Fresh off national win, Rust Quiz Bowl champions looking ahead

By Benita E. Jackson
Editor, The Rustorian

The Rust College Quiz Bowl team rode to victory over both Savannah State University and St. Louis University, and now what’s left is just to prepare for next year’s tournament. The team has won four times in the last five years and wants to bring yet another trophy to the school next year.

The Championship was the last step for this year, but the members can now begin to prepare for 2012-13. Coach DeAndrea Byrd said that although she will not be back for coaching with the team next year, they are actively seeking new members who will be dedicated and take this quiz bowl seriously.

The Southern Conference of African American Studies National Quiz Bowl was held in Houston, Texas on Feb. 10. Rust College won over Savannah State University, with a score of 14 to 6 during the first round. In the second round the Rust College team won over St. Louis University, with a score of 12 to 8. The Rust College team was made up by Treetenia Williams, team captain; Terrell Barry, Tevin Burks, Danielle Caradine, and Noah Moore. The coaches for the team this year were DeAndrea Byrd, Aldon O’Bryant, and Rachael Parker. Dr. A.J. Stovall, chair, Division of Social Science, is the advisor. The students were from a wide range of majors that include Biology, Political Science, Computer Science, Mass Communications, and Social Work. This year’s Southern Conference On African American Studies, Quiz Bowl competition was in the memory of S.C.A.A.S.I. 2011 President Dr. Gloria T. Williams-Way.
The official crowning of Miss Rust College 2011-2012 took place on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 8, 2011 in the W.A McMillan Multi-Purpose Center.

The theme for the royal coronation was “A Sparkle of Asian Royalty.” The mistress of ceremonies, Hortensia Dean, former instructor of mass communication at Rust College, was introduced by Pasquail Cook, a senior broadcast journalism major. A greeting to all faculty, staff, students, family and guests was delivered by SGA president Marcus Bradley before Dean proceeded with the introduction of the Royal Court.

The Royal Court consisted of queens from each organization on campus. This year Homecoming was Derek Price, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Gamma Psi Chapter, and senior biology major. The High Court included Darjai Payne, second alternate to Miss Rust and JaKaila Shaw, first alternate to Miss Rust and JaKaila Shaw, first alternate to Miss Rust.

Tributes were delivered to Miss Rust from Mayor Andre’ Deberry on the behalf of the Holly Springs community, Vivian Gulledge on behalf of faculty and staff, and Jessica Lucas for the student body.

Miss Rust’s friend, Chase Carr, and her mother, Martha, also delivered tribute messages to Miss Rust. She also received a royal serenade of “One In A Million” from Ukerrius Fuller. She was showered with gifts from different departments and organizations on campus as well as from family and friends.

The coronation was concluded with Miss Rust College 2011-2012 sharing a Royal Dance with President Beckley, her brother, Andrew L. Rogers, Jr., and her significant other, Marquette C. Sanders. Miss Rust College 2011-2012 dedicated that special evening in memory of her late grandfather, Andrew Rogers, Jr.

“Always contribute and make change,” she said. Rogers said that this experience has changed her life drastically. “It has taught me how to be humble and make sacrifices as well as to network with outstanding people. It has also taught me to be steadfast and rooted in what I believe in.”

After graduation, Rogers plans to enroll in a reputable medical school. She wants to study pediatric medicine.

My words of gratitude...

“The Rustorian

By Benita Jackson
Editor, Rustorian

The crowning of Miss Rust was done by the college’s president, Dr. David L. Beckley. After that, Miss Rust 2011-2012 gave her royal message, in which she thanked her mother, Martha Ann Rogers; her advisors, Cynthia Cole and Lillie M. Bolton, and Hortensia Dean, calling them “Black women that rock.” Due to unforeseen circumstances, Miss Rust 2010-2011, Ereca King, was not in attendance for her farewell address.

Miss Rust was presented with President David L. Beckley.

Miss Rust 2011-12 Valencia Rogers is Miss Rust 2011-2012

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As students gathered in the Doxey Auditorium for yet another Thursday AEP assembly, warm jazz music played in contrast to the cold and wet weather outside. Mass Communications Week was already in full throttle and Rust College students were eager to hear what their speaker had to share. The keynote speaker, Zondra I. Hughes, was given a warm welcome back to her alma mater by junior mass communications major Larry Aaron. The message was simple, “Shake the snakes of the real world.” Hughes, before getting into her speech, gave students the freedom to “tweet” about the things she would talk about, which included her “9 Laws of Nicety.”

1. Know Thyself – know who you are and where you come from
2. Know Your “Frenemy” – don’t tell all your business and plans
3. Know Your Brand – know what people think of you
4. Know The Game – know what it takes for you to achieve your dreams
5. Know Your Allies – Know what obstacles you will face
6. Know Your Strengths – remember why you are here
7. Know No Boundaries – if someone tells you no, see a green light
8. Know Your Words – speak dreams and goals into existence
9. Know Your Weaknesses – practice what you feel will be personal setbacks. Hughes presented these laws briefly and advised Rust students to not argue, but act on the things they deemed wrong or unfit.

At the end of her speech, she was presented the Trailblazer Award on behalf of the Mass Communications Department. If you would like to contact Ms. Hughes with questions or comments, her email address is zondrahughes@yahoo.com

Alumna/editor/author Zondra Hughes lays down ‘9 laws of nicety’ at AEP

The Mass Communications Department was treated to an exclusive writing seminar given by guest presenter Zondra Hughes. The presentation was full of surprises as Hughes kept the room fixed and focused as she told tales of her rocky road to success. She explained how difficult it was early in her career as she fought against supervisors at work who were intent on undermining her goals. “But when life throws you lemons, you make lemonade,” she said. The result was the person the Rust College community is proud of today.

A successful novelist, Hughes astonished the seminar attendees when she said, “I’m going to give you the keys to ensuring your first book is a success.” She said the writer needs a struggle or challenge, a villain or naysayer who did not want you to succeed, an angel or someone who was there by your side, and the way you overcame your challenge.

She asked the students to identify these elements in their lives, then stand and tell their stories. Many of the students’ stories were very personal and emotional, almost bringing some to tears. Hughes complemented them on what they wrote and gave gifts, such as T-shirts and copies of her book to those who responded well to her questions or brought a special “something” to the seminar that day.

Zondra gives Mass Communications majors keys to writing a winning book
Several students presented their stories at the writing seminar and were asked to take a snapshot with Zondra Hughes. From left to right are (front row) Benita Jackson, John Parker, Zondra Hughes, Catrina Kirkwood, Blake Henry, Dionyal Spencer; (rear) Devin Henderson, Edward King, Diarius Watson, Michael Caston, and Cervetra Williams.

Telling their stories with great vigor at the writing seminar are (clockwise) Travante Franks, Cervetra Williams, Michael Reed, and Dionyal Spencer.
Mass Comm. alumni return to give students the ‘411’ on graduate studies

More proof that Rust College continues to produce good fruit

By Teresa Hughes
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

Professor John House sees Lyceum series as essential to cultural enlightenment

Asst. Professor John House wears many hats and has been on the Lyceum committee for nine years. The committee recruits talent and votes on appropriate cultural presentations from which Rust students benefit.

When asked what performance inspired him throughout the years he replied, “Each year had a special person such as: Ella Joyce (co-star of Roc), Kimberly Lawson Roby (author), and Travis Black (actor), because these were all novelists.”

“Talent for the series comes from two sources. “When I go to the festival I observe the artist I recruit that way and also we have returning artist who network with other artists to bring talent back to Rust,” he recalled. Many wonder what the significance of the Lyceum series is to students. “Education is comprised of cultural and academic experiences.” “The Lyceum series gives the students here at Rust those cultural aspects,” said House.

As the Doxey House Manager, his advice to inspiring actors and actresses was to learn to follow directions and study their craft.

“There was an instructor at Lydonwood College in Missouri that told her theater students to bring her something.” According to House those students followed her directions and she then had something to work with. House said when he observed productive actors they always had steno pads and they took notes, read over them and paid close attention to the directors critiques. House emphasized that young actors fail because a lack of dedication, commitment, the ability to follow instructions, and research the character to be portrayed.

Although the Lyceum series has had minimum turnouts House insists that it is not a wasted effort and his goals are to include four new performances: Lena Horne, Billie Holiday, Fredrick Douglas and Nat King Cole to continue its cultural enlightment.

“Well I prefer at least two if not all four acts,” said House. Another goal for House is to get the community to support the Lyceum series.

Among upcoming events, the Ida B. Wells Symposium will be held on March 22, at 7 p.m. in the Doxey Auditorium.

Megan Oglesby gives her perspective as Gaby Crumble looks on.

Several students from the mass communications department were given advanced notice of what to expect when they attend graduate school. As part of annual Mass Communications Week, five alumni, graduates with degrees in Mass Communications from Rust, returned to share their experiences. Leading the panel discussion were Megan Oglesby (‘09), Arkansas State University; Katrina Overby (‘09), Indiana University; David Burnett (‘09) Ph.D. program, Freed-Hardeman University; Jessica McMorris (‘09), Arkansas State University; and Gaby Crumble (‘09) Arkansas State University.

Several topics were discussed. For example, some of the graduates emphasized how graduate school focuses heavily on research writing.

“I love research,” said Overby. “This goes back to my Research class under Dr. Moyo.” Overby went to say that she has worked on several research projects. Other former students on the panel talked about how proud they were to realize that they were very well-prepared at Rust. Oglesby and Crumble said that on several occasions when other students struggled, for example, with broadcast equipment, they stepped right in and demonstrated their skills.

“We were involved in everything at Rust,” said Oglesby. “Our hands-on experience gave us an edge.”

Oglesby said it was clear to her that undergraduate programs from which many of the other students came did not offer the type of experience they received from Rust College.

Burnett discussed how he chose graduate school over a professional career in broadcasting.

“I was very entrenched in television,” Burnett said. “But I decided that there were other things I wanted to do.” Burnett said that graduate studies really opened his mind and prepared him for other opportunities.

L-R: Jessica McMorris, Hortensia Dean, Sharron Goodman-Hill, Katrina Overby, David Burnett, and Gaby Crumble were present at the graduate studies discussion.
**TI’s ‘Power & Beauty’ much more than a street story about love**

By Benita E. Jackson

Editor, Rustorian

Tip “T.I.” Harris was born and raised in the streets of Atlanta and from his life experiences was able to write a fiction novel along with David Ritz. Ritz wanted to do a novel about the streets of Atlanta, and with knowledge of the streets, Harris was the best person to help him to accomplish this goal. The two mentored each other and developed what would in a year’s time become “Power & Beauty.”

Centered in the city of Atlanta, this story tells the lives of two teenagers and their survival after their mother is taken away in a terrible explosion. The two teens are moved in two different directions. One is moved into a life of fast money and hot girls while the other is moved to New York to set a name for herself in the fashion industry. The teenagers lose contact with each other because of the different lives they decide to live, yet come to need each other’s help as the years pass.

This story is broken into two, his and hers. The book takes you on a fast-paced journey through the United States as the teenagers learn various lessons on the lives they choose to live. Power is a young man aspiring to be rich in wealth, while Beauty wants to be a successful fashion designer. Along the way, they have a number of people to show them the ropes of their choice. They take the necessary steps to get to the top, yet all the decisions are the best that could be made. From sleeping with multiple women and killing people, Power gets deep into trouble, while Beauty is sleeping with an older man just to get a shot at her own fashion line. In the process of this, one of Power and Beauty’s closest friends, Wanda, dies, leaving everyone in awe about what is truly going on with Slim. Slim is a person Power trusts; he believes that there is no way that Slim could have had Wanda murdered…or could he?

It is a well-written novel that keeps you engaged from start to finish. The book is a complete page turner. Power & Beauty is a great book for those who like to live vicariously through the characters of books. T.I. and Ritz did an excellent job of capturing the lives of each character in the book. The novel is very detailed without being overpowering with boring details.

I believe this book will be a great read for all. The use of imagery in the piece of literature is phenomenal. The book is to have a sequel, and I look forward to reading it as well.

I believe this is a great start to be only T.I.’s first book. I believe that with a little more work he can be a great author of fictional stories as long as he continues to work with the right creative minds.

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**Omega Psi Phi Annual Omega Pageant Crowns Jasmine Crawford**

By Dionyal Spencer

Staff Writer, Rustorian

Omega Psi Phi hosted their annual Miss Omega Pageant Wednesday evening, Nov. 16, 2011 in the Doxey auditorium. Students crowded the auditorium as contestants Parissa Moore, Jasmine Crawford, Sara Henderson, Erica Calhoun, and Ivory Gordon approached the stage to complete all six scenes which were: the OWT, Express Yourself, Career, Talent, Swim Suit, and Formal scenes. Each scene allowed the young ladies to give the audience and judges a glimpse of the individual’s personality. The judges were Diana Hughes, a member of Delta Sigma Theta and nurse at Rust College; Charity Ware a faculty member at Rust College; and Richard Bradley, a former Rust College student. The crowd yelled out with confidence each contestant’s name as she went on stage to complete each scene with the Omega’s in the background barking away. DJ De’Andrea Byrd played music that had the everyone standing on their feet and Greeks strolling and hopping through the Doxey auditorium during change of scenes. The Formal scene brought out 2010-2011 Miss Omega Anna Johnson as she walked the stage with the new contestant’s wearing her beautiful burnt-orange dress. Students listened as each contestant completed the question forum in the formal scene.

Students yelled for their favorite contestants as judges crowded made their final decision on who won Miss Omega and Miss Purple and Gold. A silence came across the room as Ware walked across auditorium to give results to the Omega. Stefan Lewis, a graduating senior and a member of Omega Psi Phi, announced that both titles were being given to contestant #2 Jasmine Crawford, a graduating senior and biology major. Family and friends of Crawford crowded the stage to take pictures and congratulate the new 2011-2012 Miss Omega and Miss Purple and Gold.
Opening loss does not dampen hopes of Bearcat baseball

By Cervetra Williams
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

Praying for a win on Feb 29 in Jackson, Miss against Belhaven College, the Rust College baseball team was not only excited, but well prepared to defeat their opposing team. But heading back home with a lost battle—a score of 22 to 0—and a quiet bus, the men of the baseball team are still keeping their heads high.

Home runs were all the men on the Rust College baseball team aiming to hear on March 1, when they played against Talladega College in Holly Springs. Under the direction of head coach Harold Moncrief, the baseball team has been practicing and preparing to defeat their opponents this year. With a stand full of Rust College fans and mouths full of sunflower seeds, they are ready to go. “I think this year is ours,” says Roosevelt Ford, right fielder, third baseman, catcher and pitcher for the team. “With the help of Coach Moncrief, and a focused team, we can win all of our games without a season.” Having high hopes and expectations will take you anywhere you want to be.

March 10
Earlham Indiana College
Holly Springs, MS

March 13
LeMoyne Owen College
Jackson, TN

March 20
Blue Mountain College
Belhaven College
Jackson, TN

**March 27**
*March 20*
Belhaven College
Jackson, TN

6 p.m.

Coach Stennis thriving in dual role as Bearcats tennis, basketball coach

By Cervetra Williams
Staff writer, The Rustorian

You might think that coaching tennis and basketball at two different times would be hard, or perhaps sounds easy. But, apparently Coach Rodney Stennis has it all figured out. Whether it’s basketball indoor in a packed gymnasium or outside on a beautiful day with tennis, Coach Stennis has his hands full.

On Feb 20, Stennis coached the men’s basketball team to a record-breaking victory over the mighty Dragons of Virgin-ia University at Lynchburg. The tennis team has been working hard during their off-season so that now is the time for their season to begin. They believe they are very prepared.

Larry Aaron, one of the team’s key players said, “Once the season starts, there will be no stopping. It is time for us to show our opponents what Rust has to offer.”

Coach Stennis has a lot of work ahead of him, but the Bearcat teams are on their way.