

Global conference held at J-State

By Celia Bowman
Contributing Writer

The United States Institute of Peace and Jackson State University's College of Educational Human Development sponsored the "Exploring Global Conflicts" teaching conference.

"The United State Institute of Peace is an entity that is funded by the United State Congress and focuses on preventing and solving international conflict.

"We work primarily in conflict area zones around the world like Sudan, Afghanistan Iraq and Columbia. We do a lot of work in the U.S. and our work in the U.S. focuses on supporting higher education

and secondary education in teaching about peace and conflict issues," said David Smith senior program officer.

The conference was a two day event that was held at the JSU campus Student Center. Journalist and author Jimmie Briggs was the featured guest speaker during the conference. Briggs is the author of Innocents Lost: When Child soldiers Go to War. He is also the first African American to be appointed as a Goodwill World Association of Former United Nation Interns and Fellows at the UN.

"I feel that people of color particularly black folks need to be more aware of what is going

on overseas. We as a people need to see ourselves as broader beings. We should be able to talk about China and going to Asia and be global citizens. I took this opportunity to meet students and teachers and let them know that we are out there globally and to share my experiences with them, said Briggs.

The workshop is geared to help educators understand the impact of international conflicts and will provide educators with a unique perspective on global conflict and peace building strategies. The program also promoted international peace building by employing innovative approaches to teachers about teaching peace through-

out all education sectors and in particular secondary education.

"If we don't get a handle on conflict and what causes it in other countries then we can't solve it when it comes to our country," said Ingrad Smith associate dean for the College of Education and Human Development.

"Here in the United States we have dismissed peace building, just like we dismissed terrorism until it hit home then we were all concern about the terrorist, but terrorism was going on in other countries for years and we didn't care.

"Now we finally get it and if we dismiss conflict in other countries and if we dismiss



Briggs along with students participate in the global conference. PHOTO BY CELIA BOWMAN

peace building in other countries then we won't realize it until it hit home. If we don't understand peace building now by the time it happens here it will be too late," said Smith.

UM to throw party for its retiring chancellor

Special to The Mississippi Link

OXFORD - University of Mississippi students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends are throwing a party Thursday, April 30, for Robert C. Khayat, their retiring chancellor.

Weather permitting, the party will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Grove, the huge park-like area in the middle of UM's Oxford campus. "Everybody affiliated with Ole Miss absolutely loves the Grove, including Chancellor Khayat, so this is the perfect spot for his party," said UM Dean of Students Sparky Reardon, who will emcee a short, informal program at 4 p.m. on the Grove stage. Refreshments will be served from 3 to 5 p.m.

If it rains Thursday, the party will move to the C.M. "Tad" Smith Coliseum. Sue Keiser, Khayat's assistant for 11 years, said that her retiring boss "didn't want anything formal or expensive, so we're just going to serve lemonade and cookies, and are inviting all our students, faculty, staff, alumni and

friends - past and present - to show up." Khayat became UM's 15th chancellor in summer 1995 and retires June 30.

During his 14 years as UM's chief executive, he has drawn praise for a multitude of achievements. This year alone, UM ranked among the nation's top 25 public universities on Forbes.com, hosted a presidential debate, announced its 25th Rhodes Scholar, inaugurated the first black president of its alumni association, trounced Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl and completed its successful \$200-million MomentUM campaign.

"Our alumni and friends love Chancellor Khayat, and I hope many of them will be able to come to campus and visit with him and other members of the Ole Miss family as we gather to celebrate 14 years of prosperity at our state's flagship university," said Alumni Affairs Director Tim Walsh.

For more information about Khayat's legacy at Ole Miss, visit <http://news.olemiss.edu> and type "Khayat" into the search engine.

Planning for summer programs is a plus for parents

By Pamela Confer
Parents for Public Schools

Parents who plan and prepare for summer programs have peace of mind and can save money, too. The inevitable end of the school year has many parents asking, "Where am I going to place my child this summer?" There are a number of thoughts to keep in mind when deciding which summer program would best suit your household. They include assessing your student's interests, knowing the proximity of the program to your home or work, and determining the program hours that complement your schedule.

The recent issue of Parents and Kids Magazine has a listing of most of the summer programs offered in the Jackson area. The magazine can be obtained from any elementary school, select stores and community organizations. Parents can also visit the Magazine's website at www.parents-kids.com.

Owner and editor, Gretchen Cook, suggests that parents cull

through the program listing, make phone calls, and even visit the site of a prospective summer program early. The benefits for the parent who prepares can be very rewarding.

Act Fast and Get Free Summer Programs

A plus for those who plan includes access to free summer programs and programs that offer stipends. However, low-to-no-cost summer programs are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents who take advantage of these programs should have few worries about the quality of services. Many of the programs have just as much, if not more, amenities and variety in services than fee-based programs.

From Basketball to Spelling Bees

Experts suggest that students who stay active during the summer make an easier transition when the new school year begins. Parents should talk with their student to determine the best type of program to enroll in. Sports-based

programs can help boost self-esteem and garner a deeper respect for structure and rules, while arts-based programs may focus on exploration and allowing your student to discover his natural talents. Some students love to read, interact and stay in academic mode all year long. There are summer programs for them, too.

Imagine not having to worry about switching your student to different programs throughout the summer. Making the right choice can keep your student fulfilled during the summer and give you peace of mind.

Start Close to Home

Parents should consider the proximity of the program to where they work and live. A free program is less beneficial if it is across town from your normal route - consuming your much needed time and gas. Cook suggests that parents first look locally for programs, such as their community church or school. A quick look around your area for programs allows you to support



your community, keeps your student in a neighbor-friendly environment, and saves you money in the long run. Make sure that you ask neighbors and others in your community to comment on their experiences with programs.

Parents for Public Schools - Greater Jackson is located at 200 North Congress Street, Suite 500. Join us for Lunch Bunch on May 6 in the Jackson Medical Mall's Community Meeting Room at 11:45 a.m. Our speaker will discuss how school board members are appointed. Contact us at 601-969-6015 or visit us on the web at www.parents4publicschools.org. Executive Director, Susan Womack.

HBCU writer's project ready to take off

BLACK PR WIRE

One of the new projects that have generated a lot of interest amongst the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina is Black PR Wire's HBCU Writer's Project. Black PR Wire's HBCU Writer's Project is seeking to attract student writers from HBCUS who have been looking to get their work published in different print mediums.

Students will not only be given the chance to have their articles posted on BPRW, but can also expect to have them picked up by different black publications nationwide.

Students won't be given a stipend for their articles. However, those who submit the most posted stories will get a chance to receive a free IPOD, laptop and I-tunes music card (\$50-\$100). Student writers must submit editorial pieces that are relevant to the black community. Some of the topic areas of interest include automotive, entertainment, politics, sports, education and faith-based stories.

To see what response the proj-

ect would receive, BPRW began by targeting some of the HBCUs in the South Atlantic region, and will offer the opportunity to other prominent black colleges.

Among the institutions that have expressed interest and are ready to showcase its best student writers are Bethune Cookman University (BCU), Florida A&M University (FAMU) and Florida Memorial University (FLMU).

Further up north in the South Atlantic region, HBCUs like Savannah State University (SSU) in Georgia and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina are also looking to participate in this new pilot program as well. As the college liaison for this project and a student at Florida Memorial University, I

In a field such as journalism and mass communications, having a portfolio of writing samples is essential. Furthermore, in today's industry, it is who knows you rather than who you know. So if different publications are familiar with the samples you submit to BPRW, your chances of getting noticed will increase with each story you write.

HCC Raymond Delta Epsilon Chi wins at State Competition



HCC Delta Epsilon Chi - Raymond Chapter winners and finalists are: (Front Row) Elizabeth Nowell of Bolton, Fashion Marketing, first place; Shauna Foley of Clinton, Design Presentation, first place; Alfonso Brown of Vicksburg, Human Resource Management, first place and, at right, MMT/FMT District Coordinator and Advisor, Dana Bailey of Byram who also won Teacher of the Year from the Post Secondary Mississippi Association of Marketing Educators at the conference. (Back Row) Kenneth Wilson of Harrisville, Internet Marketing, third place; Rashida Washington-Burnley of Jackson, Retail Management, fifth place; Daron Peoples of Terry, Marketing Management, fifth place; Neicko Anders of Tylertown, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team, second place; Alyssa Milton of Raymond, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team, second place; Dominique Nicks of Brandon, Sales Representative Meeting, third place and Ashley Torrence of Vicksburg, Travel and Tourism Marketing, second place.

Special to The Mississippi Link

RAYMOND - The Hinds Community College Delta Epsilon Chi-Raymond Campus chapter won state awards at the Mississippi Career Development Conference

held recently in Jackson.

Each of the ten students competing brought home awards for the HCC Raymond Campus Business and Marketing Management Technology and Fashion Market-

ing Technology (MMT/FMT) programs.

In addition, the chapter received the Habitat for Humanity Community Service Award.

The Hinds students competed

with other marketing and fashion majors from community colleges and universities across the state in 25 different competitive events related to marketing and fashion occupational areas.

Think Smart Now: What students can do to protect themselves in a recession

BLACK PR WIRE

Recession. It is a frightening word that most people would rather not think about or even acknowledge. "I wouldn't say we're in a recession," said Janette Wagner, assistant vice president of Capital City Bank on North Monroe Street. "I'd say it is more

of an economic concern." The economy has begun to see setbacks across the board with the cost of homes rising, gas prices soaring up, and people consuming less as the worth of a dollar decreases.

For college students, it is important to be aware of the problems

they could be facing and know what to do to protect themselves against economic hardships.

One thing Wagner suggests is "picking a major that's going to secure a job for your future."

Having good credit is another important factor in a recession, and Wagner recommends that students

in college should build good credit.

"A critical piece in building credit is consistent and timely repayment," she said. "Start thinking smart already. Never buy something you can't pay for at the end of the month."

Dr. Clyde Ashley, associate pro-

fessor of professional development at Florida A&M University with a background in economics, agreed.

He knows the importance of having a good credit score, recession or no recession, and wants to pass that along to students. "It is serious," Ashley said. "Students should make sure they monitor

their credit score, don't gain debts, and don't use a lot of credit cards." He suggests that with interest rates being high, and in case possible setbacks do occur, students should limit their amount of credit cards to one or two at the most. Keeping the balance at zero will lead to good credit, he added.