As the curtain of another academic year rises, I am excited to share with you the many accomplishments made in the Division of Student Development Services among the students and staff members. It is clear to us at Bishop State that the demographics of our college continue to change with the addition of mature students, military veterans, and returning students. The staff members in the Division are keeping up with the pace and adjusting our services to accommodate the needs of all of our students. We want to inspire our students to become responsible leaders, take the initiative to make positive things happen on our campuses, complete their programs of study, and make sound decisions about their career choices. In this newsletter, you read articles and view pictures that will serve as a testament to the accomplishments, services, and activities that contribute to the growth and maturity of our student population. Thank you for taking the time to read the 5th edition of our newsletter. We are happy with our accomplishments on your behalf and hope you will be, too.

Terry Hazzard, Ed. D.
Dean of Students
The Annual President’s Convocation was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2013. This Convocation represented the beginning of the new school year with recognition of student organizations and advisors. Members from the administrative team, the Division of Student Development Services, and faculty and staff, were introduced to the student body. Students elected by their peers for various positions with the Student Government Association were sworn into office. The Convocation was upbeat and well attended.

The College kicked off the 2013-2014 academic year with “Get On Board.” This was an opportunity for all Bishop State students to get involved in campus life activities. On Thursday, October 17, student clubs and organizations gathered in the Student Center to showcase their activities and encourage students to join their organization. The Bishop State Cheerleaders and Jazzette Dance Team were a hit and enjoyed by the student body. This was a great opportunity for the college community to get involved with good food, friends, and fun.

In honor of the many who lost their lives in the 9-11 tragedy 13 years ago, a special tribute program was held on September 11, 2014. This special program was held on both the Baker-Gaines Central and Southwest Campuses of Bishop State.
The 2013 Crowning of Miss Bishop State Community College was another highlight for the college community. Meghan Chambers, a 2012 graduate of Wayne County High School in Mississippi, set the stage for a year of beauty and bliss. While a student at Bishop State, Megan was a member of the Lady Wildcats basketball team. She was escorted by Justin Terrell Clark, Mr. Bishop State Community College. Justin was Freshman Class President, Mr. Homecoming, President of the Systematic Students Assistance Club, President of the Rowdy Wildcat Pep Squad, and a member of the Wildcat Ambassadors Program.

The All-Alabama Academic Team Recognition Banquet was held on April 11, 2014 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery, Alabama. Representing Bishop State were Jan-Dominique Santos and Rebecca Hamlin. Both students distinguished themselves as accomplished scholars and were recognized among other students in the two-year system as being the “Best of the Best.” The evening was shared with their parents, family, and friends. Bishop faculty and staff who attended the recognition banquet were Dr. Terry Hazzard, Dean of Students; Dr. Victoria Perry, Counselor and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor; and Dr. Latitia McCane, Dean of Instructional Services. President James Lowe, Jr. was also present to congratulate our outstanding students.

The Student Government Association plays an instrumental and awesome role in promoting college life activities during the academic year. Breanna Haines, President, and members of the Association, worked diligently to keep students involved in student activities and opportunities for service in other capacities around the College. Recognized as the voice for students, the SGA strives for excellence and works to keep students in the center of college life by creating both an academic and social environment on the four Bishop campuses that can be enjoyed by all.

Bishop State’s 2014 Open House was held Tuesday, June 23, on the Main Campus in the Gymnasium. Approximately, 100 students and their parents/guardians attended. Representatives from all four campuses presented demonstrations, table displays, and staff introductions. Current students were also on hand to provide information to prospective students. Faculty and staff members were present to promote their programs of study and to answer questions for prospective students. As a recruitment tool, this event was planned and coordinated by the counseling and admission staff of the College.

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More than 1500 prospective students and their parents/guardians have attended Bishop State Open House events over the last seven years. From these prospects, 64% have chosen to attend morning classes at Bishop State.

Make sure you tell friends, family members, and other prospects for Bishop State who cannot attend an Open House in person that they can go online to learn about New Student Orientation with important details at http://www.bishop.edu/student-services/new-student-orientation.html. This is an excellent way to learn all they need to know about the exciting opportunities for them at Bishop State.
Homecoming 2014 was a hit. On Tuesday, January 21, Bishop State staff members decorated their office doors to encourage support of the Wildcat Basketball teams. Mr. Bishop State, Justin Clark, hosted a Men’s Only Program that was well attended. Tuesday evening concluded with a fun-filled Hair Show sponsored by the Cosmetology Department on the Southwest Campus. Kudos to James Soleyn, Instructor, and members of his staff for coordination and participation of the event. On Wednesday, January 22, the College hosted a health fair, Green and Gold Spirit Day, and a talent show. The eagerly-anticipated basketball game between the faculty and students was held Thursday, January 23. What a blast! The game was followed by a block party with music and food. The evening concluded with the Homecoming games against L. B. Wallace Community College. The highlight of the Men’s basketball game was the crowning of Mr. and Miss Homecoming at the half-time. Winning the titles were Kiera St. Fleur as Miss Homecoming and Stephen Thomas as Mr. Homecoming. First-runner up to Miss Homecoming was Niyah Bradley; second-runner up was Desire Phillips. Second-runner up to Mr. Homecoming was Daibreon Baker and first-runner was Kwame Williams. Miss Varsity was Dominique McQuiter.

The annual program honoring Black History Month was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Attended by approximately 500 students, the program was filled with excitement. This year, the College paid tribute to African-American composers and their music. Participating in the program included the Calloway-Smith Middle School Band and high school choirs from Baker, LeFlore, Rain, Vigor, and Williamson. High Schools. Special selections were rendered by International Soprano, Lynn Mackie, the Bishop State Vocal Ensemble, and the Bishop State College Choir. The program was also represented by the student body of Bishop State, who took active roles to ensure program success. This student involvement was the first for the College and a wonderful recruitment tool.

Members of the 2014 Homecoming Court pictured with President James Lowe, Jr., center, are, from left, Daibreon Baker, Second Runner-Up to Mr. Homecoming; Kwame Williams, First Runner-Up to Mr. Homecoming, Stephen Thomas, Mr. Homecoming; Kiera St. Fleur, Miss Homecoming; Niyah Bradley, First Runner-Up to Miss Homecoming; and Desire Phillips, Second Runner-Up to Miss Homecoming.

International Soprano Lynn Mackie and Beverly Little, Director of Bishop State College Choir

Choir from Leffore High School

Choir from Baker High School
The pageant to select Mr. and Miss Bishop State Community College was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 in the Theater of the Student Life Conference Complex on the Main Campus. Seven contestants competed for the title of Mr. and Miss Bishop State Community College. For Miss Bishop State, four young ladies were in competition. They were: Niyah Bradley, Mwannasheria Mani, Dominique McQuitery, and Desire Phillips. Three young men competed for the title of Mr. Bishop State were: Kalente Buskey, Steven McCovery, and James McKinnis, Jr.

Following the tabulation of results, the finalists were: Second Runner Up, Desire Phillips and First Runner Up, Dominique McQuitery. Miss Bishop State Community College for the 2014-2015 academic year is Mwannasheria Mani. First Runner Up to Mr. Bishop State Community College is Kalente Buskey. Second Runner Up was Steven McCovery. Mr. Bishop State Community College for the New Year is James McKinnis, Jr. Miss Bishop State will be officially crowned by the President James Lowe, Jr. on Thursday, November 20, 2014, in the Yvonne Kennedy Auditorium on the Baker-Gaines Central Campus. Congratulations to the winners!

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Bishop State Community College is the first community college in the state of Alabama to launch a 10-week Shipfitter Boot Camp designed to provide participants with the knowledge, performance, and employability-based skills training required of shipfitters. In collaboration with the Gulf States Shipbuilders Consortium, the specialized training culminated with a hiring Fair at Bishop State on September 25, 2014, with offers of employment from maritime employers to all who successfully completed the program.

“We are very proud to join the initiative to train qualified, skilled workers and connect them with maritime employers in accordance with the Gulf States Shipbuilders Consortium curriculum that was created by the employers for the specific types of jobs available as a shipfitter,” said Bishop State President James Lowe, Jr. “The employers were integral in planning this training, as they are in the unique position of forecasting future skill needs and identifying existing gaps,” said Lowe. Bishop State’s goal is to offer a Shipfitter Boot Camp at least once a term for 10 weeks, the first week being pre-qualification and the last being assessment, graduation, and a hiring fair. The last boot camp was held November 2014.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEMINAR

On October 16, 2013 the Bishop State Community College Division of Student Services and the Nursing Department worked together to present Real People, Real Stories, Real Situations: Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence. This informative session was held in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The two-hour program featured more than 10 domestic violence survivors and counselors in addition to representatives from area agencies that shared uplifting stories and songs elevating victims and families affected by this very prevalent community problem. A representative from the statewide Alabama Coalition of Domestic Violence (ACDV) shared important statistical data and brought along life-size silhouettes depicting victims and the narratives of their demise. Another notable panelist was local author, Debra Bell — Vanzant, who works closely with the Mobile Chapter of S.O.A.R. (Survivors of Abuse in Recovery).

The program was well attended by members of the Bishop State family; more than 150 students, faculty, and staff members. Central Campus Counselor, Yvonne Foster, conducted the wrap-up session of the program and recapped the importance of seeking help and where to go for help. At the conclusion of the program, a reception was hosted for the panelists. All program attendees received purple ribbons to wear as a symbol of support for those affected by domestic violence.

Help Stop the Violence!

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Alpha Epsilon Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society at Bishop State was recognized as a Five Star Chapter at the Alabama Regional Convention on March 8, 2014 at Jefferson State Community College for the consecutive fifth year. The Five Star Chapter Award recognizes those chapters that achieve the five levels of engagement that progress from local, campus, regional, and international involvement. Each year the chapter develops a five-star chapter plan that enhances a working relationship with the college administration by becoming active on the campus and in the community. This plan affords the chapter members to grow on a personal level by enhancing their organizational skills and the importance of meeting deadlines. The strength of the chapter is determined by the achievement of the chapter plan on all levels. Recognition of the chapter achievements provides reinforcement and encourages a recommitment to the chapter goals.

Those in attendance were Marshal Runderson, Advisor, Darius Fairley, Bennie Hooten, Heather MacDonald, Daijah Merkerson, Jacob Harkins, Joel Mutua, Quentin Crockett, Jenyia Rocker, Karen MacDonald, Becky Hamlin, Jan-Dominique Santos, and Dr. Victoria Perry, Advisor. Dr. Mark A. Heinrich, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) was present as well.
NEW WILDCAT JOINS THE PACK

Welcome aboard the new Secretary to the Dean of Students, Marian McCovery. She is married to Kenny McCovery of Mobile and they have two children, Gabrielle, 12, and Solomon, 9. She was previously employed as a Secretary at the University of South Alabama in the Office of Development for the Mitchell Cancer Institute and was employed as a legal secretary for the District Attorney’s Office in Georgia.

NEW BASEBALL COMPLEX

Make sure you attend 2015 ballgames in the newly-completed baseball and softball complex at Bishop State.

THE KEFLYN X. REED HONORS DAY CONVOCATION

The Keflyn X. Reed Honors Day Convocation was held April 29, 2014, on the Baker-Gaines Central Campus. The Convocation is always an exciting time of the year as the time to recognize outstanding students from the divisions or departments in the academic and technical schools. We are proud to honor our students for their hard work and dedication in reaching their academic goals and aspirations. Other recognitions were given to students participating in extracurricular activities. The Convocation also places the highlight on faculty and staff members who received various college degrees during the year. Congratulations were extended to Simon Volon Alexander, Mathematics Tutor in the Learning Center, who received the Master of Science Degree from the University of South Alabama.
The 2014 spring commencement was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at the Mobile Municipal Auditorium. Approximately 413 students received various certificates, awards, and degrees. The commencement address was provided by Dr. Rod Risley, the Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa. Others receiving outstanding recognition included the recipient of the President’s Outstanding Student Award, Justin Wells, and the recipient of the Green-Knight Technical Award of Excellence, Alex Seals. We were also honored to present to the Class of 1964 their 50th Year Golden Diploma from Bishop State Community College.

SPRING GRADUATION

The 2014 spring commencement was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at the Mobile Municipal Auditorium. Approximately 413 students received various certificates, awards, and degrees. The commencement address was provided by Dr. Rod Risley, the Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa. Others receiving outstanding recognition included the recipient of the President’s Outstanding Student Award, Justin Wells, and the recipient of the Green-Knight Technical Award of Excellence, Alex Seals. We were also honored to present to the Class of 1964 their 50th Year Golden Diploma from Bishop State Community College.

SUMMER GRADUATION

Bishop State Community College presented its fourth summer graduation ceremony on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 in the Yvonne Kennedy Auditorium on the Baker-Gaines Central Campus. Approximately 133 students participated in the exercise and received either the associate in arts, associate in science, associate in applied science degrees or various certificates. The Speaker for the ceremony was scheduled to be Susan Yvette Price, J.D., the Deputy Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, who was unable to attend. In her absence, President James Lowe, Jr., presented a powerful message of motivation and encouragement to the student body.

ALABAMA GULF COAST HEART WALK

To help the American Heart Association reach its goal of improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20% and reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease and stroke by 20%, the Alabama Gulf Coast Heart Walk was held Saturday, September 13, 2014. Students from Bishop State, President James Lowe, and Dr. Hazzard participated in this worthwhile event in memory of AJ Sharma, a former Bishop State employee.
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)
STRONG START
First Time Student Orientation

Activities in support of Bishop State’s QEP Program were held on the Main Campus and well attended by students, faculty, and administration. To introduce students to the knowledge and skills needed for educational and vocational success, help them learn time management techniques, and improve the learning environment, Strong Start – First Time Student Orientation (ORI101) will be offered in fall 2015.

VETERANS PROGRAM

Bishop State held a special program on November 10, 2014, to honor student veterans who served in all branches of the military. This program was led by Dr. Terry Hazzard and well attended by many students. Approximately 200 students of Bishop State are veterans and were honored at this program.

CARVER CAMPUS
NEW STUDENT CENTER

Under the leadership of Dr. Betty Leslie, the Carver Campus recently established a Student Center for its students. This area consist of tables, chairs, and other items important for enhanced student life activities. Additionally, we have established a concreted area with outdoor chairs and umbrellas next door to the culinary arts department. Both areas were designed to provide students with new venues for studying and socializing, of course.

FINANCIAL AID

Dr. Sam Chuks, Manager of the Office of Student Financial Aid and Veteran Services, and the members of his staff continue to encourage students to apply early to receive financial aid. Do not find yourself in a frustrating positions of not having your college funds available to you when classes start. Apply early and follow through on the financial aid process. Dr. Chuks and his team are available to assist you in any way possible. Avoid the long lines and prepare now for the upcoming semester.
Each new academic year, the athletics program is privileged to work with student athletes at BSCC. The past year, BSCC provided over 90 scholarships to young men and women in the areas of softball, baseball, basketball, and cheerleading. The goal of the athletics department is to provide each student-athletic with the opportunity to grow academically and athletically.

Academically, seven student-athletes graduated during 2013-2014. Another five student-athletes are slated to complete their course work for graduation in December 2014. More than 10 students are on track to complete an associate’s degree in May 2015. Each of these students has made an indelible imprint in the life of Bishop State. There were also several other outstanding individual accomplishments.

Meghan Chambers - Crowned Miss Bishop State 2013
Maci Chambers - First Runner-Up to Miss Bishop State 2013
Shundestria Stevens - Member of 1st Team All-Conference & 2nd Team All Region
Dominique McQuitery - 2014 Miss Varsity
Congratulations to Candy Koger, Admissions Clerk, who retired after 28 years of service.

Best Wishes to Audrey King, who retired from Bishop State after 42 years of service in the Office of Financial Aid Office.

Congratulations to Dr. Victoria Perry, recipient of the 2014 Community College Transfer Trendsetter Award sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa National Headquarters during the PTK International Convention in Orlando, Florida, in April 2014.

Best Wishes to Wanda Daniels, Assistant to the Dean of Students and the College Registrar, who retired after 27 years and five months effective November 1, 2014.

Kudos to Hettie Smith, Secretary to the Dean of Students, who retired after 30 years of service. She will be relocating to Tampa, Florida.

Congratulations to Angela Blackman, who retired after 28 years as Secretary to the Office of Admission and Enrollment Management.

Best Wishes to Audrey King, who retired from Bishop State after 42 years of service in the Office of Financial Aid Office.

Congratulations to Dr. Victoria Perry, recipient of the 2014 Community College Transfer Trendsetter Award sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa National Headquarters during the PTK International Convention in Orlando, Florida, in April 2014.

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MEN’S BASEBALL ACHIEVEMENTS: Joshua Shelley — Attending University of Mobile & Playing Baseball
Byron Fillingim — Attending the University of Mobile & Playing Baseball • Alex Olivier - Attending Northland College & Playing Baseball

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
Bishop State Community College men’s and women’s basketball teams had fantastic years and had the opportunity to participate in the annual Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) tournament.
The ADA/DSS office is an integral part of Bishop State Community College and continues to serve disabled students with care, compassion and tools needed for academic success. In particular, Bishop State’s ADA Coordinator, Vivian Williams, diligently prepares to meet the changing needs of disabled students through the use of up-to-date technology. Future services to be offered in the ADA/DSS office include: captioning services, e-books, and Dragon (a speech-to-text program for students who need assistance with typing papers or completing work for class).

Current types of accommodations through the ADA/DSS office include: extended testing time, reader services, adaptive equipment, note takers, textbooks in alternative formats, and much, much more. Simply drop by the office to see how the staff can help you be more successful in your college courses.

The Office of ADA/DSS has a newly-updated Handbook that can answer many of the questions you might have about accommodations and services designed to aid you in your program of study.