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# THE ADVISOR

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*Spring 2010*

*An Academic Affairs Publication*

## **Jamaica's Governor General, Commencement Speaker Class of 2010 to Exceed Three Hundred**

According to information from the office of President Baker, the Commencement speaker will be His Excellency, The Most Honorable Sir Patrick L. Allen, Governor General of Jamaica.

Sir Patrick Allen, Ph.D, is the first SDA to be appointed to this high position in Jamaican government. He has served the Church in many positions including a school teacher, principal, pastor and Union President.



**Sir Patrick Allen**

Other weekend speakers are Andrea King (Consecration), Charles Wesley Knight (Baccalaureate) and Janice M. Smiley (Pinning Ceremony, Nursing).

The Records Office shows 300 seniors expecting to march at Commencement 2010. In a time of economic hardship, this is good news, thanks to the self-sacrificing parents and dedicated teachers, advisors, financial and records personnel.

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## **Academic Highlights**

### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

In Round 1 of the Classical University 2010 Competition there were four winners who will be finalists in the May 28, 2010 Classical Convention in New York. They are Marilyn West, UAH student of Ms. Karen Young; Whitney Morrison, Tamara Richards and Laurie Gardiner, students of Ms. Julie Moore Foster. Congratulations!

### **AEOLIANS**

The Aeolians spent their spring recess as featured artists in Florida and Trinidad. This was their first visit to the beloved island.

### **RESEARCH**

The departments of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Computer Science and Social Work—which were engaged in “sponsored research” in Fall 2009—have been asked to

participate in a National Science and Engineering Research Facilities Survey, due before the end of March 2010. This is good for the record, and these departments are working hard at it.

### **REGISTRATION**

The Registration Committee engaged the services of Ms. Wendy Kilgore to assess and make recommendations for enhancing our registration process. Ms. Kilgore is a consultant with The American Association of Collegiate Registrar and Admission Officers. Individual and collective meetings with registration personnel were scheduled for March 16-18, 2010.



### **RETENTION**

Advisors are encouraged to work closely with advisees to note students who may not return in the fall although they are not graduates. Findings are to be sent to Enrollment Management for follow-up. With 300+ students graduating, they must be replaced with new students while retaining current enrollees to increase overall enrollment.

### **ACCREDITATION**

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is hard at work putting things in order for our next review visit pertaining to accreditation. Please pay special attention to announcements that will be sent to you on a regular basis.

## FESTIVAL OF SPIRITUALS: “There Comes A Time”

Initiated several decades ago by Dr. Richard Arlington who was an honoree in 2004, the Festival of Spirituals has undergone two resurrections—1996 and 2002. This year 2010 was the sixth event since the “first resurrection.”

The participating choirs represented Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Fisk University, Fort Valley State University, Miles College, Oakwood University, Talladega College, Tennessee State University, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa and two local church choirs—**First SDA Inspirational** and **Excelsia**. Two soloists also participated: Edna Dailey and Cathy Miller Robinson.

OBVIOUSLY, the Festival has grown. So in the words of Martin Luther King, “There Comes a Time” for change. There came a time when Commencement had to be moved to larger facilities despite the aesthetics of the campus.

facilities. With a student population of almost 2000, choir members of over 500 SDAs and the supporting general public—many of whom are alumni of the participating schools, the administration showed



vision for approving requests for a larger facility for Festival VI.

### STATE SUPPORT UNDERWRITE

The major underwriter of Festival VI is the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Though impressed with reports of the quality program, performance and overall

contribution to the arts, the State Council had to be convinced about the program location in terms of *safety, public accessibility, provisions for the physically challenged, alertness to and preparation for emergen-*

cies. With or without funding, these are items of important concern.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- President Baker was at his best in his welcome and call for moments of silence in support of sister institution UAH which, very recently, was the scene of a great tragedy.

- Councilman Will Culver brought greetings from the City and Mayor Tommy Battle. The mayor also sent a letter from which the following is an extract: *“The city of Huntsville always finds new ways to show that it is the STAR of Alabama and the Festival of Spirituals continues to be a bright ray of light from that star [...] I am proud that has represented our community so well since its inception.”*

- The Huntsville Times in its front page review of the Festival entitled its major article “Sounds are simply Heavenly as Festival Shifts to VBC.”

- A city school vice principal expressed delight in seeing choir members standing and enthusiastically applauding other choir members in the spirit of celebration.

This did not happen in the previous four festivals since there was not room for the choirs to be seated in the concert area where they could see, hear and applaud one another—a major reason for change in venue.

## FESTIVAL HONOREES

The Festival Honors citizens for their contribution to the Community and to the Arts.

State Representative Laura Hall assists President Baker with awards to (L to R):

1. *Howard Bullard*
2. *Dennis Keim*
3. *Audley Chambers* (on behalf of *Ginger Beazley*)
4. *Loretta Spencer*
5. *T. Marshall Kelly*
6. *Elaine McKnight* (on behalf of *Take 6*)



Certainly not designed for programs like the Festival of Spirituals, the VBC is prepared to make South Hall adjustments to enhance performances. This, of course, involves charges. You can make it happen by becoming a donor/underwriter. Start by obtaining a DVD/CD of Festival VI. Call **726-7007, 726-8455** or **726-7202** for more information.