The Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) was established by Mississippi Legislative Resolution to annually honor the academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi’s higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence. The Appreciation Day, hosted by the Legislature each February in Jackson, is the Legislature’s way of saying "thank you" to these students and faculty for their commitment to the future of Mississippi. The 2013-2014 Higher Education Appreciation Day took place on February 18, 2014.
Demonstration of Student Learning Outcomes

Congratulations to Dr. A.J. Stovall and the Rust College Quiz Bowl Team on their recent victory at the National Hornsby Quiz Bowl in Baton Rouge, LA on Thursday, February 6th, during the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. Annual Convention. We note first that there is a cross-divisional talent on this team. What are the characteristics of these winners? What pushed them to move to be national champions? An obvious point is a committed faculty/advisor involvement. The win by this quiz bowl team is an example of how goals are developed, how outcomes are identified and how results are demonstrated. There are many more "teams" out there in a variety of different formats. This office congratulates Professor A.J. Stovall for his diligence and the students for their persistence, and hereby designates the Quiz Bowl Team win as an ACTIVITY OF DISTINCTION.
2014 HBCU All-Star Student

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities announced its first class of HBCU All-Stars, recognizing 75 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement. Currently enrolled at 62 HBCUs, the All-Stars were selected from 445 students who submitted completed applications that included a transcript, resume, essay, and recommendation. Larance Carter, a Junior Social Work major has been selected as the 2014 HBCU All-Star to represent Rust College.

Larance Carter, Social Work Major

Larance is a member of the E.A. Smith Honor Society and was nominated for this prestigious position by Dr. Alisea McLeod, program advisor. Larance also serves as the treasurer for the Junior Class, and President of the Student Ministry Fellowship. He works for the college as a Success Lab Tutor and as a Resident Assistant.

Carter will serve as an ambassador of the Initiative by leveraging social media presence and community-based organization relationships to promote the value of education. He will network with other student scholars to showcase individual and/or collective talent across the HBCU community. Additionally, he will join quarterly web chats with Deputy Director, Ivory Toldson and other professionals. Larance will travel for the AIPAC Pro-Israel Policy Conference in Washington D.C on March 1-4, 2014.
DIVISION OF SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS
PHARMACY SCHOOL GRADUATES

We congratulate the Division of Science & Mathematics for sending forward students who have met admission requirements and performance levels for the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degrees at Florida A&M and Xavier University of Louisiana. The Doctor of Pharmacy is a professional degree with an average five-year completion period. Efforts are currently underway to reinitiate the collaborative program between the science division and Xavier University where a student may receive the Rust College science degree and the Pharm.D. in seven years.

Micaela (Scott) Santos graduated from Rust College in 2009 with a degree in Biology. She continued her education at Florida A&M University in pursuit of her Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Degree. She received her Pharm.D. Degree in 2013 from Florida A&M University. She is currently doing her residency at the Leon County Health Department and is working as a pharmacist specializing in HIV prevention at Winn Dixie Retail in Quincy, Florida.

Veronda Johnson graduated from Rust College in 2003 with a degree in Biology. She continued her education at Xavier University in pursuit of her Pharm.D. Degree. She received her Pharm.D. degree in 2012 from Xavier University. She is currently working as a pharmacist at CVS pharmacy in Meridian, MS.

Robert Andrews graduated from Rust College in 2007 with a degree in Chemistry. He continued his education at Xavier University in pursuit of his Pharm.D. Degree. He received his Pharm.D. Degree in 2012 from Xavier University. He is currently working at CVS Pharmacy in Jackson, MS.
GRACING the TABLE

The attached article appears on the front page of the local newspaper, The South Reporter, Thursday, October 17, 2013. We thank Sue Watson, Linda Jones and Barry Burleson (Editor) for allowing us to share this article with the campus community. We specifically commend, at the highest level, Dr. Alisea McLeod and her students for their involvement in initiating the Gracing the Table discussion group in Holly Springs. This group discusses the history of slavery in Mississippi across racial lines. This assistant professor of English and her students are taking instruction and learning beyond the walls of the classroom.

(ARTICLE FOLLOWS)
New group focuses on healing wounds of history

By SUE WATSON
Staff Writer

Gracing The Table, a group of citizens, students, teachers and professionals, has been meeting in Holly Springs for about a year and a half.

Its purpose is to bring understanding and healing to the community through dialogue, said David Person, one of the originators of the group.

“And it is growing,” he said.

At its monthly meeting held at The Smiling Phoenix Thursday, Sept. 26, more than 35 people attended. Led by Dr. Alisea McLeod of Rust College and Person, the group discussed the history of slavery and its impact on today’s society.
The group asks the question, how can Holly Springs be a leader in community healing? Based on a model, now nationwide, created by Virginia Mennonite University, Gracing The Table has its own mission – uncovering history (the facts, not myths of race histories); making connections (discussing histories across racial lines); working toward healing – through dialogue and communication; finally, taking action – initiating healing and reconciliation with families and communities. Gracing The Table is not affiliated with any church or academic organization. Rather, it is an outgrowth of Holly Springs’ Behind The Big House Tours, Person said.

“Dr. McLeod brought her students to see the former slave buildings on the tour. There was so much enthusiasm from her students that she felt the dialogue and communication should continue. A group of students from Rust began meeting and today it is successfully growing into a community enterprise,” he said.
McLeod said GTT focuses on topics of slavery and racism.

“The group meets to approach these difficult subjects in various ways and through different media used as a springboard for conversation,” she said. “In December, the group will view Katrina Browne’s ‘Traces of the Trade.’ Browne is a descendant of the DeWolf family of Rhode Island, one of the largest slave-trading families in American history.

“Browne and others including Tom DeWolf, author of ‘Inheriting the Trade,’ are of a generation of persons who are coming to terms with the legacy of America’s unfortunate past.”

Because GTT meetings are held in a safe and confidential environment, all issues of community relations, problems, and solutions can be openly and freely discussed, Person said.

“Where else is there such an ideal atmosphere to examine community problems, individual questions and discovery of solutions?” he asked.

Gracing The Table shares the general mission of Coming To The Table organized at Eastern Mennonite University, but is not affiliated with it nor is it related to any religious group.

GTT has grown from a group of about 10 who have met over the last year to a recent attendance of about 30, which met at The Smiling Phoenix, GTT’s new meeting place.

McLeod and Person said they hope to maintain a diversity of participants that come from both sides of the history of slavery.

“Ultimately, GTT has a goal of healing wounds of history through acknowledgement and discussion,” McLeod said. “In the future, GTT also hopes to include discussions of the Latino presence in the area. Like Coming to the Table, GTT expects in the near future, discussion will lead to meaningful action. That could take many forms, including artistic treatment of history and social justice projects."

The next meeting of Gracing The Table is set for October 24 at 6 p.m. at The Smiling Phoenix.

“Please mark your calendar for the next GTT meeting and please bring a friend,” Person said.

A New Era in the Quest for Excellence
We congratulate Dr. Charles Williams, Associate Professor of Social Science for his recent publication, *African American Life and Culture in Orange Mound: Case Study of a Black Community in Memphis, Tennessee, 1890-1980*.

African American Life and Culture in Orange Mound is an exploration of the conditions of living for residents of a segregated subdivision in the Deep South from 1890 to 1919. It is also a study of contemporary approaches to community building during a time period of racial segregation and polarization. The town of Orange Mound, built by Elzey E. Meacham as an all black subdivision for "negroes," represents a unique chapter in American history. There is no other case, neither in the deep South nor in the far West, of such a tremendous effort on the part of African Americans to come together to occupy a carved out space—eventually making it into a black community on the outskirts of Memphis on a former slave plantation.
Dr. Marco Robinson

2013 UNCF Mellon International Faculty Participant

In July 2013 Dr. Marco Robinson, Assistant Professor of History, journeyed to Salvador-Bahia, Brazil supported by a research project funded through the UNCF-Mellon International Faculty Seminar Program. While in Brazil Robinson visited a number of world heritage sites. He conducted research on Afro-Brazilian notions of race and beauty. Dr. Robinson views this as a highly beneficial experience. He looks to use information covered in the seminar to add depth to topics covered in HIS 133, African Diaspora. From the seminar he expects to give students a broader view of Brazil in its relationship to trans-Atlantic slave trade.

A New Era in the Quest for Excellence
Activity of Note

Paul C. Lampley  
Vice President for Academic Affairs
September 12, 2013

Rust College welcomes Dr. James Bell as H.F. McCarty Family Endowed Chair and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs

We are pleased to welcome Dr. James Bell, 1964 graduate of Rust College, back home to the Bearcat family. Dr. Bell will serve as the H.F. McCarty Family Endowed Chair in Business as well as the Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for Program Development.

Dr. Bell is a 1964 graduate of Rust College with a degree in Social Science and Economics. He moved forward to graduate studies at Atlanta University in Economics and to additional graduate studies at Georgia State University in Public Administration. Dr. Bell used these graduate level courses as foundation for the Ph.D. from Michigan State University. His most recent work assignment was Professor and Department Chair, Business Administration Department, Harris-Stowe State College, St. Louis, Missouri.

The H.F. McCarty Family Chair is a symbol of honor. It is the story of four children, Marsha, Katherine, Patti, and John, and their love and appreciation of their parents, Mary Ann and H.F. McCarty. It is the story of a family’s love of the United Methodist Church and higher education. It has been proven that the McCarty Family lives the Methodist philosophy to “give as much as you can.”

We trust in Dr. Bell’s ability to keep the McCarty family’s tradition and vision at the forefront in all that he does for the Rust College family.

A New Era in the Quest for Excellence
“By Their Fruits, Ye Shall Know Them...”

Paul C. Lampley
Vice President for Academic Affairs
August 22, 2013

Dr. Gemma Beckley
Professor and Chair,
Department of Social Work

June 19, 2013

Dr. Gemma Douglas Beckley
Rust College
Social Work Department
BCS Building, Room 200
150 Rust Avenue
Holly Springs, MS 38635

Dear Gemma,

It is my pleasure to appoint you as a member of the CSWE Commission on Accreditation (COA) for a term effective July 1, 2013–June 30, 2016. The work of the Commission on Accreditation fulfills the critically important function of maintaining and advocating for quality in social work education through its accreditation/candidacy of more than 730 social work programs in the United States. In addition, the commission acts as the policy body for developing and interpreting accreditation standards and assuring that policies and procedures are fairly and consistently applied to all social work programs.

Sincerely,

Mildred C. Joyner
Board of Directors Chair

Cc: Darla Spence Coffey, President and CEO
Carmen Hendricks, Chair
Jo Ann Regan, Director
Monica Wvlie. Accreditation Office Manager

A New Era in the Quest for Excellence