CU Students Recognized Nationally

Cheyney University undergraduate students recently received national recognition for their science research projects at the HBCU-UP National Conference.

This was the second year that one of our Cheyney University students received such a high honor at this conference.

The projects detailed their results from their summer research internships. HBCUs from around the country compete in different categories and present their research from summer internships that are STEM related during the three-day event.

Dr. Adedoyin Adeyiga, Associate Professor of Chemistry, said “It is made possible through the $2.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) HBCU-UP Implementation Grant, obtained by the institution in 2005. Student participation in summer research has grown from a few to over 30 students every summer because of this (HBCU-UP implementation grant) and other grant funds currently available in the department.”

In addition to the quality research and learning opportunities, the students hone their networking and public speaking skills as they present their research. The experience proves to be valuable both personally and professionally as many of the students prepare for graduate studies.

(continued on page 3)

Decking the Halls of Carnegie

Community leaders, county representatives, friends of the University, faculty, and staff attended Cheyney University’s Winter Wonderland holiday gathering, on December 10, 2009 sponsored by the CU Foundation in the Great Room of Carnegie Hall on CU’s Historic Quadrangle.

Guests included Cheyney University Foundation members, representatives (continued on page 3)
Dear Alumni and Stakeholders in Cheyney University,

Happy New Year! I wanted to open 2010 with a state of Cheyney University report to you.

We start the decade with a major transition in key staff at the University, including new vice presidents for Finance and Administration and Student Affairs. Our financial situation is greatly improved, and our enrollment has stabilized. With new student housing and other capital improvements underway, Cheyney University is once again positioned to be a premier institution that will serve our students and the Commonwealth well.

A link has been placed on our website for your perusal. It will be updated periodically as activities warrant. I encourage you to share this link with fellow alumni and stakeholders. I also ask you to visit my blog, follow us on Twitter and join us on Facebook, as well as in Vital Communication, our monthly newsletter and the Cheyney University alumni magazine. Here you will learn more about our extraordinary students, very talented faculty and staff as well as our alumni who continue to make us proud.

Later this spring, we will break ground on a new 400 bed residence hall—the first new residence hall at the university in more than 30 years. Additionally, we are planning for a new advanced science and technology building and should begin construction on that project in 2011.

Our students continue to demonstrate the value of Cheyney University for the Commonwealth and the nation. Recently, a student contacted us to tell us that she is working on her doctorate at the University of Delaware on a full scholarship. There are many more stories like this that are not sensational, so they do not make the news.

Lastly, Cheyney University has been providing amazing leaders since 1837, and we will continue to do this for the Commonwealth and the nation.

Some of you might have seen a recent article in The Philadelphia Inquirer, which stated that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) had issued a warning letter to the university. Be assured, we are addressing the issues raised in the letter and will rectify any problems that might exist. The university remains fully accredited, and I am confident that we will become an even stronger university as a result of the many ongoing efforts that were cited above.

You can be proud of your university, now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Michelle Howard-Vital
President

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Black Caucus Foundation Offers Students Financial Advice

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. recently visited Cheyney University students and conducted a SHOP for Wealth financial management workshop in the Great Room of Carnegie Hall.

The principal objective of the program is to educate young people about the importance of managing money smartly, establishing good credit habits, recognizing the potential hazards of easy credit and building wealth through homeownership.

While visiting universities throughout the country and speaking to students of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds, CBCF has realized that, though attendees are excited about the opportunity to begin building wealth through homeownership, too many are already plagued by poor fiscal habits, which has resulted in declining credit scores.

Thus, SHOP for Wealth has shifted its emphasis to moving away from debt and towards general financial preparation, in homeownership and beyond.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy research and educational institute that aims to help improve the socioeconomic circumstances of African-American and other underserved communities.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, seated, Dean Larnell Flannagan, standing left, and Deanna Shelton.
Decking the Halls of Carnegie

(continued from page 1)

from Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, Jefferson Hospital, and representatives from Chester County.

Rick Steele, one of the team leaders for the Chester County Velo and Hotfoot Cycles/Iron Hill Race Team, presented a $1,000 check donation to the University for the Intramural Sports Program.

The donation was made possible from proceeds raised during last summer’s Cheyney Challenge, which was held in conjunction with the University’s Community Day event. The bike race is sanctioned by the United States Cycling Federation (USCF.)

This is the second year the group has made a donation as a thank you to the University and students for their assistance and cooperation during their annual race.

President Vital and Mr. Vital both thank all who attended the holiday celebration event and welcomed them to attend other University events.

CU Students Recognized Nationally

(continued from page 1)

Dr. Adeyiga said, “Through our collaboration with Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP.) Three CU students embarked on research projects that are relevant to Sickle Cell Diseases.”

The partnership ensures that CU students are provided the opportunity to study during spring and summer internships. This past spring was the first time students participated in hands-on training at CHOP and this will continue next spring, according to Dr. Adeyiga, the CU Principal Investigator for the project.

Madende’s objective was to determine if bone marrow derived stem cells can contribute to muscle cell regeneration. Working alongside a research team, headed by Dr. Timothy Brazelton, Madende’s research was part of an ongoing research project that continued after his departure.

CU’s Ezekiel Crenshaw and Denis Madende both won first place prizes in the Biological Science Division and Ecology and Environmental Division, respectively. Crenshaw’s research addressed the improvement of the purification of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which is the organism that causes the Tuberculosis disease. His objective was to find the best conditions in order to study the function of the organism. Crenshaw explained, “The organism has grown resistant to antibiotics and therefore needs to be researched.”

Both first place winners received a certificate and cash prize for their work. Other Cheyney University Student Presenters at the HBCU-UP Conference were: Paul Gwengi-Anam, Tolani Adebanjo, Ebechukwu Wnafor, Yaminah Watson and Carolyne Ochieng.

Crenshaw explained the need for internship opportunities and conferences such as this one. He said, “There are challenges because we are limited to what experiments we can do on campus. These internships provide mentors who want to train you. They know that HBCUs are underfunded and want to help.”

Crenshaw said these research opportunities are attainable and enrich the already challenging curriculum at CU. He said “The only expectations they have is that you are open-mind and have a willingness to learn and ask questions. The hardest part is leaving home.”

Madende is currently preparing for his MCATs and hopes to use the Bond-Hill Scholarship to attend medical school.

Dr. Adeyiga added, “It’s fun when the students are doing so well! Last year, Walter Lewis took first place in the Computer Science and Information Systems Division. So this is the first year we had two first place winners. It is a treat to be a part of for the past four years!”
Cheyney University was on Tammy Hilliard-Thompson’s radar for a few years now as she periodically looked for employment opportunities. She was elated to join the CU family this October as the new Director of Residence Life and Housing after four years of interest. Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson said, “I did quite a bit of research and was well aware of the challenges I would be facing.”

As the Director of Residence Life and Housing, Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson’s responsibilities include overseeing 58 Resident Advisors, over 20 work study students, 5 Hall Directors and a little over 1,000 students. She affirmed “It is critical to every student’s success that the Residence Life and Housing Program encompasses a safe, healthy, and fun atmosphere that is conducive to sleep, studying, personal growth and development outside of the classroom experience.”

Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson comes to CU from another PASSHE sister school, West Chester University. Most recently, she was the Associate Director in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at WCU. Prior to that, she served as a Resident Director there. In addition, her work experience includes stints in Colorado and Connecticut before settling back in the tri-state area with her husband Kenneth and 12-year-old son Brandon.

“I look forward to a revised comprehensive training program for the Resident Advisors and Assistant Directors. In addition, I have the opportunity to work collaborative with Ms. Sharon Thorn (Director of Student Activities) to revise the university’s judicial process so that we as an institution can be proactive in insuring that the university community has a clear understanding of the process and the student code of conduct,” explained Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson in references to her vision for the future.

In observing Cheyney University’s practices and getting to know some of the other staff and administrators, Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson was immediately impressed with the living learning community environment currently implemented through the Keystone Honors Academy’s located in the Emlen residence hall.

She said, “One of my goals is to partner with other faculty and staff to implement additional learning communities in the residence halls. What Dr. Tara Kent (Dean of the Keystone Honors Academy) is doing is quite impressive and has proven to be effective. So why not duplicate a similar ‘best practice’ for the rest of our students? I also plan to be actively involved in partnering with alumni to facilitate leadership workshops and other programming in the form of student workshops in the residence halls.”

One parallel between the two PASSHE schools in which Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson has worked is the passion for student success. “We all want the same thing and that is to provide support, information, and compassion so that our students will be successful at the university and after graduation. This in turn will foster support from the next generation of alumni for the university’s future leaders.”

Mrs. Hilliard-Thompson’s advice to those interested in becoming a Resident Advisor has a few layers. She said, “The students must be leaders and role models. It is imperative that they have a passion for helping others and be willing to serve as a referral agent and liaison for the university. But the most difficult aspect of the position, from peer to peer in this position, is to have the confidence to enforce the student code of conduct. Lastly, the easiest requirement is to have fun!”

Online Giving Now Available at www.cheyney.edu!

Cheyney University’s Office of Institutional Advancement is pleased to announce our new capacity to accept gifts online! Visit our website at www.cheyney.edu and click on “Donate to CU.”
Faculty Spotlight: Marietta D’Antonio-Fryer

Professor Marietta D’Antonio-Fryer is an artist, art educator, and Healing Arts expert with 30 years of professional experience.

Professor D’Antonio-Fryer first began her journey at Cheyney University when Dr. Lillian Cannon, retired chairperson for Fashion Merchandising, asked her to volunteer. Dr. Cannon had been a longtime customer in Professor D’Antonio-Fryer’s custom-frame and art supply store. At the time, the future of Cheyney University’s art program was in jeopardy of being eliminated.

An avid art advocate, Professor Fryer said, “The thought of having an HBCU (Historically Black College or University) lose their art program inspired me to apply. I was very grateful and humbled that I was hired.”

After joining the CU family she received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teacher award for 2004-05. She also received the Award of Excellence in Teaching at CU, which was voted on by the student body in both 2003 and 2005. Recently, Professor Fryer was named the CU Chairperson for the Humanities and Communication Arts Department.

Professor Fryer adheres to the belief that art is a language and art is about problem solving, “An artist uses creativity to balance spirituality with reality and will always find a solution by creating a job when there isn’t one.”

Her many career accomplishments include a U.S. Patent on the design of the Brenmar Stretcher, an invention to facilitate painting on silk. Her work has appeared in a United Nations’ solo exhibit in watercolors, which exhibited internationally.

She represented the U.S. in an exhibit at the Cairo Opera House, Egypt, in an international invitational juried exhibit and was asked to curate part of it.

She has worked with the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the US Army Arts & Crafts where she developed a Healing Arts program after 9/11 and Operation Healing Arts, a world-wide project. This April Professor Fryer will be working with the United States Coast Guard Diversity Program.

One of her watercolors was featured in the White House Chronicles where she was mentioned as the nation’s leader in Healing Arts.

Professor Fryer co-wrote a Healing Arts curriculum utilizing her theories for the State of Delaware’s incarcerated youth and was named the 1998 Delaware Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

Cheyney University is proud to highlight her career accomplishments and contributions to the CU legacy of excellence. To read more about Professor Fryer visit www.cheyney.edu.
CU B-Ball Star Bray Named Player of the Week

CU Basketball Player Sharif Bray was recently named the Sam Cozen Small College Player of the Week.

This high honor is awarded to recognize the achievement of small colleges in and around the Philadelphia area six times a year. Bray’s 25.2 points per game average is the best in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Bray led the Wolves to a 2-0 week with victories over Caldwell College (68-52) and Goldey-Beacom University (68-65). Against Caldwell, Bray tallied a team high 24 points to go along with four assists and three steals.

Against Goldey-Beacom, Bray led the team with 22 points and converted 2-3 free throws down the stretch to preserve the win. He nailed a three-pointer with 3.33 remaining in the contest to give the Wolves a two point advantage that they would not surrender.

Bray has led the Wolves (4-1) in scoring in four of their five contests.

Bray began his college career at California (PA) after a successful high school career at Central High School in Philadelphia.

During his rookie season of 2003-04 with the Vulcans, Bray averaged 12.6 points per game and was named the PSAC West Rookie of the Year.

Bray again averaged more than 12 points per contest his sophomore season. After his sophomore campaign, he returned to his native Philadelphia. This fall he joined the Cheyney University family. He still has two years of eligibility remaining.

The campus community is excited to see Bray continue to develop his skills as he represents the Wolves in the upcoming CU versus Lincoln University Holiday Classic match-up in January.

Holiday Basketball Classic Postponed

Representatives from both Cheyney University and Lincoln University agreed to postpone the Holiday Classic, originally scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19 due to a winter storm.

The games will be made up Jan. 31 at the Liacouras Center. The women’s game tips at 1 p.m. with the men’s contest to follow afterward.

Tickets that have already been purchased will be honored on the rescheduled date.

“The health, safety and welfare of our student athletes and University family is always a priority. We look forward to competing on the hardwood in January. It should be an exciting game,” commented China Jude, Cheyney University Director of Athletics.

Original predictions of 12 inches of snow in the Philadelphia area with regions to the south anticipating greater amounts prompted the postponement. Because of the distances these schools are traveling to play, road conditions for students, coaches, game workers and fans became a chief concern.

“We feel that this was the appropriate step to take. It is not a matter of if the storm is coming but when,” Lincoln athletic director Dianthia Ford-Kee said. “In the interest of those traveling to play the game, it did not seem beneficial to play

Tickets can be purchased at the Liacouras Center box office or LiacourasCenter.com. Tickets are $20 for adults, $10 for students with valid ID and children 15 and under.
Recently, the Fashion Merchandising and Management (FMM) Program celebrated its 5th Annual FMM Open House with keynote speaker Mr. John T. Riordan. Mr. Riordan is the Past President and Trustee for Life of the International Council of Shopping Centers.

FMM Program Coordinator Dr. Vanessa Brantley has been the driving force in this growing program along with support from Mr. Larry Green, CU Director of Sponsored Programs. These efforts facilitated corporate support from Walmart.

For the past three years, Walmart has presented two $5,000 Walmart Scholarships each year to FMM majors. Walmart also has provided $5,000 for program materials and supplies, in-kind product donation (such as laptop computers) and, most importantly, the active involvement of Wal-Mart employees who have served as mentors for the scholarship recipients, judged FMM competitions and provided “best practices” input in order to enhance curriculum.

This year, Walmart presented a $25,000 check which increased the number of scholarship recipients by two. The four Walmart scholarships were awarded to ShaQuana Breland, Shaun Guess, Vincent King and Kristen Miller.

Fashion Merchandising and Management majors study the high-energy field of the global textiles industry. Through an extensive 120-credit curriculum, students are introduced to the fast-paced marketplace of fashion from New York to China.

The success of the program can be measured in the unprecedented relationship with Walmart that has led to 8 recent graduates and current students earning leadership positions with the company. The eight alumni are: Monica Draine ’08, Kiasha Thornton ’09, Sydney Fleming ’09, Ebony Burton ’08, Monique Harris ’07, Sharia Jones ’09, Kristen Miller ’10 and Vincent King ’11.

Other FMM supports have included: Bed, Bath and Beyond, BET, Catherine’s and JC Penny. For more information about the FMM program or to learn how you can support it, please call 610-399-2559.
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania employees raised over $4,000 as part of the annual State Employees Combined Appeal otherwise, known as SECA.

This year, Governor Ed Rendell called on employees to look within and despite the state of economy, consider making a donation for those less fortunate.

In his appeal to the employees of the Commonwealth, Governor Rendell noted that “While the economic recovery takes, hold, the need for our fellow Pennsylvanians are even more pressing than ever. Our efforts through SECA make life better for ourselves and our neighbors, locally and across the world, by showing unity and helping each other with some of life’s basic necessities.”

Welburn presently employs over 1,500 people. He is extremely proud that three of his former managers are presently owner/operators of McDonald’s restaurants. Welburn offers college and book scholarships to his employees in order to achieve their career goals.

Welburn has helped increase the number of African-American owned restaurants in the McDonald’s system by 40%. He also aided in increasing the number of African-Americans becoming suppliers, purveyors and contractors in the McDonald’s system.

He has also received the very prestigious McDonald’s Ronald Award and has received the Business of the Year Award in Philadelphia and Dale City, Virginia.

To read more, visit www.cheyney.edu.

Distinguished Alumnus Spotlight: Craig T. Welburn

Entrepreneur Craig T. Welburn ‘71 is one of Cheyney University’s distinguished alumni. After receiving a bachelor’s degree from CU where he majored in secondary education and social science, Craig went onto attain a master’s degree in management from Central Michigan University.

Welburn’s early career included ten years in management at New Jersey Bell before purchasing his first McDonald’s restaurant in Philadelphia in May of 1983. By June of 2001, he purchased twenty-five McDonald’s restaurants in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area and is currently the owner/operator of twenty-eight restaurants.

Welburn and his family are the largest African-American McDonald’s franchise owners in the world. Their franchises have an annual gross sales of $60 million per year and serve over 11 million customers per year. They are in the top one percent of all McDonald’s franchisees in the United States.

Craig T. Welburn, ‘71

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania marked its campaign kick-off on October 28th. Michael Miller of the United Negro College Fund, Eric Collier of Mercy Ships, and Tyrone Eleby a loaned SECA Executive were the special guest speakers for this year’s event.

Faculty and staff witnessed heart-warming testimonies about the impact that these dollars have on the hundreds of non-profit organizations committed to improving the quality of life for so many needy individuals.

As an added incentive, the Cheyney University Foundation sponsored a campaign giveaway for those employees contributing $50 or more to SECA. This year’s SECA Drive winner, Ms. Ramona Dixon, was the recipient of a 26” LCD high-definition television.

Campaign coordinators, Bernette Wright and Elisabeth Burton, reported Cheyney University raised $4,555.78 towards the annual campaign.
Martin Luther King Scholarship Gala

*Save the Date!*

**Saturday, Jan. 16, from 7p.m. to 11p.m.**

CU Alumni Association of Delaware County to sponsor the annual event

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The latest edition of the CU Magazine

*The Spring 2009 Cheyney University Magazine*

This exciting CU publication contains alumni news, donor profiles, campus updates and information about current stellar CU students, faculty and supporters. Limited quantities are available through your local alumni chapter or through the Office of the Public Relations in Biddle Hall.

If you have any news or stories you think needs to be included in future editions, please contact us at publicrelations@cheyney.edu or acolon@cheyney.edu.

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Cheyney University’s Name on Twitter is: Cheyney Univ
CU Senior Receives AAHPERD Award

CU Senior William Crawford was recently named the Outstanding Future Professional Award, given to Recreation and Leisure Management students. He achieved this success due to his active participation at numerous conferences and community outreach.

When news of Professor Seamon’s nomination and eventual win hit Crawford’s ears, he said, “I smiled and was ecstatic!”

In the formal banquet ceremony, Crawford received a trophy and secured paid participation opportunity at the next American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) conference.

AAHPERD’s mission is to promote and support leadership, research, education, and best practices in the professions that support creative, healthy, and active lifestyles.

Crawford, who is president of the CU Recreation Leisure Management Club, said, “There are numerous avenues I would like to pursue in my field, from running after-school programs to coaching football.”

Have a great story you want to see featured in the next edition? E-mail ideas to: aolon@cheyney.edu
CU Council of Trustees Meeting Dates FY 2010

In accordance with Act 188, Section 20-2008-A, each council shall meet at least quarterly, and additionally at the call of the president, or its chairperson, or upon request of three (3) of its members. The Cheyney University Council of Trustees proposed meeting dates for academic year 2009-2010 are:

March 18, 2010
June 17, 2010

CU ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER
Vaux Logan Hall, Room 207

The Academic Success Center is eager to help students organize and review study materials for assignments in preparation for classes and exams.

Sessions are held on the Vaux-Logan, second floor in designated locations. Please contact Ms. Etta Baldwin for more information at ext. 2319, or Ms. Cherelle Box-Thompson at ext. 2046. Volunteer tutors appreciated.
Preparing leaders from 1837 through the 21st Century