

SPECIAL POINTS OF
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Welcome Back, MMC Students!

By Padgett M.

The faculty and staff of MMC welcomed MMC students as they returned to class on

Wednesday, August 17, 2011. After a restful summer break, everyone was glad to see one another and to resume another successful school year.

Coming from six school districts (*Lexington One, Lexington Four, Lexington*



Five, Fairfield County, Richland One, and Richland Two), seventy-one students arrived on campus, excited

to meet their teachers and to begin either their junior or senior year of academic study. Ultimately, the

anticipated enrollment for 2011-2012 will be around ninety students.

Some of these students' home high schools include the following: *from Lexington One* —White Knoll, Lexington, Pelion, and Gilbert High; *from Lexington Four* —Swansea High; *from Lexington Five*—Dutch Fork and Irmo High; *from Fairfield*—Fairfield Central; *from Richland One*—AC Flora High, Dreher, and Lower Richland High; *from Richland Two*—Blythewood High, Richland Northeast High, Ridge View High, and Spring Valley High.

Female Leadership Seminar

By Jade H.

Every month, Midlands Middle College "MMC" holds a recurring event called the Female Leadership Seminar for African- American young women. These seminars occur in the Academic Center of the Airport Campus of

Midlands Tech in the Executive Conference Room.

Sponsored by MMC and the very special Mrs. Kay Barlow, who is part of the Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA), this seminar is important to the future of these young ladies because

successful and very positive women speak to them about appropriate social and academic behavior. Topics include how to dress, how to behave, and what to expect from life as African-American women.

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Calendar of Events:

By Deronte M.

SAT: Oct. 1; Nov. 5

ACT: Oct. 22; Dec. 10

Night at the Chamber

Fundraisers TBA

Guest Speakers Series

Possible ETV taping of MMC Program (Nov./Jan.)

The Bridge Logo:

Being on time

Respectable & responsible

Inspirational citizen

Distinguished learner

Generous & cooperative

Exceptional attitude

Student Spotlight:

Chandler

Kentara

Alexis

Superintendent Spotlight:

Dr. Brochu, Richland II

Special Thanks:

TCBY & Cynthia Graham

UPS Guest Speaker

Female Leadership Seminar

Continued from page 1

These guest speakers also reinforce dreams about the workplace and what realistically students can expect as potential successful business women, office managers, doctors, nurses, military personnel, and home-makers.

Some of these guest speakers include Mrs. Christine Wells, Dr. Kaye Shaw, Mrs. Kay Barlow, Ms. Monica Edwards, and

Mrs. Carole Fearrington. Eleven young women who attend these seminars include: Padgett, Joelle, Kentara, Brittany, Kambrelle,

Jade, Kim, Gwen, Ebony, Mariah, and Miranda. All learning from this fellowship experience is wonderful and rewarding.



Opportunities to Serve

By Jade H.

On Thursday, September 1, 2011, a representative from the National Guard, Sgt. James Flores, came to MMC to give an inspirational message to our students. The first of many scheduled guest speakers, Sgt. Flores shared many of the educational and potential advantages to serving in the National Guard.

Students were filled with questions that he answered. How long do you contract to serve in the National Guard? *(The shortest time—4 years: active service; four years: inactive service)* Will the National Guard help to finance my education in a two-year or four-year college program? *(Yes, as*

long as you fulfill your contract service) Do recruits get a choice in deciding their career options in the military? *(Yes, recruits can sign up to work in medical,*



aerial, mechanical fields, etc.) Do recruits and their family members get a health insurance coverage program? *(Yes, recruits and their families have full medical coverage.)*

Students and teachers

were impressed with his motivational speech, and here were some quotes they gave regarding Sgt. Flores's attitude and knowledge.

"He was very punctual and entertaining in his talk to us about the National Guard. He shared many of his life decisions," stated Miranda G., a student at MMC.

"Students were participating well, and their level of student interest was tremendous," Mr. Russell, the coordinator of the Guest Speaker Series, observed.

"He gave students 'down-to-Earth' information that should help them in their decision-making processes after high school graduation," added Mr. Poovey, a social studies teacher.

Castleberry in China



A former English Language Arts teacher at MMC, Mr. Stephen Castleberry, is now

working as an international teacher of English in The People's Republic of China. Arriving in the city of Yixing in mid-September, Mr. Castleberry will begin his teaching duties from September through July. Mr. "C-berry" will have the whole month of January to return to the U.S. to visit with family and friends. We hope to see him then.

The Bridge Staff:

Mariah G.

Deronte M.

Molly L.

Jade H.

Padgett M.

Advisors: Butler

Ferrington

Russell

Spotlight: Business Partner/Tiger Wells

By Jade H.

Mr. Tiger Wells visited Midlands Middle College last school year and shared with students the inspirational story of his life, which motivated many students to excel in their personal and academic lives.

Since January, 2008, Mr. Wells has been an Associate Attorney at the Columbia office of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. As a member of the law firm's Public Finance Group, he assists clients, counties, municipalities, and school districts in the issuance of bonds as a means of financing their various capital projects. He also has a great deal of experience resolving conflicts and is a creative and effective problem-solver for many of his clients.

He received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 2004 and his B.S. degree *cum laude* in mathematics from Morehouse College in 2000.

Mr. Wells is active in civic and community activities of the Midlands and the state. He was selected by Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin to serve on the city's Economic Development Committee. Among his many other accolades and leadership roles, Mr. Wells is a graduate of the Leadership Columbia Class of 2011. Currently, he serves on the boards of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Development Corporation, the Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers, the Midlands Education and Business Alliance, and the March of Dimes (Midlands).

In 2010, the Columbia native was selected as one of *The State* newspaper's emerging young leaders and included in its annual "20 Under 40" class.

MMC Staff and Students are proud to recognize and honor his many accomplishments.



Formation of MEBA

By Kaye Shaw

In 2003 the Executive Committee of Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) began discussions on how to provide a learning environment for high school juniors and seniors that would connect their classroom curriculum to their career aspirations. These education and business leaders envisioned a program with small classrooms, bright students who were eager to connect with their careers and who would be college eligible.



The committee heard of a middle college program at Guilford Technical and Community College in Greensboro, NC, and made a visit to their program. They listened to testimonies from students who felt that their middle college program had given them a new outlook on high school and had given them the tools, resources and encouragement to get their high school diploma, explore a career of interest and enroll in college.

MEBA's board returned from NC energized and determined to have a program at Midlands Technical College that would serve all nine school districts in the Midlands with a program similar to Guilford's. The result was Midlands Middle College, one of only two middle colleges in the nation that serves multiple school districts. The MEBA board felt so strongly about their commitment that they were willing to serve as the program's Board of Directors and have done so for the past six years.

In Memoriam



Holden Scott Page

1993-2011

Born on May 12, 1993, Holden Scott Page (aka "Reese") was a rising senior here at the Middle College, and he filled the hallways and classrooms of MMC with his positive energy, always keeping everyone happy and upbeat. After school, Holden enjoyed spending time with family and friends, participating in outdoor sports, riflery, and working out.

On August 3, 2011, the Lord called Holden/ Reese home. He was the best son, grandson, brother, nephew, cousin, boyfriend, best friend, and student/ classmate that anyone could have ever met or taught.

In the eyes of all who knew him, Holden will always be a strong phoenix. His free spirit lives within our hearts forever. We hope to see him again one day.

By Mariah G