Lyceum Series

Featuring the best of European/African American cultural expressions in the forms of music, dance, literature and visual arts

Special Tribute to a Rustite
Cleveland Payne ’65
(Native of Laurel, Mississippi)
Artist in Residence
February 10-12, 2014

Calendar 2013-2014
Watoto De Afrika, Monday, September 30, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Memphis Cultural Arts Performing Center Founder, Mr. Donald O’Connor, a native of Memphis, Tennessee. The program uses African American performing arts forms, literature, and American history as the foundation of its curriculum.

Virginia Hailey Sanders, Tuesday, October 8, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Book Review/Book Signing, “Secrets Among Kin Folks” (part historical fiction and part memoir) for the of life of George Haley, best known as Chicken George, a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. Starring Ben Vereen of Alex Haley’s movie “Roots”

10th Annual Mass Communication Week
Thursday, October 10, 2013 – General Assembly 2:40 p.m. Kelvin O. Buck, Mayor of the City of Holly Springs and former State Representative, Rust Graduate ’97 and earned his Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Administration in May 2013.

Poet Ekere Tallie, Monday, October 21, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie is a writer, educator, and performer. She is the Poetry Editor of the literary magazine African Voices. Her work deals with silence, sexism, racism, and focuses on the healing power of art.

Sunday, October 27, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. James McBride is an author, musician and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, “The Color of Water,” rested on the New York Times bestseller list for two years; it is considered an American classic.

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. Johnny I. Henry, Motivational Speaker and Book Review/Book Signing, “Success: The Inner Treasures of Life”. He is a native of Laurel, Mississippi. J. Henry Enterprises seeks to promote society to embrace and appreciate diversity, while eliminating the racist spirit still prevalent in the United States.

147th Founders Day Convocation – Sunday, November 10, 2013 – 11:00 a.m. Speaker, Anita Ward, Rust graduate ’78 is an American singer and musician. She is best known for her 1979 million selling chart-topper, "Ring My Bell". Before signing a recording contract, Ward obtained degree in psychology. She is a native of Memphis, Tennessee.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. Scott Carrell Musical Concert. This Pianist has captivated audiences in the U.S. and Europe with his virtuosic flair, expressive playing and informative comments, by presenting innovative programs of both classical ragtime, and jazz works, including discussion of the works and the composers.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
Toby Foyeh & Orchestra Africa, Washington, D.C. A melting pot created out of a unique fusion of traditional Nigerian Yoruba music including Highlife, Afro beat, folklore with jazz, rock, pop, and Latin music.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. An Evening with Ms. Dorothy L. Jones, Directress and the World Renown Rust College A`Cappella Choir which features a broad repertoire of classical, semi-classical spiritual, operatic, contemporary and traditional gospel.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. The Juneteenth Stage Production is a Black History musical play produced by the winning team of Larry Batchlor and Levi Frazier, Jr.

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Book Review/Book Signing for Author, Cleveland Payne. Rust graduate ’65, and native of Laurel, Mississippi. Payne has authored ten books. He was inducted into the Oak Park Hall of Fame in July 2000.

Monday, February 17, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Count Stovall, Motivational Speaker - Actor, Writer, and Director Countee Lewis Stovall is a native of Los Angeles California and currently resides in New Jersey. He is one of Hollywood’s most sought after character actors, known for his memorable work in television with appearances on All My Children, The Good Wife, Law and Order and countless others.

Ida B. Wells symposium, Chandra Clark, Presenter Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. She is Assistant professor of Speech at Florida A&M University and also works as Freelance Writer and Editor for several publications.

Thursday, March 27, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Opera from a Sistah’s Poin of View, Soprano Angela Brown, with Pianist Kelleen Strutz. Angela personifies the ideal American dramatic soprano: sheer vocal power; luxurious finesse; shimmering, high pianissimos; and a charming personality larger than life. She had a highly successful Metropolitan Opera debut in 2004.

Monday, April 7, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Black Genesis Theatre, an ensemble of Rust College Students; founded
by Mr. Donald O’Conner, is created in the image of original theatre.

Commencement – Sunday, April 27, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.