

FROM THE EDITOR -- Julliana Probst

I’m feeling a bit ghoulish and I think I’ve been seeing ghosts, but the reality of the great things that continue to occur at Trenholm is what really excites me.

UPDATE swells this month with excellent happenings at our extraordinary school.

For instance, in *Trenholm News*, you’ll find information about Leadership Trenholm, which wrapped up a year of excellent training with the graduations of a number of class members.

In addition, you also will find additional information regarding SACS accreditation that relates to classroom instruction and feedback that will promote better and more fulfilling student learning.

In *Center Stage*, it is a pleasure to relay the excellent news about our Patterson Campus Library, which was the focus of a ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the library’s official opening. The library is such an excellent and beautiful symbol of our commitment to knowledge and learning. It benefits all of us and especially our students.

In the Spotlight welcomes back Delphine Goldsmith, who braved really wet conditions to drive from her home in South Alabama to Trenholm to help our ribbon cutting shine even brighter. Thank you, Delphine!

Of course, as usual, *In the Spotlight* also includes very useful teaching tips, and, certainly, birthdays. Happy birthday to all celebrants!

It’s such a pleasure to assemble *UPDATE* together, but the greatest pleasure for me comes in the collaboration with absolutely excellent contributors. Thank you as always to all who sent information in for this issue.

I hope everyone has had an excellent October and that a delightful November follows. Blessings to all!

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LEADERSHIP TRENHOLM



Pictured from left to right: Shearese Gipson, Tracy Arthur, Shirley Smith, Ken Scott, President Munnerlyn, Tennie McBryde, Becky Morris, Mimi Johnson, and Zandra Toney

Trenholm State Technical College celebrated its Leadership Trenholm graduation on Wednesday, October 14.

The day began with a Cabinet meeting, allowing members to view the Cabinet's discussion and decision-making process. President Munnerlyn and his Cabinet worked to make the meeting an inclusive experience for the class members, soliciting their input and questions on a variety of topics.

Graduates then took the stage, making presentations based on their year-long study of issues critical to the College. This problem-based learning activity allowed class members to grapple with challenges faced by the College, including secondary challenges that impact the ability to solve problems. Their creative, in-depth presentations demonstrated extensive research, strong critical thinking, and excellent teamwork. Various Cabinet members agreed to meet with these problem-solving groups one-on-one to further explore the ideas and options presented.

Following the presentations and an extensive question-and-answer session, class members enjoyed lunch with the Cabinet. Afterwards, a graduation ceremony celebrated the achievements of each member, with each

receiving certificates representing awards earned through a vote of classmates. Additionally, all were presented with acrylic statuettes as visual representations of their graduation from Leadership Trenholm's inaugural class, the class of 2009. Class members also presented a special certificate of thanks to President Samuel Munnerlyn to demonstrate their appreciation for his leadership and support for the Leadership Trenholm experience.

Three class members were selected by their peers to serve on the Steering Committee for the upcoming second class of Leadership Trenholm: Tennie McBryde, who will serve as co-chair; Dr. Tracie Carter; and Shearese Gipson. Class member Dr. Ken Scott will serve as chair of the Steering Committee next year; class member Dr. Mimi Johnson will serve a second term on the Steering Committee as well. Other graduates included Tracy Arthur, Robin Dennis, Becky Morris, Shirley Smith, and Zandra Toney. These graduates will be working to develop an Alumni Association for Leadership Trenholm, which will provide input and support for the upcoming class.

Steering Committee Chair Barbara Anne Spears said she was delighted with the outcome of this first leadership class. "Our Steering Committee did a tremendous job of researching, planning, and carrying out the mission of Leadership Trenholm," she said. "Because of their efforts, our leadership class enjoyed a variety of leadership experiences, including visits to ACHE, Postsecondary, and the Legislature. Students each shadowed two leaders, heard from numerous college and community leaders, and completed an extensive real-world problem-solving project focused on identified challenges of Trenholm State. I cannot thank the Steering Committee enough for their hard work in making these experiences possible." Steering Committee members included Glenda Davis, Richard Herring, Dr. Mimi Johnson, Dr. Ethel Jones, Sharon Portis, Pam Rollins, and Dr. Ken Scott. Each steering committee member was

recognized at graduation and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

As Leadership Trenholm looks towards its second year, Spears was highly complimentary of this year's class and the groundwork members have laid for future participants. "This first class has been truly phenomenal," Spears said. "Each class member fully participated in all activities, embracing the many lessons we were seeking to teach. I am so proud of this group for their hard work. Each has taken the leadership challenge, and I feel certain that the lessons they have learned about leadership, management, teamwork, and problem-solving will serve them well at the College and in the community."

THE ART OF ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING

One major component of providing quality education to students, according to SACS and simply according to sound educational practices, is the development, measurement, and evaluation of student learning outcomes for all instructional units. In fact, the following comprehensive standards from the SACS *Principles of Accreditation* document address the need for all instructional units, including general education, to develop these processes:

3.3.1 The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas: educational programs, to include student learning outcomes.

3.5.1 The institution identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them.

A publication by the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (CRAC), of which SACS is a member, had this to say about student learning assessment, "Educational quality cannot be measured solely by retention rates,

graduation rates, or graduates' GRE scores, but rather by evidence of impact on students themselves." While we are all interested in whether our students are "getting" what we are teaching them, the complete integration of the student learning outcomes process proves to be difficult for most programs. First, programs find it hard to express years' worth of learning that takes place while students are getting awards in just a statement or two. Next, the measures of student learning sometimes are hard to attach to the outcome statements. Although instruction in courses is measured through tests, projects, reports, and various other assignments, it is hard for programs to identify a few projects or tests that again assess the culmination of the students' programmatic learning. Perhaps, though, the most difficult aspect of the whole process is finding meaningful data among the measurements to use to improve instruction. The data must be examined as a whole and in part to see what trends are discovered about student learning. Let's take the assessment of student learning in writing as an example. It is helpful certainly to look at overall rubric scores on an essay to see whether the majority of our students are showing average or above average performance in their written communication. However, the most helpful thing to do for making concrete classroom teaching or curriculum changes is to look at the breakdown of rubric scores for the various aspects of writing: writing that is unified, coherent, well-supported, and error-free. From examining the data, faculty might discover that students are lacking in their ability to create coherent documents; therefore, instructional changes need to be implemented to give additional or better quality instruction in that area.

We should keep in mind these ideas regarding the assessment of student learning as we are closing out the assessment cycle for one academic year, 2008-2009, and beginning the cycle for the next year, 2009-2010. Also, we need to remember that results of assessment and noted instructional changes are due to Vicky Ohlson by October 29th.

PATTERSON CAMPUS LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



Pictured from left to right: Billy Livings , Foundation Board Secretary/Treasurer; Victoria Jones, Foundation Board Member; Robert Gilpin, Foundation Board Chair; Joan Davis, Interim Chancellor; Samuel Munnerlyn, College President; Zenobia Blackmon, Head Librarian; Doug Jones, Foundation Board Vice Chair; and Craig Washing, Immediate Past Foundation Board Chair.

Friday, October 23, 2009, marked the official opening of the Patterson Campus library and ushered in a greater appreciation for the library as the center of knowledge at the College. Through the laborious efforts of Mrs. Zenobia L. Blackmon, head librarian, who, on a rainy day on March 1, 2007, went to the College's Foundation board meeting at *Harper's* and asked for assistance in helping the library become a mecca for student learning. The Board's donation of over \$12,000 was used to buy furnishings for the library, which contributed greatly to its overall appeal. The Patterson Campus library has been operating for two years, and each year brings more improvements. It is staffed primarily by two part-time librarians with the help of the full-time library staff. Since the library's opening, students have consistently utilized the library in increasing numbers daily.

Trenholm State's maintenance department made significant contributions to the library's renovation, which included painting, lowering the ceiling, installing lights, installing new carpet, modifying the entrance doors and making minor repairs. The renovations enhanced the library's overall appearance so that it could be more conducive to student learning. Margaret Law, apparel and design coordinator, provided the finishing interior design touches to the library's interior and foyer to include an original painting. Spencer Arington, graphic communications coordinator designed and installed the signage on the exterior doors.

Mrs. Blackmon said, "The support from the Trenholm State Foundation has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated by the College." Interim Chancellor Joan Davis was present and remarked she was excited to be a part of such a positive event. President Munnerlyn officially dedicated the library, and the ribbon was cut by President Munnerlyn and Interim Chancellor Davis. Members of the Trenholm Foundation Board include Dr. Patricia Elliott, Richard Ray, Charles Jinright, Douglas Jones, Victoria Jones, Keith Karst, Billy Livings, Chester Mallory, Ray Petty, Larry Puckett, Sheron Rose, Percy Thomas, Craig Washing, President Samuel Munnerlyn (college president), and Dr. Mimi Evelyn Johnson (executive director).

**WELCOME BACK, DELPHINE
GOLDSMITH!**

Talk about priceless moments. One of the College's treasures returned home to Trenholm State Technical College for the Patterson Campus Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, October 23, 2009. Delphine Goldsmith, retired assistant librarian, drove from her home in Atmore, Alabama, despite the wet and rainy conditions of the day, to be on hand for the Patterson Campus Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. She arrived before the ceremony began and sat and talked with her former colleagues and friends. Delphine retired in May 2009 due to illness.



The Library Staff - Back row: Paul Blackmon, Assistant Librarian; Joseph Trimble, Library Clerk. Second Row: Hazel Youngblood, Part-time Librarian, Zenobia Blackmon, Head Librarian, Plummie Ware, Part-time Librarian. Seated: Delphine Goldsmith, Retired Assistant Librarian. Not pictured, Robin Dennis-Library Secretary, Henry Smith-Library Clerk, and Cynthia Sankey-Part-time Librarian.

FACULTY CORNER

31. Take students with you to hear guest speakers or special programs on campus.
32. Participate fully in the early alert system.
33. Collect students' current telephone numbers and addresses, and let them know that you may need to reach them.
34. Check out absentees. Call or write a personal note.
35. Diagnose the students' pre-requisite learning by a questionnaire or pretest, and give them immediate feedback.
36. Hand out study questions or study guides.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 SAM MUNNERLYN
- 11/1 BENEED EDWARDS
- 11/4 FATIMA JONES
- 11/13 SHEILA MASSEY
- 11/17 LINDA GREENE
- 11/22 SPENCER ARINGTON
- 11/22 DORIS TURNER
- 11/26 RENITA SCOTT
- 11/28 ZENOBIA BLACKMON
- 11/30 CHARLES HARRIS

CONTRIBUTORS

- PAUL BLACKMON
- ZENOBIA BLACKMON
- ANGELA CONE
- DON GREER
- MIMI JOHNSON
- ROSA MILES
- GWEN PATTON
- SHARON PORTIS
- JULLIANA PROBST
- BARBARA ANNE SPEARS
- SHARON WATTS

*I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately,
to front only the essential facts of life,
and see if I could not learn what it had to teach,
and not, when I came to die, discover that I had
not lived.*

-- *Henry David Thoreau*