

THE WILSON ERA

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PATHWAY TO
PRESIDENCY

DARREN MARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DARRENMARTIN884@GMAIL.COM

A week before he would officially be inaugurated as the 11th president of his beloved alma mater, John Silvanus Wilson Jr. sauntered into the presidential holding room located on the third floor of Gloster Hall, picked up the latest version of The Maroon Tiger and admired the front-page photo of him shooting a basketball.

"I used to be really good with my jump shot, you know," he told me as we walked into his large, dimly lit office equipped with a full sitting area, large work desk and enormous bookshelf.

He never thought that he would trade his hobby of basketball for the presidency of Morehouse College, but he knew that someday, somehow his purpose in life would be revealed. It is clear that his purpose lies in the heart of Morehouse.

Wilson gave The Maroon Tiger an exclusive look at his life path that resulted in him becoming the president of Morehouse. Although he has been president for a year, he will be officially inaugurated on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014.

FROM BIRTH TO THE CROWN

Born and raised in north Philadelphia and its suburbs, Wilson is a product of hard-working, college-educated parents. His mother, an educator, is a graduate of Morgan State University and his father, a preacher, is a graduate of Virginia Union University.

For parents who knew the importance of education, Wilson was expected to achieve and excel in the classroom. "Education was everything," Wilson said. "When your mom is a teacher and your dad is a preacher – whenever something is wrong it's either in your head or your spirit [chuckles]."

"My mantra for the freshman class is 'handle your business.' I got that from my mom and dad ... Expectations were very high and mediocrity was not accepted. If you got an A, it was not celebrated – but it was a big deal if you didn't. It's like, 'What part of this are you not understanding?' [laughs]"

Wilson's parents' expectations resulted in all four of their children graduating from college. Wilson graduated from Morehouse in 1979 while his brother graduated from Morehouse in 1981. Their two sisters graduated from Swarthmore College and Hampton University.

The drive for educational excellence did not exclude the Wilson children from the trials of life. While Wilson was in third grade, his parents divorced. He moved into the suburbs of Philadelphia with his mother while his father maintained his church on the north side of the city.

As if it was divine will, this separation was a benefactor in Wilson's decision to come to Morehouse. "When my parents divorced we had to find another church as we moved outside of the city," Wilson said. "The pastor of our new church was a Morehouse grad and talked about Morehouse just as much as he talked about Jesus."

This pastor, Rob Johnson Smith, was Wilson's initial connection to the Morehouse brotherhood.

"He talked about Morehouse as this golden place made especially for you," Wilson said. "Most of us were raised by parents who insisted we do well – I was in this white suburban environment and outperforming these white kids who thought, many thought, I was inferior. I didn't want another four years of that and so I was intrigued on going someplace where you're not the minority."

Wilson was accepted into Penn State and Lincoln University, both located in his home state of Pennsylvania. However, in the July after his high school graduation, Wilson decided that he wanted to attend Morehouse.

"My mom took me to my pastor and said, 'He wants to go to Morehouse,'" Wilson said. "And from there, my pastor called Hugh Gloster [then president of Morehouse], expressed his deep desire for my acceptance and within two weeks I was driving from Philadelphia to Atlanta."

Wilson's acceptance was immediate. "As soon as I filled out my application, they handed me a key to

Thurman Hall," he said. That dorm now is the Living Learning Center Hall.

The spontaneous acceptance would not only be a key to a shared dorm room space, but also the key to his future and a foreshadowing of his life purpose.

MOREHOUSE, GRADUATE SCHOOL AND MARRIAGE

At Morehouse, he became very active in student organizations and developed relationships with several administrators, such as President Hugh Gloster and revered past President Benjamin Elijah Mays. Wilson pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and also held the prestigious position of Senior Class president.

Wilson's class of 1979 encompasses a breadth of accomplished alumni such as Robert Mallet (Deputy Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton), Martin Luther King III, U.S. Director of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and famous film director Spike Lee – all whom were, and still are, Wilson's friends and inspirations.

He soon faced a wall of life decisions as he pondered whether he would continue his plan to take over his uncle's funeral business or delve into his interest in divinity and education. His theological questions and increased interest in education quickly decided his path.

"I knew I had a lot of theological questions, so by the time I finished Morehouse I was headed for Harvard Divinity School," Wilson said. "But I knew that I had to do something with this interest in education with Ben Mays and Hugh Gloster being my heroes."

He decided to do both. As he was on the road to completing Harvard Divinity School, he was inspired by Dr. Charles Vert Willie, Professor of Education Emeritus at Harvard University, to get a master's in Education at Harvard as well.

"He [Willie] said, 'If you like it, stay and get a doctorate,'" Wilson said. "Then, you will have a divinity degree and an education degree and you can work out your career at that point."

Wilson completed two master's degrees and a doctorate at Harvard University in six years. Eventually, his love life became connected with his graduate and professional career.

"Carol [his wife] and I met in graduate school and Carol and I were dating for a few years at that time," Wilson said. "I got a work-study job at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] and I wanted to try out administration. I was finishing up my doctorate ... and had got a job at Tuskegee University."

"It was pretty clear I was going to marry Carol and when I finished my doctorate she was still working on hers. So I had this choice ... go to Tuskegee and have a long-distance relationship with Carol or do I let that go and stay at MIT? So I got a full-time job at MIT."

Wilson and Dr. Carol Espy-Wilson indeed were married and have twin daughters, Ayana and Ashia, and a son Jay.

His full-time job led to Wilson fulfilling multiple roles at MIT spanning 16 years. He helped to manage two extraordinary capital campaigns that raised a combined \$3 billion. In 2001 he went on to George Washington University to serve as Executive Dean of GW's Virginia campus and was a professor of higher education at the Graduate School of Education.

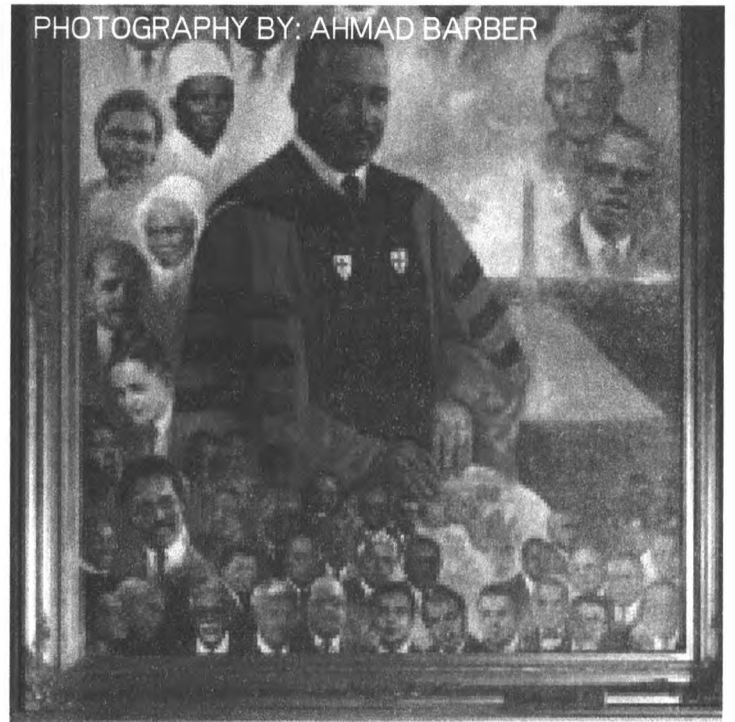
Wilson then became the director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs that has strengthened the relationship between HBCUs and the federal government while promoting HBCU innovation, excellence and sustainability.

Wilson's life seems to be a mixture of purpose and generational legacy as he continues, and raises, the torch of his family's love of religion and education. On Friday, that call to service will be officially embedded in history at his inauguration as Morehouse's 11th president.

Wilson's past dream of transforming Morehouse into a thriving, preeminent, character-laden institution is now a reality, and he is determined to make his vision clear and strategic.

"I can look at this place and see something greater," Wilson said. "I see the Simon in Morehouse, but I also see the Peter; what we shall be. And that's what motivates me, that's what drives me, that's what inspires and encourages me."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER



MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

FOUNDER'S DAY OBSERVANCE 2014

Join Us As We Celebrate 147 Years of Excellence in Education

FEBRUARY 13-14

The White House/Morehouse College Black Male Summit
"Addressing the Socio-Cultural Factors Impacting the Academic Achievement and Development of African American Males"
Ray Charles Performing Arts Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Inauguration of the Eleventh President of Morehouse College and the Convocation of the College's 147th Year
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Marvin Sapp School of Choice Concert Celebrating the Inauguration of John Silvanus Wilson Jr. '79
Special Performance by the World-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
7:30 p.m.
(Free tickets available at the Morehouse College Bookstore, 404-507-8685)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Reflections of Excellence Featuring the 2014 Bennie and Candle Award Recipients
Ray Charles Performing Arts Center
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

26th Annual "A Candle in the Dark" Gala and the Inaugural Ball
The Hyatt Regency-Atlanta, Centennial Ballroom
7:30 p.m.
(For tickets: www.morehouse.edu)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

The Inaugural Worship Service
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m.

Annual Morehouse College Glee Club Concert
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
4 p.m.

All events are free and open to public and on the Morehouse College campus unless otherwise noted. For more information visit www.morehouse.edu

TAKE A STAND: STUDENTS HOST AIDS AWARENESS EVENT

JAMES PARKER
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR
JAMESJR.PARKER@GMAIL.COM

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 1 out of every 16 black men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime. If this ratio is applied to a population of 2,500 high-achieving black men, approximately 156 of the men are projected to be diagnosed with HIV.

According to the CDC website, "By race, blacks/African Americans face the most severe burden of HIV." This reality led the Morehouse Office of Student Health Services (SHS) and the Health Educators of Morehouse (HEM) to host events in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) on Wednesday.

The SHS distributed approximately 1,000 condoms on campus last week, but participants were not only protected, but tested and educated as well.

"I don't care what you're doing, or who you're doing it with, I just want you to be safe and wise," said Morehouse's nurse health educator Kendra Gamble.

During the first event of the day, Gamble and the peer health educators sponsored a "Deciding Moments Photo Session" where students revealed the reasons they both joined the fight against HIV/AIDS and decided to be tested for the diseases. Several attendees said they had immediate relatives who died from the illness, and in 2008, Gamble lost a family friend she had known since middle school.

Each month the SHS tests between 50 and 60 students for various sexually transmitted infections (STIs), but hundreds were tested during the observance of World AIDS Day and NBHAAD. With the implementation of new technology, many students received their results just 20 minutes after testing.

Later in the day, the SHS and HEM also hosted a "Healthy Love Party" where students were able to eat, ask questions, and discuss ways to have healthy sex. Gamble said some students were not aware that pre-ejaculatory fluids can pass along an STI and that condoms must be used during oral sex.

The SHS provides Safer Oral Sex Kits which include flavored condoms, dental dams, and flavored lubricant. During information sessions, Gamble also instructs men on how to properly use female condoms and recommends making the use of protection part of foreplay.

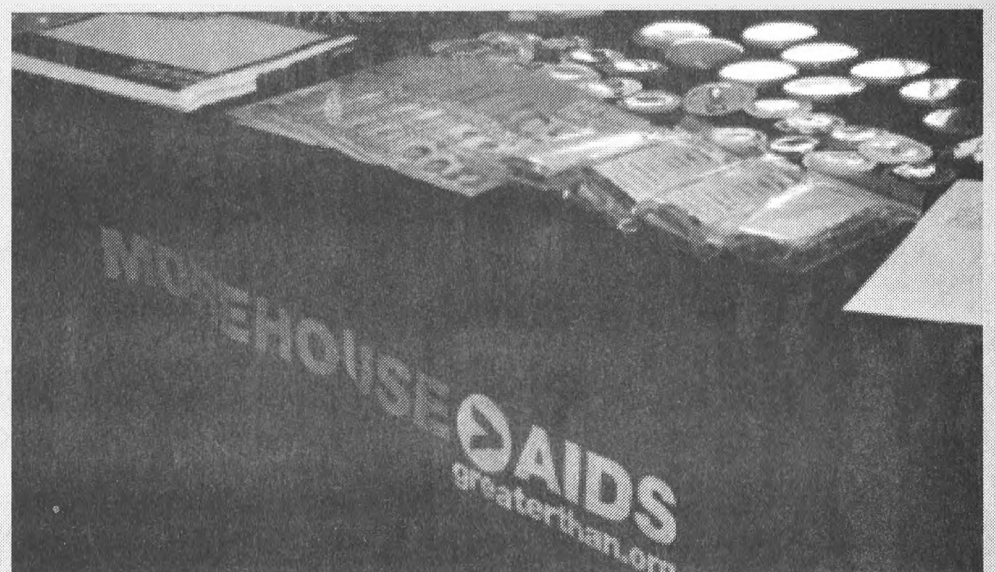
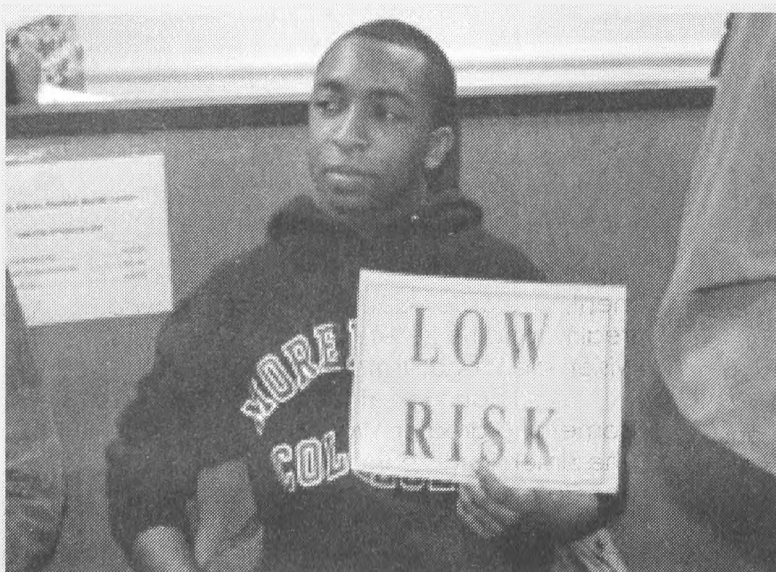
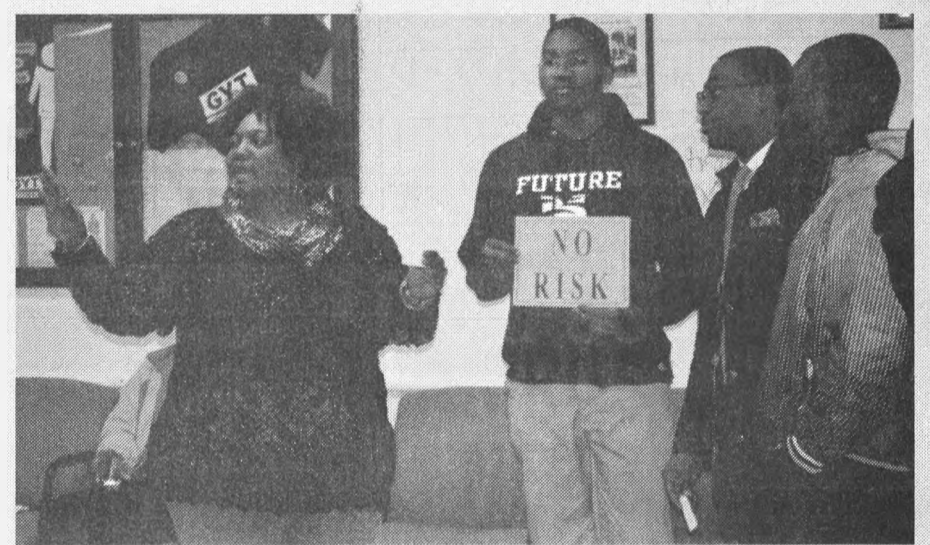
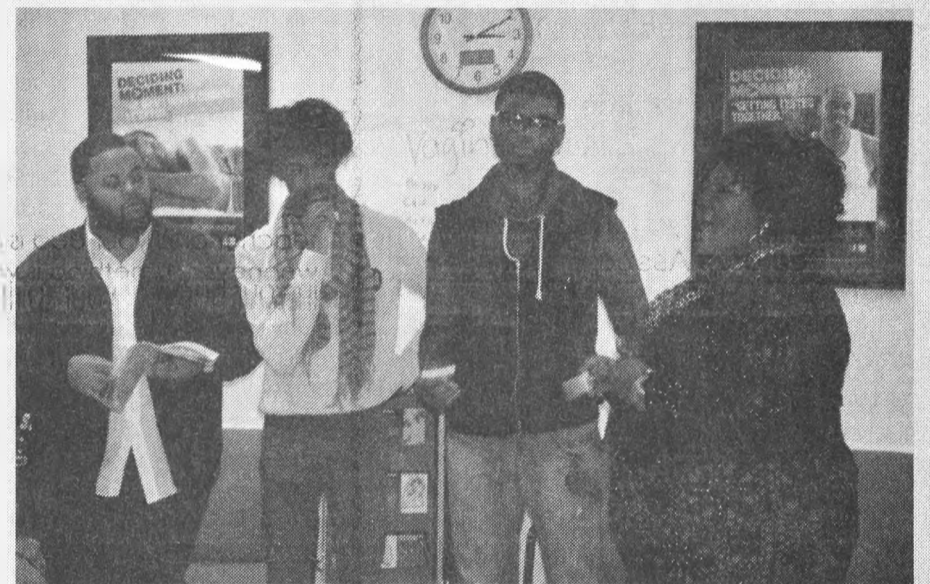
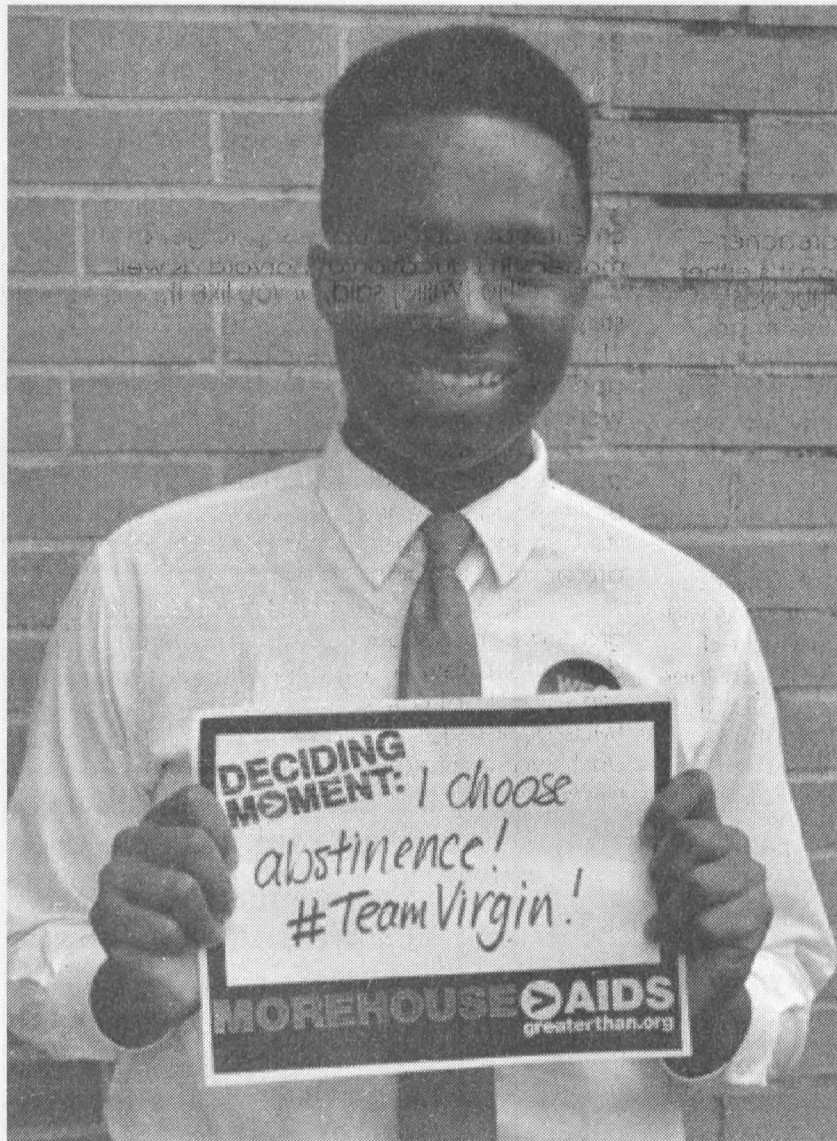
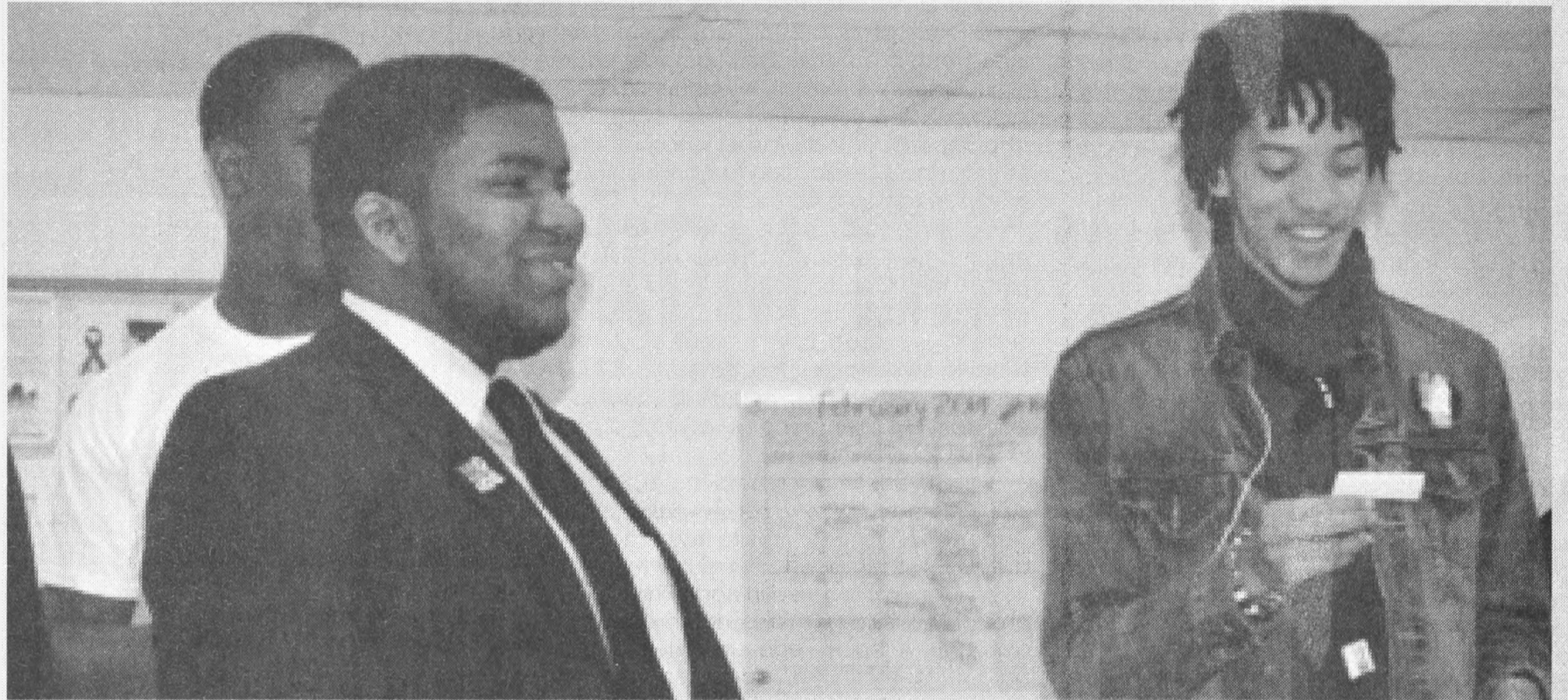
In the past years the day would end with a candle light vigil for those who died from HIV/AIDS-related complications, and others currently living with the diseases – both those who are diagnosed and those that are unaware of their status; this year's vigil did not occur.

The CDC reports that Georgia has the 6th highest number of reported AIDS cases and the 3rd highest number of syphilis cases. Gamble added that cases of co-infected individuals who have both HIV and syphilis are increasing, and the Atlanta University Center (AUC) resides in the zip code with one of the highest levels of HIV in the state.

"Unprotected sex is common in the AUC," said junior Jalen Smith, "Students don't realize that they can die from these diseases." As a future health care executive and member of the HEM organization, Smith plans to continue working towards reducing the spread of STIs, especially in the black community.

The SHS and HEM will be observing National Condom Week from February 14 through the 21, as well as the annual "DTF: Down to the Facts" event in collaboration with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in April.

Gamble is also available to answer questions and provide resources Monday through Friday in the Student Health Center.



WHAT DOES SGA DO FOR YOU?

MOREHOUSE SGA HARD AT WORK

JORDAN DEJESUS
STAFF WRITER
DUHJESUS@GMAIL.COM

Morehouse Student Government Association (SGA) is a student driven organization fully dedicated to improving the functionality of campus activities and improving the quality of student life. Every day measures are taken to ensure that Morehouse is tending to the needs of its biggest resource: its students.

Members of the SGA Chief of Staff correspond with each department of the college. This student perspective allows for new initiatives to be effectively established while catering to the concerns and goals of the school's faculty, students, and community.

SGA's senate plays an equally important role in determining structured policies and instituting initiatives directly impacting campus life. During weekly meetings continued efforts are made to determine both political and practical areas of improvement, and are documented through the presentation of pending bills.

Although SGA has such an enormous campus presence, its scope is limited as many students are unaware of the behind the scenes work put forth to maintain the structured environment students often take for granted. Currently, the SGA is working to facilitate several programs and tasks to pro-

mote a more enthusiastic approach to scholastic and social student life.

Objectives discussed by the SGA include: reforming the hours of The Frederick Douglass Learning Resource Center (LRC), mitigating the cost of attendance through fundraiser based scholarships, and the incorporation of an accessible data system allowing students to better manage their degree requirements. Informative events are designed to simplify the student enrollment process and charitable events are designated to solidify Morehouse's dedication to community activism while raising awareness.

In regards to the senate there are several promising bills, which may receive a passing motion. One of the most pertinent includes amendments to the SGA Senate Scholarship. If this bill is passed, it will provide students attending Morehouse College with a 2.7 GPA or higher who exemplify both leadership, and academic diligence, to be awarded a substantial scholarship.

Student input seems to be at the helm of SGA's importance. Constant discussion of student polls and surveys to leverage more productive campus activities affirm this. The more aware the general student body is about the topics directly influencing their college experience, the more they will get out of it.

LECTURE SERIES BRINGS GLOBAL LEADERS

KEVIN COLCLOUGH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
KEVINCOLCLOUGH6@GMAIL.COM

On a rainy night on Feb. 4, 2014, a powerful panel of the brightest and most influential people of the world were on campus to speak to students about achieving greatness and overcoming adversity.

The event was part of the Andrew Young Legacy Lecture Series sponsored by the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame (NBCAHOF). According to its website, the NBCAHOF is "dedicated to the growth and development of HBCUs through scholarships, internships, training and technical assistance, alumni recognition, and programs to encourage humanitarian involvement."

The panel included; famed Judge Glenda Hatchett; Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young; Young's daughter, Andrea Young; MSNBC Political Commentator and author Jeff Johnson; chairman and CEO of TWD, Inc. consulting firm, Thomas W. Dortch Jr.; Miss America 2011 Tracy Broughton; Regional President of Wells Fargo Bank Darryl Harmon; and Virginia Union University student, Cayla Cowherd.

The panelist discussed how students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities are some of the brightest minds in this country and should give back to their respective campuses more often. At the beginning of the panel, Morehouse College President John Wilson told current students to "imagine yourselves as HBCU graduates ten to fifteen years from now and you're wealthy; give back to your alma mater."

Panelist Jeff Johnson repeatedly said

that students should not prepare for the known but rather for the unknown because they are never aware of what is going to happen to them or get in the way of their ability to achieve their goals.

When the panel discussion was over, students had the opportunity to ask questions, and one student asked about the ability to relate to corporate America as a black man and the things that he should do to prepare himself for dealing with other cultures. The unnamed Morehouse senior said he had already been offered a post-graduation job in corporate America. In response, Johnson who said, "I went to a predominately white institution and building relationships with people of another race or ethnicity should not be a problem, as we can all learn something about one another."

Students left the event inspired. Many of the students in the room recorded notes as each panelist spoke and some began to network and mingle with the panelist following the discussion.

"This event is really an example of why I decided to come to Morehouse," freshman DaJuan Johnson said. "This is the type of school that people look to come to instead of one that they [only] get paid to come to." Events like these are intended for students to be both inspired, intrigued, and to have them leave the lecture hall with a sense of urgency because now is the time to start making their goals a reality.

Application packets for the General Hall of Fame Scholarship Award are available at the NVCAHOF website and must be submitted by June 30. The next stop on the lecture series' tour will be Dillard University in New Orleans on April 2.

KEEPIN' THEM IN LOVE

ANNICK LAURENT
STAFF WRITER
ALAURENT@SCMAIL.SPELMAN.EDU

With Valentine's Day around the corner, AUC students are most likely scrambling to make plans and find gifts for their significant other. Whether making reservations at a fancy restaurant or buying romance-themed baubles to distribute to loved ones, the holiday certainly promotes consumerism and egotism. Could V-day's chocolate and roses just be a part of a materialistic frenzy, contributing little to no sincere expression of love?

Junior Philosophy major Aidid Brayboy agrees, "I just feel like it's another day to make money in terms of capitalism for this country." He believes the holiday is solely about showing gratitude towards one person for a day. Brayboy believes love should be directed towards everyone daily, especially during the tough times or while striving to accomplish one's goals.

Valentine's Day strongly emphasizes the importance of romance. Some people may use it as an excuse to hook-up. The prevalence of casual sex in college makes it hard to decipher how single people should participate. "I definitely feel like there is a little bit of pressure on people," Jazmine Miller said. Miller, a Spelman alumna, thinks there is a "keeping-up-with-the-Joneses" mentality in the way people view the holiday. "You hear of all your friends going out on dates with people they like and you feel this pressure to say...Oh, I'm doing that too because I found this guy or that guy. I feel like it is more of making sure you are not left out." Miller also believes students don't want to miss out on the culturally

instilled framework of guys taking girls out. "That can be one of the pressures, the ways insinuated to make use of the day." Jabari Ashe, AUC Capoeira instructor and Miller's boyfriend of 3 years said. Ashe adds that one's expectation of how to celebrate the day can be confusing. Senior Economics major Denzell Caldwell agrees, but states that the inclusion of sexual activity may also add the "icing on the cake" for couples. "It depends on the people in the relationship to determine what to do on a day like this," Caldwell said.

Caldwell believes starting as friends leads to successful relationships. "It is important to have a relationship built on friendship." Caldwell said. "If you cannot be friends with your significant other then it is a relationship built solely on amorous feelings and nothing more." He also thinks dating people who are not exactly like you will offer new perspective and growth.

"Love is caring for someone so deeply that you put their needs before your own," Sophomore Sonya Session an Early Childhood Development major at Spelman, said. "Rather than actually being loved or in love." Session thinks Valentine's Day causes a meaningless uproar for one day of the year.

Can students be immune to the V-day madness to remain focused on Black History Month? "I think we could, but we don't have that focus yet," Brayboy answers. However, Brayboy doesn't believe Valentine's Day will deter students from participating in the college's Founders Day activities. "We still love our institution. The people that are aware of its importance are doing what they can do to make sure that it is celebrated in the right way."



Discover Your World!

Celebrate Peace Corps Week with currently serving Volunteers.

February 26, 2014 | 6:00 p.m.

Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership
Auditorium
830 Westview Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314

The best way to learn about Peace Corps is to chat LIVE with those who are serving.

You are invited to attend this special Peace Corps event to video-chat with Morehouse alumnus Christian Perry who is currently serving overseas in Lesotho.

Help celebrate Peace Corps Week during February 23rd - March 1st. The Peace Corps community will honor all the ways Volunteers makes a difference at home and abroad and renews its commitment to service.

You could be making a difference overseas by this time next year. Submit an online application by March 1st to be considered for programs departing before March 2015! www.peacecorps.gov/apply

Contact Leslie Jean-Pierre at L.JeanPierre@cau.edu | 404.880.6302

Like Us on facebook: Peace Corps at AUC



In Photo: Morehouse alumnus and Peace Corps Volunteer Christian Perry with his host brother in Lesotho.

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BLACK TWITTER ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TIFFANY PENNAMON

WORLD AND LOCAL ASSOCIATE EDITOR
TPENNAMO@SCMAIL.SPELMAN.EDU

The influence that "Black Twitter," a large collection of African American tweeters, has over the social sphere can range from comical to enlightening. This month's topic – Black History Month!

Black History Month became a national month of celebrating our cultural history in the early 1920s. Deemed "Negro History Week" in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, it commemorated the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Over the 20th century, the celebration of our history expanded from just a week to a month-long celebration.

Black Twitter's discussion of Black History Month started with Google's home page displaying Harriet Tubman holding a lantern. The image turned from a symbol of Tubman's guiding light to a parody of her doing the "Nae Nae" dance saying, "HUAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!" The image circulated around Twitter,

receiving both retweets and comments shaming the image.

"It's always interesting to log onto Twitter and see my peers exchange information about our history. It shows that Black History Month still matters to us," said Danielle Moody, a junior at Spelman College.

In addition to Twitter, Instagram users uploaded images of influential Black leaders, quotations, and symbols of our history using the hashtag #BlackHistoryMonth. The Bloody Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., even hosted an Instagram photo challenge titled "Bla'Q' Mystery Photo Challenge" to increase student's awareness of African American leadership and presence. The object of the challenge was to see how many "Negro legends" could be identified through posters on campus.

While some users utilized the free expression of their opinions by social media for positivity and awareness, others mocked the national month of cultural celebration.

On a national level, Black History Month is a controversial subject itself. Shared by the Huffington Post's "Black Voices" Twitter account, Carondelet High School in Concord, California, decided to serve a "Black History Month cafete-

ria special of watermelon, fried chicken and cornbread... [sparking] outrage among community members who are denouncing the menu as a celebration of Black stereotypes, not history."

Some ask why is Black History Month celebrated in February, the shortest month of the year? Others ask why do we only get one month? Astute critic of Black History Month, actor Morgan Freeman, said: "I don't want a Black history month. Black history is American history." Essentially, African Americans and the African Diaspora have built the foundation that is now America. Without the hard labor and toils of our ancestors, America would not be the country that it is today.

Students in the Atlanta University Center are accustomed to learning history from the black perspective. With the infamous course "African Diaspora in the World" at Spelman College, and various history classes at Morehouse, great leaders such as Marcus Garvey and Angela Davis become well-known to students. In what ways do you celebrate Black History Month, whether it be by social media or personally? Tweet to @thamaroontiger today!

COUNTERING BIPHOBIA FROM THE INSIDE OUT

KADIJAH NDOYE

WORLD AND LOCAL EDITOR
KNDOYE@SCMAIL.SPELMAN.EDU

On February 6, an intimate discussion on the nature of bisexuality as taboo in both queer and heterosexual communities was held in the Women's Center located on Spelman's campus. The event, hosted by Afrekete, an organization in support of lesbians, bisexuals, gays, transgenders, queer, questioning women, and allies in the AUC, served as an intimate discussion where women shared personal experiences and listened to the experiences of others. A multitude of styles, personalities, and experiences, transformed the space into a nurturing environment.

The first task in the discussion was to define bisexuality and biphobia. From the groups discussion, bisexuality is romantic and or sexual attraction to both males and females. Even so, the attraction to both males and females does not

mean there is an equal attraction to both sexes. Biphobia is a fear, dislike, or withdrawing from bisexual people as well as the creation of stereotypes to justify the discrimination. Some stereotypes hint that bisexuals are greedy for having an attraction to both sexes, that bisexuality is part of a transition towards homosexuality, and that bisexuals are promiscuous and untrustworthy partners.

One of the more crucial discussions related to the difference between gender and sex. Janet Mock, a transadvocate and author of Redefining Realness, in the well-known interview with Piers Morgan Live, addresses the difference between gender and sex. While Piers Morgan sensationalized her experience with having male sexual organs, but understanding that she is a female, Mock combatted this using social media and talking with Piers Morgan to clarify the important distinction between sexual organs and socially-constructed gender experiences.

Understanding the difference between gender and sex is a fundamental part of being an ally and participant

in the LGBTQIA movement. In addition to gender roles, the group discussed the acceptability of femme women engaging in sexual acts because it arouses the male heterosexual gaze, lack of support from lesbians, and differences and similarities between male and female partners.

"It is important for us growing as a community to be an inclusive community because we express how we want to be global citizens. We need to be inclusive citizens as well", said Kaitlin Crandall, a sophomore Psychology major at Spelman College.

"it was really good to say the least. I think many misunderstandings and interpretations were cleared up. It allowed me to be more candid about how it affected me...For some people, they have to label it queer, or bi-, or pan-. I understand why they do it, but I also want them to understand that it is okay for me to say that I like what I like when I like it", said Candace Thornton, a senior Art History major at Spelman College.

A POPPING PHENOMENON: ADDRESSING POPULAR CULTURE IN ACADEMIA

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
MAIL.MICHAELSCOTT@GMAIL.COM

Most recently, the media has become fascinated with the phenomenon of pop culture intersecting with academia, particularly in higher learning institutions. Since its founding in 1967 by Ray Browne, Pop Culture has already established itself as a legitimate topic of study. By 1977, Popular Culture offered academic degree programs for Bachelors of Arts, Masters of Arts, and a Doctor of Philosophy.

Popular Culture has covered various television shows, movies, and trending fashions that have appeared to be prevalent throughout history and attained recognition to be discussed within classroom walls in order to examine its relevance in society. The Matrix, the Simpsons, Star Wars, and Mad Men are just some examples of film that have garnered discussion in colleges. One show in particular became worthy enough for a collegiate conference.

The University of Chicago presented "Jersey Shore" Studies, in which students analyzed the popular television reality show, of young Americans who spent most of their days drinking, partying, tanning, and shopping. On October 2011, the New York Times published an article in reference to

the conference, questioning its legitimacy in academia. Out of the top fifty comments, twenty-five disapproved of the "Jersey Shore", seventeen approved, and eight comments believe that "pop culture trends may warrant study in the future."

What do you think? Does Popular Culture warrant a place in academia? Some might say that studying and analyzing pop culture allows one to draw comparisons, to form new perspectives, and effectively understand more about past and current cultures and subcultures within society. However, in contrast, one might argue that the curriculum of a popular culture course offers no substantial academic enrichment to present-day advancements nor deserving of thought.

Popular Culture Studies "[offers] a unique opportunity for scholars to study any and all cultures", and allows to opportunity to discover and delve into topics that might be considered "low brow" or "trivial in scope" that deviate from "subject areas traditionally thought of as academic." In fact, Weeks is a current Ph.D. candidate at Georgia State working on her dissertation that features the significance of food ways in Victorian Culture and Literature. She defends her stance on unorthodox topics, claiming that "researching and analyzing popular culture from critical and theoretical perspectives

is crucial" as it allows one to truly discuss "controversial social issues from an interdisciplinary perspective," said Sophie Weeks, an English professor at Morehouse College.

HERE ARE A LIST OF MORE INTERESTING COURSES IN POPULAR CULTURE. FEEL FREE TO LOOK THEM UP ONLINE FOR MORE DETAILS:

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY;
What if Harry Potter is Real?

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO;
Zombies in Popular Media

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY;
Sociology of Hip Hop: Jay-Z

MCDANIEL COLLEGE;
South Park and Contemporary Social Issues

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA;
Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON;
The Textual Appeal of Tupac Shakur

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THE WINNER'S AUC-ME CIRCLE

SAHIM WALLACE

STAFF WRITER
SAHIMWALLACE@YAHOO.COM

This week's Winners Circle features Brandy Hayes, a senior Economics major at Spelman College. Hayes is the creator of www.AUC-Me.com, a website that allows students to upload and view pictures taken at various events in the Atlanta University Center.

Since its beginning in August 2013, the website has featured occasions such as New Student Orientation, Homecoming, the Alpha Probate, the Tiger Sharks Pool Party, Hump Wednesday, Market Friday and many more. Her motivation for creating the website was her love for photography and the desire of many students to be able to see their pictures from various events.

Those who have seen the website have given good feedback about the quality of the pictures and the accessibility of the website. Additionally, Hayes feels that there are not many resources for student photographers at Spelman. The website allows student photographers in the AUC to not only connect, but to also use their skills and enjoy the experience by attending events.

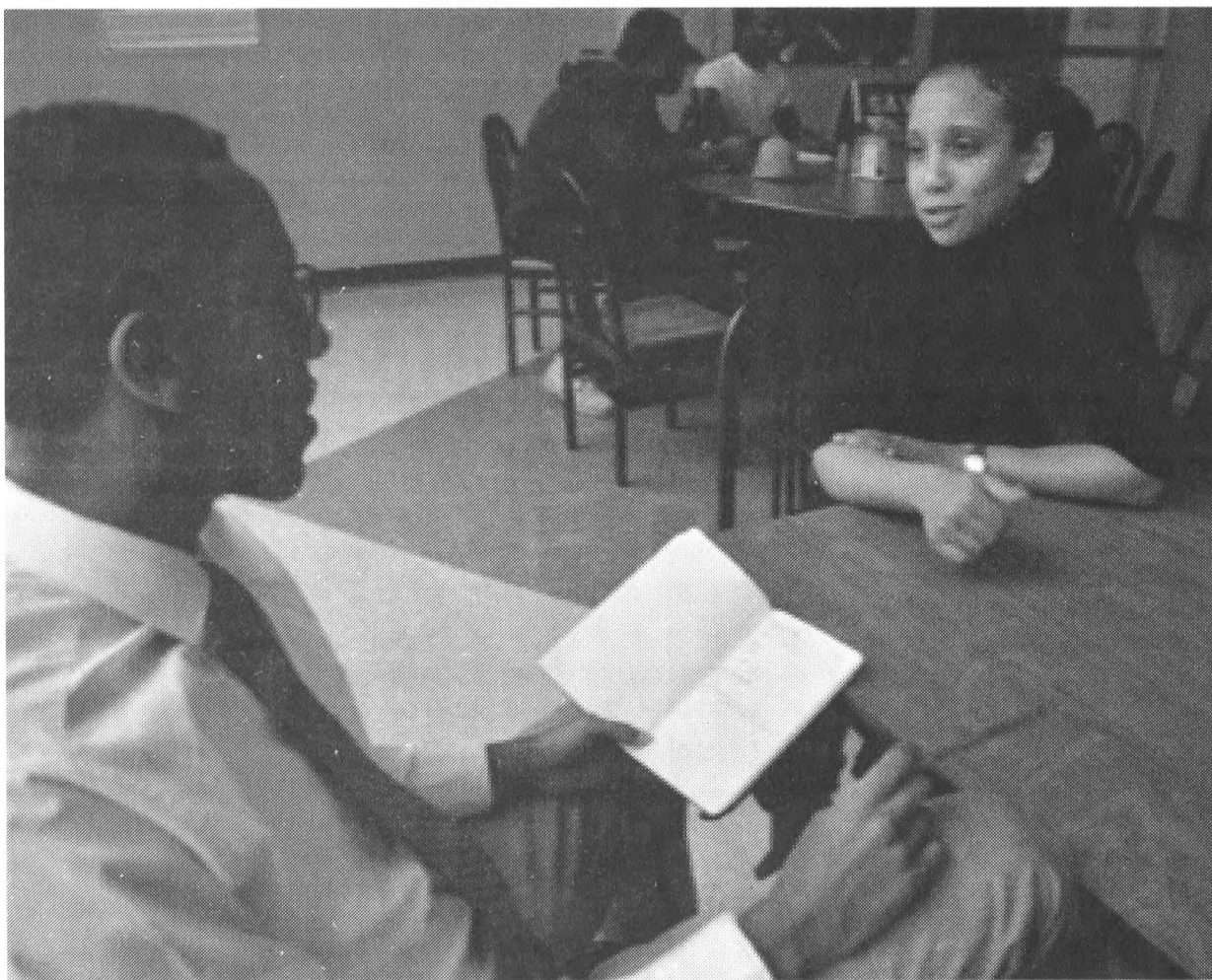
The current photographers for the website include Morehouse students Winston Cash and Mitch Moffett and Spelman student Cydney Fisher (as well as Hayes herself). For the most part, the photographers were either individuals Hayes knew through photography or ones she saw taking pictures, and approached to share information about her website.

Hayes has been in the photography business for some time, starting when she was in tenth grade in high school. While in undergrad, she has had the opportunity to take photos of Gabrielle Union and Kevin Hart at the "Think Like a Man" press conference, which was held at Clark Atlanta University. She also had the opportunity to interview and take photos of Bridget Kelly, a famous pop and R&B recording artist. One of her favorite shoots was a fashion shoot with a friend, as well as a photo shoot with the Cali Swag district, the group known notoriously for "Teach me How to Dougie". In past summers, Hayes has done internships that allowed her to use her skill in photography. Her career interest is in marketing, and she hopes that her interest in photography will help.

While Hayes is excited to pursue her next step in life, she would like to see the website carry on after she leaves. One of her goals for the website is find a successor who can manage and help build the website as well as she did. She hopes that the website will continue to flourish and serve as an opportunity for photographers in the AUC to connect and grow as a community.

Anyone who takes pictures can upload them to the website by contacting Hayes, who is the website's manager. The only requirements is that the picture be appropriate and be taken with a DSL camera (a camera with interchangeable lenses).

T-TIME W/ NEB



NEBIYU FITTE

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR
NEBIYU.FITTE@GMAIL.COM

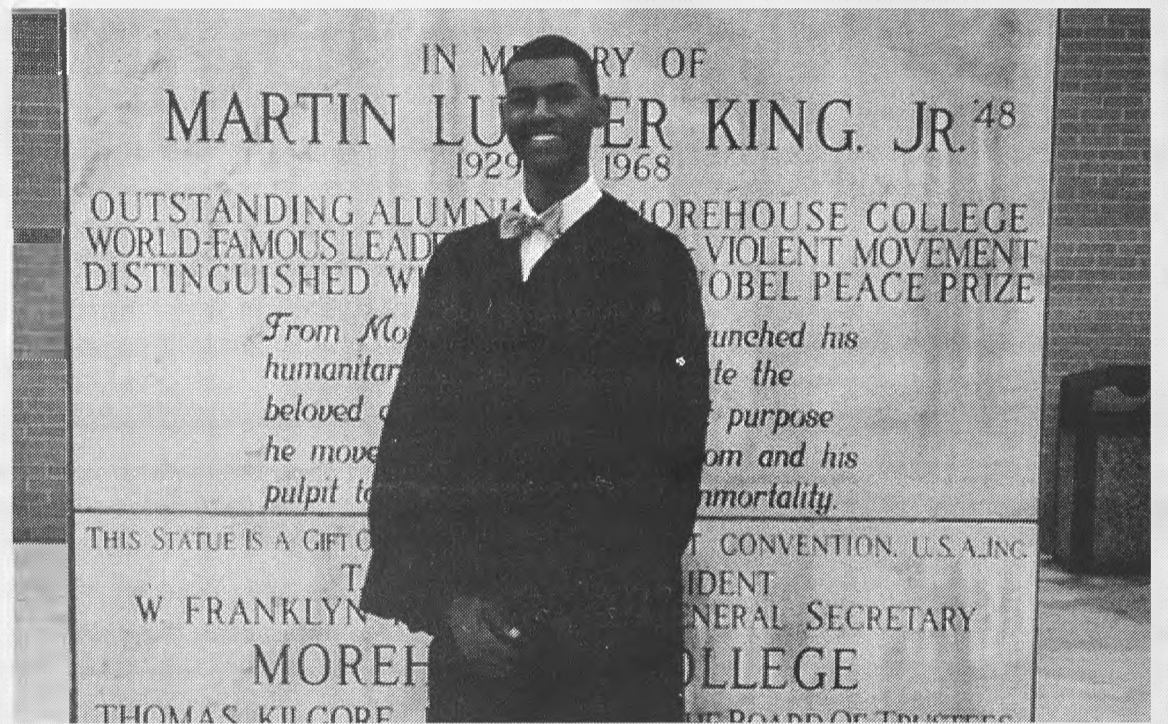
The Maroon Tiger devotes much of its energy to showcasing students, their endeavors, and their stories. "T-Time w/ Neb" puts some of the spotlighting on the staff. This week, Associate Features Editor Nebiyu Fitte sits down with Julie Lee of Dining Services as she reminds men of Morehouse to mind their hygiene.

NAME: Julie Lee
DEPARTMENT: Dining Services
HOMETOWN: Rochester, NY

FAVORITE BOOK: He's Just Not That Into You
FAVORITE TV SHOW: Scandal
FAVORITE MOVIE: Joe Black

Her Advice to Men of Morehouse: "You guys are here in college learning things to become successful men, but take note of small things to go with it. Learn some of the small things that people say to you, because the small things are what lead you to the big things. Even cleanliness is one thing. You can't be a professional man if you're not clean and neat. It's the small things that bring you a long way."

A BOY BORN TO PREACH



NEBIYU FITTE

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR
NEBIYU.FITTE@GMAIL.COM

For Florine Henderson, her grandson's desire to become a preacher comes as no surprise. "He has always been God's man," Henderson said.

A sophomore religion major here at Morehouse, Hassan Henderson-Lott does not deny this. "I knew at a very young age that I was called to preach," he said. As a toddler, Henderson-Lott would instruct his classmates to dress in robes, as he would lead service and direct choir.

"We would pretend to have church," he said. Now, he does it for real. As Corresponding Secretary for Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel Assistants, Henderson-Lott is steadily working toward his goal. He speaks highly of the chapel's role in being responsible for his success.

"The chapel is an incubator for preacher's and theologians," he said. He hopes his time at Morehouse will help him to become very well versed in theology and the sacred texts of all religions.

"I'm very active in the church," both admitted. Pilgrim Baptist Church Reverend John C. Woodard was a close friend of both Henderson-Lott and his grandmother.

"Because we were so close to the pastor, he would wander up to the deacons," she said.

For his first birthday, Henderson gave her grandson a tambourine. "I said this is going to be Alvin Slaughter," Henderson said. "I thought he was going to be a singer."

He took the tambourine to church every Sunday, according to Henderson. When Hassan was six, he would follow his grandmother to choir. "It was all adults," she said. "And this little curly-head boy who just knew he was part of the choir."

After Morehouse, Hassan plans to pursue a Master's of Divinity degree, attain a PhD, and teach religion at the collegiate level.

"I would love to come back to Morehouse," he said of his aspirations.

Born in Newark, Delaware, it was the men of Pilgrim Baptist Church that sparked his interest in pursuing a career as a preacher.

Raised by a single mother, he looked elsewhere for male role models. The pastors in his community possessed those characteristics that he wished to see within himself. "I sought after male figures who possessed certain characteristics of manhood and leadership," he said. Soon thereafter, he found exactly who he was looking for in the church. His role models in the clergy gave him advice on everything from finances to manhood. He knew he belonged.

"My father did not possess the characteristics that I was specifically seeking," he said. "The pastors and the preachers in my community did."

Hassan's cousin and fellow Morehouse brother Kevin Harvey stands by his goals. "To this day, he is one of the closest people I know to God," Harvey said. "I'm incredibly proud of his advanced maturity and faith, as well as his ability to provide comfort and guidance with seemingly little effort."

Very few times did Hassan stray from his calling. In high school, he began to give greater consideration to careers that promised higher salaries. He considered law, medicine, and business.

"As I saw, those pastors and those preachers weren't making money," he explained.

In his junior year of high school, Morehouse representatives came for a presentation. Hassan mentioned how the recruiters embodied the same characteristics that first drew him to the preachers at his church in Delaware. In that moment, he went home and did research on the institution.

"I fell in love with the history," he said. The stories of MLK, Thurman, and Dean Carter, whom he would learn, meet, and gain much guidance from, served as a source of inspiration.

When he arrived for New Student Orientation in August 2012, he was anxious to see what was in store. He was met with a pleasant surprise.

"Reginald Sharpe did the spirituality pillar for New Student Orientation," he explained. "I was impressed by him."

Hassan had known of Sharpe's preaching before coming and quickly went to introduce himself after the presentation.

That next Thursday he attended the Chapel Assistants meeting. "I've been faithful ever since," he said of his commitment to the group of men.

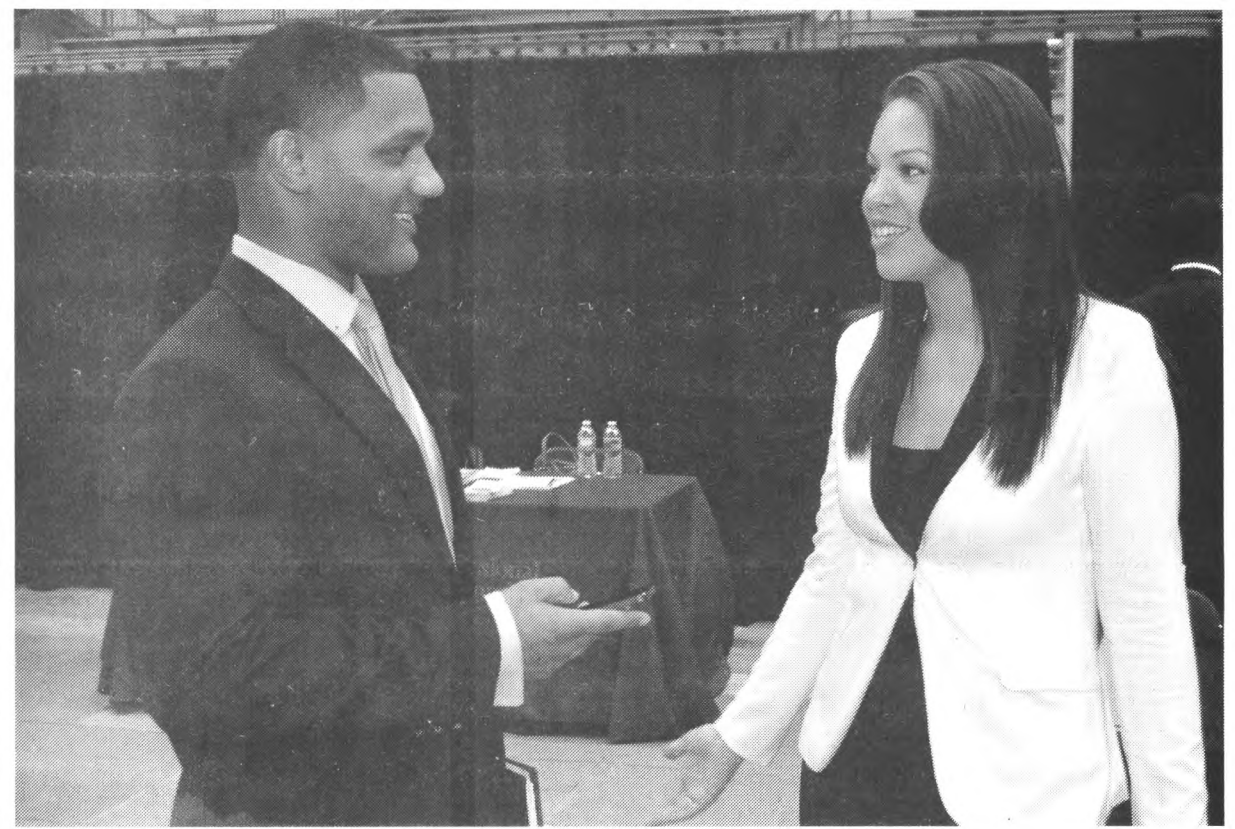
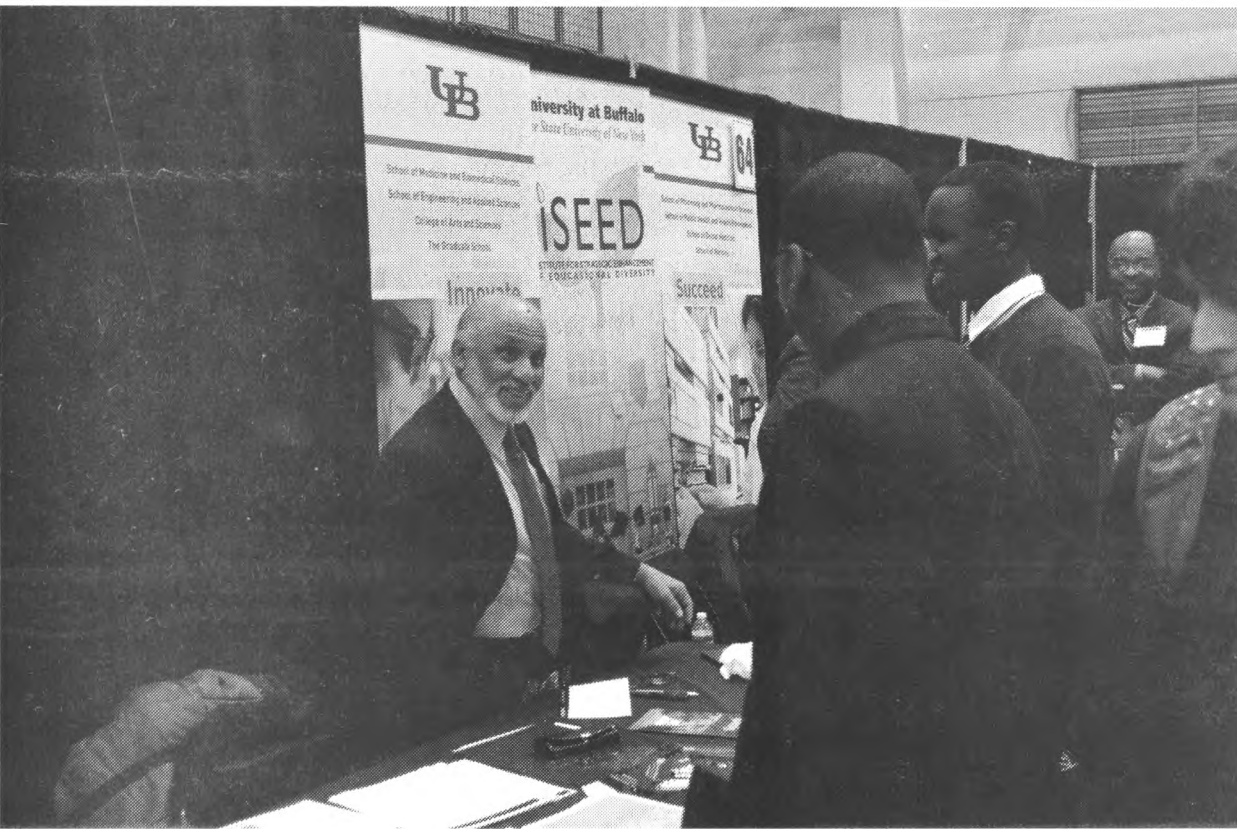
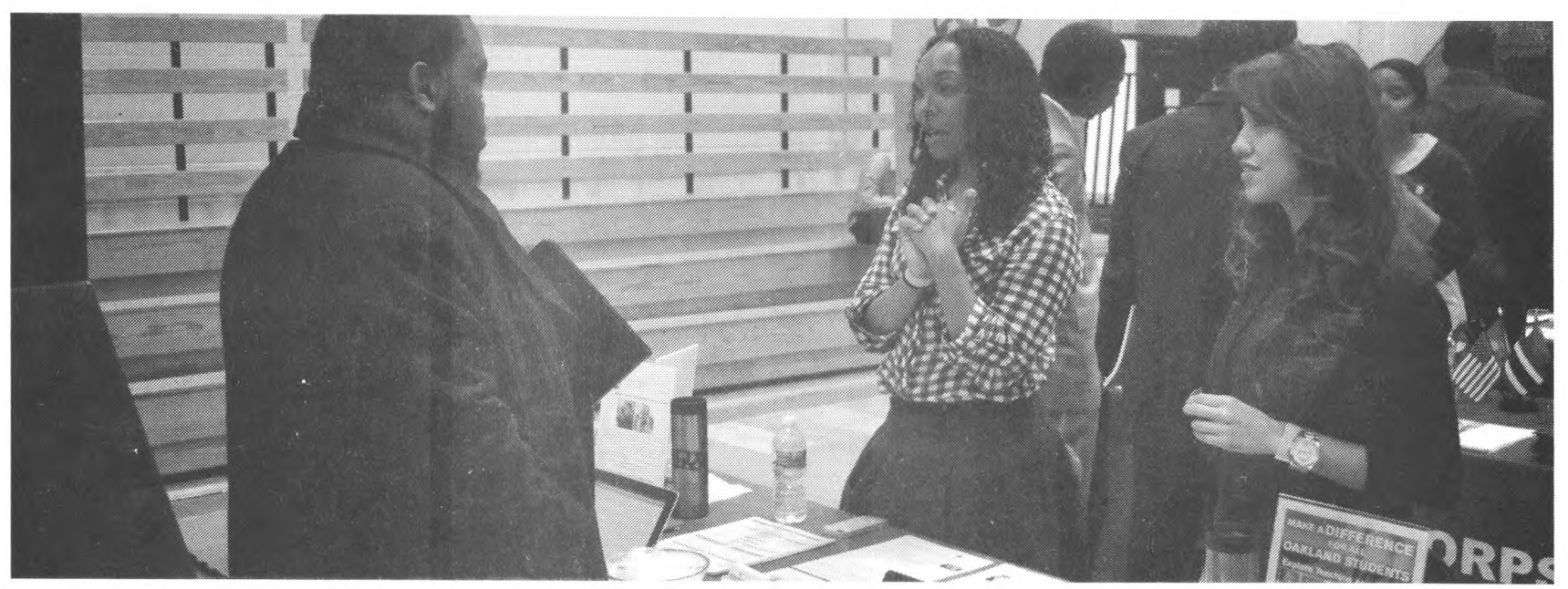
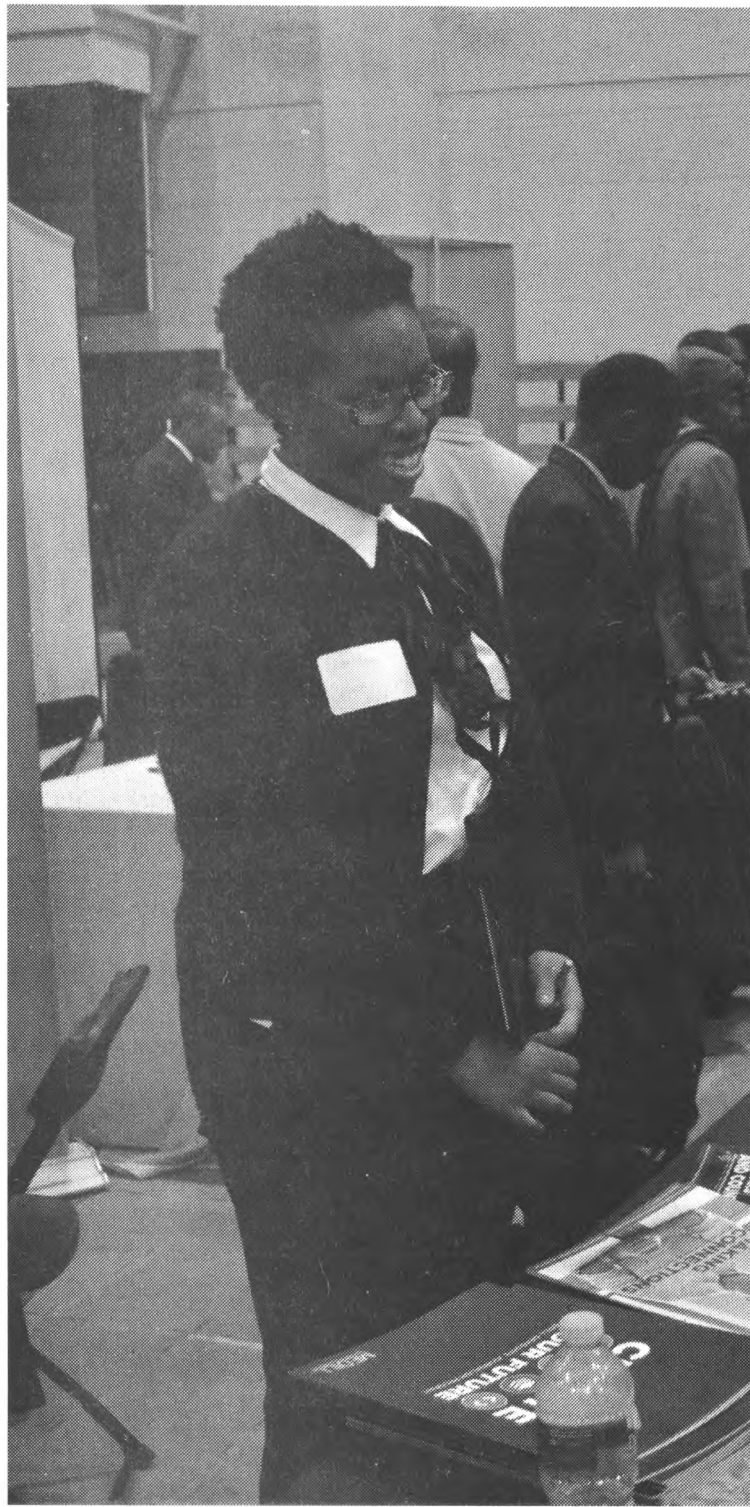
Of his future, his grandmother sees much in store. "What God has for him is just so far above anything I could fathom," she said.

"He doesn't know anything to do but preach," she said of her grandson.

His pursuits to be a preacher are supported whole-heartedly by his family, who believe Morehouse is the best place to cultivate his personal and spiritual development.

"What is discussed in the chapel is mind-stretching," he said.

In the basement of Springfield Baptist Church, Morehouse was born. Following in the tradition of its founding, the college has produced a number of notable preachers and clergy. The world will be watching Hassan join the ranks.



CAREER FAIR

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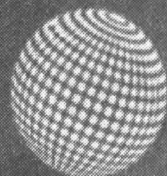
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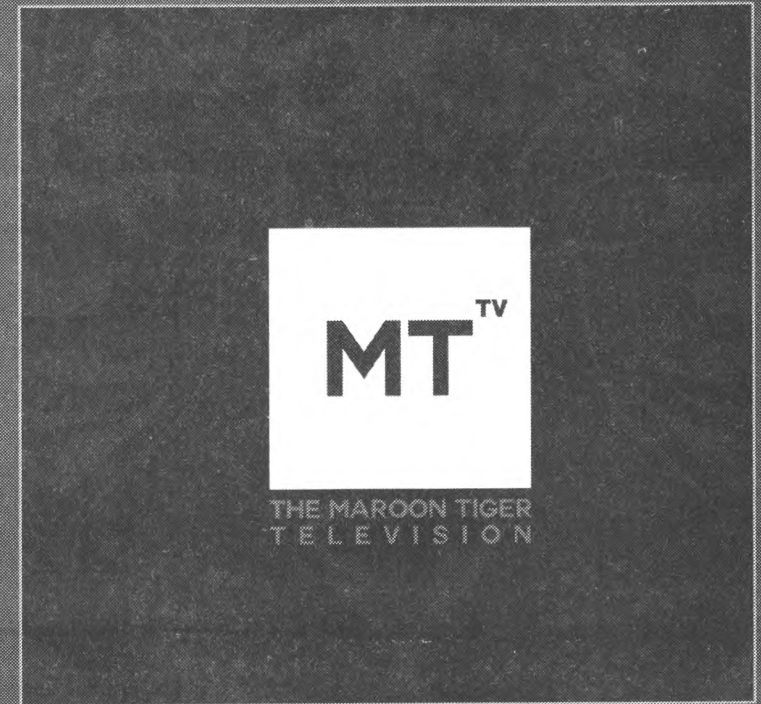
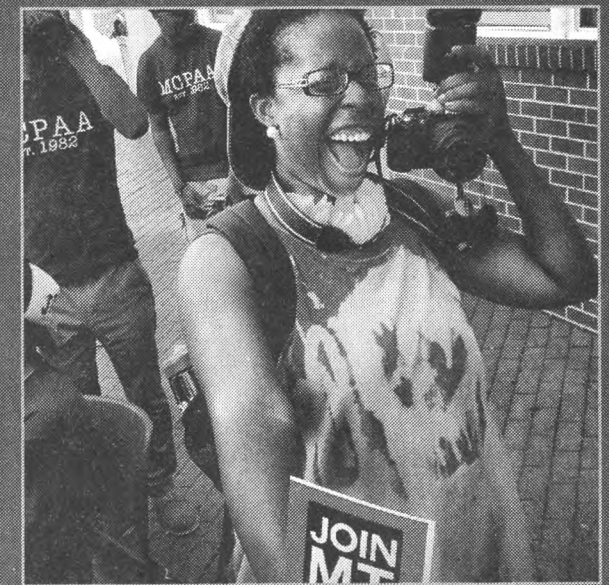
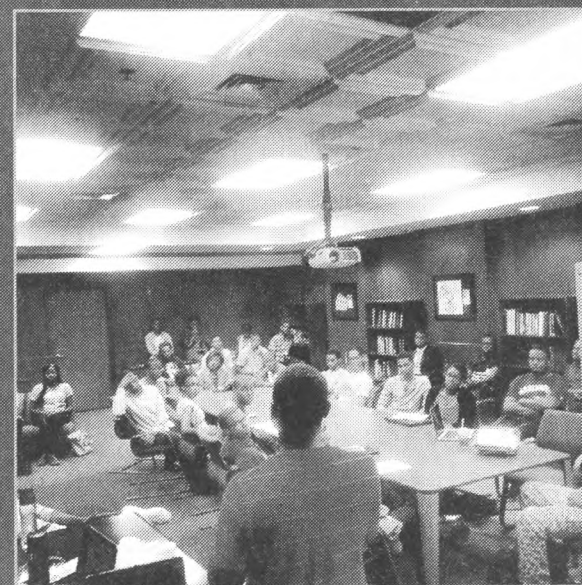
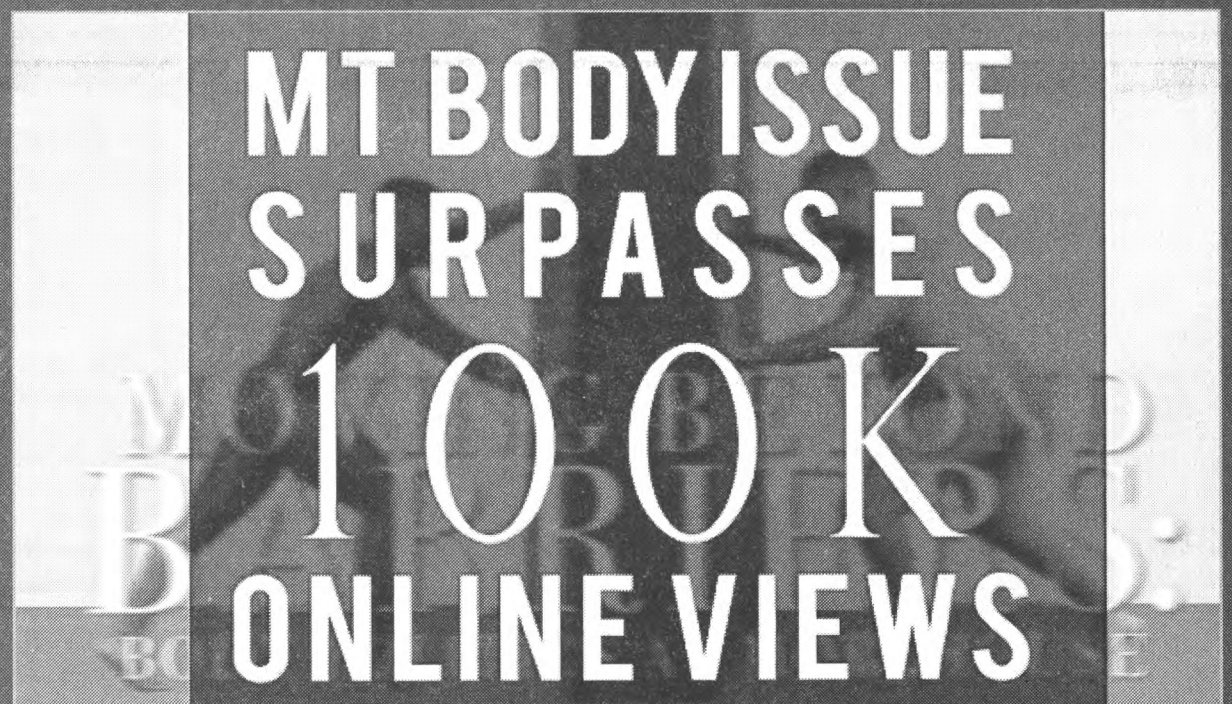
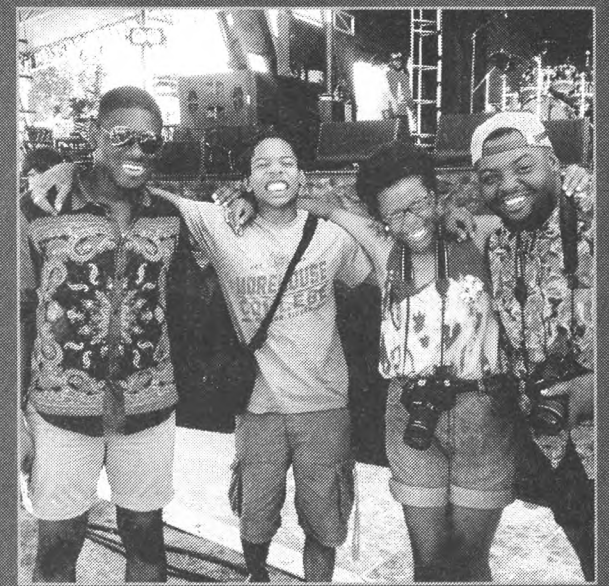
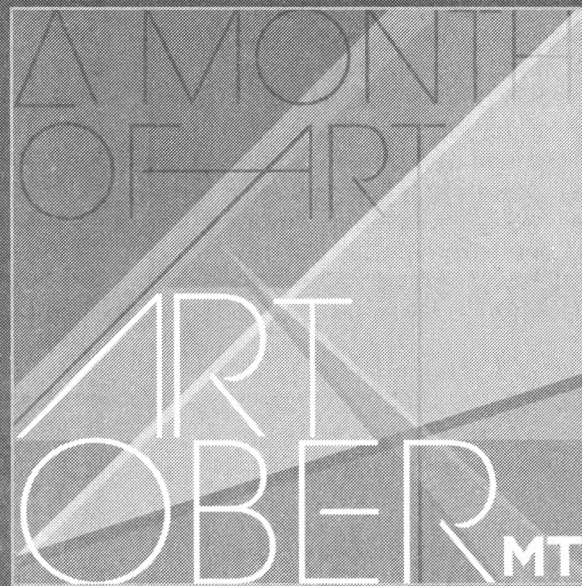
The Maroon Tiger is student-led 3-branch student media group comprised of the award-winning The Maroon Tiger Newspaper, Maroon TigerTV (our broadcast and multimedia arm), and MT Business (where we mix sales, public relations and marketing into one well-tuned machine.)

The Maroon Tiger bridges a undying commitment to true and riveting journalism with the ability to allow for creative inspiration and production. In addition to the regular newspapers that are printed weekly, MT also produces 3 fully creative magazines and multiple video projects that stand alone, or with, our written work.

The Maroon Tiger offers a practicum for all students interested in the media industry. Here, a budding journalist can fine-tune their skills of writing while getting hands-on training and experience in managing a section, editing and communication. A budding filmmaker is offered the equipment, training and projects necessary in order to expand their creative reach. The Maroon Tiger is where an idea comes to reality each and every week.

WHAT THE MAROON TIGER HAS DONE THIS YEAR (2013-2014):

- Darren Martin named Editor-in-Chief, Jared Loggins named Managing Editor ...March 2013
- Staff application for MT Newspaper Editors Created.....March 2013
- MT Newspaper Editors Selected and briefed on year....March 2013
- MT EIC and M.E. obtain press passes to Morehouse Graduation covering President Barack Obama's arrival and speech with White House Press Pool, The Associated Press, CNN, 11Alive, and other professional news sourcesMay 2013
- Over 2,500 Retweets from graduation coverage ...May 2013
- Over 500 Twitter followers obtained as a result of the Morehouse Graduation Coverage ...May 2013
- Cabral Clements selected as new TigerTV Executive Producer.....May 2013
- Maroon Tiger Public Relations and New Media teams are charged with initial rebranding plans for The Maroon Tiger.....June 2013
- Planning for The Rebirth, MTs NSO magazine begins.....June 2013



BRUNO MARS, MALE PRIVILEGE & UNIVERSALITY

MICHAEL MARTIN
ASSOCIATE NEW MEDIA DIRECTOR
MIKE.A.MARTIN93@GMAIL.COM

Football is generally thought to be a male sport, and watching the Super Bowl for men is like watching the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show for women. This is usually reflected in the Halftime Show where female performers are chosen to appeal to the male audience; Britney Spears in 2001, Janet Jackson in 2004, Nicki Minaj in 2012, Beyoncé in 2013, and so on. With this in mind, why is it that Bruno Mars, a male performer whose target audience is young women, drew in a record of 115.3 million viewers during last Sunday's show?

There exists a stigma in the world of entertainment that women exist solely for the entertainment of men. In order for women to "make it big" in the industry, they have to sex up their image. Britney Spears started out as an innocent pop artist with hits like "Oops!," attracting a fan base made primarily of young girls. It wasn't until the release of "Toxic" and its sexy music video that Britney gained worldwide popularity amongst both sexes. Beyoncé was just a teenager making fun music during her Destiny's Child days, but the pop superstar revved up her image in her debut solo music video, "Crazy In Love," and has since reached global icon status.

Male privilege also allows men to become superstars, regardless of whether or not they appeal physically to the audience. It's this privilege that allows men to dress in raggedy clothes, don disheveled hair, and possess less than average looks, but still manage to somehow reach superstar status. In our society, women are objects and are expected to be all dolled up at all times. That rule doesn't apply to

male artists because men are not objects in the same way that women are expected to be. If a woman wants to be famous, she must be sexy.

So it seems like the perfect combination. A sexy young woman in seductive clothing, sweating from dancing and singing on a stage surrounded by screaming men in the middle of a football game. Nothing could be manlier.

Bruno Mars possesses something that past female Halftime Show performers lacked, and that something is his universality. Madonna and Beyoncé are gay icons as well as icons of female empowerment. They don't have buying power over the male audience in the same caliber as Mars, who has the power to appeal to all types of audiences, regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation. Bruno's 115.3 million viewers can also be attributed to the timelessness of his craft. There's something old school about him that appeals to older audiences, but he finds a way to turn the old into new and makes it cool for younger audiences. His stage presence is reminiscent of Elvis and Michael Jackson, and he knows how to work the crowd.

The announcement that Mars would be headlining the Halftime Show was met with much negativity on social media, with most comments saying he was "too boring" for the Super Bowl. Expectations were low, and many said they wouldn't even be tuning into the show because they thought Mars' performance would not be one to remember. But he proved his haters wrong and delivered a historic performance. Even without the dazzling choreography exhibited by Beyoncé in 2013 or the entrancing production of Madonna's 2012 show, Mars managed to surpass both performances in viewership because of his reliability.

BRAXTON & BABYFACE EMBODY AUTHENTIC INSPIRATION IN 'LOVE, MARRIAGE & DIVORCE'

MORIBA CUMMINGS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
MORIBACUMMINGS@YAHOO.COM

"Authentic inspiration" is often deemed as the archetypal form of self-ish promotion artists use to describe their work, regardless of the actual legitimacy of its content.

With many of today's musical forces overusing the term, consumers are often left blindsided on what they are purchasing, as an artist's own art is always subjectively considered his/her "best work." In the case of Toni Braxton and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds' collaborative R&B masterpiece, the authenticity is, in fact, refreshingly real, as both artists leave listeners wondering, "Why hasn't this happened earlier?"

When two of R&B music's most iconic staples – who coincidentally happen to specialize in creating timeless odes of love – come together to record an album subsequently titled "Love, Marriage & Divorce," many begin to question their possible past romantic chemistry. Contrary to the belief influenced by the LP's bold title, Braxton and Edmonds were never married to each other, but worked closely for almost a decade. Babyface helped cultivate Toni Braxton's stardom, producing and writing for her first few albums in the '90s, and sporadically thereafter.

Together, they created studies in moderate darkness, patient, lustful obsessions, and euphoric passions: "Another Sad Love Song," "You're Makin' Me High," and "Breathe Again." They both had divorces, and have experienced hardships with transitioning into the new landscape of R&B music; his last original album was released nine years ago, and hers, though released in 2010, failed to catch on, prompting her to announce that she would retire from music. However, honing in on both of their injustices, they both ultimately decided to create a record inspired by "true events."

Duetting on all 11 tracks, Braxton and Babyface prove that their genre-defining partnership leads to the production of some of R&B's most promising results. Throughout the album, the duo lets listeners know that it's okay to brush off a breakup, or to even wish your ex good luck – or gonorrhea. Whatever tickles your fancy.

While the album's title is indeed eye-catching, it is somewhat misleading as the bulk of the album's content focuses around the theme of divorce and broken relationships as opposed to lustful love affairs, and marriage. While lead single "Hurt You" has caught the attention of many love-struck R&B aficionados, it does not, at all, define the dominant tone of the album.

In a contemporary landscape where popular R&B seems over-saturated with lamentations of love and breakup "anthems" that only express the most basic of emotions – depression, the "sweat off brow" feeling of having dodged a bullet, or fiery anger that could prompt one to personally break an object in near vicinity – "Love, Marriage & Divorce" offers a more distinctly mature look at chucking up the deuces.

On "Sweat," a disagreeing couple comes to the adult decision to take their aggression out in the bedroom instead of fighting. Furthermore, in what many are deeming the most ironic cut of the album given Braxton's past financial troubles, "I'd Rather Be Broke" surveys the idea that it is sometimes better for one to walk away from a comfortable lifestyle relatively sane than to stay entrapped in emotional distress.

Due to Edmonds and Braxton's long-lasting friendship and easy chemistry, the album walks that thin line between resentful "hatefest," and cordially platonic partnership, striking the perfect balance between the two. This strategy is best illustrated in the "he said/she said" formatted "I Hope That You're Okay," where Babyface expresses concern for an ex, offering the "I'm a big boy now" sentiment that although it's "time to call it a day," he wishes her nothing but the best.

Hold up, though. While the LP features maturely written cuts and professionally handled scenarios, it maintains a vibe of blatant honesty with Braxton unapologetically releasing her anger in the most human manner possible. In the opening lines of "I Wish," somewhat of a tongue-in-cheek nod to her signature hit "Un-Break My Heart," she sings, "I hope she gives you a disease, so that you will see. Not enough to make you die, but make you cry – like you did to me."

Just when it's reaching that uncomfortable brink of intensity, the pair sings about "getting back to the business of love" on "Reunited," but that didn't last long as, in "Heart Attack," Braxton disregards the notion of reconciliation while jovially singing over an up-tempo dance beat, "You know you want it back, that's why you're 'bout to have a heart attack."

"Love, Marriage & Divorce" covers all stages of a breakup with wisdom, shrewdness, humor, occasional pettiness, and self-awareness. While the album is no giant leap for neither Edmonds nor Braxton sonically, it reminds today's micro-waveable "bump and grind" knock-off "R&B" artists that authentic expressions of loves and life still exist – it just took the still fabulous "old heads" of the '90s to remind us that there's still hope.

MUSIC AMPS FASHION FORWARD

MORIBA CUMMINGS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
MORIBACUMMINGS@YAHOO.COM

Whether blasting music in your bedroom while getting dressed, collaborating designers listening to instrumentals as they sketch, or DJs spinning the freshest Vogue mix as models walk, there is no denying that the presence of music takes fashion to another level.

Today, the fashion and music industries are more intertwined than ever before, with rap artists like ASAP Rocky and Pusha T taking hip hop culture to another level by exploring the high-end fashion world as models and brand ambassadors for top designers like Donna Karan and Mark McNairy. Editorial supermodels like Jordan Dunn and Chanel Iman are posed up for cameos in a Beyoncé video. Not to mention the free advertising many designers receive from artists for merely wearing their pieces, the name-dropping phenomenon in song lyrics also serves a brand like Versace to its advantage as there is virtually no way to play urban radio and not hear it mentioned.

Certainly, the collaboration of music and fashion is nothing new; a number of today's fashion designers got their start in the music business. In many ways, music is a muse for much of the unattainable material designers wish to have in the creation of their garments. The same can be said for fashion for say Kanye West, who, for all intents and purposes, can produce an album that thoroughly penetrates every sensory aspect possible, but seeks to connect to audiences in a more 'essential' way that cannot quite be grasped in

music. A way that says not only, "this is what I want to hear," but also, "this is what I want to wear." The power of influence that lies in music and fashion in many ways mirror that of the power in government. The artists and creators who make them are too overseeing constituents of the country who see to it that the delineative declarations of various cultures are allusively justified through art and their right to express them.

Cultural agents like Jay-Z use their musicianship in fashion to perpetuate significant changes like aiding in the combat against racial profiling in high-end establishments. According to the New York Daily News, the Shawn Carter Foundation earned more than \$1 million through the partnership, a figure that only rose after Barneys, the retailer which was accused of racial profiling by several customers, agreed to donate a full 100 percent of the proceeds from the SCC collection in November. Originally, the charity was set to receive 25 percent, with the retailer getting the remaining 75.

It is an undeniable fact that music elevates almost any presentation, and many would argue the same for fashion. It is a very broad spectrum of tangible expression, like music, that allows individuals to showcase themselves freely according to how they feel. In a sense, they both are a central part of what keep people going. Fashion and music are merely creative manifestations of art and expression produced by individuals to move the masses forward.

In the words of renowned clothing designer and fashion icon Isaac Mizrahi, "You can't be melancholy in fashion because people don't respond to it."

INTRODUCING THE AUC'S "DIVERGE ART CLUB"

FANON N BROWN
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR
FANONBROWN@YMAIL.COM

The Atlanta University Center is quintessentially known as a hub for some of Atlanta's most promising artistic talent. From musicians to visual artists, the AUC has got it all. While art remains a common trend amongst the community's population, a sanctuary for those artistic forces to foster is indeed lacking. The newly revamped "Diverge Art Club" is hoping to change that as the organization gets the word out on its mission: to spark individual and group artistic creativity amongst the AUC community.

The organization's president, Ellese Garvin, vice president, Jazmyne Maloid, and treasurer, Gerard Miles, sat down with The Maroon Tiger in hopes of spreading the word on their organization's upcoming endeavors.

MC: SPECIFICALLY HOW DOES THE DIVERGE ART CLUB SERVE THE AUC COMMUNITY?

EG: [The] Diverge Art Club aims to introduce and unite the student body, art and non-majors, to the local art community.

MC: WHAT INSPIRED THE NAME "DIVERGE ART CLUB?"

EG: "Diverge" means to expand and grow outward, so we aim to give our members opportunities to expand their artistic interests and talents outside of the AUC.

MC: WHEN WAS THE DIVERGE ART CLUB FOUNDED, AND HOW HAS IT PROGRESSED SINCE THIS DATE?

EG: It was founded in the 1980s. Since then, we've battled with leadership and remaining an organization. However, we've evolved from having Artists in the Atrium (a ceremony awarding relevant artists and art professionals in the art community) to having art shows with galleries, hosting networking events, etc.

MC: WHAT ARE YOUR RESPECTIVE ROLES IN THE ORGANIZATION, AND HOW DO YOU FACILITATE THE DISTRIBUTION OF ART THROUGHOUT THE AUC COMMUNITY?

EG: I serve as president. I facilitate the distribution of art throughout the AUC community by coming up with new ideas for programs and events that will engage the student body with art.

GM: As treasurer, I'm mostly responsible for funding our activities/events, but always willing to fill absent tasks. As far as distributing art, we focus more on enhancing and supporting art from a leisure and career building standpoint. As an artist myself, I'm slow to sell. Works are creations that I have invested nutriment and love. It is sort of like having children really. As most of our members are visual artists, many are stern about keeping originals. If inquired, members are willing to provide services and prints (duplicates) at a fee.

JM: I hold the responsibility of vice president in Diverge and, as such, my roles include backing up our president, Ellese Garvin, with activity plan-

ning, executing the necessary tasks in order to achieve those activities, as well as keeping the organization motivated about the arts. As an artist in the AUC community, I facilitate the distribution of art by creating it. Through completing commissions and doing pieces for my peers, my work really distributes itself. Diverge reaches out to the AUC community through its activities such as out live drawing sessions, and art shows in an attempt to distribute knowledge and the experience of the visual arts

MC: DOES THE DIVERGE ART CLUB PROMOTE DIVERSITY AMONGST VISUAL ARTS? IF SO, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE VARIOUS ART FORMS THAT ARE INCLUDED WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION.

JM: Diverge definitely promotes diversity amongst the visual arts. We encourage photographers to participate, painters, sculptors, drawers, fashion designers, and even musicians to take part in the organization and the local Atlanta art scene with us.

MC: IS THE ORGANIZATION OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS OF THE AUC? IF SO, HOW CAN THEY JOIN?

GM: We welcome all majors. Whether you are an artist, or just possess a taste for art, we have something for everyone. [The] membership fee is reasonable and it goes towards funding events/activities. If interested in joining or finding out more, come to a General Body Meeting: Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Drawing Studio (Giles Hall at Spelman College).

MC: WHAT OTHER CAMPUSES HAVE YOU PARTNERED WITH IN THE PAST, AND WHAT INITIATIVES OR PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED AS A RESULT OF THESE COLLABORATIONS?

EG: We've worked with Clark Atlanta and Morehouse to put on art shows and create Artists in the Atrium. Currently we're working with Georgia State University to put on a joint art exhibition in April.

MC: WHAT RECENT EVENTS HAVE YOUR MEMBERS BEEN A PART OF?

EG: I was given the opportunity to organize a Community Conversations program at the High Museum's College Night. Basically, Community Conversations invites people to connect their passions with the works of art on view. So, I invited Jazmyne and Kristyn to present two amazing paintings and have a conversation with the College Night guests.

We also just came from "Seek ATL," which is a private studio viewing [among] Atlanta artists. It's a great opportunity to network and hear artists talk about their works.

MC: WHAT PROJECTS DOES THE ORGANIZATION HAVE COMING UP IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

GM: Upcoming events include a Valentine's Day Art/Bake Sale (Feb. 13 & 14), Juried Art Exhibition (Feb. 21), and a Live Model Drawing (Feb. 27).

MC: ANY LAST WORDS?
EG, JM & GM: Join Diverge!!

WHAT'S THE 411? VALENTINE'S DAY PLAYLIST

MORIBA CUMMINGS | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR | MORIBACUMMINGS@YAHOO.COM

Here at The Maroon Tiger, we're all for helping you help yourselves, and with Valentine's Day approaching, we're here to ensure that you don't slip.

Let's set the scene: It's the big V-Day, you've concluded your romantic meal, and have made it back to your living quarters. Now, it's time to relax and reminisce about your wonderful evening. However, one thing's missing: music! Don't panic. We've compiled a special playlist of our 10 favorite love songs throughout the years. You're welcome!

TRACK 1: COLDPLAY, "YELLOW"



We know what you're probably saying: "Coldplay?! Really?!" Well, before you skip, just hear us out. "Yellow," Coldplay's first official breakout American single, surprisingly differentiates itself from much of the forgettable fodder within the group's larger catalog. The song's majestic and delicate arrangement is perfect for an evening with that special someone, boasting production value that tips the border of but never quite surpassing the brink of overwhelming love.

BEST LYRIC: "I swam across/I jumped across for you/Oh what a thing to do/'Cause you were all yellow."

TRACK 2: LUKE JAMES, "I WANT YOU"



A credible Valentine's Day playlist wouldn't be any good without a male-led power ballad, right? In a sea of over sung, and over produced R&B love songs shouted by today's quintessential male heartthrobs, it is almost improbable to stumble upon a track that boasts raw emotional and vocal prowess. Falling ideally into that category of lovestruck musical perfection is R&B crooner Luke James' "I Want You." With a crescendoing arrangement of vocals, effortless harmonies, and iridescent lyrics, this number is sure to be on repeat.

BEST LYRIC: "Before I met you, girl, I never knew my heart could dance."

TRACK 3: BEYONCÉ, "SMASH INTO YOU"



In the power ballad circuit, Luke represented for the men, and now Bey is representing for the ladies with "Smash Into You," the dark horse of her third studio album "I Am... Sasha Fierce." Though the track was not originally written and sung by Bey herself – it was previously recorded by Jon McLaughlin, and titled "Smack Into You" – her rendition of the track boosted it to uncharted heights. Though the original boasted a mellow, almost acoustic vibe, Beyoncé's version features robust, euphoric vocal riffs, crescendoing transitions from verse to chorus, and sees the performer's vocals shine like never before.

BEST LYRIC: "'Cause I know that what we have is worth first place in gold."

TRACK 4: KINGDOM, "BANK HEAD" FEAT. KELELA



If you're not familiar with New York native Kingdom or LA-based vocalist Kelela, you're in for quite a treat. Known mostly for their contributions to the underground independent music circle – and more recently for contributing to Solange Knowles' compilation EP "Saint Heron" – Kingdom and Kelela have been gradually making strides throughout the online music circuit. Their latest collaboration, "Bank Head," features a classic club beat infused with plaintive tones divided by jerking drum rolls (you have to hear this to believe it). While the production is nothing but impeccable, Kelela's rapturous vocal delivery is what makes the track a standout. With the central lyric "And I need to let it out" blasting through your speakers, "Bank Head" cleverly embodies a profession of passion that needs to be released.

BEST LYRIC: "Remembering that one time/Had to stop it's making me hot/Come on out, there's no need to hide."

TRACK 5: JAY Z & BEYONCÉ, "'03 BONNIE AND CLYDE"



Who said that hardcore rappers don't need love too? Music heavyweight Jay Z adds a street flare to our playlist with a little help from his partner in crime, wife Beyoncé, in the gangsta love story "'03 Bonnie & Clyde." Dubbed by many as the original "ride or die" anthem, this track musicalizes the infamous bad-boy-gone-good story. Flawlessly produced by Mr. Z's then-protégé Kanye West, the song maintains its hip hop edge all while boasting an air of authentic intimacy with Beyoncé's vocals.

BEST LYRIC: "She rides with me – the new Bobby and Whitney/Only time we don't speak is during Sex and the City."

TRACK 6: ALICIA KEYS, "FALLIN'"



No love song playlist will be complete without a feature from Keys, and "Fallin'," which is arguably considered one of her most universally enjoyed cuts to date, embodies the term "classic" at best. "Fallin'" introduced the world to singer and pianist Alicia Keys, as it served as the debut single from her 2001 debut album "Songs in A Minor." Not only did the track itself receive some of the best reviews of Keys' career, but its accompanying music video portrayed the songstress in her signature tomboy style, corn rows and wide-brimmed fedora to boot.

BEST LYRIC: "I never felt this way/How do you give me so much pleasure/And cause me so much pain."

TRACK 7: ERYKAH BADU, "IN LOVE WITH YOU" FEAT. STEPHEN MARLEY



Have you ever listened to a collaborative love song and found yourself almost uncomfortably feeling as if you were eavesdropping on a couple's tender love affair? Well, that pretty much sums up the listening experience of this effort between Erykah Badu and Stephen Marley. The chemistry between these two is so seamless that they actually seem as if they are an infatuated couple that is professing their love for one another in musical form. You are bound to be left with goose bumps after the song's end.

BEST LYRIC: "I can't imagine why I feel so weak/That's when he took my heart in his hands and kissed it gently/He opened up his lips then said this poetry."

TRACK 8: BRANDY, "WITHOUT YOU"



The underpromotion and lukewarm response to Brandy's flawless 2012 LP "Two Eleven" remains a painful thought to endure as the album's content boasts some of the most refined R&B tunes of recent memory. In fact, the album's seventh track, "Without You" leaves Brandy's "stars" (her fan base) constantly wondering "what if" had the track been released as an official single. Featuring vocals fit for a veteran musical acrobat, and a message that leaves one wanting "a boo," "Without You" proves to be one of Brandy's most flawless deliveries to date.

BEST LYRIC: "I'm laying it on the line/No more games no more fighting/It's not fair to take it out on you."

TRACK 9: JANET JACKSON, "THAT'S THE WAY LOVE GOES"



Ms. Jackson (if you're nasty) has done it all: sex-themed classics, club bangers, and introspective and positively depressing ballads. However, it is her ability to deliver a classic love story in musical form that makes Janet the iconic empress of cool. Taken from her fifth studio album "Janet," "That's the Way Love Goes" saw the performer take a more delicate route than she did in her previous projects. While, for instance, "Rhythm Nation" boasted a militant air of power, and "Go Deep" featured a sexually liberated Janet, "That's the Way Love Goes" showcased a softer and more vulnerable side of the entertainer.

BEST LYRIC: "Like a moth to a flame/Burned by the fire/My love is blind/Can't you see my desire."

TRACK 10: JANELLE MONÁE, "PRIMETIME" FEAT. MIGUEL



In contemporary R&B/pop music, it is quite a rarity to see two talented forces come together and ultimately produce an equally talent-infused and believable product. Electric lady Janelle Monáe and limber stage acrobat Miguel struck the perfect balance between sensuality and believability in "PrimeTime," proving that raw talent can indeed yield vast results.

BEST LYRIC: "Bang bang, I'm calling your name/You're like a fire the world can't tame/I wanna riot 'til the stars come out and play/Is that okay?"

PLAYERS LEARN MORE THAN BASKETBALL FROM COACH BREWER



MICHAEL ROMAN
STAFF WRITER
MJR2992@GMAIL.COM

The Morehouse College mystique is rooted in a paramount history with unique and closely-knit tradition. When it comes to Morehouse basketball, perhaps nobody understands and values the folklore more than the current head basketball coach, Grady Brewer. He played basketball at Morehouse for four years and went on to be an assistant coach for 11 years under the man who coached him, former head coach and athletic director Arthur McAfee. Learning as a player and coach from the legendary McAfee has translated into head-coaching success for Brewer.

As the reigning SIAC Coach of the Year, Brewer has over 200 career victories, two SIAC regular season titles and four 20-win seasons during his stint as head coach. In spite of his tremendous productivity on the court, Brewer will be the first one to tell you, "It's bigger than basketball."

The mission of the Maroon Tiger basketball coach is to shape his athletes into honorable and successful men who reflect the expected transcendence that is associated with the Morehouse mystique. A major part of the enlightenment that occurs is historical knowledge and understanding of the past. During team road trips, Brewer often goes out of the team's direct travel path to visit and embrace historical landmarks in various locations. When the team travels to Memphis to play LeMoyné-Owen College, they always leave a day early to visit the Lorraine Motel, now the site of the National Civil Rights Museum, where Morehouse alumni Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. During away games against Paine

College in Augusta, Ga., the team visits the location where Morehouse College was founded in 1867 as the Augusta Theological Institute.

Trips to Tuskegee University involve the team visiting George Washington Carver's and Booker T. Washington's grave sites for a first-hand account of knowledge. Brewer even took a team to cotton fields in North Carolina while visiting Livingstone College. Such historical landmarks are imperative to players' understanding of where they come from and the essence of the struggle and sacrifices that have been endured for their benefit.

"The guys need to understand the history so it is not repeated," Brewer said. "They should never forget where they come from so that they truly know why they are where they are. They need to understand the sacrifices made in order for them to be in the position they're in; it's up to them to uphold the opportunity and capitalize on progression." The history is important to the players as well and they seem to take pride in the lessons learned.

"History is important because without knowing where you've come from you don't know where you're going," junior guard Austin Anderson said.

"A part of who you are and what you've become is a result of the men who came before you and paved the way. It's an honor to be a black man and carry on the legacy of all those that have come before me and that's embedded in the history of not only the black race but the United States and the world as a whole."

In college basketball today, there are not many coaches requiring these history lessons of their players. These off-the-court values are just as important to a team. Not only is it a way for a team to bond and build chemistry, the values help create the passion required for a team's ultimate success.

MOREHOUSE BASEBALL SPLITS YEAR'S FIRST HOME SERIES

AARON W CHILDS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
AWC_513@YAHOO.COM

The calendar has turned to February, signaling the return of Morehouse Maroon Tiger baseball. The team must surely be eager for the start of a new season under head coach Robert Mitchell. Following a winless road trip to Tuskegee to officially open the season, Morehouse opened their home schedule against AUC rival Clark Atlanta University at Perkerson Park last Friday.

In game one of the double header, Morehouse jumped out to an early lead, getting five runs on the board in the first inning. The scoring outburst was capped off by a three-run double off the bat of freshman catcher Zachary Low in his debut home game. The Maroon Tigers would never look back, winning 6-2.

The performance was highlighted by junior Matthew Flowers' pitching effort. Flowers, who started seven games a year ago for the Maroon Tigers, pitched a seven-inning com-

plete game, registering six strikeouts and surrendering only two runs. Flowers tied a team-high in complete games last season with four.

"We were fortunate to catch Clark in their first game," assistant coach John Hollins said. "Thank God we got a hell of a performance from Matt on the mound."

Game two between the teams, however, was completely different. The Panthers jumped out to an early three-run lead, scoring once in each of the first three innings. The Maroon Tiger's offense struggled to respond with runners in scoring position, tallying 10 hits, but failing to push a run across the plate.

Entering the seventh inning, Morehouse trailed 4-0, but a close game quickly turned into a rout. Clark Atlanta batted around in the seventh, totaling 10 hits and 10 runs. The onslaught was topped off by a two-run home run by sophomore catcher Jonny Surry.

The final score was 15-0, the Morehouse loss making it a split of the two-game set. Morehouse's season record is now 1-3, while Clark Atlanta's record stands at 1-1. This week Morehouse has a three-game home stand against Selma University, Elizabeth City State, and Concordia College.

WINTER OLYMPICS BEGIN AMID CONTROVERSY

ROBERT DOUGLAS
SPORTS EDITOR
RDOUGLAS125@GMAIL.COM

While the 2014 Winter Olympics began in Sochi, Russia, this past Friday night, the focus on the worldwide sports spectacle couldn't be farther from the athletic competition.

The mission of the "Olympics Spirit" as deemed by the International Olympic Committee is to "build a peaceful and better world in the Olympic Spirit which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play." Instead, reports such as alleged terror attacks, an outlawing of the gay community, economic corruption and killing stray dogs for the "safety" of the citizens have dominated headlines for the past month leading up to the Olympics.

Russia is certainly no stranger to controversy when it comes to hosting the Olympics. The country hosted its first Olympic games in the summer of 1980 when it was a part of the Soviet Union.

Guided by the insistent then-U.S. President Jimmy Carter, 65 countries boycotted those 1980 games because of the Soviets' involvement in a war with Afghanistan that began a year prior. That prompted the Soviet Union to boycott the following summer Olympics in 1984. The Winter Olympics of the same year is best known for the "Miracle on Ice," when the United States defeated the Soviet Union in a semifinal men's hockey match. The Soviet Union had won nearly every international hockey competition from 1954 until that point.

Fast-forward 34 years, and Russia continues to have a laundry list of controversy. The

safety of the games has been brought into question for much of the past six weeks, after a pair of suicide bombings left 31 people dead. The attacks, apparently ordered by the head of the terror group the Caucasus Emirates, called on Muslims to attack civilians and prevent the Olympics from occurring.

According to a recent CNN poll, 57 percent of Americans believed a terror attack would strike Sochi. The United States did not send the President or Vice President – usually the norm for these events – for this reason. Comparably, 51 percent of the country believed terror attacks would haunt Atlanta's 1996 Summer Olympics, which they did.

Among the controversies is a law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin this past June regarding foreign LGBT travelers. The law allowed Russian government to arrest "pro-gay" foreigners for two weeks before deporting them from Russia. This propaganda backs many Russian laws that can fine citizens for their personal preferences. Putin and his government have received an immense amount of criticism for this stance. As the opening ceremony kicked off in Russia, Google made a bold statement on its web site by creating a rainbow "doodle" demonstrating its opposition to Russia's anti-gay laws.

The sense of discomfort does not cease to end knowing that the Russian government ordered the killings of stray dogs by poison around the city of Sochi or that former figure skater Irina Rodnina, who lit the Olympic cauldron, posted a racist picture on Twitter five months ago holding a banana in front of a picture of President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle.

After spending a reported \$51 billion, the 2014 Winter Olympics are by far the most expensive of any games to date. It remains to be seen, however, if the athletic competition will outweigh the outside controversy.



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PHOTO CORRECTION

Last week's photo about black basketball pioneers mistakenly left the impression that the NBA's first four black players were depicted. Actually, the photo showed: (L-R) Will Robinson - the first black basketball coach at a Division I program, Illinois State in 1970; Bob Lanier - Basketball Hall of Fame center; Earl Lloyd - the first black player in an NBA game; Dave Bing - Hall of Fame guard.

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