

Groundbreaking Held for College's New Health Sciences Center

Recently, Calhoun hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Health Sciences Center on its Decatur campus. Earlier this year, approval was granted by the Alabama State Board of Education to construct the 64,609 square foot building. Upon completion, the building will become home for all of Calhoun's health-related programs, which include nursing, dental assisting, emergency medical services, and surgical technology.

"Due to the increasing demand for skilled health care professionals and the outstanding reputation the college has in the community, Calhoun has seen a growing interest in our nursing and other health-related programs. The additional classroom and state-of-the-art lab space that will be provided in this new facility will allow the college to increase enrollment in our health programs and to help meet employer demands," commented Calhoun President Marilyn C. Beck.

"For example, our nursing programs currently enroll 200 students. The new building will allow for an increase of over 100 students in these programs," added Beck.

Among the 350 persons in attendance at the event were state legislators; staff representing Congressman Bud Cramer; represen-



tatives of area hospitals that employ graduates of Calhoun's health programs; and many area Chamber and business leaders. During her remarks, Dr. Beck announced that through the generosity of the four local hospitals who partnered with the College for the groundbreaking (Athens/Limestone Hospital, Crestwood Medical Center, Huntsville Hospital, and Parkway Medical Center) twelve scholarships of \$1000 each will be available for students in the nursing programs.

During the ceremony, Alabama State Board of Education member Dr. Mary Jane Caylor (District 8) provided comments. Referring to a report issued by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission following the recent re-affirmation of Calhoun's nursing programs, Caylor stated, "Students chose to attend Calhoun's nursing program because of its reputation and quality of education."



Pictured l-r: Dr. Marilyn Beck, Calhoun President; Mr. Cary Payne, Athens/Limestone County Hospital; The Honorable Tommy Carter, House of Representatives, District 5; Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, State Board of Education, District 8; The Honorable Tom Butler, Alabama Senate, District 2; Mr. Joe Austin, Huntsville Hospital; Mr. James Hahn, Decatur General Hospital; Mr. Brad Jones, Crestwood Hospital.



What's Inside:

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- **New Deans Announced for Student Affairs; Planning and Research**
- **Calhoun Becomes Home to Artifacts Belonging to Music Hall of Famers The Delmore Brothers**

\$1.825M Grant Awarded from U.S. Department of Education

Calhoun Community College President Dr. Marilyn C. Beck recently announced the awarding of a \$1.825 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to the college. Official notification of the grant award came from the offices of Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressman Bud Cramer.

Funding for the grant is through the Department of Education's Title III **Strengthening Institutions Program**. According to details of the notification, the grant will be awarded in the amount of \$365,000 per year over a five-year period, which began October 1, 2004. Funding from the grant will be used to increase student success at the college through two components: an Academic Component and a Student Services Component.

Specifically, the Academic Component will improve student success, reten-

tion and satisfaction through the re-design of large enrollment courses such as English, math and history and a more consistent delivery of on-line instruction. In addition, resources will be provided to encourage more faculty at the college to develop distance education courses using the latest technology. By the end of the grant cycle, the college also plans to develop and offer distance education degree programs in General Education and Elementary/Secondary Education.

The Student Services Component will support greater student success through the creation of a "Virtual College" environment providing a full-range of student and academic support services completely on-line. Students will be able to monitor their academic progress, conduct degree audits to determine needed courses, submit application to the college on-line, check

financial aid status and fund balances, and request electronic transcripts.

"We are excited and very fortunate to have been selected to receive this Title III grant award," commented Dr. Beck. "This year, the College's Planning Council developed a list of institutional priorities centered on our 'Plan for Student Success,' and the awarding of this grant will help to ensure that these objectives are met and that our students are indeed successful in their educational pursuits," she added.

"The proposal and selection process for this grant is extremely competitive, with over 300 applications typically submitted, which makes this news even more wonderful for the college," said Dr. Beck. "The application procedure for the grant was indeed a team effort, and I'd like to thank each of the individuals involved in this very successful process."

Adult Education Program Provides a Second-Chance for Many

The Adult Education program at Calhoun Community College continues to grow by leaps and bounds, offering a wide variety of programs to help improve the quality of life for citizens within the college's service area.

According to Calhoun's Coordinator of Adult Education and GED Programs Chris Miller, a better term for the program might be "workforce education" since Calhoun has developed relationships and is partnering with so many businesses and industries in the area to provide training and educational assistance.

Among the programs offered through Adult Education are academic assessment to determine academic strengths and weaknesses; adult basic

education which includes reading, writing and math for those persons functioning at or below the 8.9 grade equivalency; transitional programs to prepare adult learners to enter higher education or training programs or to become more marketable in the workforce; adult diploma and GED classes; high school exit exam classes and college prep classes; and English literacy classes.

While a large percentage of the students enrolled in Calhoun's Adult Education programs are middle age or older, Miller says that she and her staff are seeing more and more younger faces coming through her doors. Miller adds that adult education students also include those with college degrees who, because of lay-offs or opportunities for job advancements, are finding themselves in need of refresher courses in basic math, reading comprehension or other areas.

"Our plan is to make sure adult education classes are available near where our students live and work," says Miller. Classes are held at Calhoun's Decatur and Huntsville campuses, as well as numerous locations across the service area. Last year, more than 1800 indi-



viduals were enrolled in adult ed programs in Madison, Morgan and Limestone counties, the counties served by the Calhoun program.

Miller says that students, who for various reasons may have dropped out of high school, are coming to Calhoun to earn their GED and a chance at a better life. "Because of Dr. (Roy) Johnson's generosity in making one free college course available to our GED graduates, we are seeing more of these students going on to enroll in degree or certificate programs here at Calhoun. Many of them plan to further their education beyond Calhoun or to seek employment in higher paying careers.

"One of our recent GED graduates even has plans to open a restaurant and pub after earning her associate's degree in business from Calhoun," Miller said.



Calhoun Receives \$400,000 National Science Foundation Grant to Provide Student Scholarships

This summer, the National Science Foundation awarded a grant to the college for the "Computer Science, Mathematics, and Technology (CMT) Academic Rewards Program." The program is designed to increase the number of well-prepared graduates in technology, computer specialties, and mathematics by offering forty (40) annual scholarships and a variety of support activities to targeted students. The college will receive \$400,000 (\$100,000 per year) over the next four years to support the program.

The *CMT Academic Rewards Program* will be directed at capable, but financially disadvantaged, students with special emphasis on recruiting students from under-represented groups such as female, minorities, or persons with disabilities. The program will "reward" CMT students who do well academically through financial awards and participation in enhanced, discipline-specific, support services. Scholarships will be awarded to full-time students declaring a major in Mathematics/Pre-Engineering, Computer Information Systems, or an Advanced Technology program. The scholars must meet NSF eligibility requirements, have and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, and participate in program specific activities.

A CMT Project Advisory Team, comprised of faculty, staff, and industry representatives, is responsible for recruiting eligible applicants, selecting the scholars, ensuring their success through mentoring and support services, and providing guidance on maintaining and enhancing program activities. This fall, the first group of 14 students was awarded scholarships through the CMT program.

For more information about the new program, contact Dr. Lynn Hogan at 256-306-2672.



State Board Gives Approval to Calhoun for Classroom Building Project

During its monthly meeting in October, the Alabama State Board of Education gave the "go-ahead" to Calhoun to proceed on construction of a new math and science classroom building to be located on the Decatur campus. The approval process included the authorization of a \$12 million bond issue and approval of \$8.5 million in college plant funding to construct the 84,000 square foot, \$20 million building.

Along with construction costs, the bond issue includes funding for the demolition of the Rice Science Building and the oldest section of Harris Hall, both well over 30 years old.

The three-story building will house numerous classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, a learning center, math and science faculty offices, and will become home for the College's administrative offices, currently located in the Wallace Administration Building.

Calhoun Creates "One Stop Center" for Students

Financial Aid and Student Affairs Offices re-locate; Admissions Office to move in 2005

Dr. Kermit Carter, dean for student affairs at Calhoun, has announced the relocation of the college's Student Affairs and Financial Aid offices on the Decatur campus. Both offices, formerly housed in the Wallace Administration Building, are now located on the second floor of the Chasteen Student Center. The Calhoun Foundation has relocated its offices to the space formerly occupying the Financial Aid office.

"The relocation of these two offices is the initial phase in the creation of Calhoun's new 'One Stop

Center' of services for our students," commented Carter. Calhoun's Admissions Office is scheduled to make the move to the Chasteen Student Center in 2005.

"Our 'One Stop Center' is more user-friendly and will allow our students to do everything under one roof and avoid the need to go back and forth between buildings to complete the admissions and registration process. Advising, testing, registration, orientation, financial aid and fee payment will now take place in one location on campus," Carter added.

Phone numbers for the Students Affairs and Financial Aid offices will remain the same: **Students Affairs - 256/306-2614 or 2870; Financial Aid - 306-2626.**



Nursing Programs Awarded National Reaccreditation

The College recently received notification that both its Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing programs have been approved for continuing accreditation until spring 2012 by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). The NLNAC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accrediting body for all types of nursing education programs.

Calhoun has been a major supplier of nurses to the workforce in North Alabama for over 50 years. The Practical Nursing program, established in 1953, first received its accreditation in 1992, and was the first program in Alabama to be accredited. The Associate Degree Nursing program began in 1968 and received its first accreditation in 1971. Calhoun was commended in the NLNAC evaluation report for the “strength of the faculty [which is] reflected in everything we reviewed” ranging from the curriculum to nurturing classroom and clinical environments. The report also noted that “students chose the Calhoun nursing program because of its reputation and the quality of the education based on comparisons to other area schools.”

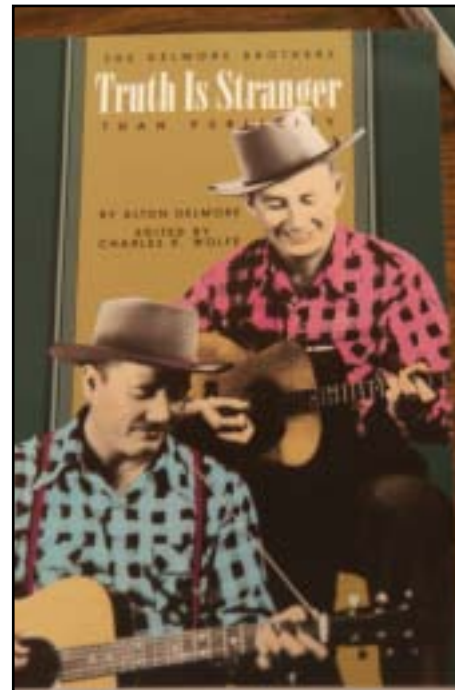
Calhoun currently accepts 130 Associate Degree Nursing and 70 Practical Nursing students into its program each year. In October, the college broke ground on its new Health Sciences Center, which will provide for an additional 100 students per year into the nursing programs. For more information regarding the nursing programs, contact Jan Peek at 256-306-2795.



College to House Early Country Music Archives

In early October, the College received a collection of early country music memorabilia from the family of the late Alton and Rabon Delmore (The Delmore Brothers), country music’s first recording duet. A ceremony dedicating the collection was held in the College’s Chasteen Student Center Lobby on the Decatur campus, new home for the country music duo’s largest collection of memorabilia. Featured speaker for the event was nationally renowned musicologist/folklorist Dr. Charles Wolfe, editor of *Truth is Stranger than Publicity*, Alton Delmore’s autobiography.

Born in Elkmont, Alabama, the Delmore Brothers began playing guitar and performing their close, intricate harmonies for family and friends. With the encouragement of family and friends, they began to compete in fiddler’s concerts that were prevalent in North Alabama. In 1931, they made their first recording, “I’ve Got the Kansas City Blues.” Also in 1931, the Delmore Brothers joined the Grand Ole Opry. Among the most popular Delmore songs still being performed today are “Brown’s Ferry Blues” (which the



Delmore’s introduced in the early 1930’s at the Fiddler’s Contest at Athens State) “Gonna Lay Down My Ole Guitar,” “Midnight Special,” and “Freight Train Boogie.” The Delmore Brothers have been honored by posthumous induction into three halls of fame: Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame; Alabama Country Music Hall of Fame; and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

The Delmore family made the decision to move the collection to Calhoun on the condition that the College would display it for public viewing. Calhoun English instructors Drs. Shelia Byrd and Randy Cross originally contacted members of the Delmore family two years ago to express interest in naming a stage after the brothers at Calhoun’s annual “Dumplin’ Days” music festival.

“They were thrilled and really wanted to keep the name alive,” commented Byrd. “They were excited the College was promoting their name, and we were excited to have a name to use,” she added.

For more information on the Delmore collection, contact Dr. Byrd at 256-306-2720.



FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

“Paint the Town” Assists Elderly/Low-Income Homeowners

For the second year, Calhoun, in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and several community groups, “Painted(ed) the Town” at various homes throughout Decatur and Morgan County.

“Paint the Town” is the fourth activity in a series of community-service projects funded this year by a grant to the College from the CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. The project identified 10 local homes belonging to elderly and/or low-income homeowners in need of minor exterior improvements such as painting or yard maintenance, and performed the necessary repairs. Teams of Calhoun students, faculty and staff, and alumni were joined by community volunteers to perform needed repairs on the selected homes. In addition, local businesses and individuals donated paint, brushes, equipment, plants, and other needed items for the project.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities through three programs: SENIOR CORPS, AMERICORPS, and LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA. Working with national and community nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies, the Corporation engages more than two million Americans each year in meeting critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas.



Dr. Kermit Carter



Dr. Dena Stephenson

New Deans Announced for Student Affairs; Planning and Research

Calhoun Community College President Marilyn C. Beck recently announced the selection of Dr. Kermit Carter as the college’s new Dean for Student Affairs and Dr. Dena Stephenson as the new Dean for Planning and Research. Selected following national searches for both positions, Carter and Stephenson come to their new positions after serving in other posts at the College.

Most recently, Carter served as Calhoun’s assistant dean for student affairs, a position he has held for the last four years. With over 30 years of experience in the student affairs and student development arena, he also served in student services positions at Oakwood College, the University of Alabama-Huntsville, and Andrews University (Michigan). He earned his bachelor’s degree from Oakwood College; his master’s degree from Alabama A&M University; and his doctorate from the University of Alabama. As Calhoun’s new Dean for Student Affairs, Carter is responsible for admissions and registration, recruiting, financial aid, counseling, orientation, career placement, student activities, student support services, Upward Bound, and services for special student populations.

A member of the Calhoun family since 1987, Stephenson previously served as chair of the Business Division and as a member of the Business faculty for a number of years. She has also served as chair of the college’s SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Accred-

itation Committee. Prior to coming to the college, Stephenson taught at Brewer High School. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Auburn University, master’s and Ed.S. degrees from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama.

In her new position, Stephenson will be responsible for directing and facilitating the college’s planning process; collecting and analyzing data to support decision making for college operations and budgeting; conducting institutional research; acting as college liaison for community requests for assistance in planning and research activities; and maintaining a clearinghouse of all planning and research projects conducted at the college.

“The college is indeed fortunate to benefit from the expertise, educational background and professionalism both Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Carter bring to their respective positions,” commented Beck.

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ADA/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
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Bryson Named New Head of Calhoun Foundation



Terri Bryson

Dr. Marilyn Beck has announced the selection of Terri Bryson as the new Executive Director of the Calhoun Community College Founda-

tion. Mrs. Bryson officially began her new duties at the college on December 6.

A graduate of the Mississippi University for Women, she has over 20 years of marketing and business development experience in the medical and banking fields.

In her new position, Bryson will be responsible for managing projects and preparing proposals to increase support to the Foundation; marketing fundraising initiatives to the college and community groups; acting as liaison to agencies and individuals interested in scholarship development and awards; serving as secretary to the Foundation Board of Directors; and working directly with the Foundation, the President of the college and the President's staff in determining resource needs for the institution.

"We are extremely excited about Terri joining the Calhoun Community College family," stated Dr. Beck. "Her unique combination of experience and knowledge of the local community are valuable assets to this position, to the Foundation, and ultimately, to the College."

Calhoun's Kincherlow-Martin Selected for Community College Leadership Academy



Janet Kincherlow-Martin

Janet Kincherlow-Martin, director of public relations at the college, has been selected to participate in the 2004-2005 Alabama Community College Leadership Academy, sponsored by The University of Alabama, College of Education and College of Continuing Studies, in cooperation with the Alabama College System. The program develops and trains Alabama's community college leaders and prepares them for the next leadership level in the state's two-year college system.

Kincherlow-Martin has served as the college's first and only public relations director for the last 16 years.

Calhoun Employee Named President of State-Wide Training Association

Calhoun Community College employee, Denny Smith, has been named president-elect of Alabama's Training for Business and Industry Network (TBIN.) The group was established for the purpose of providing information about services provided by the state's community colleges to business and industry. Other officers of TBIN include Matthew Hughes, Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education; Jill Hayes, Shelton State Community College; Richard Bunis, Wallace State Community College-Hanceville; Mike Witt, Northwest Shoals Community College; and Mike Kenamer, Northeast Alabama Community College.



Denny Smith

Smith, who also recently completed the six-day MidSouth Community College Fellowship leadership program in Mississippi, is the director of Calhoun's ACT Center. The ACT Center provides local business and industry with services such as job profiling, workforce skills assessment, on-line courses, and continuing education for employees.

"Our colleges each possess resources that are valuable to business and industry," said Smith. "TBIN is a mechanism through which institutions within the Alabama College System may share information and assist each other in an effort to better serve all the citizens of the state." TBIN will provide businesses throughout the state with a comprehensive clearinghouse of services being offered at all the community colleges across the state.

For more information on TBIN or courses offered to business and industry by Calhoun Community College, contact Smith at 256-306-2637.



Calendar of Events

December

Through December 14

Registration for 2005 Spring Semester

13-17

Final Exams for 2004 Fall Semester

16

Candlelighting and Pinning Ceremony
for 2004 Fall Licensed Practical Nursing
Graduates

Aerospace Training Center
Decatur Campus 1:00 pm

24-31

College Closed for Christmas/
New Year's Holiday

January

4

Faculty and Staff Professional
Development (Duty Day)

5

Spring Semester Registration – Decatur

6

Spring Semester Registration – Huntsville

10

**2005 Spring Semester
Classes Begin**

17

College Closed in Observance of
MLK Holiday



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