PC Opens its 136th Session

Presbyterian College opened its 136th session this Tuesday with its traditional convocation ceremony. The official opening of the College was highlighted with the presentation of the Martha Anne Green Service to Church and College Award and the installation of Robert “Bob” Emmett Staton ’68 ’15 as President of the College.

The Martha Anne Green award, presented by the President and Dr. Jeri Perkins, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton, was established by the Church and PC to recognize the contributions of Martha Anne Green to the two communities.

Each year the pastor and President appoint a selection committee charged with identifying an individual from Clinton whose life on behalf of the church and the College embody the College motto, “Dum Vivimus Servimus,” while we live, we serve.

This year, the award was presented posthumously to Ruth Pate Tiller Coleman ’65. The award was received by Coleman’s sons William “Bill” and John. It was presented on the basis of Coleman’s service to the Alumni Board; her receipt of the College’s Mary F. Lehman Service award; her work as a church school teacher, an elder, and as a deacon; and her volunteer efforts throughout Laurens County.

Following the Martha Anne Green Award G. Patrick Phillips ’71, chair of the Board of Trustees, presented Staton for installation as President of Presbyterian College. Phillips presided as Staton took the oath of office, after which Staton addressed the College as a whole with his speech, “Seeking an Inspired Life.”

Staton’s address had emphasis for the freshman and senior classes, as both were at points of change. Using parallels with his own life, including spending time on the beach with his wife, Phyllis, and calling his aunt to share his grades at the end of his first semester, Staton challenged the students to be “inspired for life.”

“Be inspired by the sense of community grounded in the relationships built during your time here,” Staton said. “Be inspired by the excellence and honor that is experienced and expected of you and the service grounded in the values stated in PC’s motto.”

Staton pointed out that students could do the minimum to get by, or they could embrace all the opportunities presented to them. Staton requested that the students do more than settle. He requested that they set expectations and push themselves to excel in all of their endeavors.

As with his own life, Staton explained that he and his wife could have stayed on the beach, and he could have settled for being a “C” student, but instead he chose to be inspired. “Had we not acted, we would have missed one of the great opportunities of our life,” Staton said.

“Don’t let opportunities pass you by, act—go for it—make things happen in your life,” Staton continued.

The convocation concluded with new students and employees signing the College’s Honor Code, officially becoming members of the College family.
Bangs added to Coaching Staff

Former University of South Carolina pitcher Parker Bangs has been named an assistant coach for the Blue Hose, Head Coach Elton Pollock announced on Friday. Bangs won a National Championship within the Gamecocks in 2010 before going on to play three seasons in the minor leagues.

“I am incredibly excited about the opportunity to be a part of a program like the one at PC,” Bangs said. “We have a great deal of talented players, all of whom I am very much looking forward to working with as we prepare to build on the success of last year’s team.”

Bangs was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 31st round of the 2010 MLB First-Year Player Draft. He pitched parts of three seasons in the minors, making 17 appearances with 27.2 innings pitched. His best season of professional baseball came in 2011 when he pitched 22.0 innings and recorded 28 strikeouts while holding hitters to a .274 average against him.

Prior to joining the Blue Hose, Bangs was the head coach and pitching coach of the Wilmington Sharks in the Coastal Plain League for the past two seasons. He spent three seasons as the head baseball coach at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, S.C. from 2013-15. Bangs also spent time as the pitching and hitting coach for the Columbia Blowfish of the Coastal Plain League and as the hitting coach at Dutch Fork High School in Irmo, S.C., following his playing career.

Bangs graduated from the University of South Carolina in May of 2010 with a degree in experimental psychology while minoring in sociology. He then earned then a master’s degree in public administration from South Carolina in May of 2015. During his playing days, Bangs was named to the All-SEC Academic Team in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and earned All-SEC Freshman Academic honors during his red-shirt season in 2007.

Service Day

Presbyterian College began its school year this week by celebrating its Dum Vivimus Servimus Day of Service. The day, in referencing PC’s motto, While we live, we serve, was required for all freshmen and incoming transfer students and had students placed across Laurens County performing community service.

“I was really impressed at how willing the freshmen in my group were to work,” said Jessica Taylor, a senior international studies major from Rock hill. “They gladly volunteered for different jobs outside, and I never heard a complaint about the work.”

Taylor led a group of students who worked at the All Saints Episcopal Church, where they power washed the sides of the parish hall, laid out pine straw, and cleared branches.

A few of the other service sites included the LushAcres Farm at the Thornwell Home for Children, the Laurens County Humane Society, and a homeless shelter in Joanna.

“The students were a huge help today. There are a few that talked about starting a group to volunteer on the farm regularly,” said Gretchen Huggins, director of LushAcres Farm.

While leading a group of 12 freshmen at the Laurens County Humane Society, Julianna Franklin, a senior international studies and Spanish major from Wilkesboro, N.C. recognized that several PC faculty and staff worked at the shelter as well.

“The students were a huge help today. There are a few that talked about starting a group to volunteer on the farm regularly,” said Gretchen Huggins, director of LushAcres Farm.
WEEK OF WELCOME

Join us on Oct. 16-17

>> Find out more about Homecoming