May Your Holidays be filled with Good Times, Good Cheer
And May the New Year bring you every joy.

Holiday Greetings from
President David & Dr. Gemma Beckley

Students Participate in Enrollment Services Workshop

Three Rust College students traveled with the Enrollment Services staff to Anderson Chapel C.M.E. Church, Saturday, December 10 to speak to high school students about making the transition from high school to college.

STERN – Social Time Management Extraordinary Responsibility Networking—The students’ presentation included tips and advice on taking the ACT, college applications, and preparing oneself for the social maturity of college.


Rust College Announces $3 Million “Challenge”

Dr. David L. Beckley, announced the receipt of a $3 million Challenge gift. Dr. Beckley indicated that the gift is from an anonymous donor who requested that he not be identified until the college raises the required match. In order to receive the $3 million gift, the college must raise $750,000 from non-government sources, i.e. alumni, churches, foundations and individuals, by December 28, 2011. For the last 10 days, the College has been busy contacting supporters (alumni, friends, donors, and club leaders) in regards to the gift. The College is pleased to announce that more than $600,000 has already been raised.

“It is our desire to complete this effort prior to the Christmas break,” said Beckley who fully expects to meet the challenge request this month with the help of friends and alumni of the College. Every donation counts, no matter how large or small and Rust College appreciates any contribution toward this effort.

The Rust College family is excited about this opportunity and is working diligently to raise the funds necessary to receive the $3 million Challenge gift. This is the largest gift in the history of the college and largest single gift ever to an HBCU in the state of Mississippi.

Contributions to the effort are tax deductible and checks should be made payable to Rust College 2011 Challenge Program and mailed to the Office of the President, Rust College, 150 Rust Avenue, Holly Springs, MS 38635. Additional information on the gift is available by telephone from the Office of the President (662) 252-2491 or the Vice President for College Relations Office at (662) 252-8000 ext. 4014.

Rust Mourns Loss of Former Trustee

Rust College alumni and long-time trustee Rev. Dr. Israel L. Rucker, ’50, passed away early Monday morning, December 12, in Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Rucker, who was chair of the Board from 1992 until 1994, served 27 active years on the Board of Trustees and seven years as Trustee Emeritus (since 2004).

Funeral services for Rev. Rucker were held Saturday, December 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Warren Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta.
Several holiday activities were held on campus during the past week. Dr. David L. Beckley invited students, faculty and staff members to the annual Christmas dinner, held Wednesday, December 7. The keynote speaker was Rev. Annie Travis, who had a powerful and spirit-filled message for the audience.

“What gifts do you have for Jesus?” Rev. Travis asked. “Can you make room for Him in this unfriendly and often hostile world? We are a selfish generation... The world we live in has hijacked Christmas and made it into a commercial event.” Rev. Travis encouraged everyone to remember the reason for the season, and not make Jesus a “fading afterthought.”

Other campus activities included annual A’Cappella Choir Christmas Concert, The Black Family Class Christmas Dinner, the Faculty Potluck Dinner, and the MAE Christmas Luncheon.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”
A’Cappella Choir Hosts Annual Christmas Concert

The Rust College Lyceum Series committee welcomed the Rust College A’Cappella Choir for the 14th annual Christmas Concert, held Sunday, December 11.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”, the 2011 theme for the concert, included songs that sing praises to Christ’s birth. Rust welcomed alumna Rhonda R. Wilson, ’08 and Carischa Foster as guest soloists, Ms. Krystal DeBerry as guest accompanist and Mrs. Armastine Gipson, ’68, who helped lead the audience singing Christmas carols. Dr. Norman Chapman also served as accompanist during the celebration.

Black Family Class Hosts Annual Christmas Dinner

The Black Family Class, taught by Mrs. Martha Stovall held their annual Black Family Christmas Dinner, Wednesday, December 13. Each year the class selects a needy family within the community and hosts a dinner in their honor. Wednesday night’s special guests were Ms. Chassity Moore and her children Derrick, Lyric, Corey, Courtney, and Caitlin Hines.

According to Mrs. Stovall, the class raised money for Ms. Moore and presented the gift to her and her family during the program.

The Black Family Class examines and critiques the American family. It is a critical study of the structure and function of the Black family as a whole, as well as the processes which compose and define it, and its relations with its members and forces external to it is analyzed.