

## **Newcomers from Near and Far**

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Last week I was invited to a Mount Olive newcomer's social held at Andy's Headquarters. The purpose of the social was to allow new professionals in town to meet and greet. The food was great, and to my surprise I had met many of the participants before at various community events. What I didn't realize though, was how hip some of our professionals are.

When we arrived, we each had a sticky note attached to our back with a name of a celebrity on it. We were able to ask yes or no questions and the game simply was to figure out who we were. One lady in particular, was Michael Jackson and for the life of her, she just could not figure it out.

"So I'm a male, dead artist, who used to be in a group."

"Yes."

"Am I Tupac?" (Referring to the late great gangsta rapper, Tupac Shakur.)

I was definitely surprised at the Tupac reference.

"No, but props for knowing Tupac," replied Dr. T. J. Arant, provost at Mount Olive College.

That surprised me even more. I was wondering if the social was about to break out into a club/house party. Just kidding! It surprised me because I was actually a big Tupac fan in my confused adolescent years, but that's another story for another day. I guess you just can't judge a book by its cover.

I would like to reflect on my first Visitation Day at Mount Olive College. Considering all things, the event, held on November 11, turned out very well. We had around 130 confirmed prospective student visitors, but unluckily we had full blown torrential rains the whole day. Nevertheless, almost 70 students and their families braved the weather for the day and really let us know what a great job we did to keep things entertaining despite the weather.

The highlight for me personally, was definitely having the two students from Emporia, Virginia show up. I think I mentioned them in my column a while back. Of all the students I talked to during my entire travel season, I felt these two students, Victoria and Amanda, would be a perfect fit for our college.

I told them how seeing both of them at Visitation Day really made me feel like I accomplished something on the road. It was a great feeling!

Anyway I'm out. Peace.