President Beckley, Mayor DeBerry inspire students, faculty, staff at Opening Convocation for new year

By Nekesa Oliver
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

As the time neared 2:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13, the freshman class of 2011 and other students gathered in the Morehouse Doxey Auditorium for the 145th President’s Opening Convocation.

Students came dressed for success and ready to accept the challenge that President David L. Beckley would propose to them.

On stage were the President’s Council, the honorable Mayor Andre DeBerry, SGA President Marcus Bradley, Miss Rust Valencia Rogers, retired honorees, and a host of other staff members.

The program was filled with encouragement and optimism. Mayor DeBerry greeted students and inspired them to continue the nourishment of their education at Rust, while Bradley and Rogers added the reminder of taking opportunities and striving for leadership and success.

The new edition of the A’Cappella choir, led by Dorothy Jones, made a great first performance singing two excellent selections, “Rocking Jerusalem” and “Great Day.” This increased the energy of the students as President Beckley made his way to the podium.

The President welcomed the Freshman class of 2011 with great expectation and positive things to say. He challenged the students to focus on using what they have and not what they lack. He described their tenure at Rust College as a temporary bump on the road to success.

“Success against all odds… remember why we are here and what we stand for,” said President Beckley.

From the applause and the new passion students have for singing the Alma Mater, you could tell that the speech was well received.

Lyceum Series continues to bring culture and class to campus life

By Benita Jackson
Editor, The Rustorian

The Lyceum Series was founded in 1996 by Rust College President Dr. David L. Beckley. In 1999, Patricia Pegues was appointed as the chair of the Lyceum Series committee.

With the exposure to different cultures, the diversity of the campus has improved drastically. In previous years, Rust has brought in international performances. The Lyceum Series successfully brings in at least one graduate of Rust College or someone from the state of Mississippi to participate in the program.

Although attendance at any Lyceum Series event is not mandatory, students show up for the cultural experiences. Pegues believes, “If students allow themselves the opportunity to attend, their lives will be changed forever, for the positive. The Lyceum Series changes your life because it’s a reality to let you see what you can become.”

To put the Lyceum Series together it takes the effort of a complete committee to bring ideas together. John A. House, assistant professor of Speech and Theater, attends many festivals where he encounters other authors and performers and makes recommendations to the committee.

“Artists also call, mail, and email me to make contact to be apart of the Lyceum Series events here at Rust,” said Pegues.

For more information about the Lyceum Series, contact Pegues in her office in the McCoy Administration Building on the Rust College campus.

Rust College A’Capella Choir performed at Convocation.

‘Sistahs’ was presented in the Doxey Auditorium in September.
By Teresa Hughes
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

Business major Gwen Willis counts celebrities among catering clientele

Rust College senior Gwendolyn Willis of Michigan City, Miss. caters to the common man as well as the rich and famous. “Writer, actor and producer Tyler Perry contracted my son, world renowned chef Jernard Wells, and I between October 2009 through August 2010,” said Willis.

“Mr. Perry’s approximately 101 employees traveled with him but we mainly worked with him during the weekends,” Willis added. Willis said that she traveled over 800 miles with Perry and her son for the job.

“We had to make sure each cast member received three meals; breakfast on time, and finish lunch before the plays started. Due to a contract agreement that’s all I can say, but for me it was the experience and joy of working for Mr. Perry,” Willis recalled.

Another opportunity Willis experienced was in 2010 when she worked for the Premier Dr. Ewart F. Brown, minister of Tourism and his lovely wife Lisa Raye of Bermuda. “I was surrounded by 50 top chefs. We would show them how to prepare a dish one time and they automatically had it down to a science. There were also multiple entertainers, and we served 850 people,” Willis added.

Willis stated that this particular event allowed her to see how the rich and famous live on the other side. Willis is a Business Administration/Education major, who started her catering company Gwendolyn Simply Divine Desserts in 1986. She caters weddings, reception, family reunions, and custom designs cakes.
AKA’s ‘pink’ - a socializing event
By Dionyal Spencer
Staff writer, The Rustorian

The lovely ladies of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Theta Upsilon, chapter hosted their second successful Pink Social on Sept. 21 at Rust College in front of the R.A. and Ruth M. Brown Mass Communication Building, which houses the Shaw Cafeteria.

The ultimate goal of the Pink Social is to allow students to socialize and meet new people. This also allows old students to embrace new students and new students to embrace old students by having fun. “The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Pink Social allows everybody in the school to get to know each other and socialize,” explained Destini Jones, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Students gathered around the beautifully decorated table where refreshments were sold, consisting of baked cookies, cupcakes, water, and freeze pops to raise money for their chapter while also taking donations of canned goods and nonperishable items for the needy.

The hosting of the Pink Social gave Rust College students the opportunity to view Greek social life as each Greek organization laughed, strolled, and hopped among each other. “I like how everyone is standing around chilling,” freshman Odalys Acosta expressed.

Students were given the opportunity to express themselves individually.

See AKA’s, page 5

COPE Center maintains firm focus on freshmen
By Cervetra Williams
Staff writer, The Rustorian

Dr. Juanita M. Jones says that the COPE Center is a place for Rust College freshmen to get help. The COPE Center is also a place to help with student retention.

“By assisting the freshmen with any questions and concerns, they are greeted with a big beautiful smile and given a positive, uplifting answer.”

What is the COPE Center? Excellence, says Jones, and their motto, “Working with People in Preparing for Change,” is highly implemented. The center is not just a place for first-year experience students but the entire Rust College family. Other services provided are: Academic Advising, Career Placement, Peer Advising, Domestic Violence Counseling, Substance Abuse Awareness and Education, Suicide Prevention/Intervention and Stress Management. The COPE Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Jones also added that the COPE Center works hand-in-hand with Shaw Hall and the Royal Ambassadors’ Advisors in the financial aid office. Shaw Hall is the place where freshmen also receive assistance with their classes and advice for the OWLs. By working together, Shaw Hall and the COPE Center can have a definite number of incoming freshmen. They also work with them from the beginning to the end of their duration here at Rust College.

The first-year experience division and Student Support Services (SSS) give a guaranteed number of incoming students by knowing who has fully completed their applications, paperwork and paid a deposit.”

The freshmen who are Rust College ready and committed are the ones up for the challenge and success. So if you are ever stressed or need advice, the COPE Center is the place for you.

How to balance a campus life
By Robert Alexander
Contributor, The Rustorian

From the parties to the Greeks, and live basketball games, some will say campus life is the best. Many students are excited about the current academic year at Rust College.

They are finishing up their second month of college at Rust. Some gave good feedback about how they feel. “I’m enjoying myself so far so I’m happy,” said Cody Thompson, a freshman, from Holly Springs, Miss. To be successful you must have balance in everything you do to achieve your goal. You need to make time in your schedule to take care of your goals first. There’s a time to study and a time to party.”

Michael Reed, a junior mass communication major from Chicago, Ill., said, “I balance my time by setting a time to go to sleep and wake up on time.” Reed said he knows when to do his class work and when to party, “plain and simple.”

Some staff gave advice to the incoming students. John Verge, the residential advisor in Davage-Smith Hall, said freshmen should “be themselves and stay focused.”

Pearly Jones, a counselor of students in Shaw Hall, said it’s good to see students strive to be successful and finish college.

On and off campus living
By Antoinette Anderson
Contributor, The Rustorian

Is campus life better than off campus life? Campus living is the life for many college students, but now more students at Rust College tend to take interest in living off campus.

For some students living on campus is not as great as living off campus. They would rather be independent and live on their own, and also have freedom to do whatever they want.

Robert Alexander, a mass communication major from Chicago, Ill., said living on campus one may tend to be involved in more activities, but living off campus would be better as far as living conditions are concerned. Alexander said he knows many students who live off campus and they love it.

According to Gabrielle Harvey, a biology major, also from Chicago, living on campus is easier when trying to make it on time for class, and one also gets to know other students better. But Harvey would like more security on campus and more planned activities for students.

“I enjoy the freedom I have living off campus. I can have company when I want and for as long as I want,” said Corey Simpson, a mass communications major, from Chicago, III.

See Living, page 5
Students dismayed at the closing of nearby Piggly Wiggly store

By Benita E. Jackson
Editor, The Rustorian

Piggly Wiggly in Holly Springs, Miss. closed its doors on Friday, Sept. 30, and students at Rust College are already feeling the effect.

One of the closest grocery stores to the college campus students could easily walk to Piggly Wiggly to pick up food, snacks, and drinks. It’s a much easier access and students do not have to ride to the store unless they are doing a large grocery trip. But those who don’t have a vehicle on campus don’t mind making the short walk to the store.

Some students like to shop at Piggly Wiggly because of the cheaper prices they have compared to Wal-Mart. Others like the selection of items that they can find in Piggly Wiggly compared to the other local grocery store or even the dollar stores.

Yvette Edward Curry, a mass communication major, says that she is upset about the closing of Piggly Wiggly because the meat selection at Piggly Wiggly is better than other local grocery stores in Holly Springs, and is better priced than Wal-Mart.

The thought of spending more money on any product is enough to make students consider how they are already on limited budgets. Students often rely on parents back home to send them money via services like Money Gram and Western Union. Western Union is commonly used and is located at Piggly Wiggly. But with the closing of the store Western Union becomes out of reach to students who don’t have transportation.

Computer science junior, Patrice Jones, said “Now I have to go all the way to Wal-Mart to receive money that family member back in Chicago send. This is going to be a hassle because I could walk to Piggly Wiggly but walking to Wal-Mart is out of the question?”

The strain of the closing of this store may be hard for students to overcome unless another grocery store replaces it soon.

Another student, Travonte Franks says that he wouldn’t mind if they would replace it with a Kroger so he can use his Kroger card for discounts and his EBT card as well to save even more money.

The closing of this store will not only affect the students of Rust College but the community as a whole will be affected. Jobs will be lost, access to the groceries will be limited, and even access to other needs will be limited. The closing of this business might also lead fewer customers for other business in the area where Piggly Wiggly was located. If people only visited other business because going to Piggly Wiggly reminded them to go by there, not having Piggly Wiggly there will decline business.

Yet the plus is there for store like Big Star and Wal-Mart, because that is one less business they are in competition with. This could potentially increase their sales with people of the community and the students of Rust College having to find some where else to fulfill those needs that were once covered by Piggly Wiggly.
Graduate school recruiters seek serious-minded talent

By Teresa Hughes
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

A diverse selection of graduate schools, law schools, and even the United States Coast Guard were represented at Rust College graduates day held in the McMillan multipurpose gymnasion on Sept. 12.

Recruiters presented interesting arguments as to why students should choose their program, and students took note.

For instance, Dr. Osaeuhien Amieyini, interim dean of the School of Radio and Television, Arkansas State University, said that their in-state tuition is at its lowest ever, and there are even some assistanship available to qualified students. However, others argued that the overall cost itself to attend their program was the best reason students should enroll.

“Students can compare notes and when do they will find that our school of law has the cheapest tuition starting at around nine thousand dollars,” said Peter C. Alexander, professor of law, Southern Illinois University School of Law. Political Science/ Pre-law major Noah Moore of Jackson, Miss. said that Widenar Law School influenced him the most.

“The representative was highly educated and intelligent, and told me that sometimes people chose law as a profession just for the prestige; instead of using that profession to better their community and those that look like them,” he said.

Graduate schools that sent representatives included Washington State University, Arkansas University, Central Michigan University, Jackson State, and Richmond University.

Law schools represented were Florida Coastal, the University of Mississippi, Southern Illinois, Roger Williams University, and Widenar law amongst others.

and as a whole by dancing, representing their states or where they are from, eating, and laughing. The Pink Social left students feeling refreshed and full of sweets.

Living, from page 3

A major, enjoys the off-campus living: “I have more freedom.” However, the only problem with living off campus is the daily commute to and from school, and the cost of living off campus, said Taylor. “But before you move off campus these are things you have to consider.

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The Rust College band will be joining up with Alumni band members from the 1970s and 1980s during Founders’ Week Nov. 11-13. It’s been years since Rust College brought back the band. Band Director Maurice Weatherall said the majorettes are ready to show what they got, “flag girls who are ready to wave their school pride, and musicians ready to sound the alarm.”

In majorette auditions, Weatherall came by to drop a word of wisdom to the girls. “If you are just going through the motions and trying to join a team that performs all over, it’s not going to work with this band,” Weatherall said.

Drum major Al- len Thurman expressed his expectations for this band. “We have a good core, now it is time to add dedicated members and show people what this band program is capable of producing.”

Director Weatherall says big things expected from the band this year

By Catrina Kirkwood, Contributor, The Rustorian

The Big Bang Boom!!!

By Ravenico Stephens
Staff Writer, The Rustorian

The men of Davage-Smith residential hall at Rust have issues with their living arrangements and conditions. One issue that seems to trouble everyone is the condition of the restrooms and how well they’re being taken care of, pertaining to cleanliness.

Biology major Troy Smith, from Conway, Ark., said, “They could hire a later cleaning crew for the building instead of the early cleaning crew that they do have.” Residence assistant Ahmaad Adesola admitted to the issue and has been working to keep the restrooms clean, but Adesola said the residents have to help out as well. Another major issue was the recent removal of the microwaves used by the residents. The microwaves were taken out of the dormitory because they were not kept clean, according to Anthony Scott, a social work major, from Memphis, Tenn. There is no information as to when they will be returned but the student residents hope sooner.

The fines in Davage-Smith are also an issue that comes along with living in the dormitory.

Students say the rules are too strict and could be easier in order for them to have a better college experience.

Juan’té Verge, the hall director, said, “Instead of giving out fines, the school should try some kind of community service.”

Davage-Smith Hall, up to par or off by far
By Dionyal Spencer  
**Fear**

Dear Fear, they defined you as distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil, pain, etc., whether the threat is real or imagined; the feeling or condition of being afraid.

I defined you as car accidents, relationships, failure and dying
Missing the bus or loosing a fight and momma and daddy getting a hold of that tail
Or having sex and living with an unknown disease
Allowing myself to get involved in a relationship that is full of secrets and lies.
Depending on a father that has deceived me and my siblings as a whole
Living by myself with kids in a broken home,

Having to explain to them it’s not their fault that daddy isn’t home.
Standing on the corner selling dope to gain money for the needs of my family as a whole
Having the thought of our first black president being assassinated by a racist man
Crying day and night to overcome the pain that lies within from worldly hurt,
Crying “Momma why you have to leave me on this earth alone” while she lays in a casket cold
Allowing me and my siblings to be anything less than what God has called us to be.
Brutally beat down because of my race, and the seat I have taken on the bus from a long day of work
Or maybe it’s the dream that I told, that leaves me dead
because of the white man who shot me as I stood on the balcony of Lorraine hotel
Picking cotton and answering to this man who holds a name of “Master”
Lying in a ship full of people like me chained down, with the smell of vomit

Why does this fear live inside of me?
I question this everyday only to understand
That I’m a black man, black woman, black child
And this fear has lived in me since the year of 1619.
8th ‘Great Debate’ deals with weighty issues of privacy, access and control

By Benita Jackson
Editor, The Rustorian

The Department of Mass Communication hosted its 8th Annual Great Debate on Friday, Oct. 7. The debate is held each academic year by Sharron Goodman-Hill’s Mass Media Law class.

This year’s debate had two different topics and four tea Team one and two debated the topic, “Should students be suspended or expelled through evidence obtained through secret surveillance? The second topic, “Should the government be allowed to obtain private email without a warrant?” was debated by teams three and four.

The judges were Professor Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Jones, Rev. Ed Moses, Asbury United Methodist Church, and Patrick Washington, superintendent for Benton County Schools. The debate was attended by several faculty members, staff, students, and a few parents.

During the debate students were to deliver an opening statement, no longer than eight minutes, a rebuttal, followed by question and answers from both teams, and closing statements. The “pro” team led off the debates and the “con” team followed.

On the first topic, the con team, consisting of Blake Henry, team captain, Cameron Jones, Terrell Barry, Roosevelt Ford, and Alonzo Williams, won. The second debate was won by the pro team, consisting of Illysse Daniels, team captain, Corey Simpson, Ravenico Stephens, Kierra Donnell, and Markeeta Cohen.

The topics that were debated were important questions in our society. The issue of the government viewing personal email has been argued before and has appeared in court a number of times. The same is for hidden cameras capturing questionable behavior and being used to punish those caught in the wrong.

One point ruled in the great debate for the topic of hidden cameras was that there was no difference between a college campus having hidden cameras and a mother having a “nanny cam” videotaping her babysitter.

For the government viewing private email without warrant, a significant point was that often when the government has been taken to court for these cases, they often withdraw their motion, which gives the impression that the government knows that what they are doing is wrong.

In order for the debate to happen, students had to properly prepare by researching their topics, finding evidence to support the side that they were arguing, whether it was for (pro) or against (con). Many students had to go against what they truly believed was right in order to make the debate a success.

After the results were in Goodman-Hill thanked all who were in attendance. She also gave gift baskets created by Pearly Jones, Shaw Hall, to the judges. She gave a goodie cup to John A. House for helping with the debate which he shared with Hortensia Dean, former instructor of Mass Communications at Rust.

Rust students enjoy one last groove at Thursday night ‘Blues’ Extravaganza

By Ceretra Williams
Staff writer, The Rustorian

On every Thursday evening, from 6 to 11, Holly Springs, Miss. hosts an annual Bikers Blues show, which includes most local artists and Memphians.

“These activities give me a reason to leave the campus, interact with some of the local people and enjoy myself without having to watch my back around every corner.”

The town’s people are very friendly, welcoming and caring. There are not just the Holly Springs people there but the mayor, firemen, police, and the Rust College students, faculty, staff and sometimes President Dr. David L. Beckley.

While the artists perform, there is a dance area located in the center of the crowd, where people of all sizes show their signature moves. If you’re not dancing in the middle circle, you can walk to the very back and get a snack: corn dog, funnel cakes, polish sausage, regular and hot franks, and grilled bologna just to name a few. You can even get refreshing lemonade, water or ice cold pop. If you’re really enjoying yourself, the liquor store is on the first block right before you get to the blues alley. Rust College prospective graduating senior, business administration major Shavondra Walker says, “The blues extravaganza helps the community of Holly Springs and the Rust College families become one.”

The Blues Show and the Rust College Radio WURC work together and produce a wonderful show. At the end of the night people have enjoyed themselves, danced, laughed and eaten. To go home with a great spirit from a family oriented event warms the soul.

Sad to say that Sept. 29 was the last Thursday for the annual Bikers Blues event. “We’ll just wait for next year in July to come so that everyone can do the same thing all over again,” said junior mass communications major Yvette Curry.

“Hoping the same, plus more artists will come and broadcast their talents for the town is all that’s on the mind of most of Holly Springs.”