunity for students to learn and get excited about Science and Technology. Annually, we invite high schools students from rural areas throughout the region to participate in the competition and learn about the University’s offerings,” said Lamar Tisdale, Technology Transfer and Training Coordinator at SC State.

SC State and the James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center (JECUTC), also served as host to the 3rd annual FIRST Vex Challenge, the largest in the nation, which consisted of over 600 students, comprised of fifty-three teams, from high schools across South Carolina.

“SC State University has been an Affiliate Partner since the beginning of the FIRST Tech Challenge program, and has been the only official face of the FIRST Tech Challenge in the state. The University makes a strong effort to bring a diverse group of students from across the state of South Carolina to participate in the competition,” said JoAnn Halloran, Partner Services Manager for FIRST Tech Challenge.

After assembling their robots, the teams were randomly paired into alliances of red and blue, with robotic drivers conducting their team’s robots across the playing fields, picking up hockey pucks and taking them to “goals” located in the middle of the field. The teams were judge according to design creativity and how well their robots operated. Each team received a plaque and the

winning team, The Fembots from the Anderson Career Center in Anderson, S.C., received a trophy and the chance to compete in the National Championship Tournament at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. in April 2009. The national robotic competition is part of FIRST, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspire young people’s interest and participation in science and technology.

The Fembots, who started constructing their robot in late September 2008, returned for the second year to participate in the competition. Senior high school student and member of the Fembots, Carolyn Lennon looks forward to coming to SC State to participate in the annual robotics competition.

“I enjoy the robotics competition because it gives us an opportunity to design things from the area of engineering and teaches us strategies we can use in the real world,” said Lennon.

Lamar Dawkins, third grade student at Felton Laboratory School was inspired by the Fembots’ community service initiatives.

“I was happy to know that the team raised over \$2,000 to give Christmas gifts to children during the holiday season, said Dawkins.

Additionally in 2008 the group started a girls’ camp, ‘Gateway Academy,’ which encourages young girls to learn about the areas of science and technology.

For more information on the FIRST Tech Challenge, contact Lamar Tisdale, Technology Transfer and Training Coordinator at 803-516-4532 or ltisdale@scsu.edu.



The Fembots



“Modern” Science The Expansion of Hodge Hall

SC State’s campus is receiving a “facelift” with the renovation of Lowman Hall, the oldest building on the University’s campus which will house administrative offices upon its completion in Sept. 2009 and now with the expansion of Hodge Hall, SC State’s science building.

Hodge Hall currently houses the department of Biology and Physical Science, which include the areas of biology, chemistry and physics, laboratories and offices.

Hodge Hall was originally constructed in 1928 by SC State students and constructors within the community. The design was implemented by Miller F. Whittaker, third president of SC State, while serving as director of the mechanical department and as a part of the requirements for his M.S. degree in Architecture from Kansas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The three story building was named after former trustee of the College, E.D. Hodge of Clarendon S.C.

“The faculty, staff and students within our department are excited about the expansion,” said Dr. Judith Sally, chairperson of the department of Biology and Physical Sciences, who began taken classes in the historical building in 1971. “Our faculty will be able to take learning, research and discovery to another level, educating our students who have earned the right to have a state-of-the art facility,” she added.

Six University presidents have been involved with the expansion of the annex, each having their own vision. The original project was originally scheduled to begin in 2001 however due to funding issues the project was delayed for several years.

SC State’s Career Center hosts 3rd Annual Business and Industry Cluster

S.C. State’s Career Center hosted its third annual Business and Industry Cluster on Feb. 18, 2009 on the campus of SC State.

The Business and Industry Cluster is a hybrid organization of representatives from member businesses, non-profit organizations, government businesses, and SC State faculty, staff and students. The Cluster’s mission is to determine and integrate the best business practices and technologies into the SC State instructional program with the goal of producing graduates equipped for work in today’s global economy.

Cluster members met with President George E. Cooper to learn about upcoming University initiatives, as well as meet with SC State faculty and staff members to discuss recruiting, internship and co-op opportunities for students.

They also made classroom visits to conduct informational seminars about Business Etiquette, Corporate Culture, Communication Skills, Internship/Co-ops and Interview Skills.

SC State students met with Cluster members and learned about various employment programs and opportunities during the Business and Industry Cluster networking session.

“The Business and Industry Cluster was created to support the University’s efforts to educate and equip our students with the essential skill sets needed to assume positions within corporate America and across the global marketplace,” said Joseph Thomas, director of the Career Development Center at SC State.

Members that attended the Business and Industry Cluster include: Boehringer Ingelheim, BI-LO, BMW Manufacturing Company, Courtesy Mgt., Enterprise Rent-A-Car, General Electric, GEICO, Nationwide Insurance, Orangeburg Consolidated District 5, Okonite, QS/1, Roche, Santee Cooper, SCANA, Wal-Mart, and Wells Fargo.

Members of SC State’s Business and Industry Cluster gain the following benefits:

- Access to students who may be a fit for co-op, internship and permanent employment opportunities in member organization.
- Opportunities to collaborate with SC State faculty to improve and customize our academic programs to produce more graduates with the skills needed by member organizations.
- Working relationships between members and SC State administrators making the resources of the university more accessible to member organizations.

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

Dr. Salley continued to tell about how her students excelled in their efforts despite the challenges they faced with the original facility.

“I would often encourage my students and tell them not to worry about the building but get what’s between the walls, the knowledge from the faculty.”

Expansion of the three-story annex began in Sept. 2008 and is scheduled for completion in spring 2010. The building will include an office tower, research space, two auditoriums, three conference rooms, and state-of-the art classrooms and laboratories.

Hodge Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Sept. 20, 1985.

Experiencing College Life at Age 16

Most students begin college when they are between the ages of 17 and 18, however SC State student, Damayne Hyatt has a slightly different story to tell. Hyatt, freshman Nuclear Engineering major, was accepted to SC State at the age of 15, while he was still a junior at Goose Creek High School.

Originally from St. Thomas, Jamaica, Hyatt moved to Goose Creek, S.C. with his mother to attend high school in 2005. His hard work and dedication paid off as he skipped his senior year and graduated 7th in his class in May 2008, just weeks after his 16th birthday. Hyatt then enrolled at SC State in fall 2008.

“My mother enrolled me in school early on, therefore I was always the youngest person in my class while growing up,” said Hyatt.

While he is excited about college life at such a young age, Hyatt says he keeps his focus on achieving academically.

“Thus far my experience at SC State has been incredible. I have met a lot of wonderful people that are willing to go the extra mile to help me. I’m mostly looking forward to starting my core courses in Nuclear Engineering as I know I will learn many new things. The area of Nuclear Engineering is emphasized more in the United States than in Jamaica,” said Hyatt.

Hyatt also notes other differences between his current residence and the place where he originally grew up.

“There are significantly more classes that must be taken in a shorter period of time in

Jamaica. On average we are responsible for taking a minimum of 12 to 16 classes and more emphasis is placed on final grades,” said Hyatt. I noticed that here in the United

States, schedules consists of 5 to 6 classes a semester and scores from assignments are combined to make up an overall final grade,” he added.

He has also noticed significant differences in the climate. “In Jamaica the temperature normally stays around 70 degrees, however in the United States it fluctuates. It may snow one day and then the sun is shining the next.”

Hyatt was awarded a full scholarship to attend SC State along with a \$500.00 scholarship from the Nuclear Engineering department, which is awarded each semester to assist with the cost of books. Currently, he is in the Honors program and serves as a volunteer through the student tutoring program at SC State.

“I am happy that SC State is attracting the caliber of students such as Damayne Hyatt,” said Antonio Boyle, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management. “We are pleased to offer him the educational opportunities he was seeking through our Nuclear Engineering program.”

Hyatt, who is scheduled to graduate on May 7, 2011, at the age of 18 (two days prior to his 19th birthday), hopes to continue his studies and obtain his PH.D. in nuclear engineering before turning 25.

“Do what you have to do so you can be what you want to be. This is what my dad would always tell me when I was growing up and I continue to live by it today.”



Damayne Hyatt

SC State's United Voices of Christ (UVOC) place 2nd at the Pathmark Gospel Competition

SC State University's United Voices of Christ (UVOC) placed 2nd at the 9th Pathmark Gospel Competition at the World Financial Center Winter Garden, in New York, NY.

The Pathmark Gospel Choir Competition held on Saturday, February 28, 2009, brought 16 top choirs from around the nation and Canada to New York City to compete for a \$10,000 first place award.

During the competition, the United Voices of Christ abandoned their robes for neon colored Converse and airbrushed tees. Their performance paralleled the one performed by the choir in the movie Sister Act 2. They placed 2nd and received \$7,000.

The United Voices of Christ gospel choir was initiated on the campus of SC State University on Nov. 4, 1991, by SC State students Vanessa Williams, Derek Evans, and Kenneth Windham, choir members, who had



the desire for all student voices to be united as "one body in Christ." Beginning with 10 students, the choir now has more than 50 members.

“The Pathmark Gospel Competition was a great experience. It was great to see various choirs and diverse Gospel styles during the competition,” said Meshawn Crosby, assistant business manager for United Voices of Christ.

“On the Road” with President Cooper

Shortly after he began his presidency at SC State on July 16, 2008, President George E. Cooper has been busy making visits to various alumni chapters during “Meet and Greet” sessions with alumni, while encouraging them to increase their support of the University.

Three weeks after the start of his presidency, Cooper made his first appearance at the 19th convention of the South Carolina State University National Alumni Association (SCSUNAA) in Newport News, VA. He then began making chapter visits, his first in Tallahassee, FL in Oct. 2008, during the football game between the Bulldogs of SC State University and the Rattlers of Florida A & M University.

“During his interview process, President Cooper stated that meeting alumni and providing support would be at the top of his list as president. I feel that he has been steadfast in those endeavors through these ‘Meet and Greet’ sessions,” said Patricia Lott, SC State National Alumni President.

Cooper has also visited the following chapters:

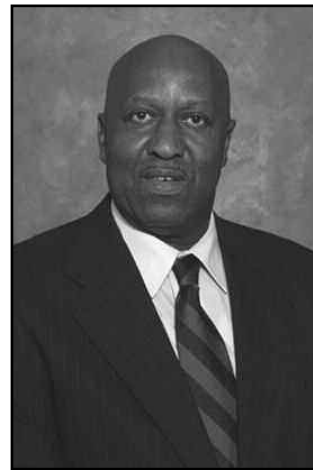
- Chicago, IL
November 9, 2008
- Berkeley (Host Chapter), Charleston, Summerville
November 17, 2008
- Charlotte (Host Chapter), Lancaster, York-Chester
November 19, 2008
- Orangeburg
November 20, 2008
- Aiken, Augusta (Host Chapter)
December 15, 2008
- Central Florida Chapter
December 30, 2008
- Anderson, Greenville (Host Chapter), Spartanburg
January 11, 2009
- Beaufort (Host Chapter), Savannah
January 25, 2009
- Darlington (Host Chapter), Florence, Marion-Dillon, Marlboro
January 28, 2009
- Columbia (Host Chapter), Sumter
March 9, 2009

Cooper is preparing to visit alumni chapters in New York and Atlanta within the upcoming months.

“I’ve enjoyed visiting with alumni and learning about their initiatives in support of SC State University. We share similar goals and continue to strive towards reaching them,” said President Cooper.

During his visit in Darlington, S.C., President Cooper was presented the “Key to the City” by Mayor Tony Watkins.

SC State alumnus inducted into the 2009 MEAC Hall of Fame



William Hamilton, SC State alumnus, ’73 and sports information director (SID) at SC State, was one of five individuals inducted into the 2009 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the M.C. Benton, Jr. Convention Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.

“We are pleased to acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions that the 2009 MEAC Hall of Fame Inductees have added to their institutions and our conference’s rich legacy,” said Dennis Thomas, MEAC Commissioner. “This is a tremendous class of individuals who have had success not only during their tenure at MEAC institutions but also as leaders in their professions and communities.”

The 2009 MEAC Hall of Fame Class was honored in conjunction with the 2009 MEAC Basketball Tournament, which was held Mar. 9-14, 2009 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum (LJVM) in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The MEAC Hall of Fame inducted its first class on May 29, 1981, during a 10-year anniversary banquet in Greensboro, N.C. Willie Jeffries, an alumnus of SC State and former SC State head coach was the keynote speaker. Ron Pinckney, a N.Y. sportscaster served as the

master of ceremonies.

Hamilton was inducted as the conference administrator. He has served as the sports information director (SID) at SC State for over three decades. Hamilton, a veteran publicist is a talented writer who has provided features articles and game stories for various newspapers and magazines in an effort to bring awareness to the achievements and accomplishments of SC State’s athletics program.

As a member of the College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) for over thirty years, Hamilton has garnered many accolades including the CoSIDA Bob Kenworthy Community Service Award (1998) and CoSIDA America Trailblazer Award (2005). He is also a member of the Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BCSIDA) and was named as the BCSIDA Cal Jacox- Champ Clark Outstanding SID Award in 1989. Hamilton was named as SC State Employee of the Year in 1999 and inducted into the SC State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

“I look at halls of fame for great athletes and outstanding coaches, said William Hamilton, sports information director at SC State. “It’s a great honor to be chosen this year. I accept this honor with humility and great thanks” he continued.

Other 2009 MEAC Hall of Fame inductees are:

Gene Lake from Delaware State University as a student-athlete; Chris Brown from Norfolk State University as a student- athlete; Joseph McIver from Morgan State University as the conference administrator and Charlie Neal as a special contributor to the MEAC conference.