



For Immediate Release

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Renowned artist leaves a lasting impression

Raleigh, N.C. -- Synthia Saint James, artist, author, speaker, architectural designer and songwriter, carried out her commitment to embark on a college tour and selected Saint Augustine's College as her first stop. Her visit to the college was destined, President Dianne Boardley Suber said. They met unexpectedly on a recent Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage cruise and their ideas immediately meshed.

More than 100 students and faculty took advantage of attending the up close and, personal luncheon held Friday, Sept. 21. Saint James' visit is part of the larger picture which is Suber's initiative to provide the College community with culturally, enriching events.

Saint James shared her passion for the arts by telling her audience she began painting at the age of 5 and now, into her 40th year in the industry, her work has been admired by millions. She is the international award winning artist and designer of the first United States Postal Stamp for the Kwanzaa holiday. Her images grace the cover of books including *Waiting to Exhale* by Terry McMillan and children's books by Angela Shelf Medearis, Angela Johnson, and Barbara Ann Porte. Her beautifully painted images can be seen on elevator doors in Sacramento, Calif., and her designs appear on more than 80 greeting cards, including several for UNICEF, as well as licensed images appearing on T-shirts, magnets, boxes, gift bags, deck cards, puzzles, calendars, and mugs.

During Saint James' visit to Saint Augustine's College, she graciously volunteered to lecture an arts class. Her hands on experience and one-on-one involvement made this an excellent opportunity for the students to be taught additional skills.

Later that evening, Suber planned a special event for Saint James at the Raleigh City Museum to display her paintings and for guests to mingle with the artist.

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