MOREHOUSE WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2015

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

A S SOON AS THE GATES leading into the heart of the Morehouse campus closed during the Parents’ Parting Ceremony, the tears began streaming down Julia Fujioka’s face. Fujioka had symbolically separated Fujioka from her twins, freshmen Marlon and Julian from Honolulu, HI, two of more than 600 new men of Morehouse.

“It’s sad, but I’m happy for them to be on their way in life,” she said as the twins’ father proudly smiled nearby.

The ceremony was just one in a number of events during New Student Orientation 2011, giving the class of 2015 and their families and friends an introduction to the traditions of the College.

For eight days, they met with faculty, staff, administrators and alumni, learned about programs and disciplines offered, memorized the alma mater, “Dear Ole Morehouse,” and learned about the importance of Morehouse brotherhood.

“Like I said, it’s not the end of the world, but it’s a whole new chapter,” said Matthew Wilson, a member of the Class of 2015. “It’s an exciting time, but it’s also a scary time.”

The Class of 2015 walks past the Howard Thurman Obelisk.

\[ ... \]

Music chairman Uzee Brown ’72 (second from right) accepts his award from Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne Watts, Provost Weldon Jackson ’72 and President Robert Franklin ’75.

\[ ... \]

Uzee Brown ’72 Named 2011-12 Vulcan Faculty Member of the Year

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT chairman Uzee Brown ’72 had no idea what was about to happen during the College’s 128th Opening Ceremony in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on Sept. 15.

As he sat in his customary seat in front of the Morehouse College Glee Club, Brown was announced the 2011-12 Vulcan Materials Company Morehouse Faculty Member of the Year.

“It was a very big surprise,” he said. “The most exciting thing to me was the adulation shown by my students and my colleagues.

The response from the students to my being given this honor was heartwarming because of the sense that they care as much as about me as I do about them.”

Sponsored by Vulcan Materials Company, the award is presented to a faculty member who is deemed an outstanding teacher through peer reviews and student evaluations. Brown has served the College on various committees and other activities, and who provides service to the community and the teaching profession. Along with a certificate, Brown received $1,000.

Brown has been a faculty member in the music department since 1973. A former Glee Club member, Brown is an acclaimed vocalist, arranger and composer who has performed all over the world.

But Brown said being honored by his colleagues is one of his most fulfilling honors. “It’s my first kid going away from home. I know this is the right place for him. But it’s my first kid going away from home.”

Morehouse Welcomes the Class of 2015

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

MOREHOUSE RANKED AMONG NATION’S TOP LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

OR THE SECOND consecutive year, Morehouse has been recognized by Washington Monthly magazine as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country.

In the magazine’s 2011 College Guide, Morehouse was ranked second nationally, behind Berea College of Kentucky.

“Neither Amherst, one of the nation’s great liberal arts colleges, nor immediately recognizable as a powerhouse, is higher up in the rankings,” the magazine reports. “But in order for these young men to learn self-reliance and be sent like arrows swift and far, you, the guardians and parents must depart,” he said.

“Fathers and mothers must separate from their sons, temporarily, so that our freshmen can learn the campus values of accountable vocation, the beloved world community, international justice, non-violence and divine right order. This is the Morehouse way for preparing your sons to be responsible citizens in society.”

That’s when the tears started.

“It’s very emotional,” said Lara Weikum as she and her husband, Jeff, watched their son, Aaron, walk amongst his new brothers.

“I wish the best for him,” she said while weeping. “He’s so ready and seems comfortable here. I know this is the right place for him. But it’s my first kid going away from home.”

Morehouse has always been concerned with developing the whole man,” said President Robert M. Franklin ’75. “As the nation’s only institution of higher learning devoted to educating African American men, it is rewarding to know that the work we have done for the past 144 years is valued by the public, and particularly by an institution that grants institutional rankings.”
Inside Morehouse is about the people who make up the Morehouse College community. To tell those stories, WE NEED YOU to send us your ideas, comments and thoughts, along with your news, information about your new books or publications and your commentary for sections like My Word. To send us your information, contact Inside Morehouse Editor Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu.

For up-to-the-minute information about the College, go to www.morehouse.edu or visit Morehouse on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr. www.morehouse.edu

Director of Public Relations
Tony O'Neal Mosley
mmosley@morehouse.edu

Executive Editor
Vickie G. Hampton
vhampton@morehouse.edu

Editor
Add Seymour Jr.
aseymour@morehouse.edu

Calendar Editor
Julie Pinkney Tongue
jttongue@morehouse.edu

Photographers
Philip McCullum
Add Seymour Jr.

Graphic Design
Glenmore Design

Web Services
Hana Chelikowsky

Administrative Assistant
Minnie L. Jackson

Inside Morehouse is published monthly during the academic year by Morehouse College, Office of Communications. Opinions expressed in Inside Morehouse are those of the editors, not necessarily of the College.

To send us your information, contact Inside Morehouse Editor Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu.

For up-to-the-minute information about the College, go to www.morehouse.edu or visit Morehouse on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr.

www.morehouse.edu

Inside Morehouse

Director of Public Relations
Tony O'Neal Mosley
mmosley@morehouse.edu

Executive Editor
Vickie G. Hampton
vhampton@morehouse.edu

Editor
Add Seymour Jr.
aseymour@morehouse.edu

Calendar Editor
Julie Pinkney Tongue
jttongue@morehouse.edu

Photographers
Philip McCullum
Add Seymour Jr.

Graphic Design
Glenmore Design

Web Services
Hana Chelikowsky

Administrative Assistant
Minnie L. Jackson

Inside Morehouse is published monthly during the academic year by Morehouse College, Office of Communications. Opinions expressed in Inside Morehouse are those of the editors, not necessarily of the College.

Next Issue: Homecoming 2011

MY WORD

President Robert M. Franklin Jr. 75
The Martin Luther King Memorial is the Reminder Our Country Needs, Aug. 19, 2011

Lawrence E. Carter Sr.
Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
The Sermon That Shaped Martin Luther King Jr., Aug. 23, 2011

King’s Leadership Legacy

Editor’s Note: With the unveiling of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial as the backdrop, The Washington Post asked some of the nation’s foremost thought leaders to write essays offering their opinions of the impact of King’s legacy on today’s leaders. Two of those leaders were President Robert M. Franklin ‘75 and Lawrence E. Carter, dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. Here are excerpts from their essays.

“Today’s leaders desperately need to learn and practice the lessons King has left us, among them the ability to speak truth to power, the capacity to appeal to the humanity and self-interest of your opponents instead of dehumanizing them, the discipline to balance confrontation with negotiation, and the strength to forgive and reconcile with former enemies. These are qualities in unfortunately short supply among current-day politicians, religious leaders, media commentators and ordinary citizens.”

“[King] sought to enhance each person’s potential without degrading the potential of any racial, religious or national group. His goal was to maximize the realization of value in harmony with his Christian social ethical principles. Hence, in his practice of altruism, he sought to assist in the realization of maximum value in all people, respecting all persons as ends in themselves with due respect for their dignity as autonomous centers of inherent value.”

‘China Made Me Feel Right at Home’

L

AST MAY, I joined fellow Morehouse Chinese language students, including faculty members Joseph McCrae and Karen North, on a study abroad trip to China, where we enhanced our study of Mandarin and observed firsthand the environment, businesses and lifestyles in the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou.

I was unsure of what to expect. Information provided by Henrietta Yang, director of the Chinese Studies Program, and Sarah Yumin Liu, my elementary Mandarin instructor, and stories from students who have been to China, assured me that I was in for a unique experience and I was sure of one thing: our journey would make a difference in our lives.

We lived on Bashan campus, one of three campuses of the 30,000-student Shanghai University, located less than 10 miles from the main commercial center of Shanghai.

A community just outside of the west gate of the campus reminded me a lot of the West End community near Morehouse: local merchants and moderately sized chain stores that consisted of book stores, drug stores, bakeries, restaurants, food and fruit stands, and TrustMart, which is partially owned by and carried WalMart brands.

In fact, outside of our meals, many of our activities were similar to day-to-day American life. But meals in student cafeterias and in traditional restaurants were “familiar.” The circle of food rotates as each person uses chopsticks to pick up and eat bites of various dishes, throughout the meal.

Business, of course, is a common denominator in our current global environment. Dr. Yang arranged for our group to visit several large corporations. Our students represented Morehouse very well, as they asked pointed and relevant questions during corporate presentations.

Travel took our group 110 miles northwest from Shanghai to Hangzhou, a beautiful city on the West Lake. Our first stop was the Ling Yin Temple, an ancient monastery founded in 328 A.D. The temple site was in a forest setting with caves, stone cliffs, on which were carved figures, and structures in which were monumental statues representing figures revered in Buddhist devotion.

We walked an outdoor mall of shops built in traditional architectural style. The shopping in China is excellent, especially for silk goods and tea. The highlight of the evening was a tea-tasting ceremony at one of the local shops. Jasmine flower tea was my favorite, not only because I like the taste of jasmine, but also because the dried flower immersed in hot water, in the clear glass teapot opens into a beautiful floral display.

The following morning, Karen and I walked the park that borders the West Lake. People of various ages, but primarily mature citizens, gather to walk, perform martial arts exercises, like Tai Chi, and socialize. Because I love to dance, and had missed several workout classes while away, I joined one of the groups of local women line dancing. The music was traditional Chinese music, and the moves carried the Asian flavor, but it was like joining a group doing the Electric Slide. You just jump in and keep moving until you get it. The Chinese are serious about physical movement for health.

We returned to Shanghai and continued our studies until our departure. The experience expanded my conversational Chinese vocabulary and I appreciated the tonal distinctions that are so much a part of speaking Mandarin. A wealth of cultural exchanges and bonding, between Morehouse and Shanghai students, and the populace of Shanghai, cleared up previous consternation about life in China. China’s unique blend of Communism and capitalism is paradoxical, to say the least. However, the folks in China made me feel right at home.

By Denise Moore

Denise Moore is the College’s director of Government Relations and Gift Planning.
Ron Thomas Honored With Lifetime Achievement Award

Ron Thomas, director of the Journalism and Sports Program at Morehouse, spent nearly 40 years writing about football, baseball, basketball and other sports and the intersection with social justice.

His accomplishments have been recognized by Sport in Society at Northeastern University, which has awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Sports Journalism.

Sport in Society at Northeastern University educates and supports emerging leaders and organizations within sport with the awareness, knowledge and skills to implement innovative and impactful solutions for social change.

Thomas’s belief in sports as a platform for social change is reflected in his lifetime body of work, the organization said in a press release. “Thomas was the researcher for HBO’s ‘Fields of Fire’ documentary about the turmoil in sports in the 1960s and 70s revolving around racism, the Vietnam War and gender equity. His chapter ‘Black Faces Still Rare in the Press Box’ was published in the sociology textbook ‘Sports in Society: Equal Opportunity or Business as Usual?’ Thomas book, They Cleared the Lane: the NBA’s Black Pioneers, is a culmination of those efforts.’

Thomas spent the bulk of his career covering college and professional sports, specifically the National Football League and the National Basketball Association, for the San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, the Marin (Ca.) Independent Journal, the Chicago Daily News and BlackAmericaWeb.com.

Thomas has been head of the Journalism and Sports Program since its inception in 2007.

New hires

Michael Hennas, security officer, Campus Police
Chequita Jackson, customer service assistant, Physical Plant
Kelly Renneal Jackson, grants, correspondence and proposal writer, Institutional Advancement
Bryan Jenkins, audio/visual technician, Multimedia Services and Telecommunications
George Johnson, assistant football coach, Athletics
Jamesia King, administrative assistant, Science and Mathematics
Shondrae Lamb, program manager, Science and Mathematics
Alberta Littleton, payroll associate, Business and Finance
Ernest Morgan, police officer, Campus Police
Curtis Oxley, receptionist, THIO Program
Sharon Percis, benefits analyst, Human Resources
Mila Redmond, research associate, Biology
Evans Robinson, security officer, Campus Police
Casteel Sanders, program coordinator, MLK Collection
Thomas Scelsi, lab technician, Physics
Linda Simmons, executive assistant, MLK Collection
Samantha Silves, laboratory assistant, Science and Mathematics
Frederick Sippial, assistant football coach, Athletics
Pamela Watson, associate vice president for Human Resources
Angela White, administrative assistant, Journalism and Sports
Castledale White, police officer, Campus Police
Chad Williams, assistant football coach, Athletics
Malcolm Williams, program manager, John H. Hopkins Research Scholars Program, Science and Mathematics
Tracie Young, senior accountant, Accounting

NOTE

‘MORE THAN A GAME’

Athletics and Academics on Display During Inaugural AT&T Nation’s Football Classic Weekend

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

A CAPACITY CROWD CHEERED loudly as Morehouse College and Howard University squared off in Washington, D.C. The atmosphere was charged as many held signs and others jumped to their feet to yell for their favorite maroon-or blue-clad member.

But this was not RFK Stadium, or the football game, which was still a day away. The lively scene was Howard’s Cramton Auditorium for a debate.

That level of TigerBison excitement permeated the entire four-day AT&T Nation’s Football Classic weekend, which was highlighted by the inaugural Classic football game between Howard and Morehouse at RFK Stadium. But the theme, ‘It’s More Than a Game,’ framed the festive weekend as one that was just as focused on the academic tradition of both institutions as it was on athletics.

The week started with the daylong Presidential Symposium. Presidents Robert M. Franklin ’75 (Morehouse), Sidney Ribeau (Howard) and Fitzgerald Hill (Arkansas Baptist College), along with author Michael Eric Dyson, discussed black male achievement with moderator Fredricka Whitfield of CNN.

“The world is more important today than the African American family and you can’t talk about that without discussing the well-being and nurturing of African American males,” Ribeau said.

Morehouse psychology professor Bryant Marks ’94, executive director of the Morehouse Male Initiative, presented his findings on black male college students, while English professor Stéphane Dunn moderated a discussion on the black male college experience.

“We stay up until three, four or five in the morning, talking about social issues,” said Morehouse SGA president Travis Randle, who was joined by senior psychology major Ryan Boles. “These are the kinds of conversations many of us had never had before. But students are also involved in talking about solutions.”

Black male masculinity was the topic for a panel that included personality psychology professor David Wall Rice ’95, actor Isaiah Washington, Washington Post columnist Jason Reid, Howard professor Greg Carr and film director Spike Lee. Mann will teach at Morehouse in the new Cinema, Television and Emerging Media Studies Program.

Students, faculty and staff from both schools filled Cramton Auditorium for the inaugural Mordecai Wyatt Johnson-Benjamin E. Mays Student Debate. Teams from Howard and Morehouse matched minds and oratorical skills over the issues of whether college athletes should be paid and if cyber bullying should be a criminal offense.

Nearly 20,000 people — most of them Maroon Tigers fans — enjoyed a thrilling football game that renewed the 88-year-old Howard-Morehouse football rivalry. The two teams had not played since 1997. A late Morehouse comeback fell short as Howard defeated Morehouse 30-27. (For more of the game, see page 7.)

President Robert M. Franklin ’75 closed the weekend by delivering the Sunday Chapel Service sermon in Blackburn University Center. A huge crowd that included former Clinton administration official Vernon Jordan and Spelman president Beverly Tatum forced Howard officials to move the service from Rankin Chapel.

“We have been the privileged ones to sit in the presence of extraordinary students . . . We celebrate a victory for all of us,” said Franklin.

Morehouse and Howard will meet again next year on Sept. 1 in the AT&T Nation’s Football Classic.

To see photos and videos from the AT&T Nation’s Football Classic weekend, go to www.attnation.com/Morehouse1867.

Tupac Shakur Collection Opens at Robert W. Woodruff Library

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

A FIRST GLANCE, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. ’48 and rapper/actor Tupac Shakur wouldn’t have much in common. But in compiling the new Tupac Shakur Collection, Courtney Charter, assistant head of Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library’s archive research center says the two shared quite a few traits.

“Shakur’s handwritten manuscripts reinforce his reputation as a workaholic,” she said. “He was constantly drafting and revising his work; King showed a similar trait. We also have a lot of fan mail to Shakur, just like King, and I was struck by how passionate the fans were who wrote to Tupac. Even though they were very different men, both really inspired people with their words. I think that they both demonstrated characteristics of truly successful people: hard work and the ability to inspire, which contribute to a lasting legacy.”


“The Woodruff Library is honored to collaborate with the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation to preserve the artistic legacy of Tupac Shakur,” said Loretta Parham, CEO and library director. “Mr. Shakur was a multi-dimensional artist who helped define a musical genre and as one of the academic library serving our four institutions of higher learning, it is our mission, as well as a great privilege, to help promote scholarship and research of his work and the mechanisms of his creative process and the hip hop culture.”

Shakur, who lived in Atlanta for a short period, died in 1996 after selling more than 75 million albums and acting in films such as “Juice,” “Poetic Justice,” “Above the Rim” and “Gridlock’d.”

The Library archived and digitized 11 boxes of Shakur material, offering a glimpse into what made Shakur one of pop culture’s more intriguing personalities.

“The Woodruff Library Archives has done a phenomenal job archiving my son’s materials,” said Afeni Shakur-Davis. “I thank their staff for partnering with my family and the Foundation in helping to make these important documents available in a professional manner that will benefit scholars for years to come.”

Charter said some of the more interesting items are a notebook of songs eventually recorded for Shakur’s “2Pacalypse Now” album, handwritten poetry, handwritten contracts with Death Row Records and for his last film, “Gang Related,” his birth and death certificates and material from his time served in the Clinton Correctional Facility.

The Library opened the Collection with a block party on Sept. 13, exactly 15 years after Shakur’s death. The Collection is open to the public.

“Access reminds you of the King Collection, with a digital portion available only from our reading room,” Charter said. “The finding aid is available on our website. From the Reading Room of the Archives Research Center, researchers can use the digital collection, which is all of Shakur’s handwritten manuscripts, but can also access other portions of the collection physically.”

For more information about the Tupac Shakur Collection, call the AUC Woodruff Library at (404) 978-2052 or at archives@auc.edu.
College’s Enrollment Management Strategy Addresses National Trends in Recruiting and Retaining Students

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

THE FIERCE competition for African American male students nationally has forced higher education institutions to find different ways to recruit and retain black males.

In an effort led by William Bynum, Morehouse has turned to a admissions model that many other schools are using.

Bynum is now vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Services, which puts under one position the process of recruiting students and then serving them while they are at Morehouse.

“The vision for Morehouse is to really do a true best practices enrollment management model,” Bynum said. “A true model really concentrates on those students you have in-house and does all it can to coordinate services, programs and activities so you’re maximizing retention and graduation rates.”

Bynum and provost Weldon Jackson ’72 are looking to make some changes in admissions and student services that will help the College to reach President Robert M. Franklin’s goal of having a four-year graduation rate of 60 percent and a six-year graduation rate of 80 percent. Currently, those numbers are 38 percent and 60 percent, which are already among the highest for historically black colleges and universities nationally.

Bynum and Jackson said raising those rates involves recruiting a stronger student and lowering Morehouse’s acceptance rate.

“We will continue selecting the best and the brightest,” Bynum said. “We are looking at bringing (the acceptance rate) down, while bringing in a better class.”

The class of 2015 is an example of that. That class is around 680, which is smaller than in previous years. But they have a median 3.24 grade point average and a 1050 on the math and verbal portion of the SAT.

Once a class is enrolled at Morehouse, Jackson said there would be a stronger emphasis on giving students what they need to succeed.

“For example, our plans are to implement by next semester an advisement center, with professional advisers, and connecting those persons with faculty advisers to beef up our academic support services,” he said. “Also, we want to institute early alert systems and do everything we can to address those reasons that are at the core of students leaving. At the same time, we will be working with Enrollment Management and Student Services to identify certain deficits of students coming in and to dispatch services and personnel to those needs.

“It’s all about enriching all of those services and structurally ensuring that we will not allow a kid to drop through the cracks,” Jackson said.

The moves are all about staying in step with the changes in the higher education climate, where recruiting African American male college students is tougher and more competitive than it has ever been, Bynum said.

“I’m very confident that we will meet every goal that we have set, starting with the fall 2012 class,” Bynum said.

Sustainability Corner

By SANDRA VAN TRAVIS

TRIO Gets $2.2 Million Federal Grant for Educational Talent Search Program

THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE TRIO Program has received a five-year $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue the College’s Educational Talent Search Program.

The Educational Talent Search Program is an enrichment program where the Morehouse TRIO program works with public school counselors and teachers to encourage students to complete high school and enroll in postsecondary education programs. Approximately 1,000 prospective first-generation college students, grades 6-12, from four metro Atlanta school districts are given academic and career advising, tutoring, college application and financial aid assistance. They also participate in college visits, cultural field trips, leadership conferences, ACT and SAT preparation and mentoring. Their parents also participate in financial literacy workshops.

“Educational Talent Search Program is, perhaps, the medicine that is curative and preventive relative to decreasing the absenteeism and dropout rates and ultimately increasing the secondary school completion rate as students pursue their educational objectives of postsecondary enrollment and atart higher,” said Ruby Byrd, director of the Morehouse TRIO Program.
New Campus Minister Ernest Brooks ’05 Looks to Bridge Generations

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

T he Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel has played a special part in Ernest Brooks’ life. As a student, the 2005 graduate listened to a number of speakers during Crown Forum in the Chapel. A year ago, he and his wife became the first couple to get married on the Chapel’s stage.

Brooks has returned to the Chapel, this time in a full-time role as the new associate campus minister. In his new position, he will reach out to students and the rest of the campus community to add a spiritual aspect to their lives.

“It’s a homecoming,” Brooks said. “It’s an honor to be able to come back to a place that has had such an impact in shaping me and forming me as a man, a leader, and a spiritual leader. It’s a privilege to be able to come back and plant and water the seeds here, just like people planted those seeds in me.”

Brooks initially came to Morehouse as a 16-year-old early admittance student after finding out that King started at the College as a 13-year-old. A religion major, Brooks was a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar. He went to divinity school at Duke University, but spent Sundays as the pastor of the church he grew up in, Mt. Shalom Missionary Baptist Church in Williamson, N.C.

After also working in the non-profit sector in New Orleans and Atlanta, Brooks jumped on the opportunity to return to Morehouse. Chapel executive director Roy Craft said it has been a perfect match.

“Ernest brings an energy and a sense of accessibility, being a 2005 graduate,” Craft said. “He’s recent enough to the experience that the students are going through, but has the maturity and the connection through alumni clergy. So he winds up being a very good bridge between the older alumni clergy and pastors and students who are considering ministry.”

One of the things Brooks wants to do is boost the number of people who attend Sunday services at the Chapel. One way he plans to do that is to take the Chapel to the campus.

“I’m interested in getting outside of the four walls of the Chapel and reaching out to the wider campus community,” he said. “I want to be one who can stand in the chasm between yesterday and today, and to let them know there are still things from yesterday that we ought to appreciate and there is continuity from yesterday to today.”

AUC Community Turns Out for 12th Annual Morehouse Breast Cancer Awareness Walk

Hundreds of people turned out on the morning of Sept. 17 for the 12th Annual Morehouse College Breast Cancer Awareness Walk around the Atlanta University Center. Previous walks had raised more than $181,000 for breast cancer research and awareness.

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

When parents send their sons to Morehouse, their connection to the College is much more than just being cheerleaders from home.

Every Morehouse parent is a member of the Morehouse College Parents Council, a second-year group that helps support students and their parents during their Morehouse years.

“We are strong advocates of our sons and making sure they have a great experience at Morehouse and we help parents to navigate the Morehouse system,” said Dr. Darlene Willis, co-chair of the Council with her husband, Philip Willis Jr. Their son, James C. Willis, is a senior Spanish major. “We support the College. We just try to be there.”

The idea came from William Byrum, vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Services, said Harry Wright, associate vice president and dean of the Office of Student Services. Wright is the Council’s liaison to the College.

“When Dr. Byrum came here, he really had an idea about how to mobilize parents at the ground level,” Wright said. “It is working very well so far. In only one year, they’ve raised $10,000 – 70 percent of which we have given to students for things such as book scholarships, emergency plane tickets to get home and even clothing. They’ve also partnered with regional alumni groups and with the Office of Admissions to help reach out because they know the high schools and students in their area,” he said. “So it has all gone extremely well.”

A 15-member executive board directs the Council’s activities through its nine regional groups across the country. Council members are on campus at least twice a year, during New Student Orientation and Parents Weekend, but often are around for other College events, such as the “A Candle in the Dark” Gala, Commencement and Homecoming.

It is a 12 Parents Council met during New Student Orientation
SECOND SEASON

October Stretch Sets Up Maroon Tigers for SIAC Title and Playoffs Run

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

For senior linebacker Charlie Wilson, there is one game that stands out among all the others on the Morehouse football team’s 2011 schedule: the 76th Tuskegee-Morehouse Classic on Oct. 8 in Columbus, Ga.

He has never been on a Maroon Tiger team that has defeated Tuskegee. In fact, Morehouse hasn’t beat Tuskegee since 2003.

“It makes me feel bad because the players are doing what we need to be doing, the coaches are doing what they need to do, but it seems as we get closer and closer to the game, everything just goes awry,” said Wilson, a kinesiology major from Montgomery, Ala. “The alumni are on us about not winning that game, so that’s something that’s really on our plate this year.”

The Tuskegee game is just one of several big games left for the Maroon Tigers this season. A successful September – a stretch head coach Rich Freeman calls the “first season” – has set his team up for October, or “the second season,” he said.

“That’s a very important season for us because in four years, we’ve only been successful in October one time, and that was last year when we made it into the NCAA Division II playoffs and came within one game of winning the SIAC championship,” he said. “The second season is when you solidify your team and if you’re successful there, that’s when you have the opportunity to make it to the third season and that’s the playoffs.”

Freeman expected the offense to lead the way, and they haven’t disappointed. The Maroon Tigers have topped the SIAC’s offensive categories. Junior running back David Carter is again one of the conference’s top rushers, while quarterback Byron Ingram and wide receiver Derrick Hector are having strong seasons.

Linebackers Wilson, Elijah Anderson and Brandon Houston have led a defense that has been among the best in the SIAC in total defense, scoring defense, interceptions and turnovers.

Along with the excitement generated by last season’s playoff run, the early 2011 results have a lot of people excited about Morehouse football.

“We’re happy the fans, alumni and the city are paying more attention to our football program,” Freeman said. “That was the intention all along – to raise the level of prestige for our program to the level of the College’s academic prowess. We are excited.”

Maroon Tigers Battle the Bison in the AT&T Nation’s Football Classic

The Maroon Tigers football team staged a late comeback that fell short in losing to Howard 30-27 in the AT&T Nation’s Football Classic. The meeting was the schools first since 1997, though they will play in the Classic again on Sept. 1, 2012. Maroon Tigers defenders pause on a fumble by Howard’s quarterback. Senior running back Mychal Harrison prepares to run through the Bison defense.

Maroon Tigers Cross Country Team Ranked Ninth in NCAA’s South Region

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Heading into the 2011 cross country season, the Morehouse Flying Maroon Tigers have been picked as one of the South’s best squads.

The U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association has ranked the Maroon Tigers as the South region’s ninth best, according to its preseason rankings.

“We have a lot of young guys, especially from last year’s freshman class, who helped us to get to that ninth ranking,” said coach Willie Hill. “We are really excited.”

The Maroon Tigers are coming off a 2010 season in which they won their 16th consecutive Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

This season, Michael Vison leads a group of seniors who are providing strong leadership for a young team, Hill said.

“He’s one of the leaders, making sure the guys get up early in the morning to run and showing the new guys direction and the way we are taking Morehouse cross country!”

Other top runners include Shinaola Agbede, Kasahun Neselu, Blake Bufford and Alton Hall. All five have been named to SIAC top weekly performers at least twice this season.

The Maroon Tigers host the Atlanta University Center Invitational on Oct. 12. For more information about the meet, contact Coach Hill at (404) 215-2751 or at whill@morehouse.edu.
September 30 - October 2

Maroon and White Fund Glee Club Celebration and Gala
New York, N.Y.
Contact: Henry Goodgame, (404) 653-7901 or hgoodgame@morehouse.edu
www.themwf.org

THURSDAY, 6

Crown Forum Leadership Initiative
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m.
Contact: Anne Watts, (404) 572-3860 or awatts@morehouse.edu

FRIDAY, 7

Cross Country
Kentucky State Invitational
Frankfort, Ky.
3:45 p.m.
Contact: Willie Hill, (404) 215-2751 or whill@morehouse.edu

October 10 - 14
Mid Term Exam Week
Contact: Anne Watts, (404) 572-3860 or awatts@morehouse.edu

WEDNESDAY, 12

Cross Country
Atlanta University Center Invitational
Atlanta, Ga.
4 p.m.
Contact: Willie Hill, (404) 215-2751 or whill@morehouse.edu

SUNDAY, 15

Football
Morehouse vs. Albany State University
Albany, Ga.
7 p.m.
Contact: Rhonda Higgs, (404) 215-2686 or rhiggs@morehouse.edu

What I Do

Julie M. Sills
Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Two years
Wilmington, Delaware

“I have a proud history with the Atlanta University Center! My parents attended Morehouse and Clark Atlanta University; they met in the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library, and I have a history of 15 women in my family who have attended Spelman College.”

As the director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, my primary role is to garner the necessary resources from the corporate and foundation community to allow Morehouse to remain competitive with other world-class institutions. There are six individuals on the Corporate and Foundation Relations team and we truly enjoy working with students and departments throughout Morehouse to advance the institution. We plan and host events for business executives, thought leaders and celebrities visiting our campus. Also, we research potential funding sources and prepare proposals in support of key college priorities.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is managing the Presidential Ambassadors Program, a student leadership development program, launched in 2010 with 50 top students. These students were nominated by their division deans and play an integral role in hosting major supporters of the College. These are some of the finest young men that I have ever met, and I look forward to their successful futures.”