

## CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Under the leadership of its president, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University continues to position itself as one of the premiere undergraduate teaching and research institutions in the world. As an affiliate of the United Methodist Church, Claflin also provides an environment to enhance the spiritual development and growth of its students.

The 2010-2011 academic year began on a high note with Claflin University recording an overall student enrollment of more than 1900 students. Currently, approximately 60 % of undergraduate and graduate students are female while about 40 percent are male. The University's diverse student population hails from 29 states and 16 countries around the world.

The University recently celebrated Religious Emphasis Week. Rev. Paul Dunn, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charleston, West Virginia delivered the keynote address on the theme, "We've Come This Far By Faith: The Importance of Remembering our Legacy," during the February 13-15 event.

The University will hold its annual Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina on March 31 – April 2, 2011. The theme for the academy is "For Such a Time As This: Women and Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Keynote speakers are Dr. JoAnne M. Terrell, Associate Professor of Ethics and Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. Robin Dease, Adjunct Professor at Claflin University and Pastor of the John Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina.

Claflin continues to exhibit its commitment to a legacy of educational excellence with a litany of notable accomplishments during the year. As a testament to the University's commitment to excellence, U.S. News and World Report ranked Claflin University the number one Best Buy in the "Great Schools at Great Prices" category among colleges and universities in the South in its 2011 edition.

The University's 37 percent alumni giving rate kept it at the top of the leader board, receiving a number one ranking among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and a number two ranking in Annual Alumni Giving among Top Tier Colleges in the South. U.S. News and World Report also ranked Claflin in the Top Ten among the Best Black Colleges in the nation. Forbes.com ranked Claflin as number two among Historically Black Colleges and Universities while The Washington Monthly ranked Claflin in the Top Ten on its list of the best baccalaureate colleges and universities in the nation.

As proof of the University's steadfast commitment to retaining and graduating top students, The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked the University number two for the best retention rate among "Very Selective HBCUs" while the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education ranked Claflin at number two for its graduation rate.

For a third straight year, Claflin University has been named on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest acknowledgement a university can receive for its community service efforts. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Claflin students logged more than 45,000 hours of community service to 66 local agencies.

Claflin University's world-class faculty continues to conduct cutting-edge research to include prostate cancer, breast cancer, diabetes and obesity. The University has opened a new Molecular Science Research Center that houses state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and classrooms for the University's research and outreach efforts. This 14,000 square foot facility will enable the University to train students to become certified forensic scientists and assist local law enforcement agencies by allowing them to analyze DNA samples taken from crime scenes. The University also received a \$4 million Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency grant to further its biofuel research projects, and Claflin Professor Dr. Nan Ding received national recognition for her research in nuclear waste remediation.

The University served as a co-host to the 57th annual National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP) Conference in Columbia on Feb. 9, 2011. NASAP is an organization that aims to be on the leading edge of issues and solutions impacting student affairs representatives at historically black colleges and universities.

Claflin University's success story continues to attract the support of national corporations, foundations and agencies throughout public and private sectors. The Office of Research and Undergraduate Research received funding for an infrastructure grant in the amount of \$108,000 to pursue a strategic set of initiatives that will serve to strengthen the University's comprehensive undergraduate research program. The University became a recipient of the \$100,000 "Walmart Minority Student Success Award" aimed at supporting first generation college students, and the 2010 Claflin Golf Classic, which is held annually, raised more than \$50,000 for student scholarships.

Claflin University is very proud of these and other accomplishments which continue to distinguish it as an institution of excellence. The University looks to the future as it embarks on its vision to train promising young men and women to be visionary leaders in a highly competitive global society.