Words to Ponder

‘STILL I RISE’ BY MAYA ANGELOU

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
And spit on the life I led.

\[\text{Dear Colleagues and Friends,}
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You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
And spit on the life I led.

But still, like dust, I’ll rise.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

You received my welcome back letter in a mail-
g, so this note is to express my sincere joy for
the opportunity to begin a new academic year
with you. Each year brings new challenges. For 150 years Rust College has mastered new chal-
 lenges and I believe if we work together we can master what-
ever challenges lie ahead.

When you arrive we will have more than 375 new students.
These students have come to Rust College believing that they
 can acquire a bachelor’s degree in an area that they choose.

They have come to Rust College eager to learn; they have
come to Rust College needing faculty and staff who believe in
them, who care about their success, who are not afraid to chal-
gen them to give their very best to each assignment; they
have come to Rust College to learn what it means to be a good
citizen; they have come to be engaged in the life of a scholar;
and they have come to Rust College for a safe place to grow
and explore what they may want to do in their future. They
have come to us! How will we respond?

This is how I hope you will respond. I will be:

1. Committed to giving each student my very best;
2. Prepared to teach, prepared to listen and willing to
   adjust to their learning styles;
3. Creating updated syllabus, lectures, and classroom
   activities to keep students challenged and engaged;
4. Assessing students’ work fairly and objectively;
5. Engaged in the life of the students outside of my
   classroom;
6. Communicating with students the expectations and
   their status
   7. Contributing to the good for the whole rather than
   bemoaning singular personal dislikes;
8. Following policies and respecting those who must
   remind us to adhere to policy;
9. Asking what more I can do to make working at Rust
   College a place where I and my work is valued; and
10. Working, listening, assessing, and changing that

The 150th celebration has begun, let us be a bright spark in the
array of academic fireworks.

Sincerely,

Sandra C. Vaughn, Ph. D.

The Academic Affairs Unit Newsletter is sent to the Board of Trustees, administration, staff and faculty of Rust College and may be accessed from the Rust College website. The newsletter highlights accomplishments, addresses campus topics, and invites feedback. If you have a story that you would like to see in the Academic Affairs Newsletter, please contact Monique Lewis at m_lewis@rustcollege.edu.
**Faculty Highlights...**

Meet Dr. Alaba Oludare, Assistant Professor Criminal Justice

Dr. Alaba Oludare graduated with a PhD, Administration of Justice in 2015 from Texas Southern University, Houston. Her research interest includes drug laws and the PhRMA code; cyber security, terrorism, immigration and homeland security; policing, juvenile and family issues including the eradication of violence, understanding the interactions between race, class, gender and crime and most importantly, reducing the rate of confinement among minorities and the youth. Dr. Alaba Oludare is a licensed Attorney in good standing with the New York State Bar. Dr. Oludare obtained a post graduate degree (LLM. Taxation Law) from the University of Alabama, School of Law, Tuscaloosa in August 2010.

Empowered by her interdisciplinary background and training, Dr. Oludare has helped families and businesses resolve issues relating to tax, business, immigration, family, real estate, healthcare, oil and gas; juvenile and criminal law issues. She has taught criminal justice courses at Texas Southern University. Dr. Oludare is passionate about service and works with communities and faith based organizations to raise awareness and advance education among minorities to alleviate violence, poverty and incarceration. She offers mentorship and career guidance to youths and volunteered with the Loyola Jesuit moot court competition at the University of Houston. Dr. Oludare has presented papers at conferences, authored and co-authored papers for presentation at domestic and international conferences. She recently co-authored an article published by the Journal of Criminal Justice and Law Review.

Also new to our faculty are Ms. Danielle Littlefield, Instructor, English; Mr. Clinton Metcalf, Instructor, Spanish; and Rev. Kevin Kosh, Instructor, Religion.

We are excited to welcome back Dr. Margaret Delashmit, Professor, English and Dr. William Scott, Professor, Chemistry.

Not returning this academic year are Mrs. Anna Torres, Instructor, Spanish, Ms. Meghan Oglesby, Instructor, Mass Media Communications, Dr. Wu Sen Pan, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Mr. Vernon Jones, Choir Director, Rev. Annie Travis, Chaplain, Dr. Sujata Sinha, Assistant Professor, Economics, and Mr. Tracey Monroe, Instructor, Social Science Division.

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**By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them**

Congratulations to our Colleagues

**Dr. Lisa Beckley-Roberts**, the daughter of President David L. Beckley and Dr. Gemma Beckley, Department Chair of Social Work, was conferred the Doctorate of Philosophy in Ethnomusicology from the University of Florida on August 6, 2016. The title of her dissertation is: To and Through the Doors of Ocha: Music, Reversion, and Personal Transformation Among African-American Lucumi. Dr. Beckley-Roberts is the mother of David Amaree Roberts.

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Mr. Charles Terry, Jr. the son Mrs. Willa Terry, the Office Manager, in the office of the President, has been appointed Director of the Holly Springs Intermediate and High School Choir.

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Dr. Vaughn Vice President for Academic Affairs receives the 2016 Leadership Award from the Rust College Social Science Club. The Award was given for "Promoting Academic Excellence and Inspiring Youth", presenting the award is Savahn Jordan, president of the Social Science Club.

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Mr. Andrew Gillum, the mayor of Tallahassee, Florida is the son-in-law of Dr. Leon Howard, Division Chair of Education, was a featured speaker at the Democratic National on Tuesday night. Mayor Gillum is married R.Jai Howard and they have twins Caroline and Jackson.

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**Science & Math Summer Institute 2016**

Students visiting the French Camp Academy and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)s in the Delta region have been selected to advance entrepreneurship among their students and grow the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem through the inaugural HBCU Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Initiative, the Delta Regional Authority announced on Monday (July 18).

Mr. Richard Frederick, Mr. Alfred Worthy, Dr. Charles Williams and Mr. Crlesc Cotton took part in putting together the written requirements to be among the six schools selected for this $24,000 grant.