

THE FLYER

A Bladen Community College Campus Weekly.

Vol. IV, No. 3

January 19, 2012

Rev. Jessup challenges student in MLK program

Reverend Pia Jessup, the reigning Miss Black North Carolina, challenged students and others who attended Tuesday's program honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to do more than just celebrate the accomplishments of the civil rights leader, but to live the principles he espoused. She emphasized the importance of critical thinking to help rise above the difficulties one may face as they travel life's road.

Rev. Jessup talked of the historical perspective of Dr. King's accomplishments as he strived to change the world around him. She pointed out that though most people think of the "I have a dream" speech when they think of the great leader, some of his best works are much less well known, such as a letter he wrote while imprisoned at Selma, Alabama, during the height of the civil rights movement of that era.

She pointed out that getting the most out of life does not always mean that an individual is treated fairly, but that it is up to the individual to react positively regardless of the challenges.

"Give the world your best *anyway*," she said. "Be nice to the world *anyway*."

She used her grandmother as an example of someone who had overcome tremendous odds to raise a family of 12 children; someone who had worked hard all of her life to provide for her family, only to be left with a small Social Security check to sustain her in her senior years. Despite her hardships, she never lost her faith. Rev. Jessup pointed out that many friends and relatives came to her aid during her time of her need.

She closed by challenging those in the audience to learn to think critically about life and its challenges as they strive to make the world a better place.



Reverend Pia Jessup

From the Office of the Vice President for Finance



It is hard to believe it is already January 2012 and a new semester is in full swing. This fiscal year began with concerns from a 10.7% budget cut. BCC has risen to challenge by tightening its belt and finding ways to manage expansion with fewer resources.

One of the ways the College is tightening its belt is by eliminating promissory notes effective fall semester of 2012. Promissory notes provide students a way to attend class without having their FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) completed and is used until the student's Pell grant is awarded. To avoid the risk of student accounts not being paid by Pell when the promissory note comes due, the College has implemented an online Tuition Payment Plan called Nelnet. Nelnet can be found on the College's website under the hyperlink entitled "Nelnet."

Eliminating promissory notes will encourage students to complete their FAFSA applications in a timelier manner. Students who attend class and qualify for Pell after the first day of a course must now qualify for Pell earlier.

Nelnet will aid students wishing to take advantage of a more flexible way to pay for educational expenses by setting up a monthly payment plan and will reduce financial risk for the College. Nelnet will be a win-win for both the College and its students.

Jay Stanley

Upcoming Events

January 19 - Campus Crusade for Christ Faculty and Staff Chapter will meet 12:15—12:45 p.m. in Building 17, Room 113.

January 23 - Campus Crusade for Christ Student Chapter will meet in Building 3, Room 102, 12:10 - 12:45 p.m.

January 25 - Smoking cessation workshop 10:30—11:15 a.m. in Building 3, Room 112.

January 19 - Administrative Council meets at 3 p.m. in Building 3, Room 102.

January 20 - 21 - Trustees Retreat January 20, 2 - 5 p.m. and January 21, 8:30 - 11 a.m. in Learning Enhancement Center.

January 21 - Board of Trustees meeting 11 a.m. in Learning Enhancement Center.

January 31 - Sigma Kappa Delta Induction Ceremony in Auditorium at 6 p.m.

February 1 - Emily Herring Wilson gives presentation on biography writing in Library at 11 a.m.

BCC Birthdays through January 25: Crystal Dowd, January 19; Joyce Cain, January 24

Author discusses the motivation behind her books

Dr. Gail Thompson, a Wells Fargo Endowed Professor at Fayetteville State University and published author, was the special guest of the Bladen Community College Humanities Department's Writing Series, on Wednesday. Dr. Thompson, a California native, discussed two of her books and her life experiences that led her to write them.

She has received numerous awards for her work focusing on the education and mentoring of African-American children.

She began her presentation by pointing out that as an educator, much of her work has centered on the education of African-American children who have grown up in poverty and other adverse circumstances. She reviewed a list of recent statistics that emphasize how African-American children—especially males—fare much worse than other groups in many areas such as high school drop-out rate, involvement in gang activity, and likelihood of being incarcerated during their lifetime. One statistic indicated that one out of every seven African-American male children born in 2000 would likely spend some time in prison during their lifetime. She pointed out that the problem is more than a racial problem—it is a national problem that must be addressed.

She read excerpts from two of her books that she said illustrate how low expectations and difficult circumstances can contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline that often ensnares African-American males.

She showed the audience two photos of young African-American male children and asked them (audience) to predict what would become of them when they grew up. After the responses, she read from the books about the life of the two young men. The two young men were her brothers, both of whom became involved in drugs and gang activity and were incarcerated. She explained that one died young while in prison and the other was eventually murdered.

Dr. Thompson pointed out that good educators and involved, positive parents can make a real difference in the lives of underprivileged children. She pointed out that she, like her brothers, had become a victim of low expectations during her first years of school. It wasn't until she had a sixth grade teacher who was genuinely interested in her and who challenged her that she began to realize her potential.

Dr. Thompson emphasized the importance of educators striving to help understand their African-American students and work to build their self-esteem and desire to learn. She pointed out that many of the problems facing underprivileged children stem from low expectations, not only from teachers but also from their parents and others. She stressed the importance of being mentors to children from difficult circumstances.



Dr. Gail Thompson

Thinking Smarter

If you have noticed the “Think Smarter” logos posted around the campus and wondered what they are, the answer is relatively simple. It is a critical part of the College’s introduction of its Quality Enhancement plan, also known as the “QEP.” The QEP is a course of action that addresses a topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. At BCC, we want our students to become great decision makers and problem solvers. Therefore, the focus of our QEP is critical thinking—developing skills that will be helpful in academic, personal, and professional settings. So, as you will see displayed around campus as you begin this semester, “R U Thinkin? Think Smarter.” Get ready to learn more about the QEP and how you can become a better critical thinker.

Twyla Davis 879.5543



Think Smarter

Green Committee News

The trend toward developing “green jobs” is an issue that was addressed at the North Carolina Greenforce Conference. The need for community colleges to train students for these jobs is becoming more important each semester. The following link is a good resource for both students and faculty to understand the types of green jobs that are available in North Carolina, as well as the types of training necessary for those jobs: <http://northcarolina.jobing.com/jobs/green>.

Joey Hinson 879.5602

Smoking cessation session slated for Jan 25

A smoking cessation session for students, faculty and staff will be held on Wednesday, January 25, at 10:30 a.m. in Building 3, Room 112. The workshop is free. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on that day a cigarette butt pick up on campus will be held to see how many are discarded. Student groups are encouraged to participate in this activity. *Tiina Mundy 879.5556*

Commit to Complete

The Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government Association (SGA) are sponsoring a national initiative called "Commit to Complete." The purpose of the campaign is to encourage students to complete their degree. Among the ideas the BCC Commit to Complete Committee plans to implement is publicizing success stories from students at BCC and those in the community who have succeeded as a result of having completed programs at BCC. Anyone who knows of a student who has overcome difficult obstacles to complete their degree, **contact Lisa DeVane at 879.5509 or email ldevane@bladencc.edu**. The committee will interview those selected and the interview will be broadcast in the student lounge. The committee would like to interview former BCC students and other individuals from the community that might inspire our students to "commit to complete."

Top 10 Reasons for Completing Community College

1. You will earn more! Students who complete their associate degree or certificate can expect to earn as much as \$8,000 more per year and about \$400,000 more in a lifetime than a high school graduate.
2. You'll be prepared! People change jobs up to 10 times in their working lives—and when you are job-hunting, a college credential will always give you an edge.
3. Credential holders also are more likely to retain jobs. Unemployment for community college graduates is typically 30 percent lower than for high school graduates.
4. You'll encounter fewer barriers to transfer! Many state college systems have articulation agreements that guarantee transfer of community college credits when associate degree students enter state universities. You'll save time and money by not having to repeat courses or take courses you did not know you needed.
5. You'll have the personal satisfaction of reaching your educational goal and having something tangible to show for it—something valued by employers, scholarship officials and transfer recruiters.
6. You'll help reverse a national trend in the declining number of college graduates, and you'll also open doors for your children. Children of college graduates are more likely to graduate themselves.
7. You and your family's health will improve. Research links greater educational attainment to longer life, healthful eating, exercising and avoiding risk factors. Better-educated people have higher incomes, making them more likely to have health insurance and live in safer neighborhoods with better access to recreational facilities and grocery stores.
8. You will be more likely to promote environmental sustainability.
9. You'll be more likely to volunteer, vote, contribute to charity, serve on boards and run for office.
10. You'll be an educated, prepared and higher-paid employee, providing support for federal, state and local governments and helping the national workforce be competitive and productive in the global economy.

BCC Campus Crusade for Christ kicks off spring program

Bladen Community College's chapters of Campus Crusade for Christ are kicking off activities for the spring 2012 semester, beginning next Thursday, January 19, with the Faculty and Staff chapter meeting at Building 17, Room 113, from 12:15 until 12:45 p.m. Lunch will be served; however, attendees will have to provide their own drink.

The Student chapter will have its initial meeting on Monday, January 23, in Building 3, Room 102, 12:10 - 12:45 p.m. Thereafter the chapter will meet each Monday at the same time and place.

A college chaplain will be on campus on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Student Resource Center, Room 109, beginning on January 24. Twyla Davis 879.5543

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID INFO: FAFSA Day will be held on Saturday, February 18, 9 a.m. until 12 noon in the Learning Enhancement Center. Currently enrolled students should complete their 2012 FAFSA online @ www.fafsa.gov since early registration for the fall is May 22-24. Samantha Benson 879.5567.

White Lake resident is BCC's Academic Excellence award winner

White Lake resident Terrie Crawley has been named Bladen Community College's Academic Excellence award winner for 2012. She is currently enrolled in the General Education program and plans to eventually enroll in the associate degree nursing program.

A native of New Hanover County, Terrie graduated from Cary Senior High School. Though she had taken a college preparatory program in high school and had applied for and been accepted to several universities, she chose not to pursue higher education at the time and soon making a living became a priority over education.

At age 42 and with two "amazing" children she decided to look into returning to school.

"I went to fall registration in 2010 just to ask a few questions to see if returning to school was a possibility for me," she explained. "I sat down with a counselor and within the hour, I was enrolled in classes with a promissory note pending receipt of a Pell grant. I started classes the very next day."

At first she had reservations about returning to school because she was not sure she could do the work, but soon she realized that she could. Though it has not been easy juggling her responsibilities to meet the demands of her class work and has often gone with very little sleep, she is prospering.

"I wouldn't trade a minute of it," she said. "Thanks to the encouragement of my instructors and advisors, I will be pursuing a bachelor's degree as well."



BCC nursing students take part in mock disaster

If you saw emergency vehicles on campus at the Allied Health Building last week, don't be alarmed. It was a training session on disaster response and treatment. The mock disaster simulated actions that would be necessary to treat victims of an explosion in the science lab. Following the simulated blast, the instructor could not be located. No one is sure of the number of victims but it appears there are six victims that can be accounted for during the initial assessment of the scene. The mock disaster exercise is designed to help prepare students in the event of a mass disaster. It's purpose is to teach the aspiring nurses triage priority using a color system.

Bladen County EMS sent a truck and crew and assisted transporting the victims who were the most seriously "injured." The injuries ranged from impaled objects, concussions, blunt trauma to a pregnant female, to second and third degree burns. The students got first hand experience treating wounds and rendering care in the simulated blast area.

