

# THE Miles WiRe

A Newsletter For The Miles College Faculty & Staff

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## The Future Is **NOW**

*Building Dedication Signals A New Chapter For Miles College*

This past October, President George T. French, Jr. and Bishop Teresa E. Snorton proudly led the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and official dedication of the new Welcome and Admissions Center, the George T. French, Jr. Student Activity Center, and the 204-Bed Teresa E. Snorton Residence Hall. In addition, the existing men's dormitory was formally re-named Stewart-Reddick Hall in honor of Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick III, and Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Sr.

The revolutionary leadership of Dr. French has positioned Miles College for strategic growth, and the ceremony highlighted that accomplishment. The result of a \$20 million capital improvement project, three facilities were unveiled on one day for the first time in the history of Miles College.

Because of increased enrollment and the unfortunate task of having to turn students away due to the current limited space, the Miles College community heartily welcomes these new buildings to the Campus. Record enrollment in recent years has caused the College to experience full dormitories and require contracts with a local hotel to house students.

Several thousand people attended the ceremony, including hundreds of high school students, alums, Board of Trustee members, CME Bishops, community leaders, political officials, students, faculty and staff. Two radio stations broadcasted the ceremony live, and the guests enjoyed inspiring performances by the Purple Marching Machine and the Miles College Choir. The reception following the ceremony added to the celebration. Several generations of Mileans rejoiced on this historic day. □



## Division of Communications Introduces Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society

The Honors Organizations at Miles College are welcoming one more. The Lambda Pi Eta Society was confirmed this past Fall Semester. Teq'ua Tompkins and Jamese McConico are leading the organization. This dynamic duo is placing its best stiletto forward to continue to grow the Division of Communications.

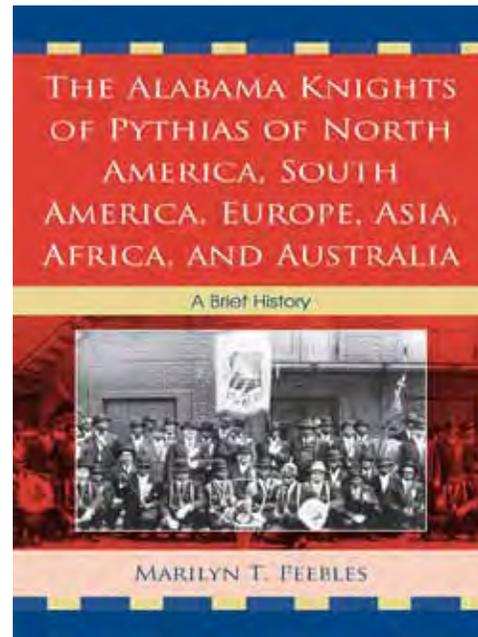


Dr. Bala Baptiste, Division of Communications Chair, is excited to announce that the Division of Communications has been inducted as member of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), the honor society of the National Communication Association. Miles College will be known as the Alpha Gamma Iota chapter. Lambda Pi Eta is one of many organizations affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies. As an accredited member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), Lambda Pi Eta has active chapters at four-year colleges and universities worldwide. LPH represents what Aristotle described in his work, *The Rhetoric*, as three ingredients of persuasion: logos (Lambda), meaning logic; pathos (Pi), relating to emotion; and ethos (Eta), defined as character, credibility and ethics. Advisor Tompkins said, "The purpose of the organization is to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement within the field of communication; to stimulate interest in the field of communication; to promote and encourage professional development among communication majors; and to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of communication." She also added, "Collectively, the Division wanted to acknowledge the academic excellence of our students." Lambda Pi Eta participants will soar to many academic heights. Honor students are expected to demonstrate character as they excel in academics, scholarship, leadership, and service. The membership requirements of Lambda Pi Eta are as follows: A minimum of 60 hours of college credit courses, minimum of 12 hours within the Division of Communications, A cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or higher, and a \$30 membership fee. Lambda Pi Eta is like many organizations that hold themselves to higher standards. Its advisors plan to influence 70% of Communication majors to become active members of the organization. Freshman William Jones stated, "The honors organization will be a great addition to the Division of Communications." He went on to say that it makes him proud to be able to see the positive changes in the Division. "It's time for the bright students in our field to get recognized." □

## The Alabama Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia: A Brief History

Marilyn T. Peebles, a Miles College faculty member, recently published her book, *Alabama Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia: A Brief History*. She introduced it to Miles College last year at a book signing held in the Learning Resource Center on campus. In her book, Peebles provides an accurate and concise history of the African-American Knights of Pythias in the United States in general and Birmingham, Alabama in particular.

President French, College faculty, and original Pythias members attended the book signing, where Peebles described her journey in writing this ground breaking book. During her research, she



learned that all the information regarding the history of The Alabama Knights of Pythias was burned. As a result, she had to attend members-only meetings in order to accurately write the history of the fraternity.

The Knights of Pythias fraternal organization was founded in 1865 by an Act of Congress. When African-American men were denied

membership, they created their own organization in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1880. Its founder, Thomas Stringer, believed that fraternal organizations could provide the black community with business networks, economic safety nets, and political experience at a time when Jim Crow laws were being constructed all around them. In Birmingham, Alabama, the Pythians became the cornerstone of an African-American business community that included the first black-owned and operated bank in the state. They provided burial, life, and disability insurance for members and became a source of civic pride and racial solidarity. When their right to exist was challenged in 1912, they took the case to the Supreme Court and won. This strategy would be used decades later in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

If you would like a firsthand look at Peebles book, be sure to check out a copy at the Learning Resource Center. □

## Miles College Welcomes Robert Douglass



Robert Douglass

The Miles College Admissions Office continues to work toward increased student enrollment and soar to new heights under the direction of Dr. Emmanuel Chekwa, Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Robert Douglass, the new Electronic Recruiter, also known as our E-Recruiter, is helping to increase the College's enrollment.

Douglass is a student-centered recruiter who also serves as an advisor and mentor to Miles College newcomers looking for guidance. His other responsibilities include: generating and processing online inquiries and applications; engaging the public with information via

the web, email, video, print, and social media; and providing content that attracts both prospective and existing students online and offline. He also reports on enrollment conversion metrics and electronic enrollment statistics.

Miles College administrators seized an opportunity to improve student recruitment when they created the new E-Recruiter position. This position will employ internet technology to expand the Miles College student population and alumni base.

Douglass stated, "As an E-Recruiter, I must be aware that reaching today's students and the public goes hand and hand with today's technology. Whether that's via Facebook, Twitter, Vine, or Kik, I must stay up to date with the times."

Many students ask their peers the question: "How did you hear about Miles College?" Some of the most common answers are: "a friend," "a family member," "the band/ choir director," or "a Miles College Recruiter."

The next time someone asks, "How did you hear about Miles College?" the answers will probably include: "I heard about it on Facebook or Twitter, or Instagram." This is in part due to Robert Douglass, the Miles College E-Recruiter. □

We are very excited to announce a new support service available this year for our students. Through a partnership with Tutor.com, we will offer 24/7 online tutoring that connects students one-to-one with a subject expert tutor the minute they need assistance. The tutoring service can be accessed from any internet-enabled computer or mobile device by going to [www.tutor.com/milescollege](http://www.tutor.com/milescollege). Please encourage your students to register for this free service before their finals. [www.tutor.com/milescollege](http://www.tutor.com/milescollege)

Tutoring is available in the following subject areas:

- Math: Algebra, Basic Math, Geometry, Statistics
- Science: Basic, Biology, Chemistry
- Business: Accounting
- Writing, Vocabulary

Additionally, the site also offers study resources such as skills-building tool, lessons, test prep materials, and videos.

Students can take advantage of this service right now. [www.tutor.com/milescollege](http://www.tutor.com/milescollege). If you have questions, please contact: [it\\_support@miles.edu](mailto:it_support@miles.edu) or call 205-929-1498 (Miles College Help Desk)

## Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting held December 3, 2013 was indeed a grand affair. After Dr. French illuminated the Centennial Plaza Miles College Christmas Tree at the front entrance of the campus, the Purple Marching Machine and choir led participants in a cheery parade.

Attendees marched to the George T. French, Jr. Student Activity Center, the Welcome and Admissions Center, and Snorton Residence Hall. As the group arrived at each building, trees began to glow.

The event served as an Open House for the three new buildings, celebrating the first official opportunity for faculty, staff, students, alums, and the greater community to experience the ambience of the new campus facilities.

A reception and refreshments in the George T. French, Jr. Student Activity Center ended the event. During the reception, artist Steve Skipper presented his painting, "Through Many Dangers," which features President French, to Bishop Snorton and Dr. French. □



# NO regrets

The year of 2013 was a great one for Miles College. We saw three new buildings become a reality, we excelled in the formidable task of being reaffirmed by SACS through 2023, and our football team won the Western Division SIAC. Our

president, Dr. George T. French, Jr., was elected President of the SIAC Council of Presidents and elected to become a part of the prestigious Harvard College Seminar for Experienced Presidents program. Several Miles College faculty members received their terminal degrees (Ph.D. and MFA) while others matriculated to the ABD status.

In addition, Miles College was front and center during the 50th year celebration of the Civil Rights Movement. We premiered the documentary Stand, produced by Donna Dukes. A 1991 Miles graduate, she is the daughter of Rev. Frank Dukes, a leader of the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to gifting the world with her film, Dukes allowed faculty to see one of their students excel.

On the other hand, 2013 brought personal and professional tragedies in the loss of family members, staff and faculty, as well as the illness and retirement of people connected to Miles College in various ways. We also helped our students to walk through their own valleys of loss.

Perhaps the greatest challenge in life is dealing with personal regret that we didn't fight harder or stay the course, whatever that course may have been.

How do we move past regrets, especially those of our own making? In the fall of 2013, one of my students shared with me a lesson from Dean Chekwa on moving past regrets. This simple formula is "food for thought" as we anticipate the possibilities of 2014.

1. Take time to identify the regret
2. Surrender your regrets to God
3. Forgive yourself and ask others to forgive you
4. Put the past behind you and start each with a fresh mind and a thankful heart
5. Make the most of your time –making each day count for God's glory
6. Make meditation on God's word a part of your daily routine
7. Keep God's voice louder than all contrary voices

While each step is important, the last step, "Keep God's voice louder than all contrary voices," is perhaps the most important. David Hawkins' book, *When Pleasing Others Is Hurting You*, contains a profound thought about regrets. "Care about people's approval and you will be their prisoner" (Tao Te Ching) . . . . With all my heart, I hope that you and I will move past regrets as we turn the pages of our lives in 2014. □

*Gwendolyn Dees, Assistant Professor, Division of Humanities*

## Miles College Golf Teeing-off To A Good Start



In just Miles College's third event ever as a golf college program the golf team was able to bring home a second place finish at the University Pine Bluff's UAPB Golf Classic. Although the event was shortened due to extreme cold weather the Miles College young freshmen team learned from their two previous events where they finished last that with hard work and learning from your experiences that you can overcome anything.

Coach Smoot has continued to stress the importance of making

the least amount of mistakes on the course in which his team finally grasp at the UAPB Golf Classic. Miles College freshmen team was in a great position to win the entire tournament but fell short due to the extreme weather conditions. Coach Smoot said he was very proud of his team to exceed their fall goals. He continues to stress applying golf to life. Whatever life decisions you make whether good or bad you must be responsible for your own actions and outcomes. □

*The Miles Wire* is a newsletter for the Miles College faculty and staff distributed by the Office of College Relations. If you would like more information about this publication, contact Alicia Johnson-Williams at 205-929-1641 or email at [ajohnson@miles.edu](mailto:ajohnson@miles.edu).

*Editor:* Alicia Johnson-Williams

*Contributing Writer:*  
Jainisha Crutcher  
Gwendolyn Dees  
Shahanica Gales  
Alicia Johnson-Williams

*Graphics & Design:*  
Bruce Thomas

*Proofing:*  
Kristen Lester  
Sarah Mayfield

