



Headlines @the Met

Spring/Summer, 2011
Volume 14, Issue 4

Michael Thurmond, Keynote Speaker for Honors Day

Atlanta Metropolitan College honored the academic accomplishments of students at its 36th Annual Honors Day on Thursday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Physical Education Gymnasium. This event honored the academic accomplishments of more than 150 students. Of the 2011 honorees, student Stephanie C. Barron received the honorary title of University System of Georgia Academic Recognition Day Scholar.



Former Commissioner Michael Thurmond

Introduced in 1975, Honors Day is the occasion when students who have achieved academic excellence are honored by academic officers and members of the faculty. The students were inspired by former Commissioner of Labor for the State of Georgia, and current member of the law firm of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer .

Michael Thurmond has distinguished himself as an attorney, author, lecturer and public servant. Born in rural Clarke County and raised in poverty as a sharecropper's son in Oconee County, Thurmond graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. in Philosophy and Religion from Paine College in 1975 and later earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also completed the Political Executives program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In 1986, he answered the call to public service and was elected to the Georgia General Assembly becoming the first African-American elected to the Georgia General Assembly from Clarke County since Reconstruction. Thurmond was elected Labor Commissioner in November 1998 and was re-elected in 2002 and in 2006.

Thurmond has also lectured at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government and is the author of several books on Georgia history.

Thurmond's latest book, *Freedom: Georgia's Antislavery Heritage, 1733-1865*, was awarded the Georgia Historical Society's Lilla Hawes Award and the Georgia Center for the Book listed *Freedom* as one of The 25 Books All Georgians Should Read. He presently serves on the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society and as a member of the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc.

Thurmond is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church West, of Athens. He and his wife Zola are the proud parents of a daughter, Mikaya.

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**Graduation is May 9
@ 10:00 a.m.
in the Physical Education
Complex
Commencement
Speaker
Chancellor
Erroll B. Davis, Jr.**

AMC Hosts Spring 2011 Atlanta Oral History Roundtable: President McGaha is Featured Guest

On Thursday evening, March 31st, 125 people attended the Atlanta Oral History Roundtable (AOHRTa) meeting hosted by Atlanta Metropolitan College. In attendance were guests from StoryCorps Griot, The Center for Civil and Human Rights, The Center for the Study of the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State, from Clayton and Georgia State Universities, and many other organizations. The roundtable focused on the importance of personal narratives, particularly as it relates to documenting community histories.

President McGaha, was the featured guest for the event. He shared the story of his humble beginnings in rural Mississippi and his rise to a college president. He focused on the value of educational excellence and the importance of strong community mores in helping him become who he is today. Dr. McGaha explained his mission is to guide the development of AMC as a community force, which will enable others to get the kind of strong educational foundation he received.

Janice Sikes-Rogers, resource librarian for the Auburn Avenue Research on African American Culture and History, interviewed Dr. McGaha. She facilitated questions which drew on several themes including cultural competence and legacies of African-American land ownership. She also addressed the importance of oral histories and personal narratives in allowing people to tell aspects of history that may be suppressed, overlooked, or distorted in the "official" record. Adjunct professor, Candy Tate, teaches art in the Humanities and Fine Arts Department, is a leading administrator in AOHRTa, and served along with AMC history professor, Kenja McCray, as a facilitator of the event. Many attendees expressed they enjoyed the forum and hope there will be more AOHRTa presentations at AMC.

The event was co-hosted with the Social Sciences Association (SSA) and the Social Sciences Department. The SSA is open to those who are pursuing a program of study in the Social Sciences Division, as well as other socially-concerned and conscious students. Interested students should contact Sylvester Powell, SSA president,

at sylvester.powell@hotmail.com or one of the advisors: Professors Kenja McCray (kmccray@atlm.edu), Jonathan Kowal (jkowal@atlm.edu); or Curtis Todd (ctodd@atlm.edu).



President McGaha at the Oral History Roundtable



Pictured Left to Right: Kenja McCray, Janice Sikes-Rogers, President McGaha, & Candy Tate

AOHRTa is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and promotion of oral history. For more information, visit the Atlanta Oral History Roundtable (AOHRTa) Facebook page or contact Professor Tate at atlantaoralhistory@gmail.com. For more information about the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, see www.afpls.org/aarl or call 404-730-4001.

Women of AT&T "Making a Difference for Deserving Female Students"



Felicia J. Phillips, Senior Account Manager, PGA Acquisition for AT&T Global Enterprise Solutions with AMC President McGaha

Making a difference, that's exactly what the Women of AT&T (Atlanta Chapter) continues to do. The Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Inc. received a \$5,000 grant from the Women of AT&T in support of scholarships for female students attending Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC).

Felicia J. Phillips, Senior Account Manager, PGA Acquisition for AT&T Global Enterprise Solutions presented the check to AMC President Gary A. McGaha at the January 25, 2011 at the annual kickoff held at the AT&T Atlanta headquarters.

This is the second year in a row that Atlanta Metropolitan College has been awarded a grant for scholarship support. Ms. Phillips is a member of the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors and serves as secretary.

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D., president of Atlanta Metropolitan College accepted the funds on behalf of the institution. He thanked the group for their financial support and strong vote of confidence in AMC and the deserving students that will receive these funds.

Picture of the AMC Academic Sciences Building Groundbreaking Ceremonies



Atlanta Metropolitan College Upward Bound Staff Emerge as Professional Leaders

Ms. Ruth Jean and Ms. Sabrina King, counselors with the Atlanta Metropolitan College Upward Bound Program, completed a two year intensive leadership training program with the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel or SAEOPP, the regional professional organization for Trio Programs. Both counselors received Emerging Leader credentials at the 2011 SAEOPP Annual Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 26-March 2, 2011.

The Emerging Leaders Institute is designed to identify, train and prepare early career TRIO Professionals for leadership positions within the field. The Institute provides workshops covering a variety of topics including: leadership skills, goal setting and communications.

Trainers for the Institute include leaders in the field including Dr. Robert Belle, former director of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Federal Trio Programs.

When asked to comment on her experience after completing the training, Ms. King stated, "I am grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the Institute. The knowledge gained during this two year program has empowered me to better serve the students in the Atlanta Metropolitan College Upward Bound Program."

Trio Programs are federally funded grants designed to promote completion of post-secondary and graduate study among low-income, first-generation U.S. citizens.

Preparing Teachers for the 21st Century Forum

On Thursday, April 7, 2011, the Future Educators Association of AMC featured its first Education Forum on campus. The event represented the fulfillment of the vision of the Chapter's Advisor, Dr. Van Putten, who desired that the members of the organization be able to conceptualize the thematic strands in the structure of American Education. The greetings from the Dean of Social Science, Dr. Grady Culpepper, began the event, and his constant support was inspiring to the students during their preparation.

The program included renowned leaders within the American Education system from the national to the local level. The U.S. Department of Education, Region 4, was represented by Dr. Dennis Bega, who spoke on "Reforms in Education." Dr. Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, President of the Georgia Association of Teachers Education, presented on the topic of "Professionalism and Teacher's Disposition in Education."

"Technology in Education" was explicated by Dr. Aimee Burgamy, who is the 2010 Great American Teacher Awardee and works in Gwinnett County schools. Dr. Rebecca Dashiell-Mitchell discussed "Collaboration and Partnerships: What Principals are Looking for in 21st Century Teachers." Dr. Dashiell-Mitchell is the Principal of Emma Hutchinson Elementary School of the Atlanta Public School system. The "Ethics within education" was discussed by Mr. Langston Jackson of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. The Forum ended with Georgia Legislative updates by the Georgia Association-Student Division.



Speakers for the 21st Century Forum

Social Work Month Celebrated at AMC



Pictured from left to right: Professor Curtis L. Todd, Panelists Tina Cloud and Dr. Aisha Williams, CAU School of Social Work professors Dr. Margaret Counts-Spriggs and Dr. Susan Kossack, Panelists Marcus Davison and Sylvester Powell.

Social Workers change futures was the theme for the 2011 National Social Work Month, which is celebrated each March. The Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University and Atlanta Metropolitan College's Social Sciences Division collaborated to present "The Intrinsic Benefits of Being a Social Worker."

The panel discussion, held March 29th on AMC's campus, consisted of students from both institutions and professionals from various Social Work practice settings.

Mr. Sylvester Powell, AMC student and aspiring Social Worker, participated on the lively panel. In addition to AMC students, other attendees included professors and students from Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Grady S.D.E. Culpepper, Dean of the Social Sciences Division provided greetings. Curtis L. Todd, Assistant Professor of Social Work served as Convener.

Students interested in pursuing a Social Work Program of Study may contact Professor Todd at ctodd@atlm.edu

Phi Theta Kappa:

The Beta Beta Tau Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at Atlanta Metropolitan College's has become an active part of the greater Atlanta community. Each year, PTK sponsors a Honors in Action (HIA) project where chapter members are challenged to develop a project in which they can lead and serve.

This year, the theme of the Honors in Action project is *The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise*. According to the project guidelines, "For any **Honors in Action** projects, individuals or groups may develop different or additional ways to incorporate elements related to scholarly research, leadership, service, and fellowship" (Phi Theta Kappa, 2011). Of the ten (10) issues provided by PTK, AMC's Beta Beta Tau chapter narrowed the project focus to Issue #3, The Individual and Community. The focus question for Issue #3 was "How does the dissemination of information influence the individual and community"? After a lengthy discussion and brainstorming session, the HIA team narrowed the focus of project to determining the needs of refugee families in the greater Atlanta community and, in keeping with the theme of the *Democratization of Information*, determining how to use information technology to assist these families as they strive to become self-sufficient in the greater Atlanta area.



Photo 'Op': AMC Honors in Action Fellowship Leader and 2011-2012 Phi Theta Kappa Co-President Byron Simmons with a group of students.

The team was active and engaged in the topic from the beginning. Team members decided to be primarily responsible for at least one hallmark of the project. The four hallmarks include leadership, scholarship, service, and fellowship. The team leader, Cassandra Johnson, facilitated the entire project while Fellowship Leader Byron Simmons played a major role by working as the community outreach liaison. AMC Honors in Action Team Leader Cassandra Johnson and 2011-2012 Phi Theta Kappa Co-President spent quality time with children.

Mr. Simmons scheduled and conducted interviews with Refugee Family Services and the Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta. After conducting the interviews, sharing the information with the team and with PTK members, Mr. Simmons provided training dates for team members so that members could be trained by Refugee Family Services to tutor refugee students, a primary need that was identified during the interview.

"I love working with the children! You just can't help it.", stated Mr. Simmons during his report. He also shared that he would like to involve Atlanta Metropolitan College as a whole in working to serve the refugee population. Mr. Simmons and the HIA team have discussed trying to serve in other ways and meet other needs of the refugee community including collecting needed items from the "wish list", such as dictionaries.

Honors in Action



AMC Honors in Action Team Leader Cassandra Johnson and the 2011-2012 Phi Theta Kappa Co- President pictured spending quality time with the children.

“I did not know”, stated Service Leader Janet Walker, “that Atlanta was a ‘hub’ in the nation for the placement of refugees”. During the on-going research conducted for the project, the team discovered that Georgia is one of the top ten (10) states in the US for refugee resettlement. The entire team worked together to conduct research, a mandatory and integral part of the project.

Cassandra Johnson and Byron Simmons will represent the Beta Beta Tau Honors in Action Team this year at the Phi Theta Kappa 2011 Annual Convention, April 7-9, in Seattle, Washington. Beta Beta Tau is the only chapter in the State of Georgia that will present a poster session at the Convention.



***Tutoring Session:
Byron Simmons
tutoring a small
group of students.***

For more information about the project, or for information about how you can get involved, contact Honors in Action Advisor, Dr. Sherrye Smith at ssmith@atlm.edu or 404.756.4824.

AMC's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society



2010-11 Phi Theta Kappa Members

Atlanta Metropolitan College's (AMC) Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter, Beta Beta Tau, has had an incredible Spring Semester. March saw a record 55 students inducted into the honor society and for the fourth year in a row, we received Five Star Status, the highest award a chapter can receive, for involvement in chapter, college, community, regional and international activities.

We are one of six out of thirty-six chapters in Georgia to earn this award. One of our activities, our Honors in Action Project – *Refugees in America*, was accepted for the “first-ever Poster Session Forum: The Idea Network” that will be featured at the PTK Annual Convention in Seattle this April. AMC is the only college in the State of Georgia that is a part of the showcase.

Yusuf Ahmed-Yusuf, 2010-2011 CO-VP of Scholarship made the 2010-2011 All-Georgia Team for his scholarship, service, leadership, and fellowship to Phi Theta Kappa, the college and his community and was presented a medallion at the ALL-Georgia Team Awards luncheon held in Athens, GA.

Cassandra Johnson, 2010-2011 Honor's In Action Team Leader shares the 2011-2012 chapter presidency with Byron Simmons, previous CO-VP of Scholarship.

Both will be attending the International Convention in Seattle, WA with Advisor Michelle Geisert. Cassandra received the 2010-2011 Most Outstanding Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Member Award for the Georgia Region.

Dr. McGaha provided us with our college project of running the AMC concession stand during the basketball games which also allowed us to raise funds for our chapter. Advisor Cheryl Maxwell and chapter president Donnakay Hamm saw to the successful execution of this project. Thank you everyone who worked the concession stand and those of you who purchased items. We look forward to your continued support next year!



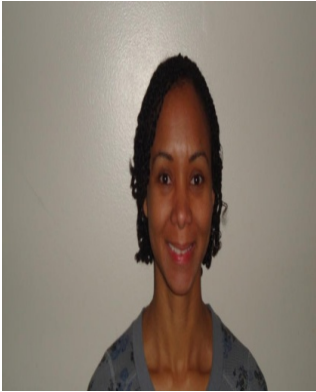
Yusuf Ahmed-Yusuf, 2010-2011 CO-VP

Besides representing our chapter at Atlanta Technical College during their annual Community Health Fair, other activities the chapter is engaged in is tutoring at the Refugee Family Services Center in Decatur, GA., visiting CNN to understand how information is disseminated, and presenting information for Earth Day. Furthermore, new advisor Dr. Sherrye Smith and Georgia Regional Secretary Janet Walker will be attending the Honor's In Action Seminar in Boston in June .



Cassandra Johnson

Sophomore Cyrene Saunders, receives \$2,500 grant from the Women of AT&T



AT&T Scholarship recipient, Cyrene Saunders is also President of AMC's Health Careers Club and a Senate member of the student government association

Ms. Cyrene Saunders is a sophomore at Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC). She is studying Pre-Nursing and plans to graduate Summer Semester 2011. Cyrene is an academically superior student with a 3.97 cumulative grade point average. Additionally, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the premiere international honor society of two-year colleges.

Cyrene considers the Nursing profession her life's calling. Her plan to enter college directly after high school was sidelined due to a need to assist her family financially. Her strong desire to help others was further re-enforced after her mother suffered a massive heart attack and stroke, followed by bypass surgery. After becoming unemployed in 2007, she decided to pursue her goal of earning a college degree.

Currently, Cyrene is President of AMC's Health Careers Club and a Senate member of the student government association.

Volunteer service includes assisting with the AMC's Health Careers Fair and a blood drive. Her community service activities involve work at Grady Hospital, and feeding the homeless and needy in Coweta County with Mills Chapel Baptist Church, where she is a member.

The proud mother of two young children, Cyrene desires a better life for herself and her children. Being unemployed since 2007 and remaining in school has been challenging. This scholarship will assist her in continuing on her path to achieve her educational and professional goals. Cyrene notes, "I believe that hard work and perseverance will enable me to fulfill my dreams and put me a better situation to provide for my children, while offering quality care to those who are in need."

Cyrene plans to attend the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University upon graduating from AMC. Her long term plan is to work in a hospital's acute care unit and eventually become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Janet Walker Selected Phi Theta Kappa's Georgia Regional Secretary

Beta Beta Tau and the Georgia Region have discovered a star and a leader in our Georgia Regional Secretary, Janet (JWalk) Walker. According to Kay Helms, Phi Theta Kappa Georgia Regional Coordinator, "We are very impressed with what Janet plans to accomplish as Regional Secretary and excited to have her represent our region." Susan Edwards, Dean of Academic Affairs and Honors Programs - Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters, said of Ms. Walker "I really enjoyed talking with Janet and I was quite impressed with what she had to say," and "she was the celebrity of the convention."

Janet Walker is planning on running for 2012-2013 International Officer at the 2012 Convention, April 12-14 in Nashville, Tennessee and we ask for your support in helping us to put AMC on the map! We will keep you posted on what plans to be another exceptional year!



Janet Walker

Best-selling author Pearl Cleage speaks at AMC



The Office of Student Activities hosted noted author and playwright Pearl Cleage on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 for a lecture and book signing. The speaker's address was titled, "The Fierce Urgency of Now". During the presentation, Cleage urged students to know their history and to become active members of their communities.

Students were engaged in a question and answer session with the author at the conclusion of the program and received autographed copies of her first novel, What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day, during a book signing following the event. Cleage, an Atlanta based writer, whose works include award winning plays, bestselling novels and numerous columns, articles and essays for a wide variety of publications including *Essence*, *Ebony*, *Rap Pages*, *Vibe*, *The Atlanta Tribune*, and *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Her first novel, What Looks Like Crazy On An Ordinary Day, was an Oprah Book Club pick and spent nine weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.

She is the author of thirteen plays, including *Flyin' West*, the most produced new American play in the country in 1994. Her *Blues for An Alabama Sky* was included in the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival in Atlanta.

Her other plays include *Chain*; *Late Bus to Mecca*; *Bourbon at the Border*;

A Song for Coretta and The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years

She is the author of eight novels, including Baby Brother's Blues, which was awarded an NAACP Image Award for Literature. She is also the co-author with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr., of We Speak Your Names, a praise poem commissioned by Oprah Winfrey for her 2005 *Legends Weekend*.

Cleage was chosen Cosby Chair in the Fine Arts by her alma mater, Spelman College, in 2005 and spent two years as a member of the Spelman faculty. Awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts by the college in 2010, Cleage remains active with the Women's Resource and Research Center and the Department of Theatre and Dance. She was the founding editor of CATALYST Magazine, an Atlanta-based literary magazine for ten years and served as Artistic Director of Just Us Theatre Company for five years.

She is currently on the Advisory Board of Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company. Her work has been given grant support through The National Endowment for the Arts, The Fulton County Arts Council, The Georgia Council for the Arts, The City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

AMC in the Community “Partnering to Educate our Kids: Parenting Workshop”

Saturday, March 19, 2011 Ms. Tammy Young, of the Office of Disability Services, attended an Atlanta Public Schools Event (APS) entitled “Partnering to Educate our Kids: Parenting Workshop” at the Dean Rusk Building in Atlanta. The workshop was offered free of charge to the parents and guardians of elementary, middle and high school students in the Atlanta Public Schools program for Exceptional Children. Parents and guardians were given assistance to transition planning essential for life goals now and after high school. Ms. Young was able to do a workshop on “Transitioning from High School to Higher Education”. During this event, Ms. Young talked with parents of prospective college students and discussed how to prepare their children for the transition from special services in high school to Disability Services in college.

Ms. Young identified the differences in the accommodations, the relevant laws, the roles of parents, and the roles of the students. Ms. Young was also able to disseminate recruitment literature and applications for those parents who were interested in their children attending Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC), as well as some parents who were interested in attending AMC themselves. A display table was set up for parents and students to receive information about the college, schedule campus visits, and schedule appointments with Disability Services at AMC.

AMC Online Giving Available

Atlanta Metropolitan College and the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Inc., has established the ability for donors to support AMC by giving online at the AMC website. Every gift to AMC will help meet the needs and fulfill the dreams of our students. Your gift can support students or student scholarships.

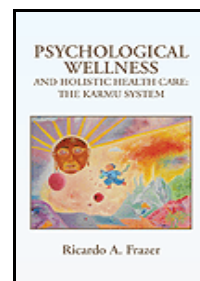
Giving online has many benefits such as:

- Simple
- Quick
- Secure
- Reduces Cost
- Attracts more donors
- Creates awareness for AMC
- No need to worry about checks being lost in the mail

Please consider supporting the following areas with your donations:

Annual Giving Program
AMC Scholarship Fund
Endowed Scholarship Fund
Friends of Athletics
Book Scholarships for Students
Student Services and many others.....

Thank you for caring about the deserving students that attend Atlanta Metropolitan College.



Atlanta Metropolitan College faculty member and full professor of Psychology, Dr. Ricardo A. Frazer, has recently published a book, “Psychological Wellness”.

The book is a series of writings built around interviews conducted by the author with Swami Muktananda Karmu, born Edgar Warner in 1910. Karmu practiced a system of health care that was constructed on the foundation of traditional Asian and African holistic healing. During the final phase of his life, Karmu was widely viewed as a healer, shaman, and spiritual alchemist. In this book the author shares the endorsed theories and practices of Swami Muktananda Karmu.

Dr Frazer's email address is rfrazer@atlm.edu





Coach Pritchett and the 2010-11 Red Eyed Panthers Men Basketball Team



Coach Traci Waites and the 2010-11 Lady Panthers Basketball Team



Go Panthers!

Headlines@ the Met
is a publication of
Atlanta Metropolitan
College Office of Media
Relations.

All submissions should be
sent to the attention of the
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