

## CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

In its 142<sup>nd</sup> year, Claflin University launched the 2011-2012 academic year with a record enrollment and the prospect of another highly successful year of collaborative and strategic efforts to move the University to higher levels of recognition and distinction from a global perspective.

Undergirded by the triumvirate of teaching, research and service, the University's enrollment reached an all-time high of 1961 students from 29 states and Washington, D.C. and 16 foreign countries. These students are engaged with a faculty and staff devoted and determined to ensure their success in their chosen field of study.

Led by the dynamic leadership of its eighth president Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Claflin University had reasons to celebrate significant achievements during the year. Claflin received reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A key component of the reaffirmation process was the institution's presentation of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled "Panther STEPS: Students In Transition Engaged and Preparing for Success." The plan targets students in their initial year of matriculation and furnishes them with a strong foundation of skills and competencies necessary to complete their college degrees and be productive, successful citizens competing in a global society.

Claflin continued to be recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the "Best Liberal Arts Colleges" in the nation. In its 2012 edition, the publication ranked Claflin number one in annual alumni giving. Claflin's rate of 43 percent topped the nation's historically black colleges and universities. In that same report, Claflin was reclassified from the South Region and all its rankings are now based nationally. Only four other institutions in South Carolina are ranked national liberal arts colleges by the publication.

Claflin University continued to gain national recognition for advancements in research. Claflin biology professor, Dr. Nicholas Panasik, was awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award, which includes a grant of \$750,000.

International exposure was achieved for the University on the Fox News Channel, New York. In his "Beyond the Dream" segment featured on the "America's News Headquarters" newscast, reporter Kelly Wright, over the course of the year, aired segments on the University. The segments ranged from the visionary leadership of President Tisdale to the University's Leadership Development Center and Honor's College and to the national accomplishments of distinguished alumni photographer and civil rights archivist Cecil Williams and artist Dr. Leo Twiggs.

The spiritual life of the University remained vigorous. Claflin continued to hold weekly one-hour worship services on Sunday mornings. The worship service consists of music from the Claflin University Gospel Choir and inspirational messages delivered by members of the ministerial staff from area United Methodist Churches as well as other denominations.

As Claflin continues to value and preserve its connection to the United Methodist Church, the University held the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Granville Hicks Leadership Academy for Laity and Clergy. The theme for this special University two-day event was "The Church as a Model for Ethical Leadership for Our Nation." The Rev. Granville Hicks, after whom the academy is named, delivered the keynote message at one of the luncheons. Another keynote speaker was Dr. Walter E. Fluker, Boston University professor, lecturer, and author who also was the founding executive director of the Leadership Center and the Coca-Cola Professor of Leadership Studies at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

As the leadership of Claflin University works to make a strong university stronger, the public phase of the University's most ambitious Capital Campaign was launched. With a goal of \$96.4 million, "The Campaign for Claflin University: Imagine the Possibilities" focuses on areas most critical to the institution's future advancement, including financial aid and scholarships for outstanding students, facilities enhancements, and support for building nationally accredited academic programs.