

# SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## Savannah State to Celebrate 119 Years



**Dr. Luetta Colvin Milledge**

Savannah State University (SSU) will celebrate 119 years as an institution of higher learning during the annual Founders Day observance on Monday, Nov. 23, at 6 p.m. in Tiger Arena.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will include an address by Luetta Colvin Milledge, Ph.D., retired professor/department head of Humanities and Fine Arts at Savannah State, along with award presenta-

tions. Milledge, who retired from Savannah State in 1991 after approximately 41 years of service, earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, summa cum laude, from Fort Valley State, Atlanta University and University of Georgia, respectively.

The Savannah native is a member of several academic honor societies including Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

Milledge established

the undergraduate chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society at Savannah State during her tenure. She has earned many citations and awards for achievement in diverse fields and for her distinguished contributions to education including the Governor's Award in the Humanities in 1988.

Following Milledge's address, SSU President Earl G. Yarbrough Sr. will present the Richard R. Wright Award of Excellence and the Cyrus G. Wiley Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Named in honor of the first president, the Wright Award is the university's highest honor and recognizes outstanding corporate and community leaders.

The Wiley Award, named in honor of the second president, recognizes outstanding alumni of the university.

Established in 1890, Savannah State University is on the move to become the best value-added university in the nation.

Approximately 3,800 students are enrolled in 23 undergraduate degree majors and five graduate programs in three colleges: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration and Sciences and Technology.

## An Historic Step Toward Health Care for All Americans



**Congressman Charles Rangel**

By Congressman Charles Rangel

Washington, DC -- The U.S. House of Representatives, under Democratic leadership, has taken a giant, historic step to bring quality and affordable health care to all Americans. And I mean all Americans \_ regardless of race, gender, age, and income status.

In my more than 38 years of serving in the U.S. Congress, I don't think I have ever been more proud of leading the Ways and Means Committee as we worked with our leadership team of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Whip Jim Clyburn.

Speaker Pelosi's remarkable leadership on this issue has been consistently strong and sturdy. I also want to commend the chairpersons of the other committees, Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. George Miller, Chairman of the House Education and

Labor Committee, for their cooperative spirit and hard work.

We would not have been able to come this far without the leadership of President Barack Obama.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act includes provisions that:

- o Increase choice and competition, by protecting and improving consumers' choices.

- o Allow individuals who aren't currently covered by their employers and small businesses to purchase coverage through a new Health Insurance Exchange, where consumers can shop from a menu of affordable, quality health care options, including private plans, co-ops, and a new public insurance option.

- o Guarantee that every child in America has health care coverage that includes dental, hearing, and vision benefits;

- o End increases in premiums or denials of care based on pre-existing conditions,

race, or gender, and strictly limit age rating;

- o Eliminate co-pays for preventive care, and cap out-of-pocket expenses to protect Americans from bankruptcy;

- o Strengthen Medicare and Medicaid and close the Medicare Part D "donut hole" so that seniors and low-income Americans receive better quality of care and see lower prescription drug costs and out-of-pocket expenses;

- o Provide affordability credits, available on a sliding scale, for low- and middle-income individuals and families, to make premiums affordable and reduce cost-sharing;

- o Strengthen and expand programs that promote diversity in the health workforce, including enhancing scholarship programs that help students from disadvantaged backgrounds enter the health field;

- o Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify health care disparities as part of a National Prevention and Wellness Strategy initiative.

Eligible grantees include "health empowerment zones," areas in which a community partnership provides multiple preventive health services;

- o Improve access to care for limited English proficient beneficiaries by providing enhanced funding through Medicaid and initiating a demonstration program in Medicare to reimburse providers for the provision of language services. Authorizes the Secretary to give preference to Community Based Medical Home (CBMH) applications that seek to eliminate health disparities.

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—Dorothy Hamill

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