

Before You Buy that Electric Vehicle - p. 7

FREE

Wims' Investiture Near, p. 8

Friday
April 29, 2022
Vol. 8, No. 34
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. James D. Foster



The Valley Weekly

"The rich are only defeated when running for their lives." - C. L. R. James



AAMU Band to Join Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in 2023

Director of Bands Carlton Wright, let the campus know there would be a special announcement made on the morning of April 20 ... on The Quad of Alabama A&M University.

Wright had the band lined-up and welcomed AAMU President Daniel K. Wims and community dignitaries before introducing Wesley Whatley, creative producer for music and talent at Macy's.

Whatley surprised students when he announced that for the first time in

AAMU's history, Macy's has selected the AAMU Marching Maroon & White Band to perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade next year.

To keep the official announcement a secret, Wright said he hinted to the band they might be getting a new band building.

Whatley also presented a \$10,000 check to kick off the donation drive to get students to the parade next year.

Whatley says Macy's selected 10 bands from

across the country to perform, and just three university bands.

The 97th Annual Macy's Day Parade is scheduled for November 23, 2023, in New York City.

NBC will air the parade live from 8-11 a.m. (CST), as it has since 1948.

Above: AAMU bandmaster Carlton Wright (center) holds Macy's emblem following the announcement that the Marching Maroon and White Band will be participating in Macy's Annual Thanksgiving Parade.

Committee of 100 Holds 'Rock the Vote' Event

The Huntsville Committee of 100 YP held its three-hour 2022 'Rock the Vote' activity at the Stovehouse at 3414 Governors Drive in Huntsville on Sunday, April 24.

The event provided attendees an opportunity

Participants were also able to register to vote as well as learn their respective voting districts.

Organizers describe 'Rock the Vote' as a

to meet local officials and candidates for offices.

free social atmosphere with live music.



Donations, Support Make Drake's 'Jazz' a Success

Drake State has spent the past year highlighting its rich history of serving students and the Huntsville and Madison County community through its 60th Anniversary celebration. Rave reviews immediately poured in following the scholarship fundraiser and culminating 60th Anniversary event: Jazz in the Garden. This was Drake's biggest in-person event since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Alabama Power Foundation presented a \$10,000 gift to support student scholarships. The Drake State Foundation made a challenge to match

that donation to the community. Donations can be made at drakestate.edu/donate.

Two new scholarships were also announced. Theta Lambda Education Foundation announced the

inaugural Dr. Theo Weir Scholarship in honor of past Drake faculty member Drake State alum Roy Cox, owner of Trav-Ad Signs, established The Roy Cox Trav-Ad Scholarship. Visit drakestate.edu

The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The House, among other items, took up a Senate-passed bill to create a new lend-lease program (modeled on the World War II program) to ship military equipment to Ukraine on an expedited basis. The Senate will start the week on the nomination of Lael Brainard to be Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve and then may turn to a renewed debate on the \$10 billion COVID relief bill, which Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) would like to pair with a new Ukraine supplemental appropriations bill. Also, the House and Senate began negotiations to finalize a deal on far-reaching China competitiveness legislation known as USICA and the America COMPETES Act. Action is expected in the Senate as early as this week to formalize the chamber's conferees to officially negotiate the final legislative package. The House version of the bill

includes a critical provision to allow the Pell Grant to be used for short-term workforce training programs.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** President Biden hosted the NHL Stanley Cup Champions Tampa Bay Lightning at the White House. On Wednesday, he delivered a eulogy at former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's funeral at National Cathedral and then hosted 2022 National Teacher of the Year Kurt Russell of Oberlin (Ohio) High School in a meeting with First Lady Jill Biden and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. On Saturday night, the President and First Lady will attend the White House Correspondents' Association annual dinner at the Washington Hilton (the first time a sitting president will be at the event since President Obama in 2016). Last Thursday, the President announced he was sending \$800 million in additional military aid to Ukraine (including heavy artillery weapons, 144,000 rounds of ammunition, and tactical drones) plus \$500 million in

economic aid. He is also expected to send to Congress this week a request for additional supplemental appropriations for Ukraine.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** Two notable cases the court heard this week were: Kennedy v. Bremerton School District (Monday, April 25), whether a public school district violated the rights of a high school football coach when it restricted him from praying on the field after games; and Biden v. Texas (Tuesday, April 26), whether the Department of Homeland Security must continue to enforce Trump-era Migrant Protection Protocols (aka, the "Remain in Mexico" policy) that requires asylum seekers at the southern border to stay in Mexico while awaiting a hearing in U.S. immigration court.

4. **MCCARTHY TRIP TO TEXAS.** According to Politico, on Monday House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) led a group of 9 GOP House Members to Eagle Pass, TX on the Mexican border to highlight their opposition to the Biden Administration's decision to end the Title 42 COVID public health emergency declaration at the U.S. border on May 23, which has since March 2020 allowed U.S. border officials to expel 1.7 million migrants without allowing them to apply for asylum due to the COVID pandemic.

5. **STUDENT LOANS.** The Biden administration plans to

appeal a federal judge's ruling that struck down the Education Department's ban on some student loan collectors charging large fees to borrowers who default on their debt but quickly agree to repay. On April 22, the Justice Department on filed a notice of its intent to appeal the February court ruling that blocked the Education Department from enforcing the ban on certain student loan collection fees. The policy, which was backed by both Republican and Democratic administrations, had prevented student loan guaranty agencies from charging collection fees to borrowers of federally-backed loans

in cases where they sign an agreement to repay their debt within 60 days of receiving a notice of default. The Obama administration first enacted the restrictions on those fees, which can be as high as 16 percent of a borrower's total balance, through a 2015 directive. During the Trump administration Education Secretary Betsy DeVos went further and codified the policy in a binding regulation.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



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Graveside service for MR. TYSON JAMEL TIBBS (b. 1998) was held Monday, April 25, in Valhalla Memory Gardens with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Graveside service for MS. PEARL BRIGGS (b.1969) was held Saturday, April 23, in the Briggs Cemetery with Pastor Phillip Fulwise officiating.

Funeral service for MS. ROSIE MARIE BRAZELTON (b.1960) was held Saturday, April 23, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Andrea Lightbounren Webster officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ALLAN FLETCHER, JR. (b. 2006) was held Tuesday, April 19, at the House of Hope and Restoration (2525 Aspen Avenue - Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Donnie Malone eulogist.

Funeral service for MR. SAMUEL WARD, JR. (b. 2011) was held Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at the House of Hope and Restoration (2525 Aspen Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810) with Minister Donnie Malone eulogist.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MR. ARCHIE ROBINSON (b. 1951) will be held Saturday, April 30, at Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Bobby Battle officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. GEORGIA LINER (b. 1945) will be announced soon at a later date.

Graveside service for MR. JOHN CALVIN DOVE, SR.(b. 1946) was held Wednesday, April 27, at the Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Chaplain Charles Lohman officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RYAN ONEAL FREEMAN (b. 1990) was held Tuesday, April 26, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle (6378 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, AL 35810) with Minister Robert Peavy officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MR. JOSHUA ADAMS SMITH (b. 1977) will be announced at a later date.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

April 27

UAH Nurse’s Pinning
Von Braun Center
North Hall
4 p.m.

April 29

Investiture for Daniel K. Wims

12th President of Alabama
A&M University
T.M. Elmore Building
10 a.m.

Treasure Hunt at Burritt on the Mountain
10 a.m.

Beauty and the Beast
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
6 p.m.

Alabama A&M University
Black-Tie Scholarship Gala
Von Braun Center
North Hall
Entertainment: Avery Sunshine
(256) 372-8344
6:30 p.m.

Madison Academy
Disney
Aladdin Jr.
Madison Academy Perfor-

mance Center
6:30 p.m.

April 29-May 2
Panoply Arts Festival
Big Spring Park
Downtown Huntsville

April 30
Katt Williams: World War III Tour
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

May 6
Spring Commencement
Alabama A&M University
Speaker: Honorable Randall Woodfin
Mayor, City of Birmingham, Ala.
Louis Crews Stadium
10 a.m.

“Peppa Pig Live”
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
6 p.m.

May 22
The Temptations & The Four Tops
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall - Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

June 3-4
“Lift Every Voice”
Regional Choral Festival
hsvmasterchorale.org

June 6
Financial Literacy Course (8 Weeks)
Huntsville Bible College
(256) 469-7536
reg@hbc1.edu

July 7-17
The World Games
Birmingham, Ala.

August 5-7
DL Hughley
Comedian
Stand Up Live Huntsville

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

“HAVING A CLEAR VISION”

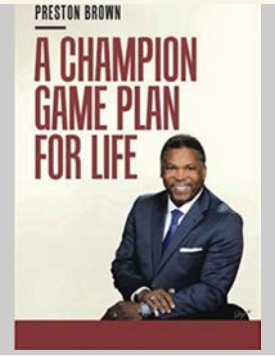
In Mark’s gospel, chapter 10:50-52, it says: “Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.” What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you”. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Do you have a vision for your life and can you explain your vision? Whatever your answer is, just remember that when we begin to “partner” with God, our vision will become clear, because there is something that God wants to “stir up” in all of us and make the vision that we have come alive.

As we look at this scripture, blind Bartimaeus realized that he was about to get the opportunity of a lifetime, because Jesus was coming by. So he wasn’t

about to just sit there quietly. He decided to shout his request out loud. “Son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:48). So because of this, Jesus stopped for this one man and healed him. Jesus stopped because everyone else was trying to push him aside. It was his faith that Jesus was interested in. He wasn’t interested in his perfection, he was interested in his participation. Participation is the thing that attracts the presence of God into our lives. It is our participation that helps us with the vision that we have for our lives.

Having a clear vision for your life begins with the question, “What do you want God to do for you?” When we look at our scripture, we see that Bartimaeus just wanted to see. So I believe that your



vision for your life starts with seeing all the possibilities that God can do for you and through you. Because up until this point in our lives, we have seen what we can do in our own strength, but now is the time to see what God can do for us. Ephesians 3:20 says, Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. Just remember, when we let go and let God do what He can do for us, amazing things will begin to happen ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book “A Champion Game Plan For Life” at amazon.com

PowerShot

"Let go of the thoughts that don't make you strong."

Karen Salmansohn



APRIL 29 - DUKE ELLINGTON - Born in Washington, D.C., Ellington was based in New York City from the mid-1920s onward and gained a national profile through his orchestra's appearances at the Cotton Club in Harlem. In the 1930s, his orchestra toured in Europe. Although considered to have been a pivotal figure in the history of jazz, Ellington embraced the phrase "beyond category." - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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Congratulations, President-designate “Angel”

Readers: Please allow me this point of personal pride, . . .

Treat everyone with respect, adults taught us; you never know who you’re going to meet on their way up.

That’s why Jesus counseled his followers, “Don’t forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” Hebrews 13:2.

To me, an angel is one who soars with God-giftedness. Unwittingly, I entertained a stranger-turned-angel 41 years ago and watched him soar once again on April 13th.

During the 1981 spring semester at then-Hampton Institute, he was an Alpha fraternity pledgee when I was its chapter advisor. What struck me most about him was his “humble confidence.” he didn’t seek to impress, but when called upon he articulated candor, clarity, and understated confidence.

Soon, we became fast friends and learned lots from each other about leadership, integrity, and fraternity.

We lost contact after his 1983 graduation and Army ROTC commissioning, as he served mostly overseas. Oddly enough, we re-connected on November 7, 2012, at Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle’s second inauguration ceremony at Big Spring Park.

While assisting Oakwood University Aeolians Choir soon to perform, I heard a “Tim Allston” callout which made me pivot and see my long-lost friend and former advisee.

But he was no longer Mr. Freshman 1979, or Alpha sphinxman “dark gable,” or even the 1983 Hampton Senior Class President. Instead, he was Brigadier General Darrell Keith Williams, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, at Huntsville’s Redstone Arsenal there as an invited guest.

We were able to talk and catch up briefly from our nearly 31-year dis-connect; he gushed over the Aeolians and knowingly so: his college sweetheart-now-wife Myra Richardson Williams served as a four-year member and soloist for Hampton’s Concert Choir!

Since then we’ve stayed in close contact, as I’ve enjoyed witnessing this angel’s meteoric military and corporate rise, . . . and particularly now from April 13, 2022: Hampton University Names Alumnus and Retired Three-Star General Darrell Williams as New President.

I’d like to think that I may have influenced this President-designate angel in even some small way, which is the give-and-take nature of good relationships. He’s truly influenced me.

Who’s right in front of you that you need to pour into just because it’s the right thing to do?

You’ll never know when you help the next angel to take flight!

- tim allston



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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

An Inimical Insult

1 Samuel 17:28

The word *inimical* is defined as antagonistic, opposed, or hostile. This attitude and action can be expressed with body language, words, or physically. One of the most pitiful ways of showing this kind of opposition is through passive-aggressive words that are meant to project blame on another person in order to hide one's flaws



such as cowardice.

Such was the case with David when he received *an inimical insult* from his own brother. Goliath had been stalking Israel's army for days and King Saul, along with David's oldest brother Eliab, were dressed *for battle* but were afraid to engage *in battle*.

When David accepted the challenge, his brother said to him, "*Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness?*"

Eliab was projecting on to David a false motivation for his acceptance of the challenge and he insulted David by suggesting that a mere shepherd did not belong on the battlefield.

Eliab represents those



who are jealous of others who will accept challenges that *they* are afraid to accept. Well, the story ends with Goliath dead at the hands of the shepherd and

David eventually becoming king.

As I write this, it is on the day that the first black woman was confirmed to sit on the Supreme Court

of the United States.

Many *inimical insults* were thrown at her during her confirmation hearing but at the end of the day, she's now a judge.

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, May 1, 2022
 Third Sunday of Easter

(Track 2 - Year C)

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Psalm 30



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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mr. James D. Foster

A native of Birmingham, Ala., James D. Foster (James d foster) is a graduate of Carver High School. He enrolled in Alabama A&M University and earned a degree in history and government. He later completed two graduate degrees, one in urban studies/city planning and the other in personnel management. He did further study in business management at the University of Virginia Charlotte, Va. The administrator also served two years in the Army with assignments in both Europe and Vietnam.

He is a retiree from the federal government following some 38-plus years of service, primarily in the human resources area (civilian personnel administration). He also served two years as Redstone military educational officer; however, he actually began his career in the field of electronics-missile radar systems.

His career is punctuated by a two-year tour in Korea 1976-78 as the personnel training liaison officer. He also served a special split assignment between Headquarters Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Va., and Redstone Arsenal

from 1983-88, directing and coordinating the development of three high level employee development programs.

Foster has been the recipient of several awards for his contributions to his professional work environment, community, civic groups and other membership organizations. He is a life member of the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, once serving as president of the local chapter; life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (served as Polemarch and on various committees); life member of Blacks In Government (BIG); and life member of NAACP.

He has tirelessly given of his time and support to the Huntsville Tennis Association, women's athletic programs at Alabama A&M University; various



ministries at Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, where he serves as treasurer and acting junior warden of the Vestry; and many other organization programs and initiatives.

His hobbies consist of golf, collecting old music and old music machines, and future restoration of another antique auto. He is married to the former Velma Marie Sales of Huntsville, Ala., and they have three children: Jarvis, a son, and Deidre and Chris, daughters. He is now the proud grandfather of Landon Woodworth Foster.

Before You Buy That Electric Vehicle

(BPT) - Electric vehicles (EVs) are increasing in popularity as drivers consider the operating cost of owning an automobile as well as the environmental impact of their commutes. The number of electric vehicle models available has nearly doubled in the last few years and the market is getting charged up. The rising demand for electric vehicles has led to a larger inventory of new and used plug-ins in the auto market.

"EVs have high safety ratings and offer a quieter ride," said Kevin Quinn, vice president of auto claims at Mercury Insurance. "Add in low maintenance costs and the opportunity to reduce a vehicle owner's carbon footprint, and it becomes very appealing to consumers who are looking to buy a new car."

With more than 2 million electric cars on the road in the U.S., EV owners know that home charging is one of the most important aspects to owning an electric vehicle. Other than driving, cold weather zaps the batteries of energy quickly. Using the air conditioning or heater, as well as uphill drives, also reduce range. Knowing that there might be more frequent charges under these demands makes home charging more appealing.

According to the J.D. Power 2022 U.S. Electric Vehicle Experience (EVX) Home Charging Study, 84% of EV owners regularly charge their vehicle at home. It costs about half as much to charge an EV at home as it does to charge at a public station. Home chargers also offer the convenience of

being programmed so they draw power during off-peak hours, saving EV owners money.

Most EVs come with a



Level 1 charger allowing drivers to charge at their residence from a standard 120-volt household outlet. This method can take several hours, typically overnight, to get back most of the car's range. For this reason, many EV owners purchase Level 2 charging stations to be installed in their home. Level 2 charging allows for a quicker charge using a 240-volt outlet.

EV owners looking to install a 240-volt power outlet or hardwired charging station to their home should speak with a trusted electrician who is trained, licensed and insured to install NEMA 14-50 outlets. These outlets are similar to what an electric dryer or oven is plugged into. Once installed, the charger would be considered part of the home and will need to be covered by supplemental insurance in the event of any type of loss.

"A standard homeowners' policy excludes coverage related to motor vehicles and their equipment, accessories and parts," said Bonnie Lee, vice president of property claims. "It's important that EV owners who install a Level 2 charger protect their homes as well as their vehicles. We had a

policyholder put 300 battery packs together to charge his car and it didn't end well. The battery packs overheated and burned down the garage. Fortunately, his homeowners' insurance claim was covered, but it's best to have an electrician handle any EV charging station installations."

EV owners can also charge their vehicles with portable chargers, but how owners obtained

those chargers could make a difference on which type of insurance would be needed. If the portable charger came from the dealership with the vehicle, it would be covered by their auto collision or comprehensive insurance. However, if EV owners purchase a portable charger after buying their vehicle, they may need special equipment coverage.

"Those using portable chargers to charge their vehicles should consider carrying comprehensive auto insurance coverage," said Quinn. "A standard homeowners' insurance policy excludes coverage related to motor vehicles, which means losses to vehicle equipment, accessories and parts are not covered."

While reports of fires happening while EVs are parked and charging are rare, owners should always be mindful when charging their vehicles. "Electric vehicles are still relatively new to the marketplace so automakers are still perfecting them," said Lee. "EV owners need to do their due diligence and make sure they're properly educated about their manufacturer's recommendations for proper charging."



"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valley-weeklyllc.com.

Investiture of AAMU's 12th President This Week

A team of Alabama A&M University students, faculty and staff, alumni and other community supporters are in the final stages of preparation for the investiture ceremony of the 147-year-old institution's 12th president, Dr. Daniel K. Wims on Friday, April 29, at the Thomas M. Elmore Building at 10 a.m.

Dr. Wims earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in June 1987 at Fort Valley State University and the Master of Science degree in agricultural extension from The Ohio State University in 1989. In August 1994, he received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland-College Park. A graduate

of Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, Dr. Wims is also a product of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Millennium Program and Hampton University's Executive Leadership Development Program.

The nearly 50-member Wims investiture committee is being led by AAMU Board President Pro Tempore Jerome B. Williams. Dr. Jeanette Jones, University Distinguished Professor, trustee and Faculty Senate president; and Felicia Wilson, General Manager, AAMU Aramark, serve as the committee's co-chairs. Alabama State



Representative Laura Hall is honorary chair.

Organizers began planning for the ceremony during the fall semester, and a separate Presidential Transition Team (led by Dr. Tonya Perry, chair; Dr. Kylie Nash and Gerald Vines, co-chairs; Dr. Jeanette Jones, special liaison

to the Board of Trustees; and Dr. Charlotte Teague, secretary) developed a 12-week series of events leading up to and culminating with the investiture. All activities were linked to the investiture theme, "Advancing Our Legacy, Reimagining Our Future."

Each week of the

"Investiture Countdown" highlights a key University constituent group and provides an opportunity for Wims to interact and receive valuable input and ideas. The 12-week series opened with a "Student Engagement Week," which ran from February 7-13, and concluded with a "Investiture Week" (April 25-30). Among the key constituent groups are faculty, staff, alumni, religious/civic groups, and several others.

The culminating week will feature two panel extension discussions moderated by President Wims. The panels, which will respectively highlight "Advancing Our Legacy"

and "Reimagining Our Future," will feature invited guests, including former presidents, and alumni [Tuesday, April 26, and Thursday, April 28, 12-2 p.m. via Zoom].

The week will culminate on April 29 with the Investiture of AAMU's 12th President at 10 a.m., and a Presidential Luncheon will follow. The optional Black-Tie Scholarship Gala, featuring R&B singer Avery Sunshine, will celebrate AAMU scholarship recipients, recognize donors and honor the newly installed President Daniel K. Wims.

For additional information, visit www.aamu.edu and search "Investiture".

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