

The Quill and Camera

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Fall 2018 News

Dr. Jerry K. Domatob wrote two articles for the Mississippi Link. The Mississippi Link is an African American owned newspaper and media company that emphasizes the concerns of the African American community and its readers.

Mr. Jerome Myles won the award for Best Gospel DJ.

Brittany Noble-Jones, ASU alumna and former news anchor at WJTV Channel 12, has made a new platform in New York City. Jones is the newest digital contributor for NBC Black, where she reports on news, sports, and entertainment stories. This is also an opportunity for her to push out black content, something she has strived to do over the course of her journalism career.

On October 9th, 2018, Hannah Nations and Myrtle Hedrick attended the Mississippi Department of Archives Conference on Maintaining a Healthy Records Program and Managing Electronic Records.

Dr. J. Janice Coleman attended the 5th Annual International Conference on the Blues which was held at Delta State University and the Grammy Museum in Cleveland, Mississippi, from September 30 to October 2, 2018.



Spring Department News

Dianne Bunch reviewed and commented on a scholarly article for the *Flannery O'Connor Review* in February.

Siobhan Ryan-Bovey, a 2016 English Literature Graduate, was recently published on www.headstuff.org. She wrote a form of literary autobiography in the section Irish Essayist called Ghosts on the Third Floor.

On February 20, 2018, Dr. J. Janice Coleman co-hosted the African American Read-In at 12:30 in the Math and Science Building. A Black History Month event sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, this occasion featured forty students, faculty, and staff members who read works by African American authors.

15 February 2018: As a guest speaker, Dr. Murray Shugars discussed "Plain Writing" with cadre and cadets of the Alcorn State University Army ROTC. Dr. Peter Malik read his short story entitled "Wash Day" at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Philological Association held in Jackson, Mississippi on March 3, 2018.

On 27-28 March, Dr. Murray Shugars visited the US Military Academy, West Point, NY. He observed multiple classes and engaged in concentrated discussions with West Point Writing Program (WPWP) leaders on writing pedagogy. He also joined Dr. Jason Hoppe--associate dean and director of the WPWP and Mounger Writing Center--in a pedagogical discussion with faculty from Math 255:



(Continued page 1) Advanced Multivariable Calculus, focusing specifically on effective ways to respond to student writing. On Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Shugars conducted a workshop on teaching evidence-centered writing that was attended by nine faculty members from across the curriculum. That evening, as part of the Mounger Writing Center's weekly Wednesday Night Workshop series, he read from his published poetry and shared his views on writing poems as a soldier with an audience of fourteen cadets and three faculty. POC for this event is Dr. Jason Hoppe, Director of the West Point Writing Program.

(By Hannah Nations, Secretary)

Mass Communications Department Celebrates Media Day

By Gabrielle Terret.

Alcorn State University's Mass Communications Department hosted its annual Media Day program on April 4th. The program took place in the Gold Room of the Clinton Bristow Jr. Dining Hall from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. As the theme of this year's media day was "Working Locally, Thinking Globally," a number of panelists were present to assist in speaking on the theme. A few guest panelists who were brought in to speak were Therese Apel, Breaking News Reporter for the Clarion Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi, Roosevelt "Kip" Smith, Chief Photographer at WJTV Channel 12 in Jackson, Mississippi and Jackie Hampton, Publisher of the Mississippi Link newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi. Not only were there individuals from well-known television stations but former members of the Mass Communications Department at Alcorn and local media faces were panelists as well. Included in this list were Beunkka Davis, 2015 alumnae of Alcorn State University's Mass Communications Department and the Interim Director and Applied Sciences at Alcorn, Justus Reed, 2010 alumnus of Alcorn State Staff Writer for the Office of Land Grant Communications in the School of Agriculture University's Mass Communications Department and Staff Writer in the Division of Marketing and Communication, Timothy Crisler, District Chair, Advisor and Instructor of Radio and Television Production and Broadcast Technology at Hinds Community College, Utica campus and Calvin Butler, Operations Manager for WTYJ/WMIS radio station in Natchez, Mississippi.

Gabrielle Terrett is a Sophomore Broadcast/Mass Communications major from Vicksburg, Mississippi. She will be a contributor to The Campus Chronicle for the 2017-2018 school semester.



With a plethora of familiar faces and Mass Communications students flooding into the Gold Room, the program began with a welcome by Freshman Mass Communications major Jordan Lampley and greetings from Dr. Babu Patlolla, Dean of Arts and Sciences.

~~PIECES AND SOUNDS QUILT SHOW AND CONTEST IN FORT GIBSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND ON~~ Thursday, March 23, She was recognized for her service at the awards ceremony.

Over the years the Media Day program has been hosted in an effort to show Mass Communications students opportunities in the real world. Successful people in the field are often brought in to speak with the students and offer some insightful and supportive words. This year's Keynote Speaker was Therese Apel, Breaking News Reporter for the Clarion Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi. She spoke on how important it is to make opportunities for yourself. Her message also included a reference to a number of her own breaking news stories in which she used them as an example to be professional and keep your emotions under wraps when under the eye of the public.

Dr. Cynthia Scurria served as the lead evaluator at a SACS onsite visit to "They (the students) have the thoughts of so many people who are inside the market or inside the industry. It's so important from where they sit because to understand some of the things you're up against you see that it's not all glamour but it can have a beautiful outcome," said Apel.

presented on a panel discussion at the MSWCA Conference at Millsaps College in Jackson, March 25th.

(Read the full article in *The Campus Chronicle*)

Lambda Pi Eta Inducts New Members



By
Keturah Moody

The Alpha Chi Alpha Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta held its annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, April 4th. Lambda Pi Eta is the official undergraduate National Communication Honor Society of the National Communication Association. This organization is fully accredited by the Association of College Honor Societies and hosts over 600 chapters of universities worldwide.

The Lambda Pi Eta Chapter was chartered on October 3rd, 2016. The organization's goal is to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement, stimulate interest in the field of Communications, promote and encourage professional development among Communication majors, provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas about the field, establish and maintain close relationships and understanding between faculty and students and explore options for further graduate studies.

Members of Lambda Pi Eta are also able to hold positions within the organization. The President is D'Vennio Warner, Miss Alpha Chi Alpha is Christina Murry and the Vice President is La'Keilla Veal who is also Miss Mass Communications 2017-2018. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are currently vacant.

The students inducted included, D'Vennio Warner, Christina Murry, A'Leaka Brown, Simone Joiner, Ma'Rhonda Ratcliffe and Taylor Moses. Taylor Moses stated, "Being apart of an organization that consists of individuals who share the same passion is beneficial because there are not a lot of people who understand what Mass Communications students go through or have an interest in it. You get to be around like-minded people who share the same focus as you and it's very interesting."

Another new member of Lambda Pi Eta, Ma'Rhonda Ratcliffe stated, "Being a member will look good on your resume when applying for jobs because it is an honor society specific to Mass Communications and it gives you recognition

Keturah Moody is a Sophomore Broadcast/Mass Communications major from St. Paul, Minnesota. She will be a contributor for The Campus Chronicle for the 2017-2018 school semester.



(continued on page 4)

The “Alcorn Ode” Turns 100

By J. Janice Coleman, Ph.D.

Along with its upcoming commencement exercise, the Alcorn State University community can now celebrate another milestone: April 29, 2018, marked the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the “Alcorn Ode” as the school song. Here is the backstory.

On March 4, 1918, Mrs. Estelle Bomar Himes, wife of Mechanical Arts Instructor Joseph Sandy (J. S.) Himes, sent a poem “of her own composition” to the Alcorn A. & M. College weekly faculty meeting which President Levi J. Rowan was chairing. Offering the poem as the college song, Mrs. Himes informed the faculty that her poem was “designed to be set to music.” President Rowan appointed a committee to meet with Mrs. Himes to review the poem and later report the results of the meeting to the faculty as a whole. This committee, which was chaired by Professor Preston S. Bowles, considered the viewing of the proposed college song a sacred task, one not to be taken lightly. At the next faculty meeting, which was held on March 11, 1918, Bowles asked for more time to confer with Mrs. Himes about her song. Finally, on April 29, 1918, the committee invited Mrs. Himes to the faculty meeting to render her proposed ode “in whatever way she might find it most effective.” With her “song, words, and music,” Mrs. Himes came before the body with a quartette composed of Miss Hermione Rowan, Miss Susie Norwood, Mr. A. J. Love, and Mr. James Goode who rendered the song. Afterward the faculty voted unanimously to adopt it as the official college ode. Because it was the custom at that time for a woman to identify herself according to her husband’s name, Mrs. Himes signed her name to the ode as Mrs. J. S. Himes. Since that time, the university community has been singing the ode on its most celebratory occasions such as Honors

and Founders Day Programs, commencement exercises, and sports events.

At this centennial observance of the “Alcorn Ode,” faculty, staff, and students at Alcorn State are paying tribute to Mrs. Himes for her gift of song. When asked what her reflection was on this occasion, Dr. Josephine M. Posey, author of *Succeeding against Great Odds: Alcorn State University in Its Second Century*, said, “This occasion is an important milestone in Alcorn’s history. Because of the musical talent and time that Mrs. Himes devoted to composing her song, it has sustained itself for an entire century. Though I mentioned her in my book, it was she who wrote herself into the university’s history.”

Several faculty, staff, and students recently participated in a re-enactment of how Mrs. Himes’ college song became the “Alcorn Ode.” One of the participants, Darian Landers-Shaw, a sophomore education major from Vicksburg, Mississippi, who portrayed Mrs. Himes in the re-enactment, said, “It is important that students know the words to the ode and the history behind it. So often we talk about things that have happened ‘beneath the shade of giant trees,’ but we need to remember that those words came from Mrs. Himes. She said them first.”

Another of the participants, Sonya Faulknor, a junior music education major from Montego Bay, Jamaica, stated, “I applaud Mrs. Himes for writing the ‘Alcorn Ode’ and for putting it to music. She has left a



Students pose as Mrs. Himes and her quartette to sing the "Alcorn Ode." From left to right, they are Sonya Faulknor, Erica Wheeler, Alexis Randolph, Corey Martin, and Hanif Lawrence.

(Continued page 3) for being a Mass Communications student and maintaining your grade point average (GPA).”

In order to become a member of this honor society, a student must have completed at least 60 semester credit hours of college and 12 hours in Communications. One must also have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 and a GPA of 3.25 in Communications as well as be in good standing and display commitment in the field of Communications. Once inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, one is considered a member for life.

-Moody

legacy here at Alcorn State that each music major now represents.” Corey Martin, a senior vocal performance major from Memphis, Tennessee, would agree with Faulknor. He said, “I was proud to be a part of the presentation to bring Mrs. Himes back to life and back to the campus in a novel way. She herself was a creative genius, and she deserves our commendation for her song.”

Mrs. Himes and her husband had three sons, including Chester B. Himes, who became an internationally acclaimed fiction writer. Several chapters in one of his novels, *The Third Generation*, are set on the campus of the State College for Negroes in Mississippi, a thinly-disguised representation of Alcorn A. & M. College. More tributes to Mrs. Himes as the composer of the “Alcorn Ode” are planned for later this year.

Note: The historical content for this narrative comes from *The Alcorn A. & M. Faculty Record, 1912-1921*.



Three Alcorn Students Visit the University of Alabama Graduate School

By Peter Malik, Ph.D.

Three undergraduates majoring in English at Alcorn State University traveled to Tuscaloosa, Alabama April 12-13 to meet with officials, professors and graduate students at the University of Alabama Graduate School.

Ke'Shunta Drake, Tyler Peters, and Jada Similton, accompanied by Alcorn faculty member Dr. Peter Malik, first met with Lesley Campbell, director of graduate recruitment, who arranged the trip. Then the students met with several current graduate students at UA.

The students also attended a graduate class taught by Dr. Jolene Hubb and later met with Dr. Wendy Rawlings, Dr. Alexandra Cook and Dr. Trudier Harris, professors who teach graduate classes at the University of Alabama.

"The trip was designed to give the students a good introduction to the graduate school at UA," said Malik. "After the trip, the students were unanimous in saying that the trip allowed them to make an informed decision about applying to the school."

"We were very happy to host the Alcorn students," said Campbell. "Our graduate school is growing rapidly, and we want the best and brightest undergraduates from schools big and small to consider pursuing graduate degrees at UA."

Pictured above are the Alcorn State University undergraduates who visited the University of Alabama Graduate School in April 2018 and met with UA graduate students. From left: Briana Whiteside, UA graduate student; Tyler Peters, ASU undergraduate; Jada Similton, ASU undergraduate; Ke'Shunta Drake, ASU undergraduate; Jeremiah Carter, UA graduate student; and Will Murray, UA graduate student.

Day of the Wind-Broken Birds

As if exactly the only way all this
Inexorably somehow moves us
Somehow tumbles us like torn leaves
Skittering into wet winter drifts —
O tree-eager night play windy chords
For us wear out your lousy instruments
You don't know you don't know what
Music should do for such lovers as we
Who palmed church pennies
We who wheedled from God's hand
Three sacred days alone together
We who care nothing for fragrant spring
A fragrant landscape gaudy with lust
A bawdy horizon fallen into itself and lost

And We Suffer the Most Untheatrical Life

Rain thrums the roof and rat-a-tats the window
Just as the winter voices you imagine in the bible
And in Goethe where even the ink has its own
Thoughts of paradise and you can forget about
Italian beaches and the pleasure of being
Together in the same darkish garden watching
The same moonish paving stone sink into a path
That might have led toward terrible terrible youth
The heart empty in its knowledge of unaquaintance
The way you walk in your best outfit alone at night
Loveless and lampless down the same lane where
One hot Mississippi afternoon we saw the river
Flow past Vicksburg looking as tepid and tan

As the milk and coffee in our daughter's cup

~by Murray Shugars, Ph.D.

This is a Newsletter for the Department of English, Foreign Languages, & Mass Communications, and is edited by Mr. Brian Kehler, Instructor of English, Alcorn State University.

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