



THIS WEEK AT RUST COLLEGE

Where Tomorrow's Leaders Are Students Today

Campus NewsBriefs



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Welcome back Bearcats



The residences hall opened on Sunday, August 23, and registration for returning students took place on August 24-25. Above, students make final preparations as classes begin on Wednesday, August 26.

Rust College President David L. Beckley, and the entire faculty and staff welcome back our returning students.

"We are committed to making your return to Rust a successful experience. All of our programs are designed

with you in mind and with a philosophy that will undergird successful experiences for you while attending Rust College and when you move into the wider society after graduation. These efforts are true, tried, and tested for more than

143 years of serving young people who continue to make a difference in their lives and the lives of their respective communities. We eagerly look forward to you joining this distinguished group of "Rust-ites" and welcome you back to

Rust, for it was first to give some learning to those who were set free."

If our office can be of service to you at anytime during your tenure at Rust college, please let us know. Again, welcome to "Bearcat Country where tomorrow's leaders are student today." David L. Beckley



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DID YOU KNOW?



The United States Department of Education has approved funding for the 2009-2010 academic year to support the College's Minority Student Science and Technology Training Program.

According to Dr. Frank Yeh, the total amount received by the College was \$199,900. The goal of this program is to improve the college's Science and Math Education Program thereby increasing enrollment of area minority students with a special emphasis on females in

science and technology programs.

The three objectives of the program are: (1) to raise motivation of prospective students by providing a summer program and a Saturday Academy that stresses strengthening academic background, college preparedness, and assistance in admissions and enrollment for rising high school juniors and seniors and their parents; (2) to provide the Rust faculty opportunities for travel and participation at confer-

ences and learned society meetings to increase their skill level and enhance classroom instruction that will benefit high school and college students' ability to maintain interest in completing their science degree program; and (3) to offer summer research opportunities for college juniors to build their experience and knowledge of their respective areas of study thereby enhancing their programs of study and future prospects for graduate and professional schools.

This program is particularly targeted at exposing high school students in the tri-county area (Marshall, Benton, and Tate) to science related fields through a four-week summer college preparatory program to be held on the Rust campus during the month of June 2010.

Area high school science teachers and students should contact Dr. Frank Yeh, Chair of the Rust Science Division and Project Director, for information on enrollment at 662/252-8000, ext. 4402.

Dr. William Scott

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an instructor of chemistry by then-department chair Andrew Stefani.

"He entered our Doctor of Arts program and rose through the ranks to associate professor for his good work," said Hussey, who had joined the UM faculty himself in 1978. "He always took care of business - Parents Day, transfer orientations and advising for undecided students. Bill was a great departmental citizen with a strong commitment to the institution."

Scott was awarded his doctoral degree from UM in 1992 and would go on to become the university's first black tenure-track professor of chemistry.

Through it all, he built a close professional relationship with his colleagues.

"We ate together a lot,"

Scott said, again with his trademark chuckle, which became familiar around campus. "We celebrated everything over a snack or a meal of some sort, and built a sense of camaraderie and fellowship. We didn't mind asking each other for suggestions or ideas because we'd broken bread together.

"Over the years, Scott maintained his home in Holly Springs, where he was active in the community and church, serving as a scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America and in various leadership positions in the local and statewide United Methodist Church. In 1985, he narrowly lost an election bid to become Holly Springs' first black alderman-at-large.

"He's my buddy," said Hussey, who not only rec-

ognizes and appreciates Scott's dedicated work as an educator but also his leadership in the United Methodist Church, of which they are both members. "We come out of the same generation and lived through some difficult times together. As we got to know one another, we saw we had a lot of common ground. I'll really miss him here."

Next on Scott's post-retirement agenda: Assorted home improvement projects and after a year or so off, he said he might teach a class or two at his alma mater, Rust College. "Other than that, it's fishing," he said.

As for the overall experiment that's been about 30 years in the making, Scott

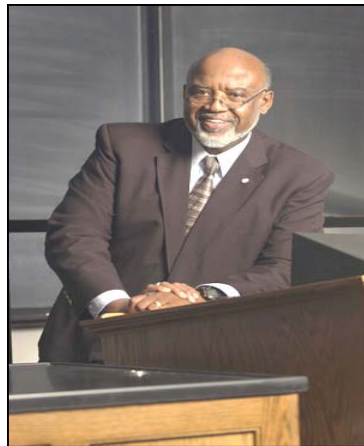
has this to report:

"I would have missed my calling had I not chosen to teach. In industry, your job is somehow linked to the bottom line. One thing about being in higher education is that you get to be both a scientist and a teacher. You get to expose students to knowledge, then go into the laboratory and see if you can discover some new knowledge that you can expose more students to down the road. Teaching and research feed off of each other. I made the right call."





Ole Miss first black tenure-track professor of chemistry returns to where it all started



Dr. William D. Scott

By Lee Smith
University of Mississippi
Published Tuesday 28 July 2009

William D. Scott fell in love with chemistry in the fourth grade, when his teacher taught him how to turn a potato blue.

"Of course, potatoes are starchy, and when you put iodine on them, the chemical reaction causes them to turn a deep shade of blue," said Scott, who recently retired from the University of Mississippi's chemistry faculty. In fact, Scott was so excited about the experiment that his father once returned home to find a perfectly good 5-pound sack of potatoes cut open, blue - and useless.

"I won't go into how that story ended," Scott said with a chuckle. "I'm just glad my mother didn't have any flour or cornmeal around the house."

Scott recently left the lab for good after more than 30 years of teaching chemistry at the collegiate level, including the past 24 years at Ole Miss. During that time, he won the admiration and respect of faculty and students alike, including being chosen for the coveted Cora Lee Graham Outstanding Teacher of Freshmen Award. Through it all, he maintained a balance between his easygoing affable demeanor and high academic standards.

"He has a reputation for being demanding but fair," said Chuck Hussey, chemistry department chair. "He expected his students to perform, and he wasn't afraid to reward them according to their performance - meaning, if you got a bad grade, well, you earned a bad grade."

The academic career path for Scott was almost the proverbial road not taken. The Indianola native earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rust College in 1966, followed by a master's in chemistry from the University of

Iowa in 1968. From there, he was hired as a chemist at Sheller-Globe Corp., where he quickly rose to chief chemist for research and development.

But with a career in corporate chemistry laid out in front of him, his life changed with a single phone call - this one from a former teacher at Rust College. She remembered a speech Scott gave as an undergrad, in which he passionately promoted interdisciplinary education, particularly in the sciences. Rust was launching a program based on that principle, and she wanted him to come back to teach in it. To Scott, the offer was an experiment in itself.

"I'd made up my mind that I wasn't going to teach," Scott said. "But I also didn't want to look up at 60 years old and look back and feel like I'd missed my calling. So when I came back to Rust, I still wasn't committed to being a teacher. I was committed to giving it a try."

The experiment was a success. Scott taught at Rust College from 1970 to 1978, then spent six years working for Mississippi State Highway Commissioner Bobby Richardson. He returned to Rust in 1984. By then, he had his sights set on a doctoral degree, and he applied to Ole Miss. Given his experience as a teacher, he was soon hired as

See Dr. William Scott Pg. 4



Rust welcomes new faculty



Rust College held its new faculty training for Blackboard on Wednesday, August 19, in the McDonald Science Hall. Pictured above L-R are: (back) Shelby Amos, instructor, Division of Math & Science; Dr. William Scott, chemistry professor, Division of Math & Science; Dr. James E. Herod, assistant professor, Division of Education; Dr. Sylvester Oliver, chair, Division of Humanities; (front) Dr. Rhonda Kuykindoll, assistant professor, Division of Math & Science; Dr. Sharron E. Sarthou, assistant professor of English, Division of Humanities; Dr. Adrienne K. Franklin, assistant professor of English, Division of Humanities; Ana Torres, Spanish instructor, Division of Humanities; and Dr. Wozzo Hayes, assistant professor, Division of Education. Drs. Hayes, Kuykindoll, Oliver, Scott, and Mr. Amos are former employees. (Photos by Ray Autry)



Quote, Unquote

“We must not allow... any force to make us feel like we don't count. Maintain a sense of dignity and respect...”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“The Dilemma and The Challenge” @ 1962