Faculty, staff and students gathered Tuesday, December 7, 2010 for the Annual Rust College Christmas Dinner. Words of thanks and prayer were provided by Rev. Morris Stephens and musical entertainment was provided by the Rust College Band and A’Cappella Choir.

“We are all on a journey,” said Dr. Nellie Smith during the occasion. “This is the season we are reminded to take time out on this journey to pause and celebrate the coming birth of our Savior.” Dr. Smith’s words acted as prelude to the keynote address given by chaplain Rev. Frenchye Magee.

“As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, gifts you are preparing to receive, I invite you to invite the Savior of the world into your heart, life… so you may live the story of Jesus and his love.” Rev. Magee reminded students that everyone has a story. “At this time of year, we gather together as people of faith to affirm that the human story is more powerful than anyone could ever imagine… Live that story anew!”

Also on the program were Mr. Braque Talley, SGA president; Ms. Ereca King, Miss Rust 2010; and Dr. David L. Beckley, who presided over the event.
Dr. Beckley To Travel to Africa for Black Arts Festival

For only the third time in 50 years, an unprecedented gathering of black artists, writers, filmmakers, academics, scientists and other leaders in many fields will convene in Africa for a historic celebration. The World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures begins December 10 in Dakar, Senegal and will continue through December 31.

Dr. David L. Beckley is among the high-powered U.S. delegation which will be traveling to Dakar for the celebration. More than 200 African-American leaders will participate, including groups from the National Conference of Black Mayors, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in High Education (NAFEO). The U.S. delegation will join thousands of delegates from 80 countries around the world.

Dr. Beckley will join with notables such as Dr. Julius Garvey, son of writer/activist Marcus Garvey; actor Richard Gant; jazz legend Randy Weston; Professor James Turner, Cornell University; Dr. Johnetta Cole, Director of the National Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution; Professor Leonard Jeffries, City University of New York, Mississippi State Senator Frazier Hillman, New York State Senator Bill Perkins; Columbus, Ohio Mayor Michael B. Coleman and others.

“I’m excited about being included in this committee and I look forward to attending the trip to Africa,” said Dr. Beckley. Dr. Beckley is past president of the NAFEO Delegation. He is also the current chair of the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the former chair of UNCF member presidents.

In a letter to members of the delegation, President of Senegal Abdoulaye Wade said he looked forward to welcoming them to the Senegal.

“The African Union has requested that Senegal organize the Festival, which will be the largest global gathering to date, of black artist, writers, filmmakers, intellectuals, scientists and other luminaries, and we anticipate that people will travel from all over the world for the occasion,” said President Wade.

While in Senegal the delegation will meet privately with President Wade and participate in a myriad of Festival activities, including attending concerts by Rihanna, Jay-Z, Angelique Kidjo, Youssou N’Dour, and Baaba Maal; a soccer match between Senegal and Brazil; a visit to Goree Island, designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in commemoration of the painful history of the Atlantic slave trade; and participation in the Forum on African Renaissance.

This is the third World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures, following previous festivals in Dakar in 1966 and Lagos, Nigeria in 1977. Former Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor initiated the festivals to highlight the visible and tangible products of African peoples’ struggles to win back their dignity in a land that had only recently been returned to African rule.
NOTICE: Holiday Schedules

LEAVE SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY

The Christmas/New Year holiday season for faculty will start after grades are reported on Monday, December 20, 2010 and faculty will return to work on Monday, January 3, 2011.

The President has approved 1½ days additional leave for the staff for the Christmas/New Year holiday season as a gesture of appreciation for everyone’s hard work and dedication over the year. Accordingly, the campus will close at noon on Wednesday, December 22, 2010 for staff for the Christmas holiday.

LEAVE SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

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Note: (Wage Earners staff will return to work on Tuesday, 12/28/2010 and Non-Exempt will return to work on Wednesday, December 29, 2010)

LEAVE SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY

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(All Staff will return to work on Monday, January 3, 2011)

Holiday leave is to be taken at the designated times unless the requirements of your job assignments will not permit such leave. In cases where special arrangements are needed for a different leave schedule, approval must be obtained from the appropriate Area Head Supervisor with immediate notification to the Personnel Office.

Transportation Schedule

Transportation costs: $15.00 one-way, $30.00 round trip

Drop-off Schedule
(Airport, Bus/Train Station)

Thursday, December 16
4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 17
4:00 p.m.

Pick-up Schedule
(Airport, Bus/Train Station)

Monday, January 3, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 4, 2011
9:00 a.m.
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY…
Emergency notifications for students, faculty and staff will be handled by mass email, Channel 19, WURC 88.1 FM, RC-TV 2, and campus loud speakers. If you would like to receive emergency notifications by text message, please submit your cell phone number to Mrs. Carolyn Hymon, Dean of Students. The numbers will be used for emergencies ONLY and will not be distributed.

Emergency Numbers:
Security office: 662-252-8090
Security guard on duty: 662-216-3429

T-MOBILE/UNCF INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The T-Mobile/UNCF Internship Scholarship Program was established by T-Mobile USA, Inc. and UNCF. The program is designed to provide with paid internship opportunity for practical work experience; and up to $4,500 scholarship awards for college expenses for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Interested applicants must be enrolled full-time at a four year college or university; be classified as a Junior at the time of application; have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 majoring in accounting, business, business-related, computer engineering, computer science, computer technology, electrical engineering, finance, human resources, management information systems, and telecommunications engineering.

The selected interns will be invited to participate in a 10-12 week paid summer internship based on locations, skills and functions. Upon successful completion of summer internship, scholarship dollars will be awarded to eligible interns based on performance.

Those interested can apply at http://www.uncf.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp. Online application deadline: December 26, 2010

GATEWAY TO LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY
The Gateway to Leadership (GTL) Internship Program was established by Money Management Institute (MMI), and the National Associations for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and managed by the UNCF: United Negro College Fund.

The GTL Internship Program is designed to provide paid summer internship opportunities to college students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and who are prepared to entire careers in the financial services industry.

To apply, applicants must be classified as Juniors by the time of application, majoring in Accounting, Banking, Finance; have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; demonstrate campus or civic leadership abilities and involvement in community service activities; submit two letters of recommendation—one from a school dean, and a second from a faculty member familiar with the applicant’s academic abilities; submit a graded or confirmed writing sample and a one page essay explaining what they hope to gain from the internship experience.

Selected students will participate in summer internship opportunities for 8-12 weeks at a leading MMI financial service member firms located in major cities such as Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, New York, New York, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Washington, D.C. area. Students will gain work experience and exposure to the financial service industry and be compensated at the normal rates paid to the firms corporate interns.

Apply at UNCF.org/forstudents/scholarship.asp by Wednesday, December 15, 2010.