



# TIGER NEWS

Benedict College

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## Luke Cage ‘Marvels’ during recent campus visit

By Doreen Goodwin

Thanks to a succession of blockbuster movies, superheroes have leapt from the pages of comic books to become a mainstay of American life. In response to changing audience demographics and attitudes, Hollywood has combed through the Marvel and DC universes and identified heroes and stories that resonate in today’s political climate. Enter Luke Cage. A gritty, Black, super human street fighter who seeks justice for the everyman.

In the Netflix series, Luke Cage was transformed into a bulletproof superhuman during a secret government experiment. After hiding his powers and avoiding the public spotlight, Cage reluctantly took on the mantle of defender. His days and nights are spent fighting corruption in Harlem and defending people who have fallen through the cracks and have nowhere else to turn for help. In reality, Mike Colter, the actor who plays him, began his journey intostardom as a student at Benedict College. During a recent trip to Columbia for a guest appearance at Soda City Comic Con, Colter spent some time on campus speaking with theatre and mass communication majors.

Before becoming the muscle-bound action hero, Colter appeared in the Clint Eastwood directed movie, Million Dollar Baby, where he portrayed boxer Big Willie Little. He also made guest appearances on several popular TV shows including, Law & order: Trial By Jury, The Good Wife , ER and The Parkers.

The former Benedict Tiger appeared relaxed and comfortable in his former college digs while answering questions and sharing how he became a leading man. Colter, a St. Mathew’s native, attended Benedict for a year and a half but ultimately decided to transfer to the University of South Carolina because BC did not



offer a degree in theatre. After graduating from USC, he earned a Masters in Fine Arts degree in acting from Rutgers University.

“I was here some twenty odd years ago; I’m just like you guys. I was sitting on the other side of the desk thinking about the things you’re thinking about like what are my next steps?” asked Colter. During the hourlong session, the students appeared to relish the opportunity to question an actor of Colter’s status and recognition and were clearly hoping to acquire a road map to emulate the actor’s success. “I encourage you guys to realize that if you can imagine it, it can happen,” said Colter. Obtaining a theater degree was the first step he laid out in his plan for success. “I figured that if I could get myself a degree, that would give me the opportunity to get in front of agents at some point; I needed to get representation,” he said.

Even after he acquired an agent, success didn’t happen overnight. “I worked in a restaurant until I was

32 years old. I was ready to call it quits; not because I wasn't working but because I wasn't doing it exactly at the level I wanted," he said. While working at the restaurant, Colter recounted that customers would often recognize him from one of his TV or movie roles and wonder why he was working there. The answer was simple, he worked at the restaurant to pay his bills.

Colter used this story as insight into his philosophy of being grounded and self-reliant. He said he chose to continue working at the restaurant to prevent falling behind on his bills while waiting on residual checks. He encouraged students to live within their means when pursuing their dreams and cautioned them from buying into the "fake it until you make it" lifestyle of buying items you can't afford in order to impress others.

Colter has come a long way from his humble beginnings as the youngest of five children from a town with dirt roads -- roads,

that Colter said were only paved seven years ago.

By his own account, he came from nowhere, but through sheer determination and focus, Colter is making history and joining the pantheon of film super heroes entertaining a world hungry for champions.

When senior Carey Corley asked the question that many in the room were thinking, "How did you get out?," Colter's answer encapsulated his earlier messages of being focused, dedicated and passionate. "You have to be hungry." "I had to do this because I couldn't think of anything else I could do with my life. If there were two other things I was interested in, I might have done one of those things." Words spoken like a true hero.

## Students prepare for senior defense

By Lenard White

Benedict seniors have many reasons to celebrate the start of the school year. They have successfully completed three academic years and are eyeing the finish line signaling graduation. There is just one more hurdle to clear; the senior defense.

Before any student can graduate from Benedict College, they must complete a research study, then defend it in front of students and faculty members in a presentation setting. This year, senior defenses are scheduled to begin November 14.

The process of creating a research study and defending it has been a part of senior capstone projects since Benedict College was founded. Dr. Alex Gorelik, an associate professor of mass communications, has been assisting students to prepare their senior defenses for the past nine years. "We want people to begin as early as possible. It gives them time to see other students' defenses before giving their own; it's the best way to prepare," Gorelik said.

There is no magic answer to assist students in choosing their research topics. Whatever subject they select, it is important

to consider that students will live with the project for almost two years. Gorelick has two pieces of advice for underclassmen: do not wait too long to choose a senior defense topic and be sure to attend senior defense presentations. "Finding and talking with people who are as passionate about the same area as you are is a great way to get inspired about topics you'd like to research," he said.

Anthony Allen II, a graduating senior offered advice to those who will defend in the future. "Know your topic and stay on topic and on the main focus of your study," he said. Anthony also urged students to stay in contact with the members of the committee who will be the ones evaluating their research projects.

Past senior defense topics have ranged from designing magazines, to photography, to medicine and to data journalism. Regardless of the topic, the foundation of the senior defense must rest on a solid foundation of scientific method and research. According to Dr. Gorelik, the skills acquired in preparation for senior defense will make students more competitive in today's job market and assist them in finding good positions after graduation.



Mike Colter with mass communications students



# NEWS

## Oldest campus building awarded \$500,000 grant

By Anthony Allen II

Have you ever wondered what the oldest building on campus is? Take a moment to think. Well, if you guessed Morgan Hall then you are absolutely right. Morgan Hall was built in 1895 and served as the college presidents' primary residence until 1965.

A building that is 153 years old and still in use will almost certainly be in need of some major repairs. That is why Benedict College applied for and was awarded a \$500,000 government grant to make the necessary improvements.

The National Park Services U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded 8.6 million dollars in grant funding to support projects that preserve significant historic structures on the campuses of 18 Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs). Benedict College was one out of the 18 HBCUs that received grants.

According to Dr. Walletha Johnson, assistant director of Title III Sponsored Programs/ Foundation Relations, this was a competitive grant that Benedict College entered in against nearly 100 HBCU's around the country.

The planned upgrades include fixing the wheel chair lifts; improving the drainage system to prevent basement flooding; installing central air conditioning; new floors, and updating the elevators. Dr. Johnson said the restoration project should take about one and a half years to complete.



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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## A band of brothers and sisters

By Jerome Boateng

White T-shirt, black shorts, and an alarm clock set for 5:30 a.m. These are the requirements for every freshman who hopes to become a member of the Benedict College Band of Distinction, otherwise known as the BCBOD. Putting on their uniforms and performing in the first football game of the season signifies the end of a long road that began on the first day these freshmen stepped on campus. The three freshmen featured in this story traveled different paths to accomplish one single goal, become a member of the BCBOD.

The BCBOD is a family in many ways. Band members work together, play together, often eat together, and live together as a family. For freshman baritone player, Janelle Carter, family has always been a motivating factor in her life. Carter was born in Louisiana. However at the age of five, she and her family were forced to leave their home after the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Her mother was only 22 years old at the time with two children. Hurricane Katrina separated them from their extended family and they had limited options available to them. Eventually the family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia. After Katrina, her family members would go out of their way to try to be together before every major storm.

Always fond of music as a child, Carter played multiple instruments in elementary school. In sixth grade, she would join her school's band and play baritone horn. "I didn't understand how deeply rooted my family was in music, until I got to high school," said Carter. Once she entered high school, Carter discovered that two

of her uncles were close friends with members of the popular bands New Orleans Rebirth Brass Band and Hot 8 Brass Band. Her father also played bass drum for Southern University. Her family became her biggest supporters. "They started supporting me extra hard. They would tell me, 'You better be the best!'"

Tuba player, Francisco Lopez was born in Mexico. When his father obtained his work visa, his family moved to America in search for a better life. They eventually settled in Virginia. Francisco was not much of a talker for most of his teenage years, but joining the band in his sophomore year of high school changed all of that. "I was very quiet my first two years of high school. I didn't start opening up to people until I joined the band," said Francisco. His reason for joining the band was very unique. "To be honest, there was a girl I liked in band, so I just kind of joined to be with her." Although the relationship did not last, his love for music would endure.

After only participating in band for three years, Francisco Lopez went from being a quiet kid from a foreign country to become one of BCBOD'S finest tuba players.

Snare drummer, Jonathan Mceachin, was born and raised in North Charleston, SC. Mceachin remembers North Charleston High School as a dangerous place. "People had guns; people were selling weed; people shooting up the school; fights every week," he said. Amidst all the violence and distractions, Mceachin saw the light at the end of the tunnel. "I had to keep my head down, stay after school and get my grades up," he said.

Mceachin made the decision to participate in extracurricular activities to keep himself out of trouble. In seventh grade, after watching his high school's drumline perform, he was so impressed he decided to join his middle school's marching band. After only one year with the middle school band, he was asked to join the high school's drumline. He was still attending middle school during that time. Mceachin played in the band until his sophomore year in high school, then decided to join the football team. Mceachen would become captain of the varsity team in his junior and senior years. Although he received several offers to play football at the collegiate level, he declined those offers to pursue his passion.



# ARTS & CULTURE

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## **Band of brothers cont'd**

"I got offers to play football at the collegiate level, but I love band. I don't see myself doing anything else but band," said Mceachin.

Each of these three individuals had to work extremely hard to get to Benedict College and join the BCBOBD. There are many more challenges awaiting them, however Carter, Lopez and Mceachin, through their actions and words, have demonstrated that they are ready for whatever the future brings.

## **Marching band gets rare break to attend concert**

**By Shakeema Ashford**

Imagine this, Beyoncé and Jay-Z are bringing their historic, On The Road (OTR II) concert to Columbia. The city is elated. Now imagine that you are a member of Benedict College's band and cannot attend the concert due to a scheduled band practice conflict. After all, football season has begun and the band is to football like Beyoncé is to Jay-Z, so what are you going to do?

Band members at Benedict College were faced with this decision. Some daring students purchased concert tickets earlier in the year during pre-sale. Others made the ultimate decision to forgo the concert and not risk missing band practice. Little did they know, there was no reason to fret. Benedict College President, Dr. Roslyn Artis, had made plans of her own. She demonstrated her admiration for the marching

band by canceling band practice and providing OTR tickets to the first 70 band members who showed-up to claim them. Senior, Chardia Curtis, a dancer with the Band of Distinction Sweet Sensations, was one of the lucky band members who received a ticket to the concert. Curtis could not believe her good luck when she exclaimed, "Wow, I'm going to see Beyoncé! My first ever real concert and it's Beyoncé!"

## **"Showcase of Majors" connects careers to majors**

**By Roderick Haynes Jr.**

The Showcase of Majors took place Tuesday, September 11, 2018 and was held in the Benjamin F. Payton Learning Resources Center. An annual event designed to help students better appreciate and understand their chosen majors, the Showcase of Majors is the brainchild of Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr.

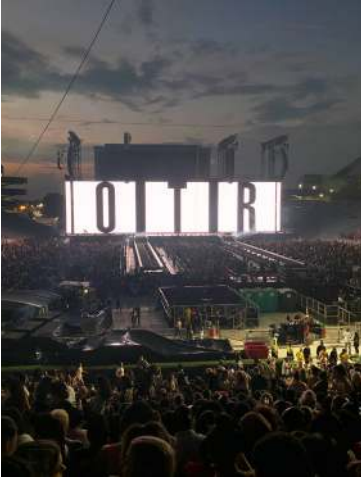
Janeen Witty.

During the event, students visited between various information stations showcasing materials on the different majors offered at Benedict College and the careers associated with them. The event was organized by Sophomore Advisor, Dr. Malqueen Richardson. While the Showcase was open to all students, there was a particular focus on sophomores. "The Showcase of Majors was designed primarily for the sophomore class to keep them engaged within their major and to understand their majors as it relates to their career," said Dr. Richardson.

Attendees were offered tutorials on how to log into software programs such as Purple Briefcase for career information and MyFoundationsLab for writing and math courses. Information on how to find internships was also provided.

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Free tickets enable students to attend the Carters concert



dropped to as low as \$35 on TicketMaster the day of the show. The reduced prices spurred a ticket buying frenzy hours before the show began.

Benedict College President, Dr. Roslyn Artis, took advantage of the lower prices and purchased tickets for BC students. The tickets were available for pick-up from the Office of Student Activities on the day of the concert. Senior Amber Gillard said even though the free tickets were distributed at the last minute, it was still an amazing gift. Dr. Artis, who also attended the concert, said that she could not wait for the show to start and that she was happy to be able to give the students tickets to the concert.



Dr. Artis(C)with Amber Gillard(L) and Alexis Adams(R) students

By Alexis Adams

The Carters came to Columbia. Beyoncé and Jay-Z, known as the hip-hop duo, The Carters, brought their On the Run Tour II concert to Columbia, SC on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Normally with an event featuring stars of the magnitude of Beyoncé and Jay-Z, you would expect the show to be sold-out within a couple of hours, but that was not the case.

A week before the concert, the stadium was not sold out and there were still plenty of tickets available. From a high of \$2,676 for floor seats on the online ticket service StubHub, the ticket price

## Homecoming 2018 Events October 18-21

- The Athletic Banquet Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
- Breakfast with Benedict's Finest
- BCNAA Brick Dedication
- Class Reunion Meetings
- Alumni Career Day Showcase
- Half Century Club Meeting
- Annual Alumni Leadership Awards and State of the College Luncheon
- BC Family Reunion Block Party
- Annual Alumni Masquerade Gala
- President's Breakfast
- Homecoming Parade
- Alumni Tailgating
- BC Tigers Homecoming Game
- Tiger Jam LIVE
- Benedict College Worship Service

# SPORTS

## “Classic” victory over Fort Valley State



By Justin Brown

This Year’s 17th Annual Palmetto City Classic football game was held Sunday, September 23, at the Charlie Johnson stadium. This talk of the town match was played between South Carolina’s own Benedict College Tigers and Fort Valley State University hailing from Fort Valley, GA. This was a highly anticipated game. Not only because it was the Palmetto City Classic but because for the past few seasons Benedict College and Fort Valley have brewed a well-known rivalry. This game was anticipated to be the SIAC’s game of the week.

Jumping right into the action, Benedict came straight out of the gate putting on a show, scoring its first two possessions. Led by senior Quarterback, Domonique Harris, who put up some pretty impressive numbers. Domonique went 16/22 with 247 passing yards and four touchdowns to add to that. “Just getting into a steady groove is what this offense has to do to continue with our success in this conference,” said Harris. When asked about the three fumbles and interception, he didn’t hold back the blame, “It’s 100% my fault, everything runs through me so good, bad, and even ugly, I have to do better for the good of the team,” he said.

The Benedict Tiger defense had yet another great performance. Holding the Fort Valley Wildcats to just 246 yards of total offense. Middle Linebacker, Amari Andrews, had 11 total tackles, two tackles for loss and a pass break up. His performance won him the Palmetto City Classic MVP Award. These two men are this week’s top performers and they helped put up the big “W” over Fort Valley State University. Final score Benedict 28 Fort Valley 20.

## NBA Players Association Expands HBCU Support with Apparel Donation to SIAC

The National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Foundation has announced a significant donation to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) to provide new Nike uniforms and apparel for the men’s and women’s basketball teams of all SIAC member colleges and universities.

“On behalf of the NBPA, we are honored to make this gift in support of the men’s and women’s basketball teams of the SIAC,” said Sherrie Deans, Executive Director of the NBPA Foundation. “The schools that make up the SIAC along with all of the other HBCU’s have made important contributions to the game of basketball and to our membership. Making this gift acknowledges that history and strengthens our bond going forward.”

“We are extremely grateful to the NBPA Foundation and their Executive Director Sherrie

Deans for their support of our men and women’s basketball programs,” said Gregory Moore, Commissioner of the SIAC. “Over past couple years, I doubt that any other NCAA conference have provided more coaching and professional development opportunities to both current and former NBA players alike than has the SIAC and our member school presidents. Advancing access and opportunity represent core components of the mission and purpose of all of our SIAC member institutions. This partnership with the NBPA and its Foundation and the resulting opportunities that our schools have accorded these former players is in direct alignment with that important mission.”

Anderson, was recently named the head basketball coach at Fisk University whose student-athletes also participated in the NBPA HBCU Top 50 Camp this past summer. In only its second year, the camp attracted NBA scouts and player personnel staff from teams such as the Chicago Bulls, the New York Knicks, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Milwaukee Bucks.