Presbyterian College will welcome the class of 2019 with the traditional Opening Convocation at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 25 in the Belk Auditorium.

PC will open its 136th session with welcoming addresses from G. Patrick Phillips ’71, chair of the Board of Trustees, and Shelly Nicole Rowan, a senior elementary education major from Greenville and president of the Student Government Association. The traditional ceremony will include an invocation by Director of Campus Ministries and Service The Rev. Rachel Parsons-Wells, as well as academic awards for second-year students and students in the Department of Religion and Philosophy. The Martha Anne Green Award will be conferred posthumously on Ruth Tiller Coleman ’65 in recognition of her extensive service to Presbyterian College and the Clinton community.

After the presentation of awards, the College will install Robert E. Staton as Presbyterian College’s 18th president. Phillips will preside over the ceremony as Staton takes the oath of office and then presents his installation address, “Seeking an Inspired Life.”
Presbyterian College is proud to announce that the College has received a five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant as a member of the South Carolina IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) with total direct and indirect costs of nearly $775,000 allocated to PC.

The goal of the SC INBRE network is to increase the biomedical research capacity of the state by programmatic expansion and networking of research activities of faculty and students at academic institutions throughout the state. SC INBRE is a major grant with components located at 13 institutions of higher education in the state, including the three research institutions – the University of South Carolina (USC), Clemson University, and the Medical University of South Carolina, with USC serving as the lead institution.

Dr. Lucia Pirisi-Creek, professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology at the USC School of Medicine in Columbia, is the principal investigator of SC INBRE, and a supporter of PC and research endeavors throughout the state. Her involvement was critical in securing the SC INBRE grant.

“SC INBRE is a network of institutions that collaborate with one another to promote their research and training programs, and provide their students with excellent opportunities for hands-on research training,” said Dr. Pirisi-Creek. “At Presbyterian College, SC INBRE will augment the Biomedical Research infrastructure, helping to improve the research facilities and providing support for researchers and their students.”
Specifically, the PC component of SC INBRE will: Sponsor undergraduate and pharmacy faculty members for summer research; sponsor student researchers with stipends; provide faculty sponsor with funds for supplies and/or small equipment; reward students with travel funds to present their research; provide access to the PC animal facility, as well as research instrumentation; and provide opportunities for the career development of faculty.

The grant officially began July 10, 2015, and will continue until June 30, 2020. The grant is one of the largest PC has ever received from the federal government. Dr. Cliff Fuhrman, dean of the PC School of Pharmacy, said that receiving the grant is a “win-win for the faculty and students of the College. It’s intended to benefit both the Pharmacy School and the Arts and Sciences undergraduate campus.” Dr. Fuhrman believes that the projects completed utilizing this funding from the SC-INBRE grant will help PC students and faculty to develop data that can then be used to stimulate other projects and lead the College to additional funding opportunities for faculty and student research.

Dr. Scott Asbill, department chair and professor of pharmaceutical and administrative sciences at PC, is a primary investigator on this grant. He believes the SC-INBRE grant is a “great opportunity to move research at [PC] forward and to help build the research infrastructure.” Dr. Asbill reiterates, “It’s so important for faculty and students to have these opportunities.”

In addition to Dr. Asbill, other investigators on the grant include Dr. Alfonso Romero-Sandoval, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of research. Confirming Dr. Fuhrman’s statement that the grant was a collaborative effort from PC’s entire faculty, Dr. James T. Wetzel, Pulaski L. Bealy Smith Professor of Biology; Dr. Alicia Askew, associate professor of psychology and chair of department; and Dr. Latha Gearheart, professor of chemistry, were also integral to the development of this grant.

The College plans to send out a call for SC INBRE Summer Research Fellowships during the 2015 fall semester.

Blue Hose Football Team Commits
Time to a Special Visitor

Tyler White is a special needs student from Greenville. He was born three months premature and as a result developed cerebral palsy. This condition has confined him to a wheelchair since he was about one-years-old.

White is a huge football fan. White arrived at the PC campus for a visit on July 28, with Brian Maddux, a special education teacher at Woodmont High School, who was working with White through Care Givers on Demand. White was given a warm welcome from several members of the Blue Hose football team. When he arrived, White rolled in his wheelchair to various lunch tables and asked if he could eat with them. Every one of them said yes and moved to make room for White.

Further, Tyler Scott, a senior business major from Jacksonville, Fla., invited White to see the locker room, gave him a shirt, and introduced him to some of the coaches.

“Tyler is a big fan and I just wanted him to feel like one of the guys,” Scott said. “The football team is inspired by a young man like Tyler who has such a positive outlook on life. He is an amazing young man that we were honored to welcome into our football family. Too often we take for granted the opportunities God has given us.”

Maddux said that after “spending some time with some of the players, coaches and the Athletic Director, Brian Reese, football is one of the main things he wants to talk about.”

“As a special education teacher, it is my observation and opinion that most great stories start with one person caring about another,” Maddux said. “This story is no exception; the football players that Tyler got to meet took a few minutes out of their day to invest in someone’s life. Tyler is in a wheelchair and goes to physical therapy twice a week. After getting to eat and hang out with some of the football players, Tyler went to physical therapy and said, ‘come on, let’s go, we have to work hard like the PC football team.’”

After seeing the football team’s welcoming attitude toward White, Reese stated, “All of our student-athletes exhibit this type of inclusion all of the time. They are just fantastic young men and women.”

Scott added, “The game of football is an amazing platform to share joy, teamwork, and perseverance. Welcoming Tyler into our family was a no brainer and he will always be welcomed back to the Blue Hose Football family.”

White plans on attending the Sept. 26 game against Chattanooga with his Capernaum Young Life group, a youth organization consisting entirely of disabled youths. His dad, Michael White said, “He can’t wait. Every day Tyler wakes up and feels like, ‘ready to go see PC Football?’”

>> A “thank you” video from Tyler.
Three Presbyterian College professors have published an article that will appear in the August issue of *American Biology Teacher*.

Dr. Troy Nash, professor of biology; Dr. Suann Yang, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. John Inman, professor emeritus of biology, wrote the article titled, "Growing a Thicker Skin: An Exercise for Measuring Organismal Adaptations to Terrestrial Habitats."

The article is based on and describes new curriculum used by the professors in their introductory biology courses. The professors explained that the new curriculum came out of a need to create an alternative to the observation based lab exercises often used to cover animal and plant evolution when transitioning from water to land based habitats.

Unlike many labs that teach plant and animal evolution as a series of distinctly separate sequential topics, the activity proposed in the article considers the evolution as an integrated phenomenon in which evolution among plants and animals is occurring at the same time.

The activity is designed to take place in a single three-hour lab session, and it was designed to model the process of scientific inquiry and to require students to collect and analyze quantitative data.

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**Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Psi Chapter Receives National Recognition**

Presbyterian College’s Alpha Psi chapter of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity recently received national recognition by earning the fraternity’s Phi Pi Phi Silver Cup.

Alpha Sigma Phi made the decision at its 51st Grand Chapter in New Orleans that the fraternity should make chapter and colony recognition levels based on annual report scores. Cups are awarded each summer at either the fraternity’s Elevate – National Leadership Conference or at a Grand Chapter.

In receiving the Phi Pi Phi Silver Cup, PC’s Alpha Psi chapter achieved significant recognition in all areas of its annual report and earned nearly 88 percent of all possible points. Further the chapter remains in good standing.