

News at a glance

Hampton names its first female chaplain

HAMPTON, Va. — Hampton University has named the Rev. Debra L. Haggins as the university's first female chaplain in the institution's 140-year history. As chaplain, Haggins will serve as pastor of the HU Memorial Church, director of the Religious Studies Program and handle all religious affairs for the university.

She will also serve as the first female executive secretary of the Annual HU Ministers' Conference, the largest gathering of interdenominational African-American clergy in the world.

"This appointment makes a strong statement to the world that we are all called and can be chosen for any particular task, so we need to be prepared to be sent wherever we are needed," said Haggins.

Haggins aims to boost interfaith ministry and student involvement on campus, provide pastoral care and counseling, and expand the Memorial Church into "a viable entity on campus."

Haggins replaces Dr. Timothy T. Boddie, who now serves as the senior pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Prior to her arrival at HU, Haggins served as the interim pastor of the historic Queen Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va.



Rev. Haggins

Arab Americans favor Obama

WASHINGTON — Democratic candidate Barack Obama holds a substantial 21 point lead over Republican John McCain among Arab American voters. This was one of the findings of a poll of Arab American voters conducted by Zogby International for the Arab American Institute.

The AAI/Zogby International poll was released at a press conference last week at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, DC. Conducted between Sept. 8-13, the poll surveyed the political attitudes of 501 randomly selected Arab American voters and had a margin of error of +/- 4.5%.

The poll also found that Obama's 54 percent - 33 percent lead over McCain dropped to 46 percent - 32 percent when independent candidate Ralph Nader and Libertarian Bob Barr were included in the survey questions.

Other key findings of the AAI/Zogby International study: The most important issues for Arab American voters are jobs/economy (far and away the greatest area of concern), followed by the war in Iraq/peace/foreign affairs, and health care.

Approval ratings given to the Bush Administration's performance are low: 23 percent for overall performance, 19 percent for economic policy and 31 percent for foreign policy.

The shift in party identification continues. The Democrat/Republican break in 2000 was 40/38. Now it is 46/20.

Dr. James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute noted that "The Arab American vote can be important in several battleground states and a number of critical House and Senate contests." Noting that Arab Americans in Michigan represent about 5 percent of that state's electorate, while in Virginia and Ohio they comprise almost 2 percent of the vote, he noted that "the strong shift from Republican to Democratic party identification can play a role in close contests."

Serena Williams to write memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — A memoir by Serena Williams will be released in 2009 by Grand Central Publishing, which beat out a handful of other publishers bidding for the life story of the No. 1 ranked women's tennis player.

"Serena Williams is one of the world's most remarkable athletes," Grand Central editor Karen Kosztoinyik said Tuesday in a statement. "We've watched her rise to No. 1 despite physical and emotional setbacks, and her hard work and determination have inspired legions of fans young and old. Serena will give her memoir a strong motivational slant."

Financial terms for the book, currently untitled, were not disclosed, although a publishing official with knowledge of the negotiations said bidding reached at least \$1.3 million. The official, citing the confidentiality of the negotiations, declined to be identified.

Williams, 26, has won nine Grand Slam titles and, with sister Venus Williams, won a gold medal in women's doubles at the recent Olympics in Beijing.

Grand Central Publishing is a division of the Hachette Book Group.

Former councilman gunned down

BALTIMORE (Afro-American Newspapers/NNPA) — Former Baltimore City Councilman Kenneth Harris was murdered Sept. 20 outside a jazz club within the district he represented in Northeast Baltimore.

Harris, who represented Baltimore City's Fourth District, was killed during a robbery attempt at the New Haven Lounge, a long-time jazz club at Northwood Shopping Center near Morgan State University according to police.

Police report that Harris came to the lounge at approximately 1:30 a.m. and visited with the club's owner Keith Covington and borrowed a corkscrew from him when three masked gunman approached and grabbed Covington. Two of them took the Haven's owner into the lounge. Harris ran to his car where he was shot in the chest by the third gunman.

He was elected to the City Council in 1999. In addition to politics, Harris was an executive with Comcast Cable. He leaves his wife, Annette, daughter, Nicole, and son, Ken Jr.



Harris

DNC is pushing for "enormous ... huge" African-American voter turnout

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WASHINGTON — Now less than two weeks before Oct. 6, the deadline for voter registration in most states, and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean says he is confident that both African-Americans and many Whites will vote in record numbers for the Democratic ticket because of the high stakes issues and historicity of the election.

"People get what this is about — at least those people in my generation. I was a college graduate when Dr. King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. It's a different time now. We've learned a lot over 40 years," Dean says in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "Now, some of the most segregated counties are represented by African-Americans although they are 90 percent White. So, it's a different time, but it's our time. Our generation worked very hard for this. So, we've got to do everything we can to win."

Dean was referring to a time when the Civil Rights Movement meant fighting for Black people's right to vote and against segregated public facilities in which Blacks and Whites across the South were legally



Local Barack Obama volunteers register a voter at last week's Rock the Block.

prohibited from drinking from the same water fountain or using the same public bathroom.

Now that America has its first Black Democratic nominee for president, Dean and others say while Blacks will vote for

Obama in order to forge Black progress and because of his understanding of issues. Whites will also vote for him to continue what was started decades ago when Blacks largely marched in the streets demanding change

while White lawmakers were forced to establish it.

"Before, we worked together separately. Now we're working together together," Dean says. "It's just an extraordinarily exciting time. But, I think the message is resonating all over the country. This is a new generation."

Dean likened the Obama v. McCain race to the 1960 campaign between Democratic Sen. John F. Kennedy and Republican Vice President Richard Nixon. Kennedy — like Obama — drew large crowds as many claimed he was too young and too inexperienced, and his Republican opponent Vice President Richard Nixon was viewed as representing the old guard.

Kennedy got 49.7 percent of the vote and Nixon got 49.6.

"Change is always difficult. Change is always scary. So, change elections are always close," Dean says.

This is why Democrats are hitting the pavement for last minute registrations anywhere they can get them. But, Democrats are vigorously campaigning for votes in what they call battleground states; including New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Michigan,

See Voters on A6

SCLC founder Harvey is remembered

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY

NEW ORLEANS (NNPA)

— The Rev. Dr. Simmie Lee Harvey, a founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and longtime veteran of the historic Civil Rights Movement, died on Wednesday, Sept. 10, due to complications from a massive stroke. He was 90.

Only three months earlier Rev. Harvey stood before a crowd of about 400 at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's 50th convention in Kenner, La., and passionately pleaded for everyone in the room to re-commit themselves to the civil rights movement.

He spoke of the hardships, trials and tribulations that he had to endure while fighting for justice and equality throughout this country.

This was one of the last public appearances made by the great civil rights pioneer and co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Those who knew and respected the civil rights legend remembered the charismatic, dedicated New Orleans minister as a champion for justice.

"He was somebody who could captivate you with his stories of the movement. I will always remember Rev. Harvey as one of the most effective civil rights leaders of his time," says Dr. Charles Steele Jr., SCLC president and CEO. "The SCLC family will certainly suffer at the loss of his leadership. This organization will miss him deeply."

Congressman William Jefferson saluted the life of the Rev. Harvey, longtime community activist and organizer, for his life of service to the community of New Orleans, this nation, and the world.

"Rev. Dr. Simmie Lee Harvey's life was a life well-lived," Jefferson said. "He was a strong pillar of support for his family. In addition, his tireless work in the Civil Rights movement, designed to make it easier for all people to live, work, and pray together, resulted in the improvement in the quality of life for so many people. Rev. Dr. Harvey's life serves as an inspiration to people throughout this nation and the world. I am so very pleased and honored to have had an opportunity to know, learn from, and work with Rev. Dr. Harvey for so many productive years."

On July 10, Congressman Jefferson paid tribute to Rev. Dr. Harvey on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Rev. Harvey was for decades the President of the Louisiana chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Regional Vice President, South Central

Region, and National SCLC Board Member.

"Rev. Harvey was one of the original leaders of SCLC," says Dr. Joseph Lowery, SCLC president emeritus. "He was a genuine and authentic person. He wore the badge of SCLC on his coat and in his heart."

Rev. Dr. Harvey was a former board member of the Metropolitan Area Committee Human Relations Committee, and vice-president-at-large of the Ideal Missionary Baptist



Rev. Harvey

and Educational Association. He was also a member of both the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and the Louisiana Baptist State Convention. Rev. Harvey served as first vice president of the Research Missionary Baptist Educational Association, and as the president of the Upper City Ministers Union. He was co-chairperson of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal

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