Fall 2012

The new semester brings new faces, new focus, and F.Y.E.

READ MORE ON PG. 18

Students gather around the entrance to the C. A. Kirkendoll Learning Resource Center
PHOTO///MILEAN STAFF
/// A glance into Miles College

Construction and improvements to campus facilities are only the beginning

Cotoya Bone
Managing Editor

Much of the front gate entrance construction is nearing completion, but the construction projects at Miles are far from over. The new improvements will address many of the oldest, most unpleasant buildings on campus, which I’m excited about.

Improvements to the campus include a new student center, a School of International Studies and Public Policy, a health and wellness center and a performing arts center. President French also would like to move the Miles Law School to the North Campus.

These changes won’t be complete for about four years, which means most of us won’t be around to see the finished product. But we at Miles want our Alma Mater to meet students’ needs for years to come, so we will gladly thank the Board for taking this needed step.

Miles College is also improving in other areas, such as sports. According to Justin Farrell, the Athletic Department has become better over the years. “I feel like it’s a new era. We’ve grown as far as the athletic department goes. Every year they’re trying to do better.”

Many Milesians can agree to this statement considering the championship that the Miles College Football team brought in last year and the current winning record they have this season.

Education major, Monquelle Wigfall feels Miles has upgraded a lot, especially the cafeteria. Wigfall also feels campus security should be more aware to what’s going on at all times to ensure a safe environment. He also noted that Miles is excelling academically. “More instructors are willing to help the students out.”

Miles also has plans for a front entrance of campus. Right now the school is wrapping up work on the front entrance of campus. Miles also has plans for a new Student Union Building, which will greatly improve student life as we know it.

We have always had many organizations that you could take part in, but now they are even more options. And the ones that have always been here have gotten even better over time. For example, you have the Center of Academic Excellence, which has taken students all over the world. You also have the Student Government Association, headed by President Michael C. Childress, S.I.F.E., CWM, Greek organizations and UNCF Pre-Alumni Council headed by Lyndon Walker.

Miles has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 1898 and will continue to grow into the future.

Miles is a small institution with a lot of heart and people who are willing to go the distance for the school that they love dearly.

We are Miles College!
Ground Breaking at Historic Miles College in the midst of Restoration, Regeneration, Revitalization

College utilizes Home Depot grant to help fund historic improvement project

Special to the Milean

Bishop Teresa Snorton, Chairman of The Miles College Board of Trustees and President Dr. George T. French Jr., proudly announce the Dedication and Grand Re-opening Of The “Historic Entrance of Miles College” and Ground Breaking For the New Welcome and Admissions Center, Student Dining Center, 204-Bed Residence Hall Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, at 11:30 am on the Campus of Miles College.

Under the revolutionary leadership of Dr. George T. French Jr., Miles College is strategically positioned for growth. For the first time in Miles College history, it will construct three facilities concurrently. This is a $20 million capital improvement project.

With the increased enrollment and the unfortunate task of having to turn students away due to the current limited space, these new buildings are a much welcomed addition to the Miles College Campus. Miles College has a record enrollment this fall, up 9% over last year. For the first time in five years, the college peaked at 1802 students, resulting in full dormitories and the need to arrange a contract with a local hotel for student residential placement assistance. Miles College received a $10,000 grant from the Home Depot Retool Your School program, coming in sixth place in the number of public on-line votes received from amongst the 61 institutions of Higher Education participating in the competition.

Miles College is putting the funds toward the restoration of the original pedestrian entrance on the front of the main campus. The work will include the addition of a beautiful archway, new lighting, landscaping, bench-seating and several other enhancements which will be presented during the dedication and Grand Re-opening ceremony.

-Miles College Public Relations
Voting 101

Whether if you support President Barack Obama or Republican hopeful Mitt Romney, you must first be registered to vote. Here’s some things to know in order for your voice be heard.

To register to vote in the State of Alabama, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a United States Citizen
- Reside in Alabama
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have not been convicted of a disqualifying felony (or have rights restored)
- Have not been legally declared “mentally incompetent” by a court

WHERE TO OBTAIN A VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

Local government offices and agencies:
- County Board of Registrars
- Driver’s licensing office
- County and select municipal public libraries
- Department of Human Resources
- WIC Program, Department of Public Health
- Medicaid Agency
- Department of Rehabilitation Services

Source: Alabama Secretary of State’s website.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Deadline to register in Alabama to be eligible to vote in the 2012 U.S. election:
Oct. 26, 2012

General Election: Nov. 6, 2012

Polling Location Hours on Election Day
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Source: Rock the Vote.com
Alabama natives steal spotlight at Republican National Convention

Brittany Dix
News Reporter

What do Artur Davis, Condoleezza Rice and Jackie Curtiss have in common? One, they are all born and bred Alabamians. Two, all are Republicans. And three, all played major roles in the 2012 Republican National Convention.

The three-day convention was held Aug. 27-30 in Tampa, Fla. Before Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan took the stage to accept their nominations in opposition to President Barack Obama, Davis set the groundwork on the first official day of the event.

“The last time I spoke at a convention it turned out, I was at the wrong convention,” the former Democratic U.S. Representative and co-chair of Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign said Tuesday night.

Davis, born in Montgomery, essentially dismissed the Obama presidency by saying of Romney, “this very night you nominated the most experienced executive to seek the presidency in 60 years.”

In closing, Davis, who recently switched parties to become a Republican, said this of his experience with Obama: “2008 to 2011: Lesson learned. 2012: Mistake corrected.”

On Wednesday night, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made her presence known in a keynote speech. Rice pointed out her concerns for where the country is headed.

“When the world looks at us today, they see an American government that cannot live within its means. They see an American government that continues to borrow money that will mortgage the future of generations to come,” the Birmingham native said. “The world knows that when a nation loses control of its finances, it eventually loses control of its destiny.”

Rice boosted the candidates leading the Republican ticket by affirming why they would be great for the job.

“Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have the integrity and the experience and the vision to lead us,” she said. “They know who we are. They know who we want to be. They know who we are in the world and what we offer.”

The previous Wednesday, 22-year-old Jackie Curtiss spoke to CNN anchorwoman Erin Burnett about how she challenged the GOP’s conventional thinking by welcoming discussion of women’s issues, including abortion. Curtiss, originally from Dothan, is a member of the Republican Platform Committee, which puts forth positions the party will run on in the 2012 general election.

In fact, she’s the only one who brought up Missouri U.S. Rep. Todd Akin’s “legitimate rape” controversy during a committee debate on abortion and said that the platform needs to be more open.

Burnett questioned whether Curtiss, of Jefferson County, was trying to force change from within. The University of Montevallo student responded by saying the party needs to show the American people it is sensitive on issues such as rape and abortion, and shouldn’t support an amendment that could possibly take away a rape victim’s chance of preventing pregnancy.

Alabama’s Davis takes center stage

Former U.S. Representative and Alabama native Artur Davis addresses participants at the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla.

PHOTO//ASSOCIATED PRESS

Delisa Olison
News Reporter


Davis, a national co-chair of President Obama’s 2008 campaign, walked out on the stage Tuesday night full of energy as the crowd welcomed him with a round of applause. A few months ago, he announced he was leaving the Democratic Party for the Republican Party and that he would speak at this convention...

“Some of you may know, the last time I spoke at a convention, it turned out I was in the wrong place,” Davis said after thanking the GOP crowd.

The party switch by the Montgomery-born Davis, who represented Alabama’s 7th Congressional District for four terms and was a candidate for governor in 2010, was viewed by many Democrats as a slap in the face.

But he continued to throw insults at the president, stating Obama needed to get serious about the struggling economy.

“Let’s put the poetry aside, let’s suspend the hype,” Davis said. “Let’s come down to earth and start creating jobs again.”

The convention continued on Wednesday night with a keynote address from Rice. She was greeted with a standing ovation by the audience, thanking the crowd by returning a smile. She told the delegates that presidential and vice-presidential nominees Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan understand the reality that is America’s role in an uncertain world.

“Our well-being at home and our leadership abroad are inextricably linked,” she said. “They know what to do. They know that our friends and allies must again be able to trust us.”

On a more personal note, she explained that where and how she grew up made it possible to become the woman she has become.

“A little girl grows up in Jim Crow Birmingham,” said Rice. “The segregated city of the South where her parents cannot take her to a movie theater or to restaurants, but they have convinced her that even if she cannot have a hamburger at Woolworths, she can be the president of the United States if she wanted to be, and she becomes the Secretary of State.”

Earlier, CNN anchor Erin Burnett spoke with Curtiss, a political science and business major at the University of Montevallo, about the impression the GOP supports an anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-woman platform.

“I’m a little disappointed that the Republican Party didn’t take into account that with college educated women, they supported Barack Obama 63 percent to 32 percent” in 2008, the 22-year-old member of the Platform Committee said to reporters. “Some of these issues are the reason for that.”

Curtiss, the youngest member of the committee, is anti-abortion, but she supports birth control and education -- which puts her in the minority.

“I’m from Alabama and we have abstinence-only education,” the Dothan native said. “We also have one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country.”
Democrats energized at 2012 National Convention in Charlotte

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton (L) shares a hug with President Barack Obama on stage during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

PHOTO///AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Lauren McCaulley and Desmond Bowman News Reporters

The 2012 Democratic National Convention, held Sept. 3-6 in Charlotte, N.C., was a high-energy event that played well among the thousands of delegates gathered from across the nation to nominate President Barack Obama to a second term as the nation’s leader.

Among the enthused delegates were State Representative and Miles College Assistant Professor Merika Coleman, state Board of Education member Yvette McPherson-Richardson of Fairfield and U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Birmingham).

First Lady Michelle Obama was welcomed to the stage Tuesday night to thunderous applause and “We love Michelle” signs. She spoke about how the people that she meets every day remind her “how blessed we are to live in the greatest nation on earth.”

“She’s come into this birthright, she does not have to work for it, but she builds that foundation,” she said.

Then, we must work like never before, and we must once again come together and stand together for the man we can trust to keep moving this great country forward.”

She told of how she and her husband grew up with the same traditional family values of unconditional love, and with parents who wanted them to have the life their elders could only dream of. Dignity, decency, honesty and integrity are the values the president was raised with, and she said she has learned that becoming president “doesn’t change who you are, but reveals who you are.”

“The Health Care Bill was the right thing to do because people should be helped immediately,” she said of the president’s signature piece of legislation. He has also worked hard to increase student aid and lowering the interest rates on student loans because he feels that everyone should be able to get the education that they deserve, she explained.

On Wednesday night former President Bill Clinton presented the case for re-electing President Obama. Clinton said the No. 1 reason is that Obama is still committed to constructive cooperation, appointing Republicans to several key cabinet positions, and even appointing political rival Hillary Clinton Secretary of State.

“‘We are all in this together’ is a far better philosophy than ‘You are on your own,’” the former president said, referring to the Republicans’ approach.

Clinton stated that the nation is not where it wants to be economically, but it’s far better than when Obama took office in 2009.

“No president, no president – not me, not any of my predecessors – no one could have fully repaired all the damage that he found in just four years. He inherited a deeply damaged economy. He put a floor under the crash. He began the long, hard road to recovery and laid the foundation for a modern, and more well balanced economy that will produce millions of goods, new jobs, vibrant new businesses and lots of wealth for innovators,” Clinton said.

“Now, he has laid the foundations for a new, modern, successful economy of shared prosperity. And if you will renew the president’s contract, you will feel it.”

President Obama accepted the nomination Thursday night stating that he was not elected to tell lies, but to tell the truth -- the truth being that all things take time. Obama believe that America’s problems can be solved if it has goals that are real and believable.

“The Democratic party offers a better path,” the President said, adding that revenue that is not spent on war will go toward rebuilding America, which will ultimately create more jobs for the people. And he humbly asked his supporters for their votes.

“America, I never said this journey would be easy, and I won’t promise that now. Yes, our path is harder – but it leads to a better place. Yes our road is longer – but we travel it together. We don’t turn back. We leave no one behind. We pull each other up,” the president said. “We draw strength from our victories, and we learn from our mistakes, but we keep our eyes fixed on that distant horizon, knowing that Providence is with us, and that we are surely blessed to be citizens of the greatest nation on Earth.”
SCHOOL DAZE: HOMECOMING 2012

CELEBRATE MILES COLLEGE

SCHOOL DAZE

SPECIAL SECTION
The Coronation of Miss Miles College

The mellow and down-to-earth former Class President and Salutatorian of Marion High School, Miss Miles College 2012-2013, Bianca Moore, is recognized for her platform. Former Miss Miles College 2011-2012, Shaugnnessy Moses, gave her final farewell and welcomed newcomer Bianca Moore. Moore was sitting so elegantly upon accepting her duties Moore and French shared the traditional first dance.

“God has given me a willingness to be of truly great service and it is my intent to leave that lasting mark on the Miles College community and everyone that I may come in contact with in my life. I am what God has made me to be. I am destined for greatness.”

Moore expresses how she is so thankful that God has truly blessed her and is continuously molding her into a phenomenal woman. She declared that this coronation would not be possible “if it had not been for my Lord and Savior, the student body of Miles College, my colleagues, I thank you, thank you for your support. Thank you for believing in me.”

Moore also thanks her campaign managers, faculty and staff, her adviser, First Attendant Bianca Vineyard and Second Attendant Tiresia Person for being her “support system,” and the Moore family “for being her number one fan.”

The university’s residence hall, campus, fraternity, sorority, and other organizational queens were also acknowledged during the ceremony. Senior Education major Brian Agee referred to the coronation as exciting and beautiful. “It was elegant displayed culture, class and civility as we Mileans do it.”

During her first year at Miles, Moore served as Miss Freshman for 2009 to 2010. She was appointed the president of the Freshman forum for the Honors Curriculum. During her Sophomore year she was elected to be the Sophomore Class President, Vice-President of Communications for the Honors Curriculum and Miss Education. During her 2011-2012 school year, Moore was elected president of the Honors Curriculum and is currently maintaining her position as president and she is regularly recognized for her academic achievements.

Upon graduation from Miles College, Moore plans to teach at the high school level and earn her Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Education. Moore is an Education major with the concentration of English. Moore looks forward to her reign as Miss Miles College 2012-2013. She views it as an opportunity to expand her horizons and contribute to the betterment of society. During her reign, she plans to do various speaking engagements and appearances in which she hopes to educate youth and women. In addition, she wants to communicate to them that the sky is the limit. Moore believes that if she can do it then anyone can do it. Moore expresses how she is so thankful that God has truly blessed her and is continuously molding her into a phenomenal woman. “God has given me a willingness to be of truly great service and it is my intent to leave that lasting mark on the Miles College community and everyone that I may come in contact with in my life. I am what God has made me to be. I am destined for greatness.”
High-stepping drum majors, meticulous drum lines and a bellowing brass section are all a part of the black college marching band culture. Heart-pounding hard-knock hits like Cameo’s “Talkin’ Out the Side of Your Neck” and “Best Band In the Land” ring out from the band sections on opposite sides of the field, making the thousands of fans in attendance bob their heads, stomp their feet and sing out loud.

Many fans buy tickets to enter the stadium from the time the second quarter ends only to leave again when the third quarter begins. As said in the movie “Drumline,” “Halftime is showtime!”

The Miles College Marching Band dubbed the “Purple Marching Machine” has performed as an exhibition band at many Marching Band Festivals and has performed in the “Battle of the Bands” competition.

The Purple Marching Machine is one of the largest and most active organizations on the campus and the band performs for thousands of people annually, and provides the spirit, pride, and enthusiasm that is a valuable part of Miles College’s culture and identity.

The band’s high energy approach to football entertainment, combining exciting drills, dynamic dance routines with the quality playing of sizzling arrangements, creates excitement at every performance. The Purple Marching Machine strives for a wonderful season and working to become the best band in the land.
DEFENDING THE CROWN

A Look Into Golden Bears Football

Ayana Turner
Sports Editor

With the title of being SIAC Champions under their belt, The Miles College Golden Bears Football Team is looking straight ahead and more focused than ever.

The question is now are the champions feeling the pressure for a repeat this season? Head Coach Reginald Ruffin took some time out to give us a look inside the Golden Bears Football Team.

Coach Ruffin said: “Everybody thinks that you will be champs because of what you did the year or season before. Our goal is to get better every day, every game, every practice, every year, and that is what we are working hard to do.”

Ruffin stated that being a champion is not just about the expectations on the field; it’s about working hard off the field as well. He said, “My guys will carry themselves with respect and they will respect every female and male instructor, each member of faculty, staff and their fellow students”.

He credits the team having a good spiritual foundation which keeps them grounded and humble and also himself as well. Ruffin says he teaches his guys to show humility and to be grateful for each opportunity that they are given. The Golden Bears have worship service every Saturday morning regardless of home or away games, and he reads bible scriptures with his team. When asked if Coach Ruffin imagined coming in his first season as Head Coach and winning the title of SIAC Champions he said: “ I knew that if we had everything aligned right on the field that we could win. I am very grateful for such a supportive leader as our President Dr. French, who has done so much for us, and I have great Assistant Coaches who are beside me and we have a great team of guys”.

Ruffin said that there is no pressure for his team, and that they just want to come out and play good football and represent Miles College to the best of their ability. “Our guys abide by the rules and our new guys are coming in abiding by the rules because we are running a first class organization, and I couldn’t be prouder”. Ruffin stated.

Ayana Turner, Sports Editor

MILES VS. CLARK-ATLANTA

The Golden Bears are going into Homecoming week with a 4-1 record while the Clark-Atlanta Panthers currently hold a 1-4 record. With the SIAC championship title and the explosive start that the Golden Bears are off to, this will be a game to remember.

The Golden Bears are looking to expand their record to 5-1 with four consecutive wins as the Panthers have had three consecutive losses. The Golden Bears just took home a huge win over Benedict College this past weekend winning 50-7.

Tight End and Senior Vondragus Hogan said, “We are very excited about Homecoming and we’re not feeling any pressure at all. I hope it’s going to be a big turnout this year and an increase in school spirit. So far we’ve just been taking it one game at a time”.

The students here at Miles are getting geared up with school spirit for this week’s events. Sophomore and Political Science major Kimberly Merritt said she is ready for the game and “excited to participate in the activities”.

Homecoming has always been a huge event here at Miles, and it brings so many people together in the community for a day of good football and fun. From the week of events on campus, the Golden Bears spirit will be like none other on game day.

Golden Bears Head Coach Reginald Ruffin explains what Homecoming means to the Golden Bears. “Homecoming means a lot to the history of our institution and to our Alumni who give back and continuously show their support. It means a lot to our community and we just want to represent our institution with class” Ruffin stated.

Coach Ruffin said I tell my guys that it’s okay to enjoy Homecoming, but to stay focused because it’s a lot of distractions going on. “We’re just keeping our minds on going out on the field having fun, not giving up any big plays and just winning the game,” Ruffin said. The countdown has begun and with the big game being just a few days away, the Golden Bears are focused, ready and excited to host the Clark-Atlanta University Panthers. LET’S GO BEARS!!

— Ayana Turner, Sports Editor
MILES COLLEGE HOMECOMING WEEK

The following pages showcase images from the Re-Opening of the Historic Miles College Entrance ceremony where Good Times actress Bern Nadette Stanis was the Mistress of Ceremony.

Also shown are images from Mile College’s Homecoming game against Clark-Atlanta University where Miles won its fifth game in a row, beating its Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent, 28-7.

PHOTOS///ABRENICA STEWART AND BRITTANY ALEXANDER

Celebrate Miles College

/// SCHOOL DAZE: HOMEcoming 2012

PICTORIAL
A dress code is a set of standards that companies develop to help provide their employees with guidance about what is appropriate to wear to work. Miles College has a dress code for the very same reason for students to carry themselves with the “three C’s”: culture, class and civility.

Since the beginning of the 2012-2013 scholastic school year there have been serious violations of the dress code. Appearance and the dress code are very important to the Miles College family.

Students show the standard of dress while posing for promotional images for Miles College.

PHOTO///MILES COLLEGE

Dress Code 101
How students can dress for success

A dress code is a set of standards that companies develop to help provide their employees with guidance about what is appropriate to wear to work. Miles College has a dress code for the very same reason for students to carry themselves with the “three C’s”: culture, class and civility.

Since the beginning of the 2012-2013 scholastic school year there have been serious violations of the dress code. Appearance and the dress code are very important to the Miles College family.
Miles College CDC focuses on community restoration

Moses Lee IV
News Editor

Miles College is not only working to become a better academic institution, the school is working to enhance the surrounding Fairfield community with The Miles College Community Development Corporation.

The CDC was developed in 2007 through a grant given by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and has been a major program of Miles College.

“The CDC is a great way for Miles to improve the living conditions and appearance of the community surrounding the campus,” notes James Aaron Pierre Jr., a Miles College student and employee of the CDC.

“I think that it is great that Miles is working on helping the appearance of the area and doing something that will help the community at the end of the day,” said Pierre.

The CDC’s office is a house in the surrounding Fairfield community that was renovated by the school. It’s located on Lloyd Noland Parkway close to Miles College’s North Campus.

The CDC has already purchased a number of houses around their main office of operation and will be buying more in the near future according to Michele Jenkins-Utomi, CEO of the Housing Enterprise of Central Alabama.

“What we do is purchase real estate, and we work to raise money to renovate the property. We now have a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and we will be working on future projects together,” notes Jenkins-Utomi. “It’s just all around great what the CDC has the potential to accomplish and all of the things that have already been accomplished.”

Campus program prepares students for careers in national security

Cotoya Bone
Managing Editor

Think you have what it takes to be the next Jason Bourne? The Center of Academic Excellence program at Miles College prepares this package every day to help meet the intelligence community’s critical need for diverse personnel who possess the technological, analytic, and critical language capabilities needed for the 21st Century world. Dr. Ba-Shen Welch helps develop the pipeline of qualified candidates through a targeted development of pre-collegiate outreach, National Security colloquium, basic research in IC relevant topics, curriculum development, funding students to study abroad, and facilitating internships and co-ops with IC agencies, national labs, and related industries.

The IC Scholars program provides benefits to students from all majors by:

• Providing scholarships and fellowships to U.S. citizens interested in pursuing careers in national security.

• Increasing awareness of the diverse agency missions.

• Enhancing competitiveness for highly-sought-after National Security internships and full-time positions with agencies, national labs, and industry.

The program funds students for participation in substantive study abroad experiences. Additionally, students will receive enhanced internship placement services. Students across the college will benefit from an IC speaker series and IC brief writing and resume development.

A multi-pronged approach of enhancing existing courses with IC-relevant teaching modules combined with a long-term vision of a National Security concentration or certificate creates a legacy for future students.

This program contributes to students’ awareness of National Security issues and global cultures, making them better world citizens regardless of their ultimate career paths.

To become a scholar one must possess critical and analytical skills; maintain at least a 3.5 GPA, be able to obtain a passport, and willing to travel. If you feel as if you are the perfect fit, visit Ms. Yoruba Butler in the Bass Hall Complex or call (205) 929-1141

Keep up with YOUR GOLDEN BEARS Athletics on Twitter

@MilesSportsInfo

The OFFICIAL Twitter account for the Miles College Athletic Department.

THE MILEAN A MILES COLLEGE STUDENT PUBLICATION

I like the Miles College website and the online bookstore also you can view your grades with easy access.”

JESSICA BROWN, business administration major, freshman
RIDING WITH PRIDE
A LOOK AT MILES COLLEGE’S PROMOTIONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
A Dream Pursued

SGA President overcomes adversity and becomes a leader at Miles College.

Christopher Childress, accounting major.

Brittany Alexander
Campus Life Editor

Michael Christopher Childress understands what it means to believe in your dreams. Childress’ matriculation at Miles College has been just that ... a manifestation of his dreams. Childress is a Senior majoring in accounting with a 3.5 grade point average. The 25 years old Childress, is the oldest of three siblings and not a stranger to overcoming adversity.

“I have come a long way from my home town of Wilmington, Del. When I say I have come along I’m not just talking the 820 miles I traveled to get here. In high school I did just enough to get by. I graduated with a 1.7 grade point average,” said Childress.

“All I can remember in high school is my teacher telling me work now, play later. I did the exact opposite in high school, played then I worked. I realized that if I wanted to be successful I could not just play around but I had to work,” said Childress. “Freddrick Douglass said it the best without any struggle there is no progress.”

Since here at Miles, his matriculation has been just that a struggle but that has progressed with time. As Student Government Association president, Childress may be different than others students because of his past experiences. Therefore he takes pride in his accomplishments at Miles.

“I know where I have came from,” said Childress. His experiences thus far as president have truly humbled him. As he tackles certain tasks it can be really challenging. Childress believes that it is always good to have mentors because they can guide you through those challenges.

One of his mentors, Mr. Bovell, has had a significant impact on Childress’ life.

“Reason on why I say he has had much influence because he has a heart for people whom I strive to emulate,” Childress said. In my pursuit of graduating, my goals while here at Miles are to advocate for programs and activities that have helped to cultivate the leadership ability in me and continue to enjoy my college experience.”

“Once I graduate my plans are to go straight into the workforce as a accounting associate for a accounting firm or a industry corporation. Post graduation I want to obtain my C.P.A. (Certified Public Accounting) license and a M.B.A. (Masters in Business Administration). With these achievements I want to eventually become a C.F.O. of a Fortune 500 company,”

The question was asked how will Childress continue to help students work around those problems.

Williams said, “F.Y.E. is very positive in my opinion. When you arrive on campus, you really have no idea what exactly to do but with a program like this, you’re guided, and it helps out a lot.”

The F.Y.E. is based in the Office of Strategic Initiatives under the guidance of Dr. Ba-Shen Welch and Joi Hudson, who is the director of the F.Y.E. program.

“F.Y.E. is a program that caters to first year students, connecting them with the resources that they need to thrive socially and academically. It is the first point of contact for students when they reach campus and we also are in charge of Vespers Service.” Hudson said.

The F.Y.E. has student mentors to help guide the freshman along the way. Miles College senior and F.Y.E. mentor, Kacey Webb said, “This is a way to make life better for freshmen. They know what’s happening on campus, and we help them with their studies. Also they are notified about what events they are required to attend and the events that are going on strictly for fun around campus.”

The program is considered a success by participants. “I think everyone enjoys it,” Hudson said.
Young African American college graduates say they are more responsibly committed than previous generations, according to a study released Tuesday by Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance.

Seventy percent of African Americans age 18 to 34 said they were either “disciplined” or “highly disciplined” when it comes to saving, compared to just 47 percent of those 35 and older. However, 40 percent of those 55 and older reported having financially prepared to live to age 95, as opposed to just nine percent for the 18 to 34 set.

“It’s encouraging to see young African-American college graduates recognize the value of planning on a long-term horizon,” said William Taylor, vice president of Northwestern Mutual, in a statement. “The financial futures for the next generation of African Americans if that passion for planning can be coupled with careful plan design, enabling young people to get not just to, but through retirement. The good news for all – no matter their age, gender or race – is that it’s never too late to take that first small step and start planning for the long-term.”

The study also revealed several contrasts between genders. More black male graduates (52 percent) were found to be more likely to have a plan in place to meet their financial goals than women (35 percent). Fifty-eight percent of black female graduates had plans to “meet their spiritual, physical fitness and family life goals.” Just 43 percent of their black male counterparts reported having such a plan.

Black Grads: ‘We’re More Financially Responsible Than Past Generations’

“Mirror” is a play about a girl from a small town that brings everything that happened from the past to her future, but tries to avoid it only to find out that everything must be dealt with in order for her to move on in life.

Bonds is a self proclaimed introvert, but her friends think otherwise, laughing out loud at the idea.

“She’s not,” her Bass Hall dorm sister Eboney Horn claims.

Bonds hopes that this experience will help her overcome the fear she has for speaking in front of crowds. And help her blossom into a campus celebrity.

But she’s among tough competition from every age group, as Givens looks to cast different roles to represent different personalities in the play.

She hopes Givens will recognize something inside her that no one but an actress could understand.

On this particular weekend, Givens is holding a two-day casting call for “Joy” in the auditorium at Miles’ Pearson Hall. Auditions are open to everyone within the central Alabama theater community.

Bonds says she has never had the opportunity to branch out and express herself. She feels that acting, and lessons from Givens, could lead her to that. Bonds has come prepared with a piece from her own play titled “Girl in the Mirror.”

“I grew up where I could see the stars, drinking sweet tea from a mason jar,” Ashley Bonds recites from a song, her voice thick with Southern dialect as she warms.

“Dogwood trees like leaves through the pines, people on the porch watchin’ fireflies and drivin’ round the Wal-Mart on a Friday nights. I’m just a small town girl that’s all I’ll ever be.”

Bonds is a small town girl, one with big city dreams. She is a graduating senior in business and accounting and she’s come not just to audition, but become a star.

The 22-year-old from Gurley, Ala., is auditioning for the play “Joy in the Morning,” which was written by Robin Givens and Ruth Givens. Robin Givens is a well-known actress/producer and artist-in-residence at Miles College.

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“Mirror” is a play about a girl from a small town that brings everything that happened from the past to her future, but tries to avoid it only to find out that everything must be dealt with in order for her to move on in life.

Bonds is a self proclaimed introvert, but her friends think otherwise, laughing out loud at the idea.

“She’s not,” her Bass Hall dorm sister Eboney Horn claims.

Bonds hopes that this experience will help her overcome the fear she has for speaking in front of crowds. And help her blossom into a campus celebrity.

But she’s among tough competition from every age group, as Givens looks to cast different roles to represent different personalities in the play.

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