By Joshua Wilson
Editor-in-Chief

Petal native Kenna Spiller was crowned Miss William Carey University 2012 during the 41st annual pageant on Oct. 20 in Smith Auditorium. Spiller, a freshman elementary education major, was crowned by her predecessor Shelby Lynn Ryals.

She competed against 14 other contestants, including Unique Evans, Julie Falgout, Brandance Gandy, Rachel Harris, Valencia Johnson, Whitney Johnson, Victoria King, Kail Marie Lancaster, Kaylee Lawrence, Terra Reeves, Shaybril Tamayo, Ashleigh Torres, Michelle Wade and Faith Windham.

Falgout was named first alternate and also won the preliminary awards for talent and evening gown. Reeves was named fourth alternate, while Wade received third alternate, while Dr. King reveals University’s long-range plan

By Kelsey Wells
Campus Life Editor

WCU President Dr. Tommy King recently presented his short-term and long-term plans for the college’s buildings and properties.

Dr. King began with a brief explanation of his plans for the Tradition campus. A recent purchase of land has nearly doubled the amount of property owned by the campus. The college is trying to work with a developer to build off-campus apartments to accommodate Tradition campus students.

He then presented some of the building projects and land acquisitions for the Hattiesburg campus.

One short-term project was the expansion of McMillan Hall, where the bookstore, post office and Information Technology offices are located, by closing in the porch area and extending the building back as far as possible without removing any parking spaces. These renovations will increase the floor space by as much as 60 percent and allow the bookstore to offer many new products and conveniently organize their current inventory. The increased bookstore revenue due to the expanded building is projected to pay for the project in eight to ten years.

A high priority project is the building of a new business building with a parking area.

The William Carey University master plan (above) calls for the addition of several buildings (in blue) including a new business building, COM research building, cafeteria addition, dormitories and new athletic facilities.

Completion of this building would create a chain reaction effect by vacating the Thomas Business Building for use as a school for the Department of Theatre and Communication. This move would allow the IT department to move out of McMillan Hall and providing more room for the bookstore and post office.

Another plan mentioned was the construction of a research building for the College of Osteopathic Medicine adjacent to the current complex.

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Dr. King also spoke of plans to build a small chapel located near the Chain Garden to accommodate 80 to 120 people. Donations are already regularly arriving toward the completion of this project, he said.

Sports facilities were also a major topic of Dr. King’s speech. Funding has been left to Carey by donors to complete indoor showers for the baseball team and a baseball/softball field house.

See PLANS Page Eight
Gamston speaks at Carey Lecture

By Joshua Wilson
Editor-in-Chief

The trip from Moulton, England to Hattiesburg is a long one, but the Rev. David Gamston, pastor of Moulton’s Carey Baptist Church, gladly traveled the distance to be the speaker at the Carey Lecture on Oct. 12 during the weekly chapel service.

“I bring with me greetings from that little church,” said Gamston, who has been the pastor at the church, which was also pastored by the church’s and the University’s namesake William Carey, since 2000.

In his lecture to Carey students, faculty and staff, Gamston discussed the history of the tiny church and its relation to Carey. Carey served as its pastor from 1785 until 1789 while also serving as a master shoemaker in the adjoining cobbler shop.

The church existed for well over one hundred years before Carey served as pastor. According to Gamston, the first record of the church’s existence was a religious census conducted in 1626. At that time, being of the Baptist faith was illegal in England, he said. “Your lands could be confiscated if you were caught practicing that faith, and you could even be taken to jail,” he said.

In 1696, the Toleration Act was passed, which allowed the church to formally organize. Prior to Carey’s pastorate, the church grew and also slowly died, with most of its members leaving the church and becoming Unitarians, said Gamston.

“Then, sturdy Orthodox men came along and a Calvinistic Baptist church was formed,” he said.

In 1761, William Carey was born. His family originally had no plans for him to become a pastor; instead, he was expected to be a farmer. However, Carey developed a skin disease that ended his farming career and forced him to take up apprenticeship work to a master shoemaker, said Gamston.

This move would eventually cause the church’s history books and Carey’s legacy to intertwine, he said.

Gamston discussed Carey’s early Christian life, including his rebirth into the Christian faith and his baptism by immersion on Oct. 16, 1783. In 1785, Carey moved to Moulton with his wife, Dorothy, to serve as the village’s shoemaker and schoolmaster, he said.

“The people there realized how gifted he was and asked him to be their pastor,” said Gamston.

Carey spent the next four years of his life at the church before moving to Lester and eventually to India to serve as the first missionary of the Baptist Missionary Society, he said. Even though he left the church, his fingerprints have remained there, said Gamston.

“The church has changed dramatically, but we’ve still got the house where Carey lived and worked,” he said.

The shared namesake has allowed Carey Baptist and the University to become friends, said Gamston, and he always looks forward to contact with people representing the University.

“I always look forward to getting visitors from William Carey University in Mississippi,” he said, “because they bring with them the presence of Jesus.”

He said that the common faith shared by University representatives and church members is the same faith William Carey had.

“That is a great legacy,” said Gamston.

In closing, the pastor shared William Carey’s greatest quote – “Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God” – and urged the audience to continue working toward that legacy.

“If we do that, we’ll continue to tread the footsteps of Carey himself,” said Gamston.