Greetings from the
Chief Academic Officer
To Alumni, Parents, Faculty, Students and SC State Stakeholders

South Carolina State University is a university with the “right stuff.” We have what it takes—especially our talented faculty, staff, students and loyal alumni—to achieve far greater academic excellence and the national renown that goes with it. We have the capacity for helping our students achieve far greater success—success we can measure in advances from improved learning to higher graduation rates.

We have faced many challenges this past year. We anticipated problems that did not occur and did not anticipate problems that did occur. We spent some time and effort planning to do things we did not get done and we surprised ourselves with a number of things that we did get done. And, through it all, I believe we have positioned ourselves to take advantage of extraordinary opportunities on behalf of the University and the people of South Carolina. For example, despite our many challenges, Dr. Waltena Simpson, an Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, was awarded $300,000 by the University’s 1890 Research and Extension Program to conduct a bioremediation study. Her research findings could certainly help with the oil cleanups along America’s Gulf Coast. She has received national recognition for her work. Drs. Kenneth Lewis and Stevo Bozinovski have used the $1.5 million EPSCoR grant to develop a Master’s degree in Biofabrication and Biorobotics—a program that will indeed make South Carolina State unique when compared to its peer institutions in the state.

The newly-formed Honors College has already attracted at least two national merit scholars to the campus. Its curriculum, which is one of the most rigorous that I have seen, will undoubtedly produce students who can and will, successfully compete with their peers from any other institution.

As we move forward this academic year, we will continue to focus on the six priorities listed last fall. They

“Excellence without Excuse”

REPRESENTATIVE BAKARI SELLERS
KEYNOTES FALL CONVOCATION

Representative Bakari T. Sellers delivered the keynote address to the Class of 2014 at the South Carolina State University Fall Convocation on Thursday, September 9, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center.

“Convocation” means a gathering. In academics, convocations are held for a variety of purposes, and at South Carolina State, Fall Convocation symbolizes the formal opening of the new academic year. “This tradition is held at many colleges and universities with histories dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries of the famous medieval universities,” according to Dr. Carl E. Jones, Co-Chairperson for the Fall Convocation and Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and Retention Programs.

Fall Convocation at SC State began under the sixth University president, Dr. Albert E. Smith, who also delivered the first address. It is a university-wide program designed to welcome and introduce new students to South Carolina State University. All students, enrolled in University 101—Introduction to the University, a two-credit hour course for all new students, were required to attend. Jones remarks that “academe is full of tradition and history, and the traditions distinguish the academy from any other institution. The pomp and circumstance of Convocation is a clear indication to new students that they have officially become members of a community of scholars. It is in the academy that there are experts in every endeavor of life and students have the opportunity to engage themselves with the nation’s best.”

This year, Representative Sellers, 25, who represents District 90 (Bamberg, Barnwell and Orangeburg Counties) in the South Carolina General Assembly addressed the theme, “Raising the Bar, Rising to Excellence!” Many students thought that his speech was inspirational. Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, believes that Representative Sellers is an excellent role model for young men and women who confront many challenges each day. “Representative Sellers is truly exemplary of the theme, ‘Raising the Bar, Rising to Excellence,’” she said.

Sellers is a graduate of the South Carolina Public School System, Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and the University of South Carolina School of Law in Columbia, South Carolina. He is on staff at Strom Law Firm in Columbia.
SC State to Launch Early College

by Dr. Carl Jones

South Carolina State University plans to launch an Early College on its campus during Fall term 2011. Through partnerships with local school districts, select eighth grade students will begin their ninth grade year on SC State’s main campus. In the tenth grade, they will begin taking introductory college courses as they continue to complete their high school coursework. Students who excel the first two years will be eligible to reside on the University’s campus their junior and senior years in Early College. Certified high school teachers will teach all of the high school courses from ninth grade to graduation, with university professors teaching the college courses.

While not strange to some institutions in North Carolina and a few other states, Early College programs have been established in only three areas in South Carolina. Those locations are Charleston, Conway and Greenville.

The Early College concept is imbued with the spirit of preparing “disadvantaged” students to be college-eligible and ready to meet the demands of college life. Partnerships are established between school districts and postsecondary institutions to provide a “college track” for these Early College students. Academic advisement, counseling and support services are provided to monitor and assess their progress and to provide assistance as needed. Most Early Colleges are commuter programs, but a few rare ones are residential such as the one on the campus of North Carolina Central University, where students are actually housed in the dormitories.

With the implementation of Early College, SC State will do much to assist in better preparing “at risk” students from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds to be accepted into the College and eventually enter the world of work with higher marketability skills. Accordingly, the University will assist in boosting the economic climate in the state.

According to Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, “Early College will also provide 8th grade graduates of Felton Laboratory School with an opportunity to remain at South Carolina State University and work towards college credits while earning a high school diploma.”

Early College will be housed in the University’s Academic Success Academy, an arm of the Office of Academic Success and Retention Programs.

New Initiatives in the School of Graduate Studies

by Dr. Barbara Adams

The School of Graduate Studies has a new dean, Dr. Frederick Evans (right). Dr. Evans, in consultation with Dr. Barbara Adams, Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies, has begun assessing the entire graduate program in an effort to provide students with a first-rate graduate experience.

Various degree programs are offered in the School of Graduate Studies. More specifically, students can earn an Ed.D. and an Ed.S. in Educational Administration as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching, Masters of Education, Masters of Business Administration and a Masters of Science in more than 19 disciplines. In our quest to grow and bring excellence to the graduate program, several initiatives have been identified for the 2010-2011 academic year.

This year Dr. Evans will work with faculty and staff in the School of Graduate Studies as well as Dr. Adams to: (1) develop a recruitment plan for each graduate program; (2) develop consistent recruitment materials; (3) build partnerships and collaborations with other universities and business entities; (4) identify and expand financial resources available for graduate students; (5) become more efficient in admission and other processes, including the review and revision of policies and procedures; (6) develop a user friendly and interactive website for graduate studies; (7) bring graduate faculty and the Graduate Council into compliance with policies; (8) improve customer service in the Graduate Studies Office; (9) develop a Graduate Student Handbook; and (10) establish a Graduate Student Council.

In addition to recruiting quality faculty, the recruitment of quality students to graduate programs at South Carolina State University is a key factor to building and sustaining an excellent graduate school. Increasing competition, declining economic conditions and a declining pool of applicants have intensified the challenge to recruit graduate students in recent years. Thus, one of the primary initiatives for this year is to attract students who have made South Carolina State University their first choice for post-baccalaureate studies. This will require hard work and implementation of various other initiatives.

Each graduate program coordinator and/or chair has met with Dean Evans and the Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies to begin working on the aforementioned initiatives and identifying issues and areas of concern. They provided excellent feedback and all expressed a positive attitude in moving forward to achieve academic excellence. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Dean Evans at 803-536–7097.
Division of Academic Affairs to Host First Annual Women’s Conference at South Carolina State University
by Dr. Susan I. Stein and Dr. Margaret Felder-Wilson

South Carolina State University will host its first Annual Women’s Conference October 21-23, 2010. The Conference theme is, “Women and Popular Culture: Social Justice, Sexual Politics and the Status Quo.” The keynote speaker is Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women’s Studies at Spelman College and President of the National Women’s Studies Association. Conference participants will present scholarly papers that focus on one of the following four streams: (1) the new spaces that women are occupying in American culture; (2) the persistence of misogynist stereotypes (i.e. on television, in Hollywood, etc.); (3) prominent spokeswomen and their impact on popular culture (i.e. Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, etc.); and (4) the state of Women’s Studies, Feminism, and Popular Writers' Studies. Below is a preliminary Conference agenda. Conference participants represent many colleges and universities across the country and Canada.

Conference Schedule
Thursday, October 21, 2010
Location: I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium
7:00 p.m.: Presentation by Ms. Rose Leiman Goldemberg, author of the screenplay, The Burning Bed, followed by a showing of the film

Friday, October 22, 2010
Locations: Vary
9:00 a.m.: Welcome and Greetings from Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Panel 1, 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Women’s Agency
Allison Palumbo, University of Kentucky, “What a Girl Wants, What a Girl Needs: Consumption and Female Community in Coline Serreau’s Chaos”
Jessica Bichler, University of South Carolina, “Questioning the Authoritative Voice and Finding Your Own Voice: Using Film Critique and Photo Elicitation to Examine Agency in Childbirth”
Lindsay Averill, Keiser University, “Converse, Castration and the Corruption of Female Empowerment: Reading Ellen Page as Culturally Constructed Feminist Text.”

Panel 2, 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.—Feminist Theory and Praxis
Natalie Smith Carson, North Dakota State University, “The Feminist Cure: Feminist Identity as a Shield from Hyper-Sexualized Media Induced Self-Objectification in College Women”
Sarah Towne, Appalachian State University, “Feminist Interest Groups—Challenging the Status Quo in Movement Politics”
Christiane Warren, Empire State College, “What is Feminism?”
1:30 p.m.—Welcome from Dr. Ghussan Greene, Chair, Department of English and Modern Languages
1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m.—Plenary session with Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Keynote Speaker, Topic: “Race/Gender Politics and the Media in the Age of Obama”

Panel 3, 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m.—Women and Men
Lisa Echtenkamp, Baylor University, “Women vs. The Big, Bad World (And Its Men): A Proppian-Model Structural Analysis of 12 Cosmopolitan Magazine Articles”
Evan Reibsome and Carrie Shirk, Kutztown University, “Gender Politics in a ‘Mad World’”
Tamika Carey, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, “Women Take Your Place: Tyler Perry’s Rhetoric of Healing and the Rewriting of Black

Panel 4, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.—Women News Anchors
Yolanda McCutchen, Claflin University
Jade Hindmon, WHNS-TV, Greenville, SC
Kerri Forrest, CBS, The Early Show
Nekeidra Taylor, Georgia Perimeter College

Banquet, 7:00 p.m., Thai Orchid Restaurant
Saturday, October 23, 2010 (Location: The Econo Lodge)
Panel 5, 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.—Body/Self-Image
Mariam Esseghier, Concordia University, “Assimilation in a Bikini: An Analysis of the First Muslim-Arab Woman to Win Miss USA”
Courtney Smith, Hunter College, “The Wings at Hooters Aren’t Actually All That Great: The Normalization and Regulation of Women’s Bodies in a Phallocratic Society”

Yolanda Byrd, Winston Salem State University, “Girls Just Want to Have Fun: The Impact of Self-Image and Peer Pressure on Risky Behaviors”

Panel 6, 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.—African-American Women
Nicola Davis Bivens, Johnson C. Smith University, “ ‘Ride or Die’: Perceptions of Black Female College Students of the Influence of Media on the Attitudes Toward Accepted Criminality”
Benjamin Harris, Fayetteville State University, “Our Brothers’ Keepers: The Problematic Nature of Black Women’s Support for Black Male Gender Performance”
Jamie Dicks, South Carolina State University, “Audrey Lourdè”

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SC State University Textbooks and Learning Materials Program Writing Team Visits Tanzania

by Dr. Ronald Speight

South Carolina State University’s Textbooks and Learning Materials Program (TLMP), in collaboration with a team of writers from the Tanzania Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), conducted a three-day workshop at the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) in Dar es Salaam from August 12-16, 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to evaluate, adapt, review and develop secondary school science and mathematics textbooks for Forms 3 & 4 based on the textbooks report of USAID-Zanzibar prepared by the MoEVT in June 2009. Textbooks for Forms 1 and 2 were completed in March 2010.

A total of 29 educators, teachers, and subject and curriculum specialists attended the workshop. The SC State University writing team consisted of Dr. Leonard McIntyre, Program Director; Lamin Drammeh, Program Manager; Dr. Linda McIntyre, Assistant Program Manager; Dr. Albert Heyward, Lead Biology Writer; Mr. Elbert Malone, Lead Chemistry Writer; Mr. Sam McDonald, Lead Mathematics Writer; and Dr. Ronald Speight, Curriculum Specialist, Graphics and Illustrations. Members of the MoEVT writers included: Curriculum specialists and reviewers from the Tanzania Institute of Education; senior staff from the Department of Secondary Education at the MoEVT; secondary school faculty and teachers from mainland Tanzania; staff from the Ministry of Local Governments of Tanzania; staff from the Division of Curriculum and Materials Inspection; members of the Education Materials Approval Committee; Secretariat; and staff.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded SC State University the sum of $13 million to provide support for the program. The University benefits from participation in the program by fostering and building collaborative partnerships with Tanzanian educational institutions and education personnel. The USAID Africa Education Initiative (AEI) is designed to improve educational opportunities for the children of Africa to increase their chances for happiness and becoming contributing members of society. To that end, the focus of this grant is to meet the challenges related to the lack of secondary science and mathematics textbooks and other learning materials for the children and schools of Tanzania.

SC State's Chief Academic Officer's Keynote Speech Well-Received at International Conference

Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, recently served as an invited keynote speaker at an international conference hosted by the Institute of Public Policy on the campus of Auckland University of Technology, in Auckland, New Zealand. The Globalization and Public Policy International Cross Cultural Research Exchange Conference was held from August 6 to 14, 2010.

Blackwell’s presentation entitled, “Global Citizens, Global Reformers: The Feminist-Pacifist Spirit of Women Activists in Their Quest for World Peace,” was very well-received by the international community of participants and attendees.

Dr. Love Chile, Globalization Scholar and Conference Organizer, wrote, “Dr. Blackwell’s keynote presentation on Wednesday, 11th August, was outstanding in all respects. Many people commented to me on the high quality of her presentation.” Likewise, Dr. Marilyn Waring, from Australia and internationally known for her work in political economy, development assistance, environmental issues and human rights, commented, “Dr. Blackwell brings a fresh perspective to the issue of globalization and its impact on identity and citizenship. She provides a gender analysis that very few scholars have been willing or able to address.”

Conference participants included scholars on globalization from Australia, Africa, Europe, the United States and Asia. Some participants’ presentations were selected for publication as chapters in a forthcoming book on globalization, public policy and identity. Dr. Blackwell’s paper was one of five selected for inclusion in the book.

While attending the Conference, Dr. Blackwell also met with Dr. Derek McCormack, Vice Chancellor of Auckland University of Technology, to discuss study abroad opportunities for South Carolina State University. It was a very productive meeting.

Textbook and Learning Materials Program

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During the visit, a Handing-over Ceremony was held at the Ministry of education whereby the United States ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Alfonso Lenhardt presented, on behalf of President Obama, 836,000 Forms 1 and 2 secondary Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and Mathematics textbooks to the Minister of Education and Vocational Training. The materials were developed collaboratively by writing teams from South Carolina State University and mainland Tanzania Ministry of Education. The trip was truly worthwhile.

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South Carolina State University officially unveiled its new Honors College at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Thursday evening, August 19, 2010, in the Barbara J. Vaughan Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building on campus.

Dignitaries who participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony included: Ms. Patricia Lott and Dr. Walter Tobin, Trustees; Dr. George E. Cooper, President; Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. John W. Matthews, State Senator of Orangeburg County District #39; Honors College staff; and Mr. and Miss Honors College. Also in attendance for this program were other members of the President’s Cabinet, University faculty and staff, Honors students, alumni and community supporters (See top photo).

The new Honors College is an outgrowth of the former South Carolina State University Honors Program, which was initiated in the Fall of 1988 under the leadership of Dr. Roy L. Simms. Dr. Simms served for 12 years as the first director. The Honors Program was designed to provide exceptional students with opportunities for intellectual growth and achievement of the highest distinction. Following Dr. Simms’ retirement in the Summer of 2000, Dr. Harriet Roland was appointed as the Director.

The South Carolina State Board of Trustees approved the Honors College in February 2010. The Honors College, which was officially launched July 1, 2010, is comprised of more than 250 scholars who come from almost all 50 states and several international countries.

The values guiding the mission and vision of the Honors College are: (1) excellence in scholarship, learning, teaching, research and service; (2) identifying and nurturing talent; (3) interdisciplinary perspectives; and (4) diversity of intelligences, life experiences, values and perspectives.

Dr. Blackwell is excited about the new Honors College. She sees it as a “community of learners and outstanding faculty that cultivate excellence in teaching and learning.” She further adds, “its mission is to foster an enduring spirit of inquiry and discovery.”

For members of the Honors College, there are significant opportunities for participation in leadership development and character education, international study abroad programs, special internships and co-ops, career and graduate school preparation, service learning and research. Moreover, all graduates of the Honors College will have the Honors College seal affixed to their final transcript and diploma.

For additional information about the South Carolina State University Honors College, please contact Dr. Harriet A. Roland at either (803) 533-3790.

The Speech Pathology and Audiology Program is off to a fantastic start this academic year, with a new very diverse cadre of graduate students pursuing the Master of Arts degree. The program is housed in the Department of Health Sciences chaired by Dr. Gwendolyn Wilson (photo right).

This year there was a significant increase in applicants for the master’s program. This increase is due to several factors, some being: (1) the program’s stellar reputation for producing competent candidates to enter the profession; (2) the extremely promising occupational outlook for Speech Language Pathologists in all work settings; (3) the 2015 deadline for all Public School Speech Therapists in South Carolina to become Speech Pathologists by obtaining a Master’s degree; and (4) SC State’s program is only one of two graduate programs in the state.

The program is very diverse. This year, 26% of the students are from out-of-state and 44% are from other in-state universities. Furthermore, the incoming class is 53% African American, 42% European American and 5% Latino American. Most salient is the fact that the program has a very successful pass rate on the national examination (Praxis Series) that students must pass to enter the profession. For the last five years the pass rate ranged from 89% to 100%.

Our students are well prepared when they graduate. For example, one student, Jessica Richardson, was recently accepted into the Doctoral Program in Speech Pathology at Louisiana State University. She was also offered a full scholarship to work on a grant from the National Institute of Health at Louisiana State. Dr. Wilson commented, “We continue to push and support all of our students. We also work to impress upon them that your reach must exceed your grasp.”
Mandarin Chinese:  
Popular Course at SC State  
By Dr. Ghussan Greene 

Because of the vision of Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Modern Languages area of the Department of English and Modern Languages, is offering two sections of Mandarin Chinese 101 this semester. Mandarin Chinese 101 and 102 will be offered in Spring 2011 so any student who needs only two semesters of a foreign language can choose to take Chinese as his/her language.

"With today's global economy, China is playing a major role in international trade," Blackwell said. "It's likely that many S.C. State students will begin to form some kind of relationship with some of the Chinese cities or industries," she continued.

A growing number of state colleges and universities, including The Citadel, the College of Charleston, Furman and the University of South Carolina, offer Chinese courses. Also, two Confucius Institutes, which are partnerships with Chinese agencies to promote education about Chinese language, culture and society, have opened in the state since November 2008.

Although there are none in Orangeburg County, statewide, at least ten (10) public schools teach Chinese compared to five years ago when not a single public school in the state offered it. Interest in the language is a recent phenomenon that can be attributed to the growing economic force China has become, said Ruta Couet, who oversees foreign language programs for the State Department of Education.

The instructor, Ms. Jui-Ling Chiang (top photo), came to South Carolina State to impart her culture and to absorb our culture. She'd come to the U.S. to interact with different ethnic groups of people, she said. When she learned that SC State's student body was 96 percent African American, she became extremely interested in teaching the course. Consequently, when asked, she gladly accepted the opportunity.

"When I found out they were interested . . . I thought, like, 'Wow!' It is to me a great opportunity. I was so excited . . . I like to interact with different people," she said.

Learning the language is more than memorization, Chiang said. The first thing she has her students to do is listen to the sound and then go to the tone of the language, she said. One word may have a number of meanings by the way it's accented, said Chiang, adding that she uses "performance culture" to see that her students give a good impression when talking to the Chinese people they meet.  

Professor Chiang is teaching the culture and body language that goes with the dialogue. She said the students' words must match their actions, such as when they're giving a gift to someone or when they're introducing people.

Chiang wants her students to appear knowledgeable and "at home" if they visit China. "It's one thing to speak the language and to appear as an American . . . All of a sudden, you've got that person pegged as an outsider and (people think) they're not being sensitive to the culture," she said. Her students need to be able to build relationships with the people they meet, according to Professor Chiang.

"For me, it's to see that they speak it with the right timing with the performance . . . That they are not standing like a student. I correct them in a way that Chinese people will think, "Hmmm—these people know something," Chiang said.

Chiang also says that living in Orangeburg reminds her of Taiwan. "The weather is much the same, hot and humid, and the people here are also courteous like they are in Taiwan," she contends. "I am not use to that in the North. In Orangeburg, they say 'ma'am, Miss, Doctor . . . I think it's neat to show respect to people. They call people by their address and last name. I think that makes me feel I can fit into the culture quite well."

The Mandarin Chinese culture is quite popular among students. It has also garnered much attention from the community, with many persons inquiring if they can enroll in the course. The course is one of several initiatives that are a part of Academic Affairs' globalization efforts.

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Professor Helps South Carolina State Establish a Partnership with African University

Dr. John Karemera, a professor, researcher and scholar in South Carolina State University's College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences has created a partnership between South Carolina State University and the University of Ngozi in Burundi, a landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of East Africa.

The University of Ngozi, according to their officials, "wants to particularly focus on developing projects that allow technologies transfer to farmers through many extension approaches including the Farmer Field Station (FFS), field visits, demonstration plots and participatory on-farm trials. The utmost goal is to have many young people involved in agriculture for development and agribusiness-related research and the promotion of the use of technological innovation to improve the lot of poor rural communities while preserving the natural resources."

The University of Ngozi is one of the top universities in Higher Education Research and Development. According to Charlie Koo, Senior Program Associate with the US Higher Education for Development Program, Dr. Karemera and his team provided them "with a wealth of valuable information about the implementation of activities and their impact in which SC State and the University of Ngozi will be involved."
South Carolina State University has never offered a Master's degree in Biology or Computer Science. Therefore, in 2006, faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science proposed a degree in Biofabrication and Biorobotics which would allow collaboration between biology, computer science and engineering. The proposed Master's degree in Biofabrication and Biorobotics would be interdisciplinary.

Funds were needed to create such a major, Therefore, Dr. Kenneth Lewis (top right photo) and Dr. Stevo Bozinovski (bottom right photo) began the search for funds. They wrote a National Science Foundation RII grant proposal entitled, "Research Infrastructure Improvement for a Master’s Program in Biofabrication and Biorobotics at South Carolina State University.” The proposal was included as part of the larger Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and Institutional Development (EPSCoR) and Institutional Development Awards (IDEA) Grant submitted by South Carolina’s EPSCoR Office. In 2009, South Carolina State was awarded $1.5 million from the collaborative grant to assist with the development of the proposed Master’s program in Biofabrication and Biorobotics.

Drs. Lewis and Bozinovski spent the first year building the infrastructure, which consists of a Biorobotics Coordinating Center and three labs: the Computer Science Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Lab, the Biology Medical Physiology and Neuroscience Lab and the Engineering Technology Manufacturing Lab. A Graduate Faculty Development Program was also established. Ten South Carolina State University faculty and five Medical University of South Carolina faculty have worked together to develop a curriculum for the degree program. The proposal for the Master of Science in Biofabrication and Biorobotics is ready for approval both on campus and by the Commission of Higher Education (CHE). The goal is to begin offering the major in Fall 2011.

Dr. Lewis is the Principal Investigator of the grant. Dr. Bozinovski is the Co-Principal Investigator and Scientific Director. Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, has also been actively involved in the process. She serves as a member of the South Carolina EPSCoR/IDeA State Committee along with Chief Academic Officers from the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina at Columbia and Clemson University. The State Committee “brings together the leaders of the academic institutions involved in carrying out EPSCoR/IDeA objectives, and therefore oversees coordination of initiatives across EPSCoR and IDeA funded programs.”

Dr. Luke’s book explores the relationship between the two islands in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. According to him, the work “argues that over time, Tobagonians had developed a sense of identity distinct from that of Trinidadians. One of the significant features of the book is that it examines the key players within the prism of an integrationist-separatist continuum.” Dr. Luke is grateful for the recognition.
Nursing Program Continues to Grow at SC State
by Dr. Gwendolyn Wilson and Dr. Gwenneth Simmonds

When students enrolled in the class of 2014 were asked why they chose to pursue a Nursing degree at South Carolina State, they consistently answered, “Because the Nursing program has an excellent reputation.” National accreditation by the Collegiate Council on Nursing Education (CCNE) attests to this high quality. With an enrollment of approximately 500 students, the Program of Nursing has a goal of increasing enrollment to over 1,000 over the next five years. The current population includes 118 new students (freshmen, transfers), approximately 150 pre-nursing and 150 upper division Nursing students. Moreover, the student body includes at least 30 students representing 10 states. Twelve international students are Nursing majors as well. Approximately 40 honor students, 10 military students and 20 second degree students are in the Nursing program.

Dr. Gwenneth Simmonds was recently hired as Interim Director of the Nursing Program. “She is truly an asset in that she brings a wealth of experience and has a proven record of helping students to be successful,” said Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Simmonds and her faculty will be engaged in a number of initiatives. More specifically, they will begin contacting alumni in an effort to forge relationships where alumni can mentor students; and they will launch an internship program to assist students in making the transition from a student in the classroom to an individual in the workplace.

The Program’s growth and success is inextricably bound to its relationships with external agencies. These include the Collegiate Council on Nursing Education (CCNE), the South Carolina State Board of Nursing (SCBON) and the Southern Region Education Board (SREB). Ensuring program compliance with external agencies allows for quality improvement, student success and retention, and increased National Certification and Licensing Exam (NCLEX) pass rates.

The SC State 2009 NCLEX pass rate of 89.4% is comparable to the going rate of about 82% of its graduates. However, Superintendent Elsberry and other school officials are concerned that African-American students are not achieving at levels commensurate with Caucasian students. They are depending on SC State to assist them in closing the gap.

Outreach and Engagement: Partnering with K-12 Public Schools in South Carolina
by Dr. Carl Jones and Mr. Terrence Cummings

A contingent of South Carolina State University administrators, faculty and staff provided staff development training for select personnel from Horry County Schools on July 22, 2010. The three-hour session, conducted at Conway High School in Conway, South Carolina, was presented to approximately 50 school personnel to include principals, counselors and teachers. The general theme for the training was, “Closing the Achievement Gap—Elements for Developing and Exemplary Model.”

The South Carolina State contingent led by Vice President Dr. Joyce Blackwell, who presented the overview for the training program, included workshop leaders Dr. Carl E. Jones (top right photo) and Mr. Terrence Cummings (bottom right photo). Dr. Carl Jones, Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and Retention, made a presentation on the topic, “Closing the Achievement Gap—Philosophical Directions.” Mr. Terrence Cummings, Executive Director for Student Success and Retention, moderated a panel discussion entitled, “Channeling Students’ Interests and Talents to Foster Higher Academic Achievement.” The panelists were: Mr. Warren Peek, Assistant Professor of Art, who spoke on “Encouraging High Academic Achievement Through the Arts;” Ms. Carlana Kohn-Davis, Instructor of English, who spoke on “Generation Next;” Dr. Donald Walter, Professor of Physics, who presented “Fostering Students’ Interests in Math and Science Through Hands-on Activities and Practical Experiments;” and Coach Oliver “Buddy” Pough, Head Football Coach, who presented “Fostering Excellence in Academics through Athletics.”

Subsequent to the panel presentations, Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon, Chair of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, conducted an interactive summary and dialogue with the audience. The reaction to the training was so overwhelmingly positive that the contingent has been asked to present again at Horry County Schools’ full staff development training scheduled for February 2011.

Led by Dr. Cynthia Elsberry, superintendent, Horry County Schools is one of the largest and wealthiest districts in South Carolina. It has a college-going rate of about 82% of its graduates. However, Superintendent Elsberry and other school officials are concerned that African-American students are not achieving and graduating at levels commensurate with Caucasian students. They are depending on SC State to assist them in closing the gap.
South Carolina State University faculty gathered for the annual Fall 2010 Faculty Development Institute with the theme, “Academic Affairs: A Bold Agenda for Challenging Times.” With over 200 faculty attending the two-day Institute, Dr. Joyce Blackwell (top left photo), Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, in her address advanced the agenda to explore innovative ways in which faculty can engage all students in the teaching and learning process. The bold agenda became more apparent with the reality of limited resources, increased faculty accountability, and more stringent accreditation processes.

The Faculty Development Institute over recent years began in 2006 under the Student Success and Retention Program with a vision regarding the faculty’s central role to create a culture of excellence in teaching and service delivery to University students. This was aligned with the overall goal to increase the number and percentage of students retained at the University, undergirding the philosophy that all students can succeed with the appropriate academic and social support.

To address concerns about faculty responsibility and accountability, Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr. (right photo above), Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Clark Atlanta University and former Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) commissioner, addressed two major topics, “Faculty Responsibility in Shared Governance and Academic Freedom: Critical Issues in Challenging Times,” and “Faculty Leadership and accountability in Challenging Times.” Respectively, the sessions were rated 4.85 and 4.83 on a scale of 5.00. Also, during the morning plenary, Dr. John Jones, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, addressed “Assessing Student Learning Outcomes: An Imperative in the Push for Accountability.”

One of the other major presentations on the opening day was faculty presenting their expertise under the topic, “Philosophical, Theoretical and Practical Applications that Foster Student Success Among First Generation College Students.” Across disciplines that included physics, art and English, these faculty demonstrated strategies that perpetuate learning and increase student achievement. Dr. Carl Jones, Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and Retention, led the panel presentation that included Dr. Donald Walter, Professor of Physics, Mr. Warren Peek, Assistant Professor of Art, and Ms. Carlana Kohn-Davis, Instructor of English. Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon conducted an interactive summary and audience dialogue following the panel discussion.

On day two, concurrent sessions on topics that included intrusive advising, customer service, tenure and promotion, and student success were led by University faculty, staff, administrators and guest presenter Dr. Saundra McGuire, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Learning and Teaching at Louisiana State University. Overall faculty rated the Institute very positively.

Call Me MISTER Program Targets African-American Male Educators
By Dr. Ronald Speight

Dr. Ronald Speight (photo upper right), Interim Dean, College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, is the Coordinator of the Call Me MISTER Program. The overall objective of the program is to recruit, train, certify and secure employment for a diverse population of elementary and middle school teachers for South Carolina’s public schools. In some cases, the program may allow enrollment in a Masters of arts in Teaching degree program leading to initial certification. Students are largely recruited from among under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. The program is competitive and provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable teacher loans and other support towards tuition and fees. The project combines special strengths and resources of Clemson University with individualized instruction and programs offered by South Carolina State University.

SC State became a part of the Call Me MISTER project in 2004-2005, and presently has 21 MISTERs participating in the program. To qualify for the program, prospective MISTERs must complete the application process and be enrolled at the institution with a major in elementary, early childhood or special education; or any of the majors in the areas of art, Music and physical education. Call Me MISTER is significant to SC State in that the program provides participants with tuition assistance, academic support to increase the likelihood of success, a cohort system for social and cultural support, mentoring, diverse field experiences, seminars, and workshops. Opportunities also are provided for professional and personal development through attendance at conferences, summits, pre-service teacher institutes, and participation in summer internships.

Retention in the Call Me MISTER project is dependent upon academic performance, student and staff evaluations, consistent participation in scheduled activities and initiatives, and satisfactory progression toward becoming a teacher candidate, and fulfilling the overall expectations, goals and mission of the program. It is expected that MISTERs who complete their programs of study and become certified to teach will assume teaching positions in elementary or middle schools in the state of South Carolina, and teach at least one year for each year that they received financial support from the Call Me MISTER program. The program has been quite successful at SC State University.
SC State University’s Executive Speaker Series Kicks Off in September
by Mrs. Erica Prioleau Taylor

SC State University’s Business Program in the College of Business and Applied Professional Sciences, will officially “kick off” its Fall 2010 Executive Speaker Series (ESS) on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at noon in the Belcher Hall fourth floor auditorium.

The ESS is a partnership between participating companies, government, professional organizations, private and public community sectors and the business program. It was designed to support the college’s mission to provide a quality management education and leadership by producing competitive graduates for a global and diverse environment. The ESS was implemented in 1996 as a part of the core curriculum of the School of Business, and a component of the Leadership and Professional Development Program, a required program for all business majors.

Past participants in the ESS have come from a wide variety of companies and governmental agencies to include: Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Inc., Ernest and Young, AT&T, Black Enterprise, SCANA, Sonoco, Bank of America, Time Warner Cable, Monsanto Company, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, the Chamber of Commerce and the Black entertainment Television Network (BET).

Student orientation began on September 8 and included a session facilitated by Felita Grady Davis, information technology trainer for SCANA Corporation, headquartered in Cayce, South Carolina. Davis spoke to students on the topic: “Your Professional Image.”

On September 15, the ESS will officially “kick off” its speaker series with William E. Stanley, president of Creating Clarity, Inc., a consultancy company in Atlanta, Georgia. Creating Clarity, Inc., specializes in consumer product management, new products resale markets (primarily for the military) and strategic planning. Stanley will be speaking on the topic: “A Successful Career in Sales—What Does it Take.”

Other speakers will include executives from Boeing in North Charleston, South Carolina, BMW, EFG/ProVest Wealth Management Group and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Speakers include Calvin Elam, President, EFG/ProVest Wealth Management Group; Charles Weathers, President, The Weathers Group; Wanda James, Executive, McDonalds, Inc.; Abdalla Straker, Strategy Analyst, Retirement and Philanthropic Services, Bank of America Merrill Lynch; and Steve Mueller, Director, Human Resources, 787 Final Assembly and Development (Dreamliner) Boeing.

Dr. Ann Winstead (top photo) is the Executive Speaker Series Program Director. For additional information, contact her at 803-516-4864.

SC State’s I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium Presents “Dive! Living Off America’s Waste”
by Mrs. Erica Prioleau Taylor

SC State’s I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium (The Stanback) and The Stanback Student Friends present “Dive! Living off America’s Waste” on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., as a part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers (South Arts). Producer and director Jeremy Seifert will be in attendance, and following the screening of the film, Seifert and the audience will engage in a discussion about the film and his work as a filmmaker. A reception with Seifert will follow the discussion. This is a free event.

What started out as a lighthearted look at a daring way to “steal” food, his yearning for understanding of why Americans were wasteful grew much more as Seifert dove deeper into the dumpster. With his “freegan” friends, the 37-year-old discovered dumpsters behind Los Angeles specialty grocers such as Whole Foods Market and Trader Joe’s, overflowing with Pacific salmon, organic beef, free-range chicken, imported fruit, fresh vegetables and Grade A eggs. Seifert and his friends salvaged thousands of dollars worth of good food and uncovered a disturbing truth about waste in America. Along the way, they also learned how society encourages unimaginable waste even as people go hungry. Their objective is to find out why so much edible food is being thrown away instead of being given to those who need it. The result is equal parts entertainment and guerilla journalism, with the hopes of motivating its audience to a call for action. “Dive! Living off America’s Waste,” about the art and culture of dumpster living, has been making the festival rounds, whetting appetites with shots of gourmet menus made from rescued food, and chalking up multiple wins. One such award was for Best Call 2 Action Film at the 2010 Boulder International Film Fest in February.

Seifert was raised in Colorado and has spent time in Asia, Africa and Europe. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from John Brown University located in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and a Master of Arts in Theology and the Arts from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. When he is not dumpster diving, Seifert can be found in Pasadena, California with his wife, Nuf, and their two sons, Finn and Scout.

For additional information about The Stanback, contact Ellen Zisholtz, Director, at 803-536-7174, or Ingrid Owens, Program Manager, at 803-536-8329. As previously stated, this is a free event.
SC State Reaches Out To Non-Traditional Students With New Programs

by Dr. Arnold Murdock

South Carolina State University is proud to announce the development of the Weekend College for Adult Learners Program. This program is part of SC State’s effort to develop and expand programs to meet the needs of non-traditional students across the State of South Carolina. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, as much as 75% of today’s student body can be characterized as non-traditional, having jobs and other life responsibilities.

“In today’s economy, people have to work as much as possible to make ends meet. This should not keep them from going back to school,” said Dr. Arnold Murdock (top photo) Director of SC State’s Office of Extended Studies, which coordinates the Weekend College program. “SC State’s Weekend College program is designed for working adults who have already completed most of the general education curriculum,” explained Dr. Murdock.

SC State has been working to put into place a number of powerful distance learning technologies. Courses within the Weekend College program will combine these technologies with a convenient Saturday class schedule to offer students a flexible program. For each class, students will attend six Saturday class sessions at either 8:00 a.m.–12 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. In addition, students will complete online activities between class meetings. “Our distance learning capabilities are second to none. We have in place all of the components necessary to extend our academic programs all across the state and beyond. In addition, SC State faculty have the experience to design and deliver high quality online learning. That is what really makes this program possible,” said Dr. Murdock.

Dr. Joyce Blackwell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, concurs with Dr. Murdock. She was quite surprised to learn that SC State did not have a program for adult learners when she arrived—especially in today’s economic climate. “So many adults have been terminated in the last two years from their jobs and are returning to school to earn either their first degree or another degree. They realize the need to change careers instead of waiting to see if their former employer is going to rehire them. Many colleges and universities realize the need and have begun offering a program of study for these individuals. SC State has now joined its peer institutions.”

SC State will begin the Weekend College program in fall 2010 and it is expected to grow over time. Within the first two years, the degree programs will include the Master of Arts degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Business Administration, and Bachelor degrees in Accounting, Criminal Justice, and Social Work. Additional degree programs will be offered as they are developed.

For more information about the Weekend College for Adult Learners program, call the Office of Extended Studies at (803) 516–4931.

SC State Inaugurates Communications Major

The Department of English and Modern Languages is offering a major in Communications with concentrations in journalism and broadcasting beginning fall 2010. This major was developed in response to student demand.

In addition to numerous internship opportunities, SC State’s communications majors will be able to use SC State’s 80,000 watts powerful, NPR member public radio station, WSSB-FM; the student newspaper, The Collegian; the University’s Public Relations and Marketing Office and Digital Media Lab; and the Communications Program’s Electronic Newspaper and Video Labs in order to do practicums and to enhance hands-on skills.

The Communications Program and the University are currently working on establishing an Audio-Visual TV Production and Broadcasting Lab for use by 1890 Research and Extension as well as students who choose the broadcast concentration.

Students interested in the Communications major should contact Dr. Ghussan Greene (ggreene@scsu.edu), Professor and Chair, Department of English and Modern Languages, Turner Hall, Room 201, or Dr. Shafiqur Rahman (srahman@scsu.edu), Professor and Coordinator, Communications Program, Turner Hall, Room 275, A-Wing, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC 29117.

SC State’s Continuing Education Program To Offer Online Courses

SC State University Develops Partnership with Education To Go (http://www.ed2go.com) to offer online continuing education courses.

South Carolina State University is proud to announce it has partnered with “Education To Go,” a leading provider of non-credit online learning. “A partnership with Education To Go will allow SC State to offer high quality online learning to working professionals,” explained Dr. Arnold Murdock, Director of SC State’s Office of Extended Studies that coordinates the continuing education program. “Education To Go has a great reputation in the online learning market and we are happy to partner with them,” continued Dr. Murdock.

Very soon, SC State will offer online continuing education courses in a number of areas, including computer applications, PC networking and security, basic computer literacy, web and computer programming, database management, computer graphics, multimedia design, Internet applications, accounting, business management, legal services, sales and marketing, and health care.

In addition, SC State’s Office of Extended Studies is working to develop a number of continuing education programs for local businesses and individuals. For more information about the continuing education program, or to speak with someone about scheduling training for your business, contact the SC State University Office of Extended Studies at (803) 516–4931.
Greetings from the Chief Academic Officer
-Continued from page 1

are: (1) Reaffirmation of Accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); (2) student and faculty retention; (3) outreach and engagement; (4) internationalization of the curriculum and the student experience; (5) development of signature programs as well as interdisciplinary programs; and (6) strengthening and expanding the Graduate Studies Program. However, we will also focus on several core elements that will be fundamental to both our academic and strategic plans.

First, we will continue to build a world-class faculty. We will implement a faculty recruitment, retention and development plan—including a competitive merit-based compensation structure—that is in line with our peer institutions. We will also aggressively conduct a national search when positions become available.

Second, we will develop academic programs that define South Carolina State University as the nation’s leading public land-grant university. We can achieve this goal by competitively funding initiatives that build programmatic strength and open new fields. We will also build on existing capabilities and capture opportunities specific to South Carolina State and to South Carolinians. Furthermore, we will maintain ongoing multidisciplinary initiatives where appropriate and develop new initiatives that draw on University-wide strengths to attack major problems of the next quarter century. We will also work towards creating multidisciplinary centers that can attract additional faculty in key areas, helping to reduce student-faculty ratios in high-demand fields.

Third, we will improve the quality of the teaching and learning environment. If we are to remain competitive, we must transform the Library into a 21st century Information Age Center. We will continue to upgrade the quality of our classroom space and continue to enhance the appearance of campus grounds. And, we will continue to work to provide faculty, staff and students with the latest technology tools for leadership in teaching, research and career development.

Fourth, we will enhance and better serve the student body. We will continue to create a rich educational environment for undergraduates and graduates, increase course accessibility, reduce class sizes, and establish at least five scholars programs—expanding opportunities for students to live with those who share common interests and enhancing students’ academic success and sense of community. Within these communities, we will provide academic programming, advising and career counseling.

Fifth, we will help build South Carolina’s future. While we have developed several partnerships with the K-12 public school system, we must continue to strengthen the scope and effectiveness of our commitment to K-12 public education, with a focus on the education of underserved children and youth. This initiative will be a university-wide partnership, with the Department of Education in the lead university role. We must, and will, become the catalyst for the development of South Carolina’s technology-based economy, increase collaborations with the private sector to enhance research, and provide experiential learning and career opportunities for students.

To successfully implement this ambitious agenda, the University must obtain increased state support and external funding, improve the organization and delivery of instruction, increase organizational flexibility, and improve the faculty work environment. I realize that these are challenging economic times. However, we are uniquely positioned to pursue a thoughtful plan of enhancing the excellence of the institution with high probability for success. There are many reasons I am confident about our prospects.

For one thing, we have an extraordinary faculty known as outstanding researchers around the nation and committed to excellence in teaching. Our staff displays a comparable level of dedication and outstanding service without which the faculty could not continue to be so effective. Our students are also extraordinary. At both the undergraduate and graduate level, we attract some of the best young minds in the nation. Finally, some of our educational and research programs are widely admired by colleagues outside of Orangeburg. Most of our programs are accredited. Our breadth is also amazing. No institution of our size can match our combination of breadth and excellence.

Given the challenges that we, like all institutions of higher education face, how can we fulfill our dreams for South Carolina State—a University with so much potential and so many possibilities?

I believe that our faculty will continue to display a pioneering spirit and an entrepreneurial character that have characterized South Carolina State from the beginning. Moreover, the leadership of the institution will need both wisdom and foresight as we shape a vision for South Carolina State University. We must choose how much to devote to maintaining existing strengths, what areas need increases in resources, what new ventures to initiate and, perhaps most difficult of all, what areas to de-emphasize. In addition, there is the remarkable dedication and loyalty of our alumni and friends.

While last year was challenging, there will be more difficulties ahead. However, with every decision that we make today, we are investing in tomorrow. I am very optimistic about South Carolina State’s future. Our faculty, staff and students are incredibly talented, resourceful and deeply committed to excellence. The leadership in the various colleges, departments, schools and offices exemplifies the pioneering spirit that has served us so well. I am confident that we will meet the challenges and ensure the University’s continued leadership in teaching and research.

I remain excited about the many wonderful things that are occurring on campus each day. South Carolina State University continues to make its mark in higher education. Go Bulldogs!

Best,

Dr. Joyce Blackwell

Joyce Blackwell, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs