

Edward Waters College: Celebrating 140 years of service Academics. Excellence. Ethics.

It is the dawn of a new day at Edward Waters College, one that is filled with hope, excitement, vision and new possibilities. Under the direction of a strong president, qualified and dedicated administrators, faculty and staff, Edward Waters College holds the key to a better tomorrow, one that is driven and undergirded by quality academics and the Double E Principle: "Excellence and Ethics."

Founded in 1866, EWC is a private, historically black college that has stood as a beacon of hope for many young students who otherwise may not have attended college. EWC, the oldest private institution in Florida, was founded with the paramount goal of educating newly freed slaves. Since that time, the institution hasn't faulted in providing education to aspiring students with an open admissions policy and extensive financial aid.

Edward Waters College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the baccalaureate degree. The institution has been highlighted in the Florida Leader magazine's Best of Florida Schools in 2004 and 2005.

As EWC celebrates the past, it looks forward to a future filled with excellence, growth and success.

Leading the Way

In June 2005, the renowned Dr. Oswald P. Bronson Sr. took the helm as the 27th president at EWC with plans to lead the institution to a promising future. With more than 35 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Bronson, who is known as the Dean of Presidents of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has introduced EWC to the building blocks of leadership.

"My vision for this institution is built around the Double E Principle," Dr. Bronson said. "It is my hope that Edward Waters will be known as a college that is serious about quality education, and also exemplifies integrity and character formation."

Dr. Bronson, with the help of a tremendous faculty, is determined to showcase the talents of EWC through academics, excellence and ethics in everything from the classrooms to the playing fields. EWC not only prepares students for the work force, but also prepares them for life by providing education inside and outside the classroom.

"We will continue our open enrollment, and we want to make certain that the students have a genuine academic experience that is fulfilling and measurable," Dr. Bronson said. "When friends think of Edward Waters

College, they will immediately think of a college dedicated to excellence."

Making the Grade

The Division for Academic Affairs' top to bottom makeover is energizing the college. Led by Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Valdrie Walker, faculty and staff have reviewed and realigned academic majors and courses along with proposing additions to the curriculum. A more defined developmental education program welcomed more than 30 students into the 2006 Summer Bridge Program, the college's gateway for selected students transitioning from high school to Edward Waters College.

New faculty leadership has stepped forward to guide the Faculty Senate while many faculty accepted the call to serve on the College's Accreditation Reaffirmation Committee which diligently worked to assure the college's reaffirmation and warning sanction removal by SACS.

New administrative appointments exemplify the college's commitment to excellence. Natasha Mitchell, college registrar, appointed in April, will be joined in August by a new director of admissions and an assistant vice president

for academic affairs whose major responsibility will be to oversee implementation of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

"New expertise and academic experiences will be brought to our students through approximately a dozen faculty appointments spanning 11 of the college's degree-conferring programs," Dr. Walker said.

The Division for Academic Affairs has seen tremendous restructuring during the past year. While there is work yet to be done, the encouraging aspect is that the college has a road map, a plan through the QEP, as well as renewed energy and focus on faculty and academic staff. Faculty and students have responded positively to the call to assist in improving and strengthening Edward Waters.

As new faculty and staff appointments are made, the college will continue to build its student enrollment and encourage alumni support.

"Partnering with the business community and the community as a whole is critical as EWC moves to establish itself as a premier HBCU. Our academic program is integral to the success of EWC. We are very serious about the role academics must contribute if a meaningful and successful engagement is to occur

between the college and the community. Our future is extremely optimistic and bright; we are diligently moving the college ahead," Dr. Walker said."

Producing Successful Students

Great learners and successful students must have a balanced, healthy outlook on education and life. The goal of the Division of Student Affairs is to provide the tools necessary for students' well-being and create an environment for learning. To this end, Student Affairs offers a variety of programs designed to teach students to balance and manage school responsibilities. These programs include: Campus Ministry; Career Planning and Placement; Community Service; Counseling; Fitness Center; Health Services; Residential Life; Retention Programs; Student Activities; Black Male College Explorers; and Student Government Association.

Dr. Karen Buckman, Vice President of Student Affairs, has been working tirelessly to provide an environment conducive to learning and campus living.

"We provide a total learning environment with learning labs, group studies and complete living/learning facilities," Dr. Buckman said.

One of the many benefits at EWC is the life-long relationships that develop between students and faculty. Small classes give students the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with their mentors.

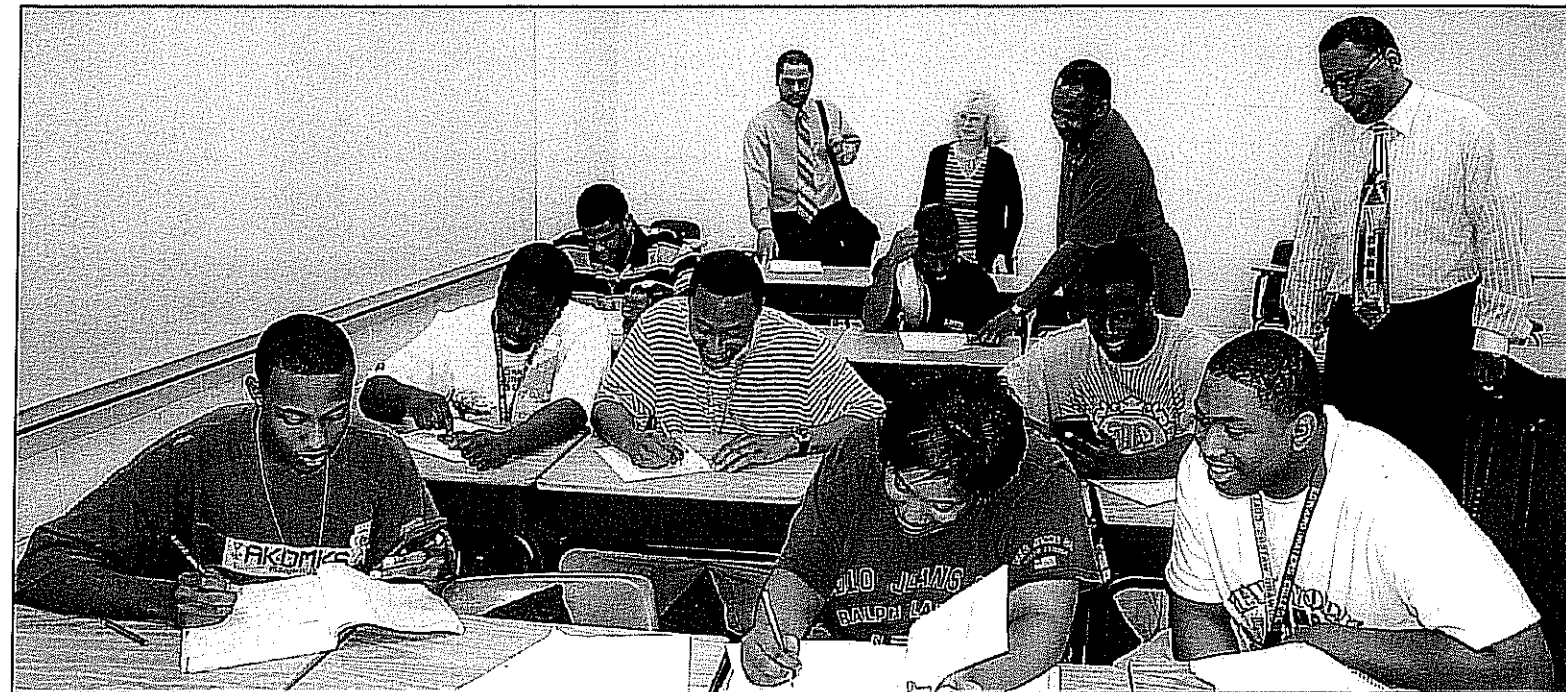
"We are small enough to be personal, but large enough to keep a diverse campus," Dr. Buckman said. "At Edward Waters College, students are provided an opportunity to meet the challenges of society through spiritual, intellectual and social growth. The Division of Student Affairs is providing Education with Commitment."

On the Field

Johnny Rembert, a former linebacker for the New England Patriots, guides the EWC Athletic Department. The Tigers have joined the Florida Sun Conference, and continue to show prowess in the classroom. EWC finished second in the independent conference, receiving more than 30 accolades for excellence in athleticism and academics. The program also was recognized with the NAIA Champion of Character award, and the NAIA All American Scholar-Athlete. The Athletic Department currently has more than 200 student athletes, which is nearly one-fourth of the college's enrollment.

EWC athletic offices are moving to the newly constructed John Hurst Adams/Jimmy R. Jenkins Community Sports and Music Center. The 1,800-seat center was dedicated in February 2006 and is approximately 50,000 square feet with a full gymnasium, workout facility, classrooms, concession stands and offices. The center also houses the Music and Fine Arts suites.

Many of the college's programs have achieved nationwide recognition for excellent athletes, including as of late, defensive back Leonard Ellis, who currently works in the Jacksonville Jaguars administration, and



Standing from left, Michael Walker (Jessie Ball duPont Fund intern, NC AT&T) and Dr. Sharon Greene, senior program officer with duPont, visit with students in the Summer Bridge Program. DuPont funds the Summer Bridge Program. Students receive instruction from the Rev. Michael McConnell (standing foreground) and George Coleman.

linebacker Joey Lopes, who was invited to participate in the 2006 Jaguars camp.

EWC's athletic programs have received national ranking in the fields of golf, basketball and football with the Lady Tigers capturing the 2006 Independent Conference Tournament (basketball), placing second overall with a 21-9 record.

EWC sports programs include men's and women's basketball, football, golf, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track & field, cheerleading, volleyball, softball and baseball.

Funding for the Future

"EWC Belongs to Me" is a normal reaction of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Edward Waters College. With campus-wide participation, the Division of Institutional Advancement (DIA), headed by Dr. James McLean, pursues an aggressive and comprehensive approach to marketing and fund-raising that reaches out to Jacksonville, the region, state, and nation. Donations and gifts are used to support excellence and ethics in teaching, research and community service.

According to McLean, the DIA conducts fund-raising initiatives through the Division's units of Alumni Affairs, Community Development Corporation, Communication and Marketing, Development, Fund-raising, Sponsored Programs, Contracts, Grants and the Title III Program. Related key functions include the AmeriCorps Program, Institutional Research and Institutional Effectiveness. All units work individually and collectively to achieve the fund-raising goals of the college.

The division seeks funds to support endowment, scholarships, academic and facility improvements, and general operations. The basic approach includes identification, research, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship. We appreciate the contributions of foundations, organizations, businesses, groups, and individuals. Proposals also are written to state, federal, and other agencies seeking funds for research enhancement and capital improvement. Donations and grants are

important to the college's financial stability.

"We are grateful to all individuals, agencies and organizations supporting Edward Waters College. We are especially appreciative of our affiliation with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and its significant yearly contributions to the college," McLean said. "The long-standing support of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund is essential to our continued growth. Other recent major donors include Wachovia Bank, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, R. D. Masonry, the Lazzara Foundation, the United Negro College Fund, the Black History Committee of Orange County, the late Mrs. Ruth P. Whitelocke-Doe and all others. To all our contributors, we are thankful."

In addition to accreditation reaffirmation, good news abounds throughout the EWC campus. The Office of Communication and Marketing disseminates information about the work of the new administration, faculty achievement, and dedication and excitement among students. The division assesses the work of all college divisions and units by examining programs, objectives, activities, and timelines to determine how well the campus is running as a whole," McLean said. "Using various statistical models and techniques, we collect, analyze and interpret data for more informed decisions regarding programs and operations."

The Community Development Corporation is

designed to work with the college to promote growth and capital improvement on the campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods. Grants to acquire residential property has enabled the CDC to further the initial phase of its mission to build a residential model black. Those plans are in the pre-construction phase.

Developing an economic development corridor along Kings Road is also a priority of the CDC.

"We must tell the 140-year-old story of Edward Waters College, and the men and women who have benefited from its programs and services both inside and outside of the institution," McLean said. "Looking to the future, we are encouraged by the continued support of old friends as we reach out to new friends for much needed funds for endowment, student scholarships, and capital and technological improvements."

Show your support for Edward Waters College through participation in this year's EWC Belongs to Me Annual Fund-raising Campaign. Make your contribution payable to Edward Waters College and address your donation to: EWC Belongs to Me Annual Campaign, Division of Institutional Advancement, Edward Waters College, 1658 Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209. Call the college at 470-8250 or stop by for a visit.

To learn more about Edward Waters College, visit the Web site at www.ewc.edu.



Bishop McKinley Young (left), chairman of the EWC Board of Trustees, and Dr. Oswald P. Bronson Sr., EWC president, presents Mike Freed with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at the 2006 commencement exercises. Dr. Valdrie Walker (background), vice president of Academic Affairs, assists with the ceremony.