Capital projects planned for 2016-2017

By Adrienne Madden
Editor-in-Chief

William Carey University officials recently announced four capital projects to be completed on the Hattiesburg campus during the 2016-2017 academic year. The projects include expansions to Green Science Hall and Clinton Gymnasium, the addition of a new track and the construction of a multi-use facility to support athletics, the marching band and intramural sports. The expansion to Green Science Hall will provide three new biology labs, faculty offices and support space. The number of biology majors at Carey has more than doubled since 2008 with the establishment of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Officials anticipate continued growth in biology as the Doctor of Physical Therapy program launches in the fall.

See PROJECTS, page 3

Peyton named Miss William Carey University

Award recipients in the Miss William Carey University 2016 Pageant are (from left) Madison Peyton of Hattiesburg, Miss WCU 2016; Hattie Zukas of Phoenix, Arizona, first runner-up; Jamie Davis of Wiggins, second runner-up; and Macy Monk of Denham Springs, Louisiana, third runner-up and winner of the Virginia Scott Spirit Award.

By Jessica Boyette
Managing Editor

On Nov. 19, Madison Peyton, a junior biology major from Hattiesburg, was crowned Miss William Carey University 2016 during the 46th annual scholarship pageant in Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus.

Peyton, the daughter of Patti Peyton and the late Thomas Peyton Jr., won the pageant’s preliminary contests in evening gown, interview and talent and received a $2,000 scholarship. She was also the recipient of the Amy E. Allen Cash Award for the highest grade point average. Peyton was crowned by Katie Sims of Purvis, Miss WCU 2015.

Hattie Zukas, a freshman elementary education major from Phoenix, Arizona, was named the first runner-up to Peyton and received an $800 scholarship. Jamie Davis, a freshman music education major from Wiggins, was the second runner-up and received a $500 scholarship. Macy Monk, a freshman biology major from Denham Springs, Louisiana, was the third runner-up and the winner of the Virginia Scott Spirit Award. Voted on by the contestants, this award recognizes contributions to the pageant by Virginia Scott, a former director who produced three Miss Mississippi winners.

The participants are evaluated in terms of their talent, physical fitness, on-stage question, personal interview and evening wear. Scoring for the competition is determined with personal interview at five percent, talent at 35 percent, swimsuit at 15 percent, on-stage questions at five percent and evening wear at 20 percent.

See PAGEANT, Page 8

From India to Hattiesburg: Haldar visits Carey

Special to The Cobbler

William Carey University recently welcomed a guest professor with connections to the college co-founded by Carey’s namesake nearly 200 years ago in Serampore, India.

Dr. Dipankar Haldar is an associate professor of New Testament at Serampore College, which was founded by William Carey, now known as the “Father of Modern Missions” and his colleagues, Joshua Marshman and William Ward, near the site of their mission in West Bengal in 1818. Haldar arrived in Mississippi for his first visit to the United States on Nov. 7 and stayed until Nov. 21.

Haldar’s relationship with the Baptist university bearing Carey’s name in Mississippi dates back a number of years, said Haldar. Carey has received students from Serampore and has hosted the principal, or president, of the college in the past. Professors and students from Carey have also traveled to the college.

"Several Carey professors, including Dr. Jonathan Brooke, Dr. Howard Keever, Dr. Scott Hummel, Dr. Myron Noonkester and Dr. Bennie Crockett, have visited Serampore for research purposes," said Haldar.

See HALDAR, Page 8
William Carey University student-athletes Larson Barkurn of Petal and Hope Biggs of Clinton recently received David M. Halbrook Certificates for Academic Achievement Among Athletes.

Barkurn and Biggs were recognized during Carey’s weekly chapel service on Nov. 11 by Dr. Tommy King, Carey president, and by their coaches, Bobby Halford and Jeff Mixon.

A pitcher and third baseman for the Crusader baseball team, Barkurn is a junior business administration major with a concentration in management and marketing. He is a former pitcher and quarterback for Petal High School and is a two-year starter for the Crusaders. He serves as an officer for Carey’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter and as a member of the dean’s advisory council for the School of Business. He has also been recognized as a scholar-athlete by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Biggs, a graduate of Central Hinds Academy in Raymond and an inductee into their Hall of Fame, is a senior golfer at Carey. She is a psychology major with a coaching minor and the president of Carey’s FCA chapter. She is also a member of the Association of Student-Athletes, a governance structure within the NAIA, and an officer on the Student Leadership Council for the Southern States Athletic Conference. Biggs has received numerous awards for competition and academic success, including several event titles, All-Tournament and All-Academic awards and NAIA Scholar-Athlete status.

The Halbrook Awards, which are administered by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Community College Board and the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, recognize colleges and universities that maintain and achieve high academic standards for student-athletes. Two student-athletes from each institution of higher learning in the state are selected annually for the certificates based on academic scores, athletic contribution, character, community service and leadership.

The gymnasium will be expanded through a two-story structure attached to the northern part of the building. The new addition will include offices for coaches and the athletic director along with locker rooms, dressing rooms for officials, a training room and a weight room. The existing dressing rooms in the gymnasium will also be renovated as dressing rooms for visiting teams.

The new track and multi-use facility will be constructed southeast of the campus adjacent to County Drive. The track will accommodate the track and field teams, which were established in 2014, and the multi-use facility will allow for the establishment of a women’s volleyball program to compete in the Southern States Athletic Conference. The facility will also house additional practice space for the junior varsity basketball teams, marching band and intramural program.

Dr. Scott Hummel, provost, said the capital projects are a result of Carey’s continued growth in both enrollment and programs.

Since 2007, university enrollment has steadily increased with a record number of 4,330 students enrolled for the 2015-2016 school year. Fifteen new buildings, including four residence halls, have been built on the Hattiesburg campus, along with a number of expansions and renovations to older academic buildings. The 50-acre Tradition campus, located on Highway 67 in Biloxi, was dedicated in 2009 and enrolled a record number of 1,154 students in August.

New programs in osteopathic medicine, Christian ministries, nursing, education, music and criminal justice have propelled the growth in enrollment. Growth has also been seen in the university’s athletic teams, which currently include 14 teams in seven sports.

“Our growth affirms Carey’s recent recognitions, including recognition as the number one ‘Best Value’ in the South among regional colleges and universities,” said Hummel. “These capital projects will help facilitate further growth.”

2015-2016 ANNUAL THEME

“Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.”
Matthew 5:41 (NASB)

The Cobbler

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Forensics team wins LSU-Shreveport tourney

From Staff Reports

The William Carey University forensics team recently placed first overall, winning in both speech and debate competition, and first in individual events at the Red River Swing Tournament at Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

The team, which is under the direction of Assistant Professor of Communication Jennifer Talbert, previously won third place in individual events at tournaments hosted by the University of Alabama and Ball State University in Indiana in October. In a September tournament at Western Kentucky University, the team placed first overall and third in individual events.

Guide names Carey a ‘Best Online College’

From Staff Reports

A guide for students seeking an online education recently ranked William Carey University as a ‘Best Online College’ in Mississippi. OnlineColleges.net ranked Carey third out of nine schools on the top online schools list. More than 30 colleges and universities offering online programs in the state were considered in the rankings, which factor in tuition and retention rates, accreditation status and program options. The rankings use data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.

The Carey review noted, “Regardless of the degree level they seek, prospective students have numerous fully online options available to them, in addition to further hybrid degree options,” and that “[…]online students receive a lot of individualized care, including academic advisors ready to answer questions to an extensive online library for all research needs.”

Carey offers online undergraduate and graduate programs in education, music and ministry, nursing and criminal justice. In education, the bachelor’s degree in physical education is offered as well as Master of Education degrees in mild and moderate disabilities, elementary education and secondary education. The educational specialist degree is offered in instructional leadership and the Doctor of Education degree is available in educational leadership. In music and ministry, the Master of Music degree in church music and the Master of Music Education degree are offered. In nursing, the registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in nursing degree is available, along with the Master of Science degree in nursing, the dual MSN/Master of Business Administration degree and the RN-MSN degree. A master’s degree in criminal justice will be available beginning in February 2016.

To view the list, visit www.onlinecolleges.net/mississippi.

For information on online programs, visit www.wmcarey.edu/elearning.

Student Foundation selects Gagliano as 2015 recipient

Meghan Gagliano of Hattiesburg was recently awarded the William Carey University Student Foundation Scholarship for 2015. Gagliano, an English and intercultural studies major, was selected for the scholarship from a pool of more than 200 applicants. Lydia Ulrich, president of the Student Foundation, said Gagliano was awarded the scholarship based on participation in activities both on the Carey campus and within the community.

“We were impressed by her high level of involvement in extracurricular activities and by her true desire to help others,” said Ulrich.

Gagliano is a junior class representative in the Student Government Association. She is also involved with the Baptist Student Union, where she assists with weekly events. Outside of Carey, Gagliano is a worker in the children’s ministry at her church, Hattiesburg Community Church, and a volunteer at the Fieldhouse for the Homeless in Hattiesburg, where she leads a monthly devotional and lunch meeting.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Gagliano found Carey through recommendations from family members and friends. She said Carey’s smaller campus appealed to her.

“I was homesick, so I wanted something that was smaller,” she said. “I love Carey because of the investment that is placed in each student by their professors.”

In addition to her extracurricular activities, Gagliano has been listed on the President’s List for her academic achievements. Along with her coursework, she has enjoyed traveling on overseas trips with Dr. Daniel Browning, a professor of religion, through Carey’s Study, Travel and Excavation Program.

“Dr. Browning is a great example of the type of professor at Carey,” said Gagliano. “He is an encourager and always gives great advice.”

After graduation from Carey, Gagliano hopes to teach English overseas. She said the financial assistance from the Student Foundation will assist her in completing her degree.

“Scholarships are extremely important to me because I pay for school on my own,” said Gagliano. “I am so grateful to the Student Foundation for their generosity and willingness to help students like me.”

The Student Foundation was founded in 2010 by several Carey students with the goal of helping fellow students fulfill their goals with additional scholarship assistance. The foundation holds several fundraisers per academic year, including an annual 5K and fun run, to help raise funds for scholarships.

Lane named Carey’s recipient for Hub Award Scholarship

Theodore “Ted” Lane Jr., a junior music performance major at William Carey University, was awarded the Hub Award Leadership and Service Scholarship during the annual award dinner and program on Nov. 17 at Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg.

A native of Lake Providence, Louisiana, Lane has lived in Hattiesburg for 15 years and worked as a music teacher at P.A.C.E. Head Start before enrolling at Carey. He is a member of Carey’s Jazz Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, the Knights of Jazz and the Jazztet. He is married to Sherry Lane and has five children.

“It’s a great honor to be considered for the scholarship,” said Lane. “It will help not only with school costs but also with marketing myself for future job opportunities.”

The Hub Award Endowment at the Greater PineBelt Community Foundation awards a scholarship each year to a student from Carey and to a student from the University of Southern Mississippi. Jeffrey George was this year’s Southern Miss recipient.

The Hub Award dinner funds the endowment while also recognizing individuals for their contributions to the community, commitment to excellence and dedication to public service. This year’s recipients were Charles J. Brown, a 1973 Carey graduate, and the late Bernice Linton.
CAMPUS LIFE

The Cobbler presents...

SADER SCENES

Grab your camera or smart device and participate in Carey’s photo contest, sponsored by The Cobbler newspaper and the Office of Student Activities. We want to see how you see your Carey!

CATEGORIES:
• Carey Views and Vistas – What is your favorite Carey sight?
• Learning Spaces and Places – Where is your favorite place to learn on campus ... classroom, library, outdoor space?
• The Carey Spirit – Show us what Carey Spirit means to you!

PRIZES:
• Prizes will be awarded for both campuses.
• A $25 gift card to Common Grounds (Hattiesburg) and a $25 gift card to Subway (Tradition) will be presented to the overall winners. Additional prizes will be given to submissions receiving honorable mentions.

CONTEST DATES:
• The contest begins on October 28 and runs through January 25. All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on January 25.

HOW TO ENTER:
• Enter the contest as many times as you want, but photos must be entered via email, but feel free to share your submissions on social media using #SaderScenes.

RULES AND LEGALESE:
• Carey students (both campuses) and staff are welcome to enter. Pictures will be judged on quality and subject matter. A panel of judges will select winners.
• Your photos remain your property, but Carey reserves the right to use them in future marketing materials. Great photos deserve promotion!

Photos must be entered via email, but feel free to share your submissions on social media using #SaderScenes.

Casey shows Christmas spirit through festivals, giving

By Jessica Boyette
Managing Editor

On Dec. 3, Carey held its annual vespers service and Winter Festival in celebration of the Christmas season. For the vespers service, Smith Auditorium was decorated with a Christmas tree, wreaths and garlands. The performers and speakers told the Christmas story through scripture and hymns while introducing holiday traditions.

Various music students led the Oratorio Choir and the attendees in singing classic Christmas tunes, such as “Joy to the World,” “O Come, All Ye Faithful” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The vespers service also featured a performance by the Handbells Ensemble.

Carey President Dr. Tommy King narrated the story of Christ’s birth and students Logan McCartney and Chamapuwa Tinago explained traditional Christmas customs and symbols. Near the end of the vespers service, congregants shared in the Passing of the Light, a candle lighting ceremony in observance of Christ, the light of the world. After observing the Passing of the Light, the congregation was asked to partake in a processional to Chain Garden where Dr. Don Odom, dean of the Winters School of Music and Ministry, led everyone in singing “Silent Night.”

Following the vespers service, students gathered on Ross-Johnson Lawn to enjoy food and activities sponsored by the Student Government Association, Student Activities and other campus organizations. Students participated in button-making, ornament and cookie decorating and Christmas trivia while enjoying s’mores, hot chocolate and bonfires. Additional booths included Christmas card writing for nursing home residents, a prize wheel and a shooting range. Musical entertainment was provided by the Jazz Band.

“Food, fun and fellowship are just a few of the reasons why we love to celebrate the Christmas season here at Carey,” said SGA President Andrew Coleman.

The Tradition campus also hosted its Winter Festival on Dec. 5. Tradition hosts this event each year for the enjoyment of its students, alumni and their families. The event included food, games, a sleigh ride and caroling. Children in attendance were able to meet and visit with Santa at the “North Pole” post office. They were also able to partake in face painting and ornament decorating at a booth sponsored by Tradition’s art department. Carey’s Jazz Band and Guitar Ensemble provided musical entertainment during the event.

“The Tradition staff enjoys hosting this event because it gives our students a fun-filled holiday event to attend with their family and gives the faculty, staff and administration the opportunity to be with them as part of the Carey family,” said Cathy Creed, assistant director of financial aid at the Tradition campus.

In addition to hosting the Winter Festival, Tradition also celebrates the Christmas season by participating in an ongoing ministry in support of The Lord is My Help, a local nonprofit kitchen that advocates for the “hungry, ill, disabled and homebound.”

Located in Ocean Springs, The Lord is My Help runs primarily on donations from the community and, with those funds, feeds the homeless and provides one hot meal a day to those who cannot cook for themselves. Each year, Tradition’s faculty, staff, and students collect and donate nonperishable food items to the kitchen. This year, an entire truckload of food items was delivered to the kitchen prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.
CHRISTMAS AT CAREY

Students enjoy the annual Christmas dinner in Wilkes Dining Hall.

Students decorate Smith Auditorium during the vespers service.

Children of faculty and staff place presents under the tree during vespers.

Brianna Wilks and Brandon Dearmon hold a candle during vespers.

The Grinch (Nikki Ainsworth) decorates ornaments at the Art Club’s table during the Christmas Festival on Ross-Johnson Lawn.

Kyle Conn leads the Oratorio Choir and crowd in singing “Festival of Carols” during the vespers service.

Students enjoy the candlelight carol medley and processional to Chain Garden following the vespers service in Smith Auditorium.

Bailey Hill (right) receives a present from “Santa Claus” and Santa’s elf, Sawyer Walters, during the Christmas Festival on Ross-Johnson Lawn.
Kipchumba earns second national title

By Christopher Moran
Sports Editor

Sophomore Geoffrey Kipchumba of Eldoret, Kenya, posted a time of 23:55 in the 8-kilometer race to take home the individual title in the 2015 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men’s Cross-Country National Championship on Nov. 21 in Charlotte, North Carolina. With this accomplishment, Kipchumba becomes the reigning champion in two sports since he claimed the 2015 NAIA Men’s Track and Field national title in the 10,000-meter run. Kipchumba was also named the Southern States Athletic Conference’s Runner of the Year. Kipchumba also competed in this event last season, where he earned 10th place with a time of 25:18 and All-American honors.

This year, Kipchumba started the season with the goal of obtaining the national championship title. During the summer, Kipchumba and Cross-Country Coach Blake Hegstrom worked to build his endurance so he could accomplish this goal.

“Every time I run a race, my goal is not merely to win, but to beat my personal record. Whether I win or I lose, as long as I beat my personal record, I have something to be proud of because I have improved,” said Kipchumba.

Kipchumba posted a perfect season by winning every race in which he competed. He became the first men’s cross-country national champion from Carey, as well as the first men’s cross-country champion from the SSAC. With his victory, Carey became the 32nd institution to have an individual champion in this event.

“My main concern was to represent the team very well and I thank God that I was able to do that for them. I have received so much support this year and so many people have a hand in this victory and my journey,” said Kipchumba. “Every day, I remind myself that all dreams are valid and every goal is true as long as you are working hard to accomplish it. If God says it is your time, nothing can stop you.”

Men’s basketball defeats Southern Miss

By Christopher Moran
Sports Editor

For the first time in the 10-year rivalry between the Hattiesburg universities, Carey’s men’s basketball team defeated the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, a NCAA Division I team, with a decisive 84-78 win on Nov. 23 at Reed Green Coliseum.

After starting the game with a strong run, the Crusaders never trailed. The team established a commanding 50-33 lead by halftime. In the opening minutes of the second half, Carey dominated the court and stretched their lead over the Golden Eagles to 26 points. With 15:54 left in the game, it seemed as if the Crusaders had total control of the contest, but the Golden Eagles fought to gain the deficit. The Golden Eagles cut the Crusaders’ lead down to seven points with less than three minutes left in the game.

After junior Leo Garrett of Brookhaven hit a three-pointer to halt the Southern Miss run, the Crusaders did not look back. They held on and played smart during the last two minutes of the game, earning the 84-78 victory.

The Crusaders saw four players finish with double-digit scoring. Garrett led all scorers with a game high of 22 points scored and also contributed six rebounds and four steals. Senior Donnell Pittman of Waynesboro contributed 14 points and showcased his passing with a game high of nine assists. Senior Donnell Nicholes of Gulfport finished with 13 points and senior Emmanuel Davis of Buckatunna completed a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

“I’m very happy for our players, staff and our entire Carey family. The team played with a lot of determination and concentrated effort. This was a sweet, hallmark win for us,” said Steve Knight, athletic director and head men’s basketball coach.

The Crusaders continued their great shooting record in their next contest held on Nov. 28 against Spring Hill College, a NCAA Division II institution. Carey controlled the game from the opening minutes and ended with a final score of 97-74.

Senior Cory Jackson of Biloxi led the team in scoring with 15 points, but this win was due to a complete team effort. Jackson was one of six players who scored in double figures and the team successfully completed 60 percent of the shots they attempted. Throughout the game, the closest the Spring Hill Badgers came to closing Carey’s lead was within eight points, after which the Crusaders went on multiple scoring runs to take a 26-point lead over Spring Hill.

In their next game on Dec. 1, Carey came out strong and fast as they jumped out to an early 27-9 lead against Dillard University. The Blue Devils reduced the lead to 10 points and kept the game close throughout much of the second half, but the Crusaders fought their potent offense with tough defense to maintain the lead through the rest of the game. Pittman led Carey with 21 points, driving the team to an 86-76 victory. This was a significant win for the Crusaders as they had fallen to Dillard 83-74 just two weeks earlier on Nov. 17.

Soccer teams enjoy strong season, tourney play

By Christopher Moran
Sports Editor

The men’s soccer team posted a 10-4-0 overall record and a conference record of 4-2-2 this season. The team competed in the Southern States Athletic Conference tournament in Montgomery, Alabama, where they fell to host-school Auburn Montgomery 3-1 in a penalty kick shootout.

Sophomore Roger Viladomiu of Barcelona, Spain, led the Crusaders in points scored by finishing the season with 11 successful shots. Viladomiu received the SSAC Golden Boot award, which is given to the player with the most goals during the season.

He was also one of four team members to be named to the SSAC All-Conference Second-Team. Other players selected for the team were sophomore Pedro Billar Roldan of Santander, Spain; senior Laari Tushisto-Kokko of Espoo, Finland; and freshman Joe Guinichard of London, England. Tushisto-Kokko was named to the SSAC Champions of Character Team, while Guinichard was joined by freshman Johny Buckle of Torquay, England, on the SSAC All-Freshman team. Team members recognized as part of the All-Academic team include senior Michael Allizzo of Ocean Springs; junior Mitchell Blair of Wellington, New Zealand; senior Billy Buchanan of Baton Rouge; junior Thomas Dos Anjos of Waltham Cross, England; junior Miguel Izquierdo Puentes of Burgos, Spain; and Viladomiu.

The Lady Crusaders soccer team finished the regular season with a 17-3-2 overall record and an 8-0-0 record in regular season conference play. Despite posting such an impressive record, they did not receive the regular season conference title because they fell to rival Mobile 1-0 in the conference championship tournament. However, the Lady Crusaders did receive a bid to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women’s National Championship tournament. In the first round, they defeated Georgia Gwinnett 1-0 at Crusader Field.

In the second round of the national championship tournament, the Lady Crusaders, ranked number five, played Spring Arbor University, ranked number four. The Lady Crusaders offense struggled against a solid Spring Arbor defense as they were held to four shots on goal for the match. This aggressive match in the quarterfinal round of the tournament proved to be the final contest of the season for the Lady Crusaders as they fell to Spring Arbor 2-0.

In recognition of their season, the team received numerous post-season awards. Head Coach Danny Owens received the SSAC Coach of the Year award and senior Sue Kumaning of London, England, received the SSAC Player of the Year.
No-Shave November brings a spirit of giving

By Deborah Nevill & Kaitlyn Watkins

Most of us are familiar with “No-Shave November” in which, you guessed it, it becomes acceptable to not shave! Typically, it’s associated with men who need an excuse to grow facial hair for a month, but there are a few ladies who participate in it as well (although this takes a bit more guts and self-control). The no-shave tradition existed for years before No-Shave November became a way to raise money for cancer research. Although the month is over, the reason behind it remains inspiring.

No-Shave November is a web-based organization that helps raise awareness and support for cancer patients through participants growing a beard during the month of November. The goal is to embrace one’s hair in support of those who lose theirs in the battle against disease. The Hill family of Chicago started this project in 2009 after their father, Matt Hill, died of colon cancer two years previously. Eight children survive him and all are extremely active in the family-based organization. Every November since Hill’s death, the family has collected donations that go toward cancer research, prevention and education. Participants are encouraged to donate the money that would have been spent on shaving materials to the cause. The No-Shave November campaign has raised more than $2 million over the past six years.

The Hill family raises money by taking pledges throughout the month of November and selling bracelets and t-shirts supporting their cause the rest of the year. NBC’s “Today” program employees have supported their cancer research this year by refraining from shaving throughout November and encouraging others to do the same. Awareness of such a widespread disease is crucial to finding a cure. Cancer is the second-most common cause of death in America, accounting for nearly one out of four deaths. A large part of No-Shave November is educating people about cancer and remembering lost loved ones, especially in situations similar to the Hill family’s.

No-Shave November partners with several research organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Prevent Cancer Foundation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Fight Colorectal Cancer. Not only can you have some fun and grow a beard, you can support cancer patients who have lost their hair! Not shaving for an entire month is a pretty big commitment for some people, so the Hill family encourages people to support someone who is participating in No-Shave November.

If you’re interested in participating next year, visit www.no-shave.org for more information about the cause and how you can contribute. While you’re at it, let others know about No-Shave November and the meaning behind it. After all, if you’re putting all that work into not shaving, you might as well let everyone know why you’re doing it! Grow that beard, let your legs get hairy and donate to those who can’t.

Downtown Saenger offers holiday productions

By Malia Yoon & Jeremy Nix

The Hattiesburg Saenger Theater is the place to be for all of your holiday fun! This year, the Saenger will be hosting an array of productions for many different audiences. The theater will feature productions of “The Forgotten Carols” and will also host a two-day Christmas movie series.

“The Forgotten Carols” will take place at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Michael McLean created this Christmas performance while sitting at his piano and pondering, “What if I met the innkeeper who turned away Mary and Joseph?” This story takes the perspective of the innkeeper, the shepherds and other “forgotten” characters of the nativity story. The production also tells the story of a nurse whose empty life is changed when a new patient recounts the story of Christ’s birth as told by the “forgotten” characters in the story. The accounts from the innkeeper, the shepherds and other characters help the nurse discover what the world has forgotten about Christmas and open her heart to the joy of this special season. Tickets are $16.

The next big event on the Saenger’s calendar for the holiday season is the Christmas movie series, which will take place on Dec. 21-22. On Dec. 21 at 2 p.m., the theater will show “Elf.” Many people are familiar with this movie because of the lovable Buddy the Elf, played by Will Ferrell. “Meet Me in St. Louis” follows at 7 p.m. that day. This musical film stars Judy Garland as Esther, a girl who is in love with her next-door neighbor and who hopes to go as his date to the Christmas eve ball.

On Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., the theater will show the international Disney phenomenon “Frozen.” A hit since it arrived in movie theaters in 2013, “Frozen” is the highest-grossing animated film to date. At 7 p.m., the British Christmas-themed romantic comedy “Love Actually” will be shown. This film examines different aspects of love as shown through 10 separate stories. Set primarily in London, the story begins five weeks before Christmas and is played out in a weekly countdown until the holiday. Tickets are $5 per film for the movie series.

To purchase tickets or for more information on these events, visit the www.hattiesburgsaenger.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the Saenger’s box office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

International students decorate Christmas tree

Pankaj Bhatta, a William Carey University sophomore from Kathmandu, Nepal, signs an ornament on a Christmas tree decorated by Carey’s international student population on December 3 in Missions Plaza on the Hattiesburg campus. The decoration was a part of Carey’s Christmas festivities, which also included a dinner, a vespres worship service and the Winter Festival. Carey is home to more than 120 students from 44 countries.

Staff Photo
Haldar (continued from front)

These visits led to friendships between Haldar and his American colleagues and strengthened the relationship between the two institutions. The cultivation of relationships — helped greatly by Facebook, said Haldar — has led to his contribution of several works to the Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, which is located on the Hattiesburg campus. Haldar has translated Bengali hymns written by William Carey and has also contributed an original piece.

In early 2012, Haldar served as a host for a group of 12 Carey students led by Thammel and Brooker. The 10-day cultural exchange involved the group observing classes, touring historical sites related to the university’s namesake and assisting with projects around the Serampore campus, including painting a dormitory. Haldar also welcomed the group into his home, where they met his wife, Samapti, and his sons, Mark and Matthew.

“We enjoyed and loved their visit,” said Haldar. “Since then, I have found myself wanting to visit Carey and learn more about this place in Mississippi.”

Haldar has served at Serampore College since September 2004 as a member of their theology faculty. He teaches Greek and courses in New Testament history. The college is divided into two entities, including Haldar and his colleagues in theology and a separate school for the arts, science and commerce. The theology school has around 150 students while the arts, science and commerce school has nearly 4,000 students.

“There are many similarities between Serampore and Carey,” said Haldar. “Many of the same courses are taught, such as classes in Greek and New Testament, and there are well-versed professors in many of the same areas.”

In addition to his work as a professor, Haldar has also published 14 books, including works in theology, New Testament, the history of the early church and collections of sermons. He has served a pastor since 1990 and is a presbyter in the Church of North India, a church organized from six different Christian denominations. He is also the chaplain at Serampore, where he is in charge of all worship services.

“We have three daily worship services at Serampore College and two on Sundays,” said Haldar.

Haldar is the chairman for the Kolkata branch of Compassion International, which provides 70,000 Indian children in his region with needed services each year. He also serves as the Hooghly District’s coordinator for Samaritan’s Purse and is in charge of distributing the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Thousands of boxes are shipped to the district each year for Haldar and a team of pastors and community leaders to distribute.

“We train for six months on how to distribute the shoeboxes and also how to share the Gospel during the distribution process,” said Haldar. “The excitement at Christmas, when the children know the shoeboxes are coming, is great.”

Haldar said outreach organizations, along with an increased focus on mission work within Indian churches, is leading to a growth in the number of Christians in India.

“We are seeing a growth in the number of churches and in the numbers of people attending churches,” he said. “Our churches are reaching out and sharing the Gospel.”

During his visit to Carey, Haldar shared stories of Christianity’s growth and also of William Carey and his 41 years of service in India. He lectured in several history, music and religion classes.

Pageant (continued from front)

Musical entertainment for the pageant was provided by students from the Winters School of Music and Ministry. Pageant emcees were Lacey Cofield Boling, Miss WCU 2006, and Dr. Lynne Pageant. Proceeds from the Miss WCU Pageant were donated to the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, a partner of the Miss Mississippi and Miss America pageants.

Other players who received recognitions were freshmen Jamie Holifield of Petal and Abby Baravik of Laurel. Holifield was named the SSAC Freshman of the Year and posted a very impressive first season as a Lady Crusader by finishing the regular season with 15 goals in 16 games. She also completed the 16-game schedule with three hat-tricks, two of which took place during the conference tournament.

Goalkeeper Baravik, who during the regular season started eight games, made 12 saves and allowed zero goals, was awarded the SSAC Golden Gloves award, which is given to the best goalkeeper in the conference for the regular season. Baravik has yet to allow a goal in her career. During the championship play, she made nine more saves in three starts, bringing her total to an impressive 21 saves.

Holifield, Baravik and Kumaning, joined by fellow Lady Crusaders junior Julia Appelberg of Lidkoping, Sweden, and senior Brittany Lang of Biloxi, were all named to the SSAC First All-Conference Team.

Team members named to the SSAC Second All-Conference Team include freshman April Stewart of Pascagoula, junior Maren Hasselbusch of Petershagen, Sweden, and Phatnam Josefin Karlsson of Malmo, Sweden. The SSAC All-Freshman team recognized Holifield, Stewart, Karlsson and Baravik. Team members on the SSAC All-Academic Team include Appelberg; senior Danielle Fortin of Lafayette, Indiana; Kumaning; Hasselbusch; junior Shelby Gilliland of Petal; junior Rhiannon Ishmael of London, England; Lang; junior Macy Rogers of Lucedale; junior Natalie Saunders of Cumbria, England; and junior Luciane Wentz of Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Soccer (continued from front)