On Friday, April 11, 2014, Fisk University will install her 15th president, Dr. H. James Williams. The Investiture Ceremony begins promptly at 10 o'clock in the Clinton B. Fisk Memorial Chapel. Following the ceremony, at 12 noon, the Board of Trustees will host a luncheon in honor of the President in the Henderson A. Johnson Gymnasium. Both events are open to the public.

Dr. Williams earned a B.S. Degree in Accounting, at North Carolina Central University, a M.B.A. Degree in Accounting at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), a Ph.D. Degree in Accounting, at the University of Georgia (Athens), and J.D. and LL.M. (Taxation) Degrees, at Georgetown University Law Center. Dr. Williams is also a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant, with a wealth of practical experiences, having worked in the public accounting profession and in the legal profession (as a corporate and tax attorney).

During his career, Dr. Williams has made significant contributions to the Academy, receiving recognition for his outstanding teaching at Georgetown University, and three “Teacher of the Year Awards” at Florida A&M University and Texas Southern University. For his work with students and student organizations, Dr. Williams has also received numerous recognitions and awards. His research work is widely published in scholarly and practitioner journals, including Accounting and Finance, Technovation, Issues in Accounting Education, Advances in Quantitative Analysis of Finance and Accounting, The Journal of Accountancy, The Practical Accountant, The Journal of Small Business Management, and The CPA Journal.

Finally, Dr. Williams serves on the Board of Directors of Fifth Third Bank and Nashville Public Radio. He is a member of the advisory group for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority’s Air Service Coalition, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, The Economic Club of Nashville, Co-Chair of the Higher Education Leaders for the AMP Project, and the HBCU-Educational Testing Service Steering Committee. In addition to being a member of Leadership Nashville’s Class of 2013-2014, Dr. Williams is Co-Chair of the Education Advisory Council of the National Museum of African American Music, and a member of the Chi Boule Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities, The Alternative Board of Nashville, The Steering Committee, The Rotary Club of Nashville and the University Club of Nashville.

Dr. Williams hails from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is an avid reader of American history and enjoys golf and sports. He and his wife, Carole Campbell Williams, have two adult children.
Fisk’s First Lady Adopts Beautification, Preservation, and Restoration Platform

Fisk’s First Lady, Carole Campbell Williams, has adopted a platform of Beautification, Preservation, and Restoration of the Fisk University Campus and Surrounding North Nashville Community.

The platform of the First Lady is a powerful one! Through the beautification, preservation, and restoration of the Fisk campus, the University’s image will be enhanced immeasurably. This one woman will make a difference in the University, the city of Nashville, the state of Tennessee, and the Nation.

Since arriving in Nashville, Fisk’s First Lady has conducted six successful Beautification Project Days with Fisk partner, The Home Depot. The focus has been on the campus grounds, the Little Theatre, the Clinton B. Fisk Memorial Chapel and the Henderson A. Johnson Gymnasium.

She created Etiquette Dining Training for all students, partnering with Thompson Hospitality, to bring back “Fisk’s White Linen Dinners”. Carole is active in Habitat for Humanity – Women Build 2014, which is building two homes in the north Nashville community. As a runner, she has supported the Steps of Success 5K program for scholarships, as well as, the St. Jude Country Music Marathon. She is now working to create career and internship opportunities at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital for Fisk students. In March of 2014, she was appointed to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Presidential Spouses and Partners Task Force for 2014-2018.

Prior to coming to Fisk, Carole served as the Finance Manager for the State Headquarters of the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC). She was responsible for financial operations of the State Headquarters and the twelve-region network, including budgeting, reporting, funding, and audit oversight, as well as federal and state compliance and reporting. She also served as the contract administrator and liaison with Grand Valley State University financial and grants management operations.

Before she joined the SBTDC, Carole served as a federal grant manager for Grand Valley State University. She also possesses seven years of experience as a university accounting instructor in North Carolina. Finally, Carole possesses ten years of national and international corporate finance experience with IBM, in New York, Washington, DC, Zurich, Switzerland, and Tokyo, Japan.

The First Lady is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Grant Manager, who earned an M.B.A. from Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, GA) and a B.B.A. from The University of Michigan – Flint. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her past community service activities include a three-year term as the Treasurer of the Michigan Girl Scouts Shore-to-Shore Council and two terms as Treasurer for the Grand Rapids Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Williams hometown is Flint, Michigan.

Married to H. James Williams, the University’s 15th President, they are the parents of two adult children.
Inauguration of Dr. H. James Williams
15th President of Fisk University

Thursday, April 10, 2014 – Sunday, April 13, 2014

Overview

Thursday, April 10, 2014

1:00 p.m. Honors Convocation (open to public)
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Juan Gilbert
Fisk Memorial Chapel

3:00 p.m. Reception for Honors Convocation Honorees and Donors
Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery

Friday, April 11, 2014

7:30 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast (breakfast available at 7 pm; $25 per person)
Appleton Room of Jubilee Hall

9:45 a.m. Procession to Fisk Memorial Chapel

10:00 a.m. Investiture Ceremony (open to public)
Fisk Memorial Chapel

12:00 p.m. Trustees’ Luncheon in honor of the President (open to public)
Henderson A. Johnson Gymnasium

Saturday, April 12, 2014

6:00 p.m. Conversation with Lee Daniels (tickets @ $150 per person)
Interviewer: Willie Geist of NBC Today Show

7:00 p.m. Reception

8:00 p.m. President’s Scholarship Gala (dinner, entertainment and dancing - $150 per person; table @ $1,500; premier table @ $2,500)
Emcees: Kym Whitley & Jonathan Martin
Keynote Speaker: Lee Daniels
Entertainment: Fisk Jubilee Singers®, DeeDee Bridgewater; dancing to Julius Fisher and Genius Band
Omni Hotel, Legends Ballroom

Sunday, April 13, 2014

9:30 a.m. Fisk Family Worship Service
Fisk Memorial Chapel

THE FISK RENAISSANCE: Fulfilling the Promise
Speaker for Annual Honors Convocation

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Fisk Memorial Chapel

“Research with Societal Impacts: Voting Rights Through Technology”

JUAN E. GILBERT, PH.D.
Presidential Endowed Chair in Computing
Chair of the Human-Centered Computing Division in Clemson University

Abstract. In this keynote, Dr. Gilbert will discuss the career opportunities for Fisk graduates and their national peers, and how computational thinking and research applied to societal challenges can help transform our world. His particular example will be how research in voting technologies is changing the way people vote in the U.S.A.

Subsequent to the debacle of the 2000 U.S. presidential election, it became abundantly clear that America’s archaic voting system was in dire need of a major overhaul. In 2002, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was created to provide all citizens equal access to participate in the electoral process, regardless of ability. Dr. Gilbert testified before the Congress on the Bipartisan Electronic Voting Reform Act of 2008 for his innovative work in electronic voting.

Short Biography

Dr. Gilbert’s research spans spoken language systems, advanced learning technologies, Culturally Relevant Computing, and database mining. The impact of his research is manifest in his significant publication, speaking and funding successes.

Dr. Gilbert has been named one of the 50 most important African-Americans in Technology, a national role model by Minority Access Inc., Master of Innovation by Black Enterprise magazine, a Modern-Day Technology Leader by the Black Engineer of the Year Award Conference, the Pioneer of the Year by the National Society of Black Engineers and recipient of the Black Data Processing Association (BDPA) Epsilon Award for Outstanding Technical Contribution.

Dr. Gilbert is a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies. In 2002, Dr. Gilbert was named one of the nation’s top African-American Scholars by Diverse Issues in Higher Education. In 2013, the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association at Auburn University named their Distinguished Lecture Series in honor of Dr. Gilbert.
Recent Grant Awards to Fisk University Faculty

The following list summarizes recent grant awards to Fisk University faculty.

By Dr. Amelia E. Hunter

Fisk University was recently awarded $2,007,894 for a five-year project by the National Institutes of Health Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC U*STAR) Program that will provide selected students two years of tuition and a stipend to support their career interest in pursuing a Ph.D. in an area of biomedical science. The goal of the Fisk University MARC U*STAR Program is to develop Fisk undergraduate students for successful application to and graduation from highly selective Ph.D. biomedical training programs via several complementary strategies, including augmentation of the undergraduate curriculum, creating a Fisk Community of Biomedical Scholars to support student mentoring and exposure to careers in the sciences, and additional faculty development for embedding authentic research into course-associated laboratories. Dr. Lee Limbird, Professor of Biochemistry and Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Business, directs the program, with the engagement of several Fisk faculty and faculty from other institutions who are partnering with Fisk to provide broad summer biomedical research opportunities for Fisk students.

Dr. Richard Mu, Physics Professor, was awarded a $635,990 grant from the Department of Defense/ONR for his work on training student researchers in the field of Interfacial Polarization in Multilayered Dielectric Films and Polymer Nanodielectrics. The project partners with Case Western Reserve University.

The National Science Foundation awarded $394,952 to Fisk University for its TIPS: Transforming Computer Science Education using “upside down” curriculum, course imbedded projects, integration with other STEM disciplines, and peer mentors. Dr. Sajid Hussain is the Project Director of the three-year program. The program’s goal is the transformation of Computer Science education at Fisk University in order to increase the number and retention of Computer Science majors, increase their graduation rates and ultimate entrance into Computer Science careers.

The National Science Foundation through its Division of Human Resources Development’s HBCU Program awarded Fisk University $399,928 for the Targeted Infusion Undergrad Bioinformatics and Biomathematics Track at Fisk University to enhance Undergraduate STEM Education, Research, and Future Careers. Dr. Sanjukta Hota is the Principal Investigator with Drs. Brian Nelms and Lei Qian serving as Co-Principal Investigators.

National Science Foundation awarded the University $130,000 for ARI-MA: Realizing high performance inorganic scintillators at low cost. Dr. Arnold Burger is the project investigator for the project.

The University was also awarded a $107,338 grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant is in support of the project entitled The Urban Community Project (U-CPS) to Stimulate Interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Careers. S. Ray Bullock, Ph. D., Research Professor of Physics at Fisk University serves as the Project Director and S. Kenneth Hargrove, Ph. D., Dean of the College of Engineering at Tennessee State University is the Assistant Director. The project goal is to expand an urban community initiative for exposing, encouraging, and preparing underrepresented students to consider STEM/ICT occupations. Through a structured professional development program for middle/high school teachers that includes the development and deployment of innovative teaching strategies, Fisk hopes to spark the active engagement of teachers, students, parents, and community centers to promote participation in the program goals. This program includes a partnership teaming Fisk University, with Tennessee State University, selected middle and high schools and community organizations in Nashville.

Fisk University, as a subcontractor of Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, Prime Contractor to the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration, was awarded a $100,000 contract to perform investigative services of activator co-doping for the purpose of increasing the light yield of Sr2:Eu2+ crystals; a study of the effects of activator co-doping on the decay times and scintillator non-proportionality and other effects of co-doping as it relates to crystals. Dr. Arnold Burger serves the Principal Investigator on this subcontract.

The National Science Foundation through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Underrepresented Program (HBCU-UP) encourages innovative solutions to combat the severe underrepresentation of black students in physics and the geosciences at undergraduate level. The Fisk University Implementation Project: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Strategies for Accelerated Mathematics graduate level. The Fisk University Implementation Project: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Strategies for Accelerated Mathematics confidence, Deeper Learning and Course-embedded Re-
Fisk University Rocket Team Says
It's not rocket science!

By Bryan Kent Wallace

The Fisk University rocket team has embarked on a three goal mission. The first goal is to improve achievement amongst its college students by engaging in project-based learning. By engaging in the activities of designing, building, and launching medium and high-powered rockets, on astronomy, robotics, and rocketry at any given school. During school visits, the Fisk rocket team tries to give presentations and science demonstrations that complement the curriculum that the teacher is presenting at that particular time. This is intended to be value added to the engage student’s educational experience. The goal is to enhance achievement in students as requested for the Stratford high school engineering day, the Metro public school career fair, and several visits to various elementary schools around the city. The rocket team is treated like science rock stars by the youth. The Fisk University rocket team students arrive at schools wearing NASA flight suits. These uniforms have had a positive effect upon student’s perceptions. The first thing K-12 students ask is have you been to the moon? Even to this day, the symbol of NASA inspires thoughts in youth of space travel and visiting other worlds. The Fisk rocket team tries to harness this energy and imagination by engaging the students and exciting topics that challenge their minds and their aspirations.

Recently, a teacher from Goodlettsville elementary contacted the rocket team with a request. She had a student that was building a rocket for a project, and was having some difficulty getting the rocket to work properly. After consulting with some colleagues, a teacher who once taught at another school said she knew of a person at Fisk University who did rockets. The colleague recommended that she contact him and see if there was something that he could do. That Prof. came up to the school and met with the young man. They discuss the design and the professor made recommendations for how he should change his rocket. He also volunteered the rocket team services by running computer models to see what would be the optimal design for his rocket. They would then make recommendations to the young man so he could finish this project. Needless to say the teacher and the young man were ecstatic that the team would take time out of their schedule to help a young man in elementary school.

The word of the Fisk rocket team spreads far beyond the borders of Tennessee. The head of the Fisk rocket team, Professor Kent Wallace has been invited to speak about the accomplishments of the Fisk rocket team as far south as Fort Lauderdale, Florida and as far north as the Boston, Massachusetts area. On a visit to a high school/middle school in Millbury Massachusetts Professor Wallace walked into the cafeteria to start the science club meeting and once again, like in Millbury, all of the students erupted in applause and cheering. The Fisk University rocket team believes it’s not rocket science. These students are clamoring for role models, projects, and a sense of accomplishment. Fisk University is answering the call.

THE FISK RENAISSANCE: Fulfilling the Promise
The NMSG Family at Fisk University
from a grad student's perspective

By Daniel Mayo

I was welcomed into the Nanomaterials & Sensors Group (NMSG) in the Life & Physical Sciences Department at Fisk University as an undergraduate for a summer research experience for undergraduates program in 2008. The lead professor for the group, Dr. Richard Mu, ensured all of the students had an exciting and rewarding experience conducting cutting-edge research. The focus of the NMSG group is to seek the fundamental understanding of how energy may be stored, converted, and transported within nanostructured materials for use in novel and high-efficiency devices. In addition, the NMSG group has a proven track record for effectively communicating research progress with an average of ten publications a year for the past twenty years.

Being able to continue working with the NMSG group was one of the primary reasons that I selected Fisk University for my Master’s program in physics. Dr. Mu assisted in the selection of a research project that both complemented existing research at Vanderbilt University and was in an area in which I was personally interested. By carefully aligning my Master’s research with ongoing research at Vanderbilt, the transition to my PhD research has been seamless. I am also one of four students who have continued to conduct extensive research in the NMSG labs while pursuing a PhD in physics or interdisciplinary materials science at Vanderbilt University.

I am currently working towards my PhD with a research focus on methods to improve the efficiency of light emitting materials for use in devices such as LEDs. My experiences within the NMSG group at Fisk have been instrumental in helping me to grow into a dedicated and successful researcher. I have had the opportunity to present my research at conferences across the country and am excited to continue my research experience with Fisk University throughout my time at Vanderbilt University and into my future career.

More information about the NMSG group is available at the website http://www.nmsg.org.

My Fisk Journey

By Tony Girder

I am currently a junior art major from Memphis, TN. Before I share my story, I would like to thank God, my family, high school alumni and my closet friends for supporting me on this journey.

I wish I could start my freshman year over because I missed a lot of opportunities that would have helped me transition sooner than later. Those experiences, which occurred during my sophomore year, helped to make me the young man that I am today because Fisk has changed me in a way I would never have imagined. To be here at Fisk as a student is quite an amazing accomplishment for me. Many young African American men from Memphis, TN chose to do the opposite, which puts them at risk of shortened lives.

There's a dark light shown on my city, often featured on “48 Hours”, a show dedicated to finding criminals, who have usually committed murder. I want to change the image of my city and prove that there are young ambitious African American men who want to become the next John Lewis, Lee Daniels, or L.M. Collins. I chose to leave Memphis and come to Fisk to escape my drug stricken neighborhood and to explore my options of traveling the world to be open-minded about a country full of ideas and write my own ticket to success.

Success is what you make it! I have chosen to be successful because there is no other option or path to travel. I’m very creative, which allows me to prepare seriously for the business world awaiting my arrival when I graduate. My Fisk journey is supported and rooted with the love of my family, God’s protection, and my future alma mater’s guidance.

Fisk has been the “Mother” I needed at times - to pull me through during the rough hours of the night, because I know, without rhyme or reasons that the Fisk family cares about my outcomes and growth. This university has taught me to stand up for the rights of others, to be a mentor to incoming freshmen, and to seek strong role models on campus, who will keep me accountable. I have learned to walk upright like a gentleman and to hold my head high because I know that my days on campus are drawing to a close. I’m like a sponge absorbing all that’s before me and walking around dripping wet with information to keep from sinking in the deep valley of failure as a young African American man in this nation.

My Fisk Journey

By Jarrett Robinson

My name is Jarrett Robinson. I am a junior, majoring in psychology at Fisk University. I am from Indianapolis, Indiana. Since I have been an undergraduate student at Fisk, I have learned to value diversity, excellence, teamwork, accountability, integrity, leadership, and service. I’m involved in various organizations on the campus, while handling a rigorous schedule. I’ve maintained a 3.58 grade point average.

One of my greatest achievements is available at the website http://www.nmsg.org.

Inauguration of Fisk’s 15th President • Fisk University
Dr. Sajid Hussain joined Fisk University in 2009, as Associate Professor Computer Science and served as Chair of the Business Administration Department from 2010 to 2013. Before joining Fisk, he taught at Acadia University in Canada from 2005 to 2009 as Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science. Dr. Hussain obtained PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba, 2004, where he also taught as full-time Instructor, 2000 – 2005.

Dr. Hussain is investigating advanced algorithms, efficient communication protocols and security techniques for mobile, ubiquitous, and pervasive applications. He is interested in bioinformatics, smart homes, and industry automation. The outcomes of his research and scholarly activities are published in several peer-reviewed competitive journals and conference proceedings (80 in total): 12 journal articles, 5 book chapters, 48 conference/workshop papers, and 15 journal editorials. Further, as a faculty advisor he has mentored undergraduate students to present their work and national and regional conferences (32 in total): NCUR, BKX/NIS, Richard Tapia), won prizes (1st and 2nd places at BKX/NIS 2013). His students have obtained prestigious internships (Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, CMU, USC, Oak Ridge Labs). Samuel Adeogun, sophomore freshman, attended Programming for Biology Course at Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory; the course is designed for graduate and doctoral students. He was the first ever undergraduate student to attend the course. Similarly, another student, Anjolaoluwa Olayemi, extend his course project in junior year and the work is published in Springer Journal of Personal and Ubiquitous Computing. Dr. Hussain strongly believe in the concept of ‘‘Cultivating Scholars & Leaders One by One’’.

Dr. Hussain is PI of NSF HBCU-UP/TIP grant, 2013 – 2016, where he is working on transforming Computer Science (CS) curriculum and developing effective pedagogical techniques to create awareness, interest and success in CS as a discipline. The specific objectives are to: 1) Introduce computational thinking in CS courses for non-majors; 2) Introduce ‘appealing’ tools in introductory courses for CS majors, and foster their use in course-embedded projects; 3) Integrate computing into targeted mathematics and physics ‘cognate’ courses in the CS major pathway; and 4) Utilize peer mentoring/coaching to foster deeper learning of computer science in targeted CS, mathematics, and physics courses to serve as ‘coaches’ in course-assigned projects.

Dr. Hussain has received funding from several companies and foundations in order to promote Computational Thinking at Fisk University. He received UNCF/Google Computer Science Initiative Grant to establish pervasive and ubiquitous lab in order to strengthen computer science program at Fisk. Similarly, as a co-investigator for HP Catalyst grant, he established virtual labs and online courses for STEM+ disciplines. He received NCWIT seed funds to reinforce IT-based summer camps and computing-related programs. Dr. Hussain has extensive expertise in designing innovative techniques for curricular development. He has organized workshop sessions for innovative teaching techniques at Annual Sloan-C International Conference on Asynchronous Learning, 2009-2012, as well as Sloan-C Conference on Emerging Technologies for Online Learning, 2013. For distance Learning initiative of Fisk, he was the liaison in training 15 faculty members for Sloan-C Teaching Certificate (1 year training).

As a Senior Member of IEEE, he is very active in organizing activities related to professional development. He has served as Guest Editor for more than 20 journals and he is on several editorial boards (including International Journal of Telemedicine, Pubmed). He has co-organized more than 40 international conferences and served on more than 150 technical program committees for conferences.

Since 2010, he is the leading chair of Fisk Annual Research Symposium, where undergraduate and graduate students share their research results with the university community; the work is evaluated by internal and external judges and best awards are given in different categories. In 2014 at Fisk Research Symposium, there are more than 100 posters, oral presentations, and demonstrations from Fisk students and faculty members. As the Symposium program chair, he organized the event and developed a web app to share symposium abstracts and activities.

At home, he enjoys cooking and yard work. He brought his favorite dish (Biryani: Rice and spicy chicken) on several occasions at Fisk University. He has taken part in many full and half marathon races. He is blessed with a beautiful family: Sadia Dar (wife), who is a family physician at America’s Family Doctors (Smyrna), Omar (son), and Zoya (daughter). In short, Dr. Hussain is a proud member of Fisk family!
Enactus Team Places Second in Quarter Final Round in National Competition

The Fisk University Enactus (formally SIFE) Team comprising of Enactus President, Daniel Lee, Project Chairman Bruce Kelly, Presentation Coordinator Clementina Ojie, Vice President Tiffany Thomas, Executive Assistant Jade Hooker, Secretary Azaria Robinson, and their Sam Walton Fellow and Adviser Dr. Stafford Cargill, represented Fisk University at the Enactus National Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 31-April 3, 2014, against 270 other champion teams from around the nation. After a series of competitions, Fisk University’s Enactus Team placed 2nd in the quarter final round. The Team brought home two trophies from this competition, and has progressed further than any other Enactus Team in the 13-year history of the organization at Fisk University. Due to their outstanding performance at the competition all six members of the team received “on the spot” job offers from sponsoring companies and competition judges for positions ranging from entry level to regional vice president. Please join me in congratulating this amazing group of students!

If you are interested in learning more about Enactus, please contact current president Daniel Lee by email at mr.daniel.r.lee@gmail.com or by phone at (513) 418-7547, or Dr. Stafford Cargill at scargill@fisk.edu or by phone at (615) 481-2550. Feel free to join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the seminar room of Park Johnson.
Fisk University • Inauguration of Fisk’s 15th President

Fisk Renaissance
The historic university makes progress a priority.

Reprinted from usairwaysmag.com February 2014

Social critic and NAACP co-founder, W.E.B. DuBois was as committed to progress as his alma mater, Fisk University. That’s why for 21 years, Fisk has made Princeton Review’s list of the Best Southeastern Colleges.

Fisk is also the highest ranked HBCU on Forbes’ 2013 list, and is no. 146 out of more than 1,400 liberal arts colleges, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 Tier One list of “Best Colleges and Universities.”

With inspirational alumni like civil rights leader and U.S. representative John Lewis as well as two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr. David Levering Lewis, poet Nikki Giovanni, award-winning medical CEO John Bluford III, business scholar Dr. Hassell McClellan, and finance expert Barbara Landers Bowles, Fisk University is passionate about the development of its students. After graduation, they become some of the nation’s most successful scientists, authors, politicians, business leaders, and artists.

Since the university places a large emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, Fisk graduates attain more Ph.D. degrees in the natural sciences than African American graduates of any other institution.

Meanwhile, Fisk students excel in the arts as well.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers®, an a cappella group that dates back to 1871, were awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2008, the highest honor given by the U.S. government for artistic merit.

Looking across the campus, one structure stands out above the rest. It is Jubilee Hall, and as the first permanent building constructed in the South for the education of African Americans, it’s a symbol of equality. Under the leadership of Dr. H. James Williams, Fisk University lives that legacy of progress each day.

THE FISK RENAISSANCE: Fulfilling the Promise
Academic Excellence and Student Performance

By Tiffany Griffin-Minor

Academic Excellence and Student Performance (AESP), a unit of the Division of Enrollment Management, has the mission to oversee, coordinate, and manage the university-wide initiative to impact student retention, persistence, and graduation rates. To achieve academic excellence, AESP partners with all areas offering diverse student support services at Fisk, including the Counseling Center, L.E.A.D. Program, Living Learning Centers, Mathematics Laboratory, Reading Specialist and Writing Center.

AESP provides academic advisement to students who are differently-abled, have not declared a major, and are experiencing academic challenges. AESP offers academic skills workshops, tutorial services, supplemental instruction, a lecture series and other interventions to enhance student performance. AESP’s focus on registration has increased overall student retention.

The Counseling Center’s individual and group counseling services contribute to the personal development of all students. The director maintains a safe and

academically conductive environment by committing to client confidentiality, ethical behavior and counseling practices that reflect current research.

The Leadership Enrichment and Academic Development (LEAD) Program, a federally-funded TRIO program, promotes academic achievement to increase the college graduation rates of first-generation and economically challenged students. LEAD provides grant-aid awards to qualified students; academic skills development work-shops; tutoring; peer study and mentoring groups; financial aid resources exploration; cultural enrichment programs; graduate school preparation; and personal, academic, and career counseling.

Each Living Learning Center (LLC) houses a lab to assist students in developing optimal competencies through tutorial services, structured study, discussion groups, workshops and coaching. LLC managers apprise AESP personnel of students’ progress to ensure that appropriate interventions are being implemented.

The Mathematics Lab tutors assist students at their point of need to become more proficient in mathematical reasoning and problem-solving. Student groups meet and discuss coursework among themselves or with their instructor in a facility equipped with mathematical software packages and technology-based tutorials and videos. In addition, through supplemental instruction sessions, students meet by course level to further their application of mathematical concepts.

The Writing Center assists students with all stages of their writing process, from brainstorming a topic to making final revisions; with research strategies; proper documentation of source information including MLA and APA documentation and creative writing. Utilizing this service, students learn the skills to create, revise, and edit their own writing.

The Reading Specialist provides assistance to students with reading comprehension, reading, note-taking, writing/composition and mathematics strategies.

AESP’s success is also dependent on its collaboration with Fisk faculty and positive working relationships with parents as needed.
Fisk Chapel Assistants Demonstrate Commitment in Diverse Initiatives

By Rev. Jason Curry

The Fisk Chapel Assistants demonstrate their commitment through participation in a variety of diverse initiatives, as follows:

Religious Emphasis Week is hosted by the Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.), an organization founded by Dean Curry in September of 2003. The mission of L.I.F.T. is 1) provide a forum for dialogue among students who are both leaders and representatives of religious denominations or organizations at Fisk, 2) enhance the religious life for students, faculty and administrators at Fisk, 3) promote tolerance and acceptance of the variety of different religious perspectives that exist at Fisk, and, 4) promote interfaith activities (e.g., panel discussions) that stimulate both critical and analytical discussions about issues affecting humanity (e.g., poverty).

The Fisk Memorial Chapel is proud to partner with Bread for the World in a national effort to end hunger. In their effort to end hunger, Bread for the World provides opportunities for concerned citizens to lobby members of congress for the purpose of encouraging them to support legislation that puts a circle of protection around poor and hungry people. Real and proposed budget cuts to programs such as SNAP (Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, formally known as food stamps), Head Start, meals to senior citizens, free lunches for improvised children negatively impact poor and hungry people.

The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants have been ardent supporters of Soles4Souls for several years. The sneakers and shoes that were collected for the year were distributed to impoverished families throughout the world. Recently, the Chapel has begun to donate clothing items to one of Soles4Souls’ auxiliary services called Clothes4Souls. The sneakers, shoes and clothing items pictured were collected by students throughout the entire academic year.
What Everyone Should Know About Fisk

Founded in 1866, Fisk University is the oldest institution of higher education in Nashville, Tennessee and will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2016. Fisk received a charter for the first chapter of The Phi Beta Kappa Society on a predominantly black campus in 1953. Fisk’s outstanding faculty and students continue to enhance the University’s national reputation for academic excellence that is validated year after year by the leading third party reviewers, as well as by the pool of talented applicants and the large percentage of alumni who complete graduate or professional degrees and become leaders and scholars in their fields.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) PROGRAMS

Fisk’s longstanding legacy of excellence is reinforced by its accomplishments in the 21st century, especially in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Business disciplines. Fisk remains the only historically black college or university (HBCU) ever to win the prestigious R&D 100 award, and to date has won four.

The Fisk-Vanderbilt Master’s-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program has produced five Ph.D. graduates in the past three years in physics, astronomy, and materials science disciplines in which African Americans and Latinos are underrepresented. As of 2006, no U.S. institution awards more master’s in physics degrees to African-American U.S. citizens than Fisk, which is also one of the top ten U.S. institutions awarding master’s in physics degrees to U.S. citizens of any ethnic background. In 2012, the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master’s-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program graduated six Ph.D. recipients in the physical sciences and is on track to graduate this number each year.

In September 2012, the National Science Foundation released its most recent study ranking U.S. higher education programs by their expenditures in research and development. Fisk University’s research in the physical sciences ranks in the top 3 percent while Fisk’s overall research ranks in the top 8 percent among all U.S. universities and colleges.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Business Administration has a reputation for producing alumni who hold top positions in their fields. These include entrepreneurs George Russell Curtis, Sr. ’56, Karl Turner ’77 and Jacquelyn Denton Alton ’66, sports agents and executives Carl Poston III ’77 and Kevin Poston ’81, Music World Entertainment Founding CEO Mathew Knowles ’75, hospital system executive Mark Chastang ’74, and past American Hospital Association Chairman and Cullen Graduate School of Management CEO John W. Bluford III ’71.

Among the many young alumni who have begun to make their marks are risk analysts Jenise Burks ’11 and Jordan West ’10, financial services professional James Horton ’06, accounting executive Dominique D’Antignac-Bell ’97, social media strategist Rob Wingfield ’00, foreign services officer William Campbell ’07, and human resources professional Johnathan Montgomery ’99.

The department’s ENACTUS organization (formerly SIFE) regularly wins regional competitions for their innovative projects that make a difference in the Nashville community while developing them into socially responsible business leaders. Fisk holds membership in the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The Department of Business Administration offers a minor in music business through a collaborative agreement with Belmont University. In addition, Fisk offers a joint program with the Cullen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University. In five years, students earn a Fisk B.S. degree and a Vanderbilt Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree.

NATIONAL RANKINGS

In Forbes’ 2013 rankings of the 650 Top Colleges, Fisk University ranks #188, the fourth highest ranked institution in Tennessee, ahead of the University of Tennessee, Belmont University, Christian Brothers University, East Tennessee State University and Tennessee State University. Fisk also ranked #134 among all private institutions in the nation and #34 among all institutions in the South. Fisk is the highest ranked historically black college/university on the list.

The 2013 U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges and Universities” ranked Fisk in Tier One at #146 of more than 1,400 Liberal Arts Institutions in the United States. Only four HBCUs are ranked in Tier One. Fisk is ranked #4 on the list of “The Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).”

The Washington Monthly, September 2013, ranked Fisk as the “#1 Liberal Arts HBCU in Research” in its “Top Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities.” Fisk ranks in the top 10 percent of the 254 leading liberal arts institutions based on social mobility, research and service.

For the 21st consecutive year, the Princeton Review included Fisk on its 2013 list of “The Best Southeastern Colleges.”

FALL 2013 ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is 646, a five percent increase over last year. The average GPA for the Class of 2017 is 3.2.

Fisk’s entering students’ average SAT score is 1520, which is higher than 1500, the national average score on the new SAT and of 1278 for African American college entrants. Fisk students’ average ACT score is 21.0, which is higher than the national average of 20.9 for all students and 16.9 for African American college entrants.

Among Fisk’s Class of 2017, biology is the most popular major, followed by business, psychology, physics and chemistry.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Fisk’s persistence rate is 85 percent. Fisk’s six-year graduation rate is 54 percent.

Over 17 percent of Fisk students are selected for internships, which is above the 9 percent national average for internship placements on college campuses.

Sixty-one percent of students who earn a Fisk degree enter graduate or professional school within one year of their graduation, ahead of the national average of 23 percent.

Fisk’s 2013 graduating class included six students who were inducted into The Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Fisk University
Awarded 4th R&D 100 Award

Fisk University’s LISe™: A High-Efficiency Thermal Neutron Detector has been selected by an independent judging panel and the editors of R&D Magazine as a recipient of a 2013 R&D 100 Award for its role in the development of more effective and economical neutron radiation detection sensors. Fisk is the only minority serving institution ever to win this prestigious recognition.

This is Fisk’s 4th R&D Award with previous awards in 1998, 2001 and 2010. Fisk is sharing this award with the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, both national facilities of the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge TN.

Fisk’s role in this innovative project is the growth and optimization of lithium indium diselenide (or LISe) crystals. The old generation of detectors is based on helium-3, a rare isotope of helium. In recent years, the world is experiencing a severe shortage of this gas as the demand for national security applications grew and exceeded the supply delivered by the nuclear weapon program. Research in the area of crystal growth at Fisk, a key element in radiation detection devices, has been ongoing for almost 27 years.

“We are extremely pleased to obtain this recognition. The new compact but highly sensitive device will keep our ports and major cities safe and secure. In addition, there are a myriad of applications that Dr. Arnold Burger, who leads the Fisk team, and their research partners are envisioning,” said Fisk President H. James Williams. “The groundbreaking discovery of these neutron detectors is critically important due to their applications in national security, as well as, in medicine, space, environmental science, oil logging, and other scientific and industrial applications.”

R&D 100 Awards, also nicknamed the “Oscars of Science”, identify the 100 most significant, newly introduced research and development advances in multiple scientific disciplines. The winning of an R&D 100 Award provides a mark of excellence known to industry, government, and academia as proof that the product is one of the most technologically significant national and international innovations of the year. Awards will be formally presented to the Fisk team at a ceremony in Orlando, Florida on November 7, 2013.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Arnold Burger at aburger@fisk.edu or (615) 329-8516.

Fisk Grad Student Helps Develop R&D 100 Winning Device

Fisk University won its fourth R&D 100 Award for a scientific discovery by the Fisk group and collaborators at Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The 2013 R&D 100 Banquet & Awards Presentation took place on November 7, 2013, at the Renaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld and Mr. Brenden Wiggins was one of the four representatives of the team who helped develop the winning innovation titled, “LISe™: A High-Efficiency Thermal Neutron Detector.”

Fisk’s role in this innovative project is the growth and optimization of lithium indium diselenide (or LISe) crystals, which was also the topic of Brenden’s master’s thesis. This is a great accomplishment and highlights the excellent research of the Materials Science and Applications Group (MSAG), founded and led by Dr. Arnold Burger, at Fisk University. Brenden is now a doctoral student in the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master’s-to-Ph.D. Program and a coop at Y-12. Brenden will continue to perform parts of his Ph.D. thesis research at Fisk/MSAG.
THE CURRICULUM INCLUDES:
Math, Science, Spanish, Creative Writing, Computer Animation, Music, African Dance and Drumming, Speech, Fitness, Fisk History, Black History, Life’s Little Lessons, and a variety of fun filled field trips and adventures

PRICING:
$630 covers the six week program. A non-refundable deposit of $50 is due by April 15 and the rest is due May 15.
For siblings, it’s $630 for the 1st child and $600 for each subsequent sibling.
If you have a younger sibling 5 years old, we will accept the younger sibling at the same fee.
For Fisk faculty, the fee is $600 for the first child and $580 for each subsequent sibling.
Payable by money order, online, debit card at cashier’s station or cashiers check made payable to Fisk University – Mini-College.

FOR MORE INFO:
Office of The Provost
1000 17th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37208
615-329-8681
pfentress@fisk.edu