CAREER 250th birthday party held

William Carey University celebrated the 250th birthday of William Carey, the “Father of Modern Missions” and namesake of the institution, with an exquisite cake and campus gathering in the Student Conference Center on Aug. 22.

The event was led by Dr. Myron Noonkester, dean of the Noonkester School of Arts and Letters and chair for department of history, and Dr. Bennie Crockett, professor of religion and philosophy and vice president for institutional effectiveness and long range planning.

Dr. Noonkester and Dr. Crockett, both of whom are co-directors for the Center for the Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D., recently purchased a lithograph of a painting of Carey, dated 1813, from a print shop in London. At the party, they unveiled their new treasure to WCU faculty, staff, students, and guests.

After a short lesson on the rare portrait, guests watched as the 250 candles on the Carey-themed cake were lit and blown out, one section at a time. Everyone had a chance to admire the detailed cake, which included a portrait of Carey and other decorations representing his life, before enjoying the delicious masterpiece.

WCU will continue the yearlong celebration Carey’s life with a variety of events, including a Carey-themed art exhibit in October.

Theatre to present ‘The Diviners’

The William Carey University Theatre will present the drama “The Diviners” by Jim Leonard Jr. on Oct. 6-8 and Oct. 13-15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Joe and Virginia Tatum Theatre in Hattiesburg.

Set in the fictional town of Zion, Ind., during the Great Depression, the play tells the story of Buddy (Jason Piglia of Picayune), a young boy who suffers from mental deficiencies after having almost drowned as a baby in the same accident that claimed his mother’s life. Buddy has an unusual talent, he can attract water even though water terrifies him, and proves it by finding water for a farmer named Bailey (Chris Pernmenter of Oak Grove) and his doubting wife Luella (Sarah Fox of Poplarville). Two other farm hands, Dewey (Cameron Moesta of Carriere) and Melvin (David Reagan of Hattiesburg), experience Buddy’s power too.

C.C. Showers (Zach Lancaster of Picayune) then arrives in town and Buddy, with his older sister Jennie Mae (Abby Sewell of Walls), befriends him. Ferris Laymen (Ben Salters of Vancleave), Buddy’s father, lets him stay in their barn and work for him after learning that he is a preacher. Although Showers claims he has given up on preaching, the townspeople believe that it is a sign from God, especially Norma (Brandy Crawford of Gulfport), who thinks he will cure Buddy’s fear of water.

Goldie (Jana Barkley of Poplarville), the owner of the Dine Away Café, and Darlene (Kayla Weaver of Luce-dale), Norma’s niece who is in love with Dewey, are also important characters in this emotional tale of a town’s disillusionment and hope.

Tim Matheny, chair of the theatre and communication department, is director of this student-designed play. Dewey Douglas, KCACFT regional design faculty honoree, is also mentoring the student actors. The scenic designer is Zach Lancaster. Jason Piglia serves as the lighting designer, Cameron Moesta is sound designer, and Abby Sewell is the costume designer. Stephanie Keller of Picayune serves as the makeup and hair designer, and Catherine Kennedy of Meridian as stage manager.

The light board operator is Sydney Dedaux of Pass Christian and the sound board operator is Dwight Kendall of Mobile, Ala. House manager is Elizabeth Tate of Gulfport.

Tickets are $10 for general admission, $8 for military and senior citizens, and $5 for students. Reservations can be made by calling 601-318-6221. The box office is open Monday-Friday from 1-4 p.m. beginning Oct. 3.