



# Headlines @the Met

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## Atlanta Metropolitan College Celebrates Founder's Day *Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence in Education*

Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) held its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Founder's Day Celebration on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at the Physical Education Complex.

The annual Founder's Day celebration honored the 35 anniversary of the schools founding and took a stroll back down memory lane look at the achievements of our alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

This guest speaker was Chair of the Board of Regents, Regent Robert F. Hatcher. Hatcher is President and CEO of MidCountry Financial Corporation. He was the President and CEO of First Liberty Bank from 1988 until its merger with BB&T in 2000. Prior to First Liberty, he was with Trust Company Bank (Sun Trust) for 27 years.

Regent Hatcher is Co-Chairman of the Commission for a New Georgia. He serves on the boards of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Public Policy

Foundation and NewTown Macon. "The Founder's Day Celebration was a significant celebration of Atlanta Metropolitan College, said AMC President McGaha. "It was a time for us to honor the valuable history of our founding and look back with honor at the outstanding achievements of our alumni, faculty, staff and supporters.



Dr. Dugal Monroe, 1<sup>st</sup> AMC, Dean of Academic Affairs & Family

## Cunningham Selected for Executive Leadership Institute

Mark A. Cunningham, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment for Atlanta Metropolitan College has been selected as a scholar to participate in the 2009-2010 Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) of the University System of Georgia.

The ELI is a comprehensive 100 hour development program conducted by leading experts in leadership over a seven month period.

The ELI targets the most talented individuals currently in such faculty and staff leadership positions as Dean, Executive Director (or equivalent) and above.

The program is designed exclusively for high potential individuals who desire to progress into senior leadership roles.

Dr. Cunningham consistently "demonstrates strong academic vision and effective leadership skills in his current position" states AMC President Gary A. McGaha, Ph. D.

Dr. Cunningham received his B.S. degree in Chemistry from Claflin University, his M.S. in Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University, and his Ph.D. from Georgia State University. He joined the AMC faculty in 1992.



<u>Table of Contents</u>	
<i>AMC Celebrates Founder's Day</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Dr. Cunningham Selected for Executive Leadership Institute</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>AMC Foundation Supports Deserving Students with "Cruise for a Cause"</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>In Pursuit of Academic Excellence: Phi Theta Kappa Partners with the Academic Support Center to Celebrate Its Founders Day</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>AMC Unites to Aid Metro Atlanta Flood Victims</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Dortch Establishes Scholarship</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>GA KAGRO Awards Scholarships to AMC Students</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>The Social Sciences Association Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> African Diaspora AMC President</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>McGaha Awarded National Association of Minority Contractors Advocacy Award</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>AMC Basketball Schedule</i>	<b>8</b>



Dr. Mark Cunningham

## AMC Foundation Supports Deserving Students with “Cruise for a Cause”

The Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Inc. on behalf of Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) hosted “**Cruise for a Cause**” an initial fundraising event at Stone Mountain Park on the Henry W. Grady Riverboat. The event was held on Sunday, October 11, 2009. The three hour cruise (fundraiser) was organized by the development committee of the Foundation. The activity was chaired by Ms. Pamela Cross, Vice President, and Senior Community Development officer for Wachovia Bank - A Wells Fargo Company.

The event included a cruise around historic Stone Mountain with entertainment being provided by the Eldridge Simms Jazz Quintet. AMC Foundation Chairman Darryl Hicks and Atlanta Metropolitan College President Gary A. McGaha greeted and thanked all sponsors and friends for making this fundraising effort another “AMC Success”.

Supporters from throughout the Atlanta area attended the event. Event sponsors for “Cruise for a Cause” included Wachovia Bank, BB&T, Sodexo, Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Martino–White Printing, and Hartsfield– Jackson Intl Airport and The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance.

All proceeds raised from the fundraiser will go towards scholarship support for deserving students attending Atlanta Metropolitan College.

The AMC Foundation is a Georgia non-profit corporation that operates for the express purpose of supporting Atlanta Metropolitan College in fundraising, external friend building, establishing and building an endowment, and addressing the academic priorities of the institutional while understanding and supporting AMC’s mission, goals, and priorities.



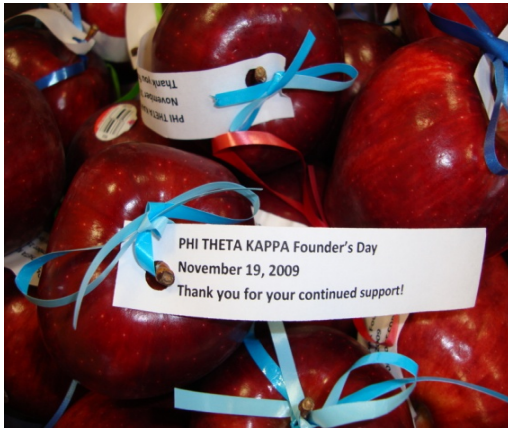
*Councilwoman Joyce Shephard, Capital City Bank President; George Andrews, Mrs. Andrews ; Wachovia Vice President, Pam Cross and AMC President McGaha*



*Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Chair, Mr. Darryl Hicks*



## In Pursuit of Academic Excellence: Phi Theta Kappa Partners with the Academic Support Center to Celebrate Its Founders Day



November 19<sup>th</sup> was Founders Day for The Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. To mark the occasion, AMC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Beta Beta Tau, partnered with the Academic Support Center to distribute information about the Center and to encourage students to take full advantage of the vast array of services they provide. Additionally, Chapter members and other student volunteers canvassed the campus and passed out apples to college staff, faculty and administration. The apple, a traditional gift from students to teachers, was personalized with a ribbon and a note which read, "Thank you for your continued support!" In addition to the Academic Support Center's information brochure, students were also given apples. Two hundred members of AMC's family joined in the celebration.

According to Phi Theta Kappa's website, "Phi Theta Kappa was founded in 1918 by presidents of two-year colleges in Missouri. The founders were seeking to recognize scholastic achievement by their students, and to establish a common purpose and standard for honors organizations on their different campuses. The founders chose to model their new Society after the prestigious senior honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. The name Phi Theta Kappa was taken from the initial letters of the three Greek words meaning wisdom, aspiration and purity. Eleven years later, Phi Theta Kappa was officially recognized by the American



Association of Junior Colleges on November 19, the date now traditionally observed as the Society's Founders Day."

Phi Theta Kappa has more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters located in all 50 States, U.S. territories, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United Arab Emirates and Palau. It is the premiere honor society of the two-year college and inducts approximately 100,000 students annually with estimates of 200,000 students participating in Phi Theta Kappa programs each year. **See [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org) for additional information.**

The Academic Support Center provides intensive, individual and group tutorial support, workshops, and videotapes. The technology labs are equipped with software for electronic tutorials, Internet resources, word processing, multimedia software and support software relevant to each academic discipline. The Center is open Monday thru Saturday. For additional information: Phone: 404-756-5690 / Email: [asc@atlm.edu](mailto:asc@atlm.edu).

## AMC Unites To Aid Metro Atlanta Flood Victims



*Pictured left to right: Mr. Bobby Olive, Vice President, Student Affairs, Walter Bennett, Phi Theta Kappa President, Sylvester Powell, President of The Social Sciences Association, Dr. Barbara Morgan, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs.*

Students, staff, and faculty members united in October to provide assistance to flood victims of the rains that inundated Metropolitan Atlanta counties during the previous month. Many families experienced severe damage to their homes, while others suffered a total loss. It is these situations that a sense of community, duty and service are vitally important. This is when socially conscious members of the Atlanta Metropolitan College community rose to the occasion.

Spearheaded by The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and The Social Sciences Association members, AMC collected over 600 items ranging from work gloves, cleaning supplies, and trash bags to disinfectants. Student volunteers categorized and packed the assorted items in nearly 50 ready-to-go buckets. The items were distributed through The Phi Theta Kappa Fall 2009 Leadership and Honors in Action Conference that was hosted by Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Georgia, October 23 – 25. In addition to the Metropolitan Atlanta counties, the items were also earmarked to assist flood victims in Paulding, Douglas and Cobb counties. Due to the overwhelming response from the AMC community, bulk items and donations made after the drive were donated to The Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless Agency, a local 503(c) organization.

**AMC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Beta Beta Tau, is a Five Star Chapter – a status awarded for excellence in scholarship, service, leadership and fellowship. Membership requirements include: current enrollment at Atlanta Metropolitan College; exemption or exit from Learning Support classes; completion of at least 12 semester hours at Atlanta Metropolitan College; and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5.**

The Social Sciences Association was formed to foster multi-disciplinary scholarship, leadership, and service activities within the Atlanta Metropolitan College academic and larger community. The Association endeavors to: (1) afford students with a scholarly environment for the healthy exchange of ideas and interdisciplinary inquiry; (2) encourage fellowship, partnerships, and the building of leadership skills and; (3) promote personal and professional growth and development for students pursuing a Program of Study in the Social Sciences Division, as well as other socially conscious students.

## Dortch Establishes Scholarship



*Mr. Tommy Dortch*

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of 100 Black Men of America and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TWD, Inc., has established the Thomas W. Dortch Scholarship Fund at Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) with an initial gift of \$5,000.

Dortch and Mrs. Dortch (Carole) established the scholarship to assist deserving students attending AMC. The annual award of \$1,000 will go to a full-time student with a demonstrated financial need, a record of community service and maintains a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. A freshman student is eligible to receive this scholarship for two (2) consecutive years.

Known for his leadership and community service, Mr. Dortch's other accomplishments include: establishing the Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. as a vehicle to continuously highlight the major contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their graduates; co-founding the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (GAME) to fill a void as an advocacy organization for minority business development; and co-founding the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance as a capacity building and business development for the construction and transportation industry.

Mr. Dortch and Mrs. Dortch (Carole) also serve as members of the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation Board of Directors.



## GA KAGRO Awards Scholarships to AMC Students



The Georgia Korean Grocers Association, Inc. (GA KAGRO) recognized and awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three outstanding AMC students. The students, Walter Bennett, Chijioke Ebbis and Ansley Williams, received the award on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Doraville during the Association's 2009 Year-End Banquet and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

Nominees had to complete an essay expressing their opinion regarding the Universal Health Care plan proposed by President Obama, as well as submit a biography, letters of recommendation and college transcripts. In addition to being strong academically, students had to demonstrate leadership skills and involvement in community service.

The winning triad represented AMC very well. Walter Bennett aspires to become a child psychologist. He plans to attend Georgia State University and complete his doctoral studies at Emory

University. He is also President of Phi Theta Kappa. Chijioke Ebbis is a political science student and one of his goals is attend law school and study constitutional law. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and volunteers with the Nigerian Youth Alliance. Ansley Williams is a Math, Engineering, and Science

Achievement (MESA) Scholar. His career plans include becoming a forensic scientist and working for the Federal Bureau of Investigations. He will be completing his Bachelor's degree at Albany State University. He volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Atlanta and is Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa.

Other recipients included students from Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia Perimeter College, Emory University, The University of Georgia and Columbia University. A highlight of the evening was congratulatory remarks by Mr. Young W. Han of Connecticut, who is President of the National Korean Grocers Association. Ms. Helen Choi, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee encouraged the recipients to continue their quest for academic success and excellence, not rest on their laurels and to keep striving for higher ground. GA KAGRO has been providing scholarship opportunities since 1997 and AMC has participated over the past several years. The Association has over 200,000 members nationally.

Ms. Gyuheui Choi, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Curtis L. Todd, Assistant Professor of Social Work were also recognized at the event for their assistance to the Association.

*Pictured from left to right: Mr. Ki Hwan Na, GA KAGRO President, Ansley Williams, Walter Bennett, Chijioke Ebbis & Professor Gyuheui Choi & Jon Park, Secretary General, GA KAGRO*



## The Social Sciences Association Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> African Diaspora



*Dr. William Jelani Cobb*

Three hundred and thirty-five students gathered to hear Dr. William Jelani Cobb, guest speaker for the Social Sciences Association's African Diaspora Dialogue program in November. The Dialogue is a forum designed for students and professors to talk about the importance of defining the African Diaspora, as well as the benefits and challenges of operating within its prevailing definitions. Dr. Cobb is an acclaimed author, historian and Chair of the History Department at Spelman College.

This year's theme "Willie Lynch is Dead" was taken from an article by Dr. Cobb, which vigorously challenged the authenticity of the now famous "William Lynch Speech." Dr. Cobb's lecture and the subsequent dialogue encouraged students to reject and to dispel commonly held myths about members of the African Diaspora.

In addition to sharing his scholarly research regarding the "Willie Lynch Speech," Dr. Cobb contextualized his lecture with two questions: How does it feel to be a problem? And why do myths exist? The program also

allotted time for students to pose questions and dialogue with Dr.

Cobb regarding his research, issues facing Black America, and the need to celebrate historical and

current victories within the black community. The numerous questions and comments from students met the Associations' founding mission to, "afford students with a scholarly environment for the healthy exchange of ideas and interdisciplinary inquiry."

The Social Sciences Association was formed to foster multi-disciplinary scholarship, leadership, and service activities within the Atlanta Metropolitan College academic and larger community, and is open to students pursuing a Program of Study in the Social Sciences Division, as well as other socially conscious students. Interested students should contact Sylvester Powell, the Associations' President via email at: [sylvester\\_powell@hotmail.com](mailto:sylvester_powell@hotmail.com) or one of the Advisors: Professors Kenja McCray ([kmccray@atlm.edu](mailto:kmccray@atlm.edu)), Jonathan Kowal ([jkowal@atlm.edu](mailto:jkowal@atlm.edu)) or Curtis L. Todd ([ctodd@atlm.edu](mailto:ctodd@atlm.edu)).

## AMC President McGaha Awarded National Association of Minority Contractors Advocacy Award

Atlanta Metropolitan College President Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D. was recently awarded the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) "Advocacy Award", during the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Hard Hat" Awards Banquet.

The "Advocacy Award" recognizes individuals who have been instrumental in initiating changes for the betterment of the community. "President McGaha has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting the ongoing efforts of minority business owners, as well as empowering future leaders. He is well deserving of this special recognition and honor."

Established in 1969, NAMC serves as the voice of the minority contractors nationally. Its mission is to provide education and training, as well as developing procurement and contracting opportunities for its members.

Other community leaders recognized during the dinner and awards ceremony were Dr. Beverly L. Hall, Superintendent for Atlanta Public Schools, with the Public Sector Award. Mr. Daniel J. Mallow, P.E. Assistant General Manager/Planning & Development Department of Aviation for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport with the Catalyst Award and Mr. Joe Jackson, President/CEO Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance, Inc. with the Business Development Award. Mr. Jackson also serves as a Director on the Atlanta Metropolitan College Foundation, Inc.



*Students attend 2<sup>nd</sup> African Diaspora*

## Important Dates to Remember

### Furlough Days

Wednesday, November 25  
Friday, December 18

**Atlanta Metropolitan College  
Offices will close at the end of the  
business day on Thursday,  
December 17  
And will reopen on  
Tuesday, January 5, 2010**

### Spring Semester Furlough Days

Monday, January 4, 2010  
Friday, March 12, 2010  
Friday, April 2, 2010



***Believe • Begin • Become***

Go Panthers!



### AMC Men & Women's Basketball Schedule<sup>2</sup>

11/07/09 Clinton (W/M) 6:00 pm/7:30 p.m.  
11/10/09 Aiken Tech (M) 7:30 p.m.  
11/14/09 East Point (W) 6:00 p.m.  
11/21/09 Spartanburg (W) 6:00 p.m.  
11/27,28/09 Metro Thanksgiving Classic (M) 6:00 p.m.  
12/04/09 Snead (W/M) 6:00 p.m./7:00p.m.  
12/05/09 Catawba Valley (W/M) 6:00 P.M/7:30 p.m.  
12/29/09 Parkland College (W) 2:00 p.m.  
12/29/09 Middle GA Tech (M) 4:00 p.m.  
12/30/09 Northwest Florida State (W) 2:00 p.m.  
12/30/09 Chattahoochee Tech (M) 4:00 p.m.  
01/08/10 Darton College (W) 5:30 p.m.  
01/08/10 Waycross CC (M) 7:30 p.m.  
01/09/10 South GA Tech (W/M) 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.  
01/30/10 Andrews College (W) 5:00 p.m.  
02/08/10 Gordon College (W/M) 5:30 p.m./7:00 p.m.  
02/10/10 Georgia Perimeter (W/M) 6:00 p.m./7:30 p.m.  
02/15/10 Middle Georgia (W/M) 6:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.  
02/19/10 Coastal College (M) 7:30 p.m.  
02/20/10 Albany Tech (W/M) 5:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.  
02/23,24,25/10 Women's Conference Tournament (TBA)  
03/2,5,6/10 Men's Conference Tournament (TBA)

<sup>2</sup>Only home games listed;  
W - Women; M - Men

### KUDOS TO YOU!

Camille Zeigler is the 2009 Board Chair's Award Recipient.

The purpose of the Board Chair's Award is to recognize individuals who, throughout their involvement with TRIO, have made a particularly significant contributions during the tenure of the Board Chair of the Council for Opportunity in Education. Board Chair David Megquier selected Ms. Zeigler because she has made a special contribution to the mission of the Council.



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attention of the editor

Sheila Tenney  
Director of Media Relations & Editor

Phone: (404)-756-4012  
E-mail: [stenney@atlm.edu](mailto:stenney@atlm.edu)  
[www.atlm.edu](http://www.atlm.edu)

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D.,  
AMC President

*Contributing Writers  
and Photographer:*

*Miss Nicole McCord  
Professor Kenja McCray  
Professor Curtis Todd  
Mr. Larion Williams  
Mr. Carl Johnson*