

WHY MOREHOUSE ALUMNI LOVE HOMECOMING

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VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT DR. SAID SEWELL/PHOTO BY JARED BETHEA

WHY MOREHOUSE ALUMNI LOVE HOMECOMING

BY PARKER OWENS
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming is a chance for alumni to return to their old stomping grounds and relive their glory days for one weekend. At Morehouse College, homecoming has also become about uniting the brotherhood through different generations.

Vice President of Student Development Dr. Said Sewell '92 is one of those alumni who takes every opportunity to come back and bridge the generational ties.

"I would say that I have made homecoming probably 97 percent of the time since I graduated," Sewell said. "My dad went to Morehouse so I also attended homecoming for years before

I even got here."

Sewell noticed several changes throughout the years, the most noticeable being the increase in participants in homecoming.

"We have always had a large number of people coming, but over the last 10-12 years it has seen an exponential growth," Sewell said. "When I come to homecoming now it's what I would see at other institutions that have a large number of people."

The crowd at homecoming is especially remarkable considering that only about 2,000 students attend the institution.

"The number of alum has drasti-

cally increased, and that's a good thing," Sewell said.

"I believe the reported numbers for (Homecoming) are approximately 23,000," said Henry Goodgame Jr. '84, who is the director of alumni engagement and giving at Morehouse College. "Approximately 13,000 at tailgate and 10,000 in the stadium. There could be more."

The ability to draw in these large figures, despite being a relatively small college, speaks to the importance that this institution has in the minds of many of the alum.

The numbers are also indicative of the ability to form an event that is

catered to every generation. The students as well as the alum at Morehouse appreciate the various activities the school hosts.

“I really enjoyed the Caribbean section of tailgate,” Morehouse sophomore Randy Carter Jr. said “It brought out a new culture that I was not always exposed to and really expanded on what blackness means.”

The diversity that the events can have is another draw of homecoming. The opportunity to showcase many different cultures allow for more student and alumni interaction than other schools have.

Sewell, having worked for many different institutions, has

seen the cultural differences regarding homecoming.

“The main distinction between mainly the PWIs and the HBCUs is that it is more about the fellowship of coming back home,” Sewell said. “Whereas at the PWIs, they are more focused on the game.”

The fellowship that Sewell speaks about is what makes Morehouse homecoming unique. It is a highlight every year for both students and alumni, and is the main focus of building the brotherhood together.

HOCO INSIGHT: A BATTLE OF THE CATS

BY JALEN ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming means it's that time of year again when people return to their beloved alma maters to reconnect with old friends to take a trip down memory lane. Thousands gather to cheer on their favorite football team and to watch the fascinating halftime show.

SpelHouse is no different. As thousands make their way to Atlanta for the weekend, athletes and students prepare for the sacred Homecoming game. Or do they?

The football team spends all year preparing for this one essential game, only to see empty seats throughout the stadium. Why are there not many Morehouse students supporting the football team? Would the football players rather be at tailgate?

When asked about the lack of fans, Morehouse football player Kevin Robinson stated, “That hurts. That hurts a lot. That should definitely change.”

Another Morehouse football player William Pounds stated, “I feel like they criticize us more than they show pride in us. Our coach taught us to stay together, because we are all we got. The school not going to be with us.”

Kymani Jacque, a Morehouse student stated, “the team does not interact with other students at the school except for their teammates. You don't really see the players much.”

Another Morehouse student stated, “A lot of times people come to Morehouse and Spelman to pursue careers that take up a lot of their personal time. The last thing on their mind is a football team.”

When asked what it is like to not attend tailgate, Pounds stated, “Sometimes, we'll look over there and be like ‘damn.’ It's going crazy. We wish we were there.” Pounds continued to say, “We feel like we're missing an experience. We're missing the fun.

“We knew it came with the territory.”

Despite Morehouse's excellent start, many students still do not see a change in the support of the football team.

When asked if they were even considering going to the game, many students simply said no because they would prefer to go to tailgate.

In order to garner more support from students, both students and the players stated that there should be more organized activities, such as pep rallies and meet and greets. Also, both sides agreed that there should be more social interactions between players and students.

However, the support alone could go a long way.

“It's the ultimate support of your school,” Robinson said. “It's a staple game on our calendar. It shows school spirit and pride.

“We need support to help us

compete.”

What might be a game could mean so much more with some support.

“It gives you an ultimate sense of pride,” Pounds said. “It’s a bigger cause than yourself. It gives you something to play for.”

“You feel the most importance for that game.”

Students, let’s rally together to help make Homecoming a true success. That will only happen if we, as students, come together on October 27th to help the Maroon Tigers defeat the Wildcats of Fort Valley State.

SPELHOUSE: ‘AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NONE OTHER’

BY CORBIN CHUBE
STAFF WRITER

As homecoming season quickly approaches, students of the Atlanta University Center prepare for an enjoyable weekend full of excitement, entertainment, and fun. Alumni and even some celebrities make returning a priority to reminisce over their glory days at their adored alma maters.

From music concerts, to fashion shows and parades, to epic tailgates, and of course the “big game,” Morehouse and Spelman join forces taking control across Atlanta for their annual “SpelHouse” homecoming tradition.

“It’s totally unique,” Walter Smith ’91 said. “Just being able to meet people and develop relationships and to know that our brother and sisterhood with Spelman is very strong and everlasting for people who want to come back and continue to see each other every year. It’s an experience like none other. We have a great product.”

This year’s SpelHouse homecoming is expected to be nothing short of a big success. Student engagement is extremely important in ensuring a safe and successful weekend.

All the school spirit and festivities presented are sure to allure people in massive numbers, including alumni and non-students from all over.

B.T. Harvey Stadium is also expected to be packed as students, faculty, and alumni cheer on the Maroon Tigers football team Saturday against the Wildcats of Fort Valley

State University, followed by the intense “Fifth Quarter” battle of the marching bands.

“To see so many beautiful black and brown folks just having a wonderful time and enjoying life is what makes our homecoming so special,” junior Nolan Saddler said.

“Especially now, you don’t really see that many black and brown people getting together and actually having a good time and fellowship without being harassed by other individuals in society.”

Most students typically associate homecoming with on-campus activities. However, the AUC has changed that narrative. With all the different events being showcased, people will have a variety of options they can choose to attend, either on or off of campus. On-campus homecoming events usually fall during the day and off-campus events usually run into the night.

“In terms of preference, I would say 40 [on-campus]/60 [off-campus]” said junior Lance Madden. “40 for the daytime because everybody is out, and you get to see family. 60 at night because with the afterparties you’re having fun with your friends and to me that’s the best part of it.”

In all, the spirit of homecoming provides a community-oriented presence in the AUC, where people of all ages can bask in nothing but great energy and positive vibes.

HOMEcoming: SHOWING TRUE UNITY IN THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER

Every October, a conversation arises from HBCU students centered around homecoming lineups and schedules. Among schools like Howard, Florida A&M University and Spelman House, there is constant debate over which school has the best line of activities. While these HBCU powerhouses battle it out to see which reigns supreme, there is a secret weapon in Atlanta that can push all three schools to the top: AUC Unity.

While Clark Atlanta University celebrates homecoming from Oct. 7-14, the Spelman House homecoming is dated from Oct. 20-27. It could be proposed that CAU push its events back a week and Spelman and Morehouse (Spelman House) push forward to meet from Oct. 14-20.

"I would love to be a part of the movement to bring true AUC Unity to Atlanta," said Morehouse freshman Mark Boules, a newly initiated member of Element, an event planning organization on campus.

"At times, I look across the street and really wish that I could get a chance to experience Clark's homecoming in its entirety."

Regardless of the quality of homecoming events, students always have complaints about the possibilities of artists who could be recruited to perform. By combining the resources of Clark Atlanta, Spelman, and

Morehouse, the possibilities for artists would be endless. The high expectations of hosting a Beyoncé or Drake can be actualized.

"If that's the case, the plan should be to come together and make sure adequate planning goes into the concert so we can get the artist and maximize space for all AUC students," Spelmanite Brittanie Rice said. "If we came together, it could be a concert to remember for years."

With homecoming, students expect the best of times when every night becomes one for the ages and memories won't soon be forgotten. If there was a unified AUC homecoming, all three campuses could provide housing for alumni and sources of constant entertainment, dramatically increasing the attendance numbers and levels of activity. In reality, people would be traveling from all over the world just to be a part of the ultimate homecoming.

Despite the valiant efforts of faculty and student event planners all throughout the AUC, students will never be satisfied. Students expressed their frustration but relished the idea of a combined homecoming. Imagine a homecoming football game at Panther Stadium with alumni from Clark Atlanta, Morehouse and Spelman. Now imagine the pure pandemonium of this football game.

That is what AUC Unity is about.



STUDENTS FROM MOREHOUSE, SPELMAN AND CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ENJOY THEIR FESTIVITIES./ PHOTO BY CAI JOHNSON

BY CAI JOHNSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REBIRTHING THE DJ

BY DEANDRE WASHINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The Atlanta University Center (AUC) has become a vessel that bridges the gap between knowing what you want and having the platform to manifest your work. With the influx of artists in the community, platforms that host on-campus events, parties, other social gatherings have expanded with the times; accommodating an ever-growing artistic community that ranges from rappers, singers, photographers, and even roller skaters. But the artists wanted by popular demand, the ones that keep the audience's attention between Graymont and CASA functions, are the DJs.

This isn't as simple as plugging in the aux cord and playing playlists from Apple Music or Spotify. The DJ scratches your favorite songs together with careful attention to the audience's reaction.

Two DJs that specialize in going beyond the typical sound, breaking the barrier and spinning mixes you wouldn't expect are DJ No-Tag and DJ CROB. Both cut from opposing records on the U.S. turntables; scratched and mashed together within the AUC.

When sitting down with these three artists, there was discussion on their beginnings before they were turntable masterminds. Each come from other walks of life but gave similar explanation as to how they started spinning. DJ No-Tag stated that his first show gave him an understanding to always go back to the drawing board; even if the formula works the first time.

"The first party I ever did was a high school dance, and it was intense," DJ No-Tag said. "I actually don't think I was ready for that gig. I had just gotten my gear a month prior so that was the first time I'd ever spun."

Learning how to DJ isn't a skill that one masters overnight. The amount of work people have to put into it may

vary, and for some it may be too much work to do. But that sentiments similar to a coin toss. The other side of that coin puts in the work to have their craft be what they want to see. To make it simple, they make due with what they have at that present time.

"When I first started, I was spinning off of Youtube and whatever I could find on my computer at the time. Once I headed home, I had to think if I really wanted to continue doing this. But you can't let your failures dictate what your future's going to be, all you can do is let it lead you into what you want your future to be."

Those failures shaped his intentions for future performances, and gigs. During the school year, events take place that require music, and this is the time for student performers to make their presence felt for their peers, and predecessors before them. Given the impact Spelhouse has within the Atlanta Metropolitan area, AUC artists have taken full advantage of this platform.

Preparing for homecoming means more than just picking out the best outfits and buying tickets to your favorite events. For the DJs it means putting those 10,000 hours in training back into the your craft. Forgetting what you know about being a DJ and remember that you're as good as the audience perceives you to be in the moment you spin.

"All those hours of training, you put time into your controller" DJ CROB said. "Going home, going to your controller... I would say that I put in an hour minimum per day. I'd be scratching, mixing, and blending; practicing BPM and other stuff."

These two DJs represent the general consensus of an ever growing group of DJs within the AUC. That consensus being that if you aren't spinning when nobody is

watching, how can you touch your turntables when they are?

Renaissance defines as a rebirth. In the case of AUC DJs, this means a remastering of what it means to be one in the midst of others around you. DJ No-Tag believes that in this mash-up, as much as they all are scratching for the top spot, the work's done together.

"DJing is like rap where It's a big competition. Everybody's against each other, but in the same breath, we're still working with each other to figure out how we can differentiate each other's sounds."

For that other side of the turntable platter, there seems to be a similar sentiment for how the responsibility of a DJ is supposed to taken. Holding each other accountable and sharing the stage has become the most notorious record scratched on wax

"I don't ever look at anybody as competition" DJ CROB emphasizes. "I genuinely believe it's enough out here for all of us. Competition is always good; you need that to keep you on your toes and help you set goals. However, you can't look at others as you having to beat them."

To see how these two DJs are leading by the same ideas goes to show how mixing different records in the AUC can alter the sounds heard on campus.

To put that in simpler terms, placing two artists with similar goals in this community displaces the role of having a competitive narrative in making one better at their craft.

It encourages inclusion, which emboldens the proposition that there's a renaissance on campus of what it means to be a DJ in the AUC.



AUC STUDENTS BUDGETING FOR HOMEcoming?

BY AUTUMN HARRIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The increase of party flyers on the utility poles adjacent to Morehouse's parking garage and the "Welcome Back" signage fixed onto Spelman's front gate almost feel ritualistic in the beginning of October. Come the 27th, Morehouse's Westview Drive will be packed with food vendors, trailers and members of the AUC for what might be the most anticipated event of the year, that is, SpelHouse homecoming.

While students may feel excited for the festivities, their wallets may not be. Unfortunately, the fun isn't free. Some students are willing to spend between \$300 and \$1,200 during Homecoming Week, to ensure that they have a good time.

Alexis Harden, a senior at Spelman College, has participated in the last three homecomings and plans on getting in on the fun this year. She foresees herself spending about \$400 this year on clothing, event tickets, ride sharing apps and food.

"I try to budget, but it's hard because I end up having to figure out the events that I intend on going to, what I'm going to wear, how many Ubers I plan on calling," Harden said. "Homecoming is about spontaneity, especially when it's your last year."

Nina Danley, another senior at Spelman College, thinks she spent between \$700 to \$1,000 for last year's homecoming on hair, clothing, and nails.

"I don't think I'll be spending as much this year because I don't have hair anymore," said Danley, who cut her hair as an act of liberation. "So that saves me about \$300 for purchasing

and installing bundles. My friends are also trying to get me to online shop in advance so that I don't have to pay as many rushed shipping fees."

What about homecoming makes college students willingly spend so much money?

"I think a lot of people spend so much money for homecoming because it's the biggest event of the year with exception to senior week," says Spelman senior Skylar Mitchell. "At the least, people might want to participate and at most, they might feel that they have something to prove so they spend money on clothes and hair, which isn't different from any other time that black people gather to celebrate our culture. I mean, think about it, for Easter we're told to wear our 'Sunday best.'"

Amiya Washington, a junior at Clark Atlanta University, started budgeting this past summer when her internship gave her a smaller stipend than she expected.

"I had all these expenses which limited the amount of money that I could spend on myself," Washington said. "At first it was kind of hard documenting all of my purchases, but once I started to do it, I felt like I had more control of my life. I was paying attention to how much I was spending on fast food and nails."

"Budgeting made me feel more organized."

With more candidness about homecoming expenses, hopefully students will become more conscious about their spending and alleviate pressure on themselves and their wallets.

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FROM NEW TO OLD: A WHOLISTIC EXPERIENCE

BY MARLIN COOK
STAFF WRITER

The weather is cool, the leaves are falling and changing colors, football season is in full force and the days are getting shorter. Fall is here and students in the AUC are preparing for have just completed midterms. Looking forward, the annual SpelHouse HomecomingSpelHouse homecoming is quickly approaching during the last week-end in October.

SpelHouse HomecomingSpelHouse homecoming is one of the most exciting and important events to take place the entire year. Many people will be coming and going throughout the week enjoying the festivities, but there is a special group of people who make SpelHouse a success. This special group are the students who attend their respective colleges, Spelman and Morehouse.

For some students, it is a week of having fun with your friends and seeing who is the best dressed, or attending fraternal events with cash prizes at stake. Marcus Washington, a member of the Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., participates in the annual step show every year.

"I don't really get to participate in the homecoming festivities; it is more of a business week for me," Washington said.

Washington enjoys hanging out with his frat brothers and when the older brothers' come back to campus there is excitement but with a twist.

"When the pyrophytes (a member of a

STUDENTS OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS SPELMAN
COLLEGE/PHOTO BY ALEXIS MORELAND

Greek organization for more than one year) are around, there is pressure of perfection and showing them that the shield is being held up to a good name," he said.

However, for students without fraternal obligations, the week is filled with late nights and can't miss events. For Jason Grant, who transferred from Ohio State about two years ago, this will be his first time ever witnessing a SpelHouse homecoming.

"Coming from a PWI, they never celebrated homecoming the way it is celebrated down here," he said.

Grant's excitement for his first homecoming could not be put into words, but his brothers had the perfect words when it came to describe the week and tailgate which is the highlight event of homecoming. Steven Bolden, along with Kris Mathis, have attended every tailgate since freshman year.

"It is an experience, to see all the alumni come back and show love to each other and the institution," Bolden said.

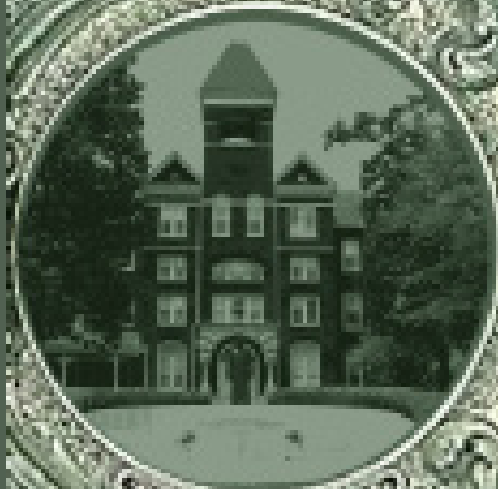
"Homecoming is a marathon and not a race," Mathis exclaimed.

One thing that is clear, no matter a student's affiliation on campus, students from both campuses are the heart and soul of SpelHouse.

As one student put it, the whole experience is invigorating.

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THE MAROON TIGER



IN SEWELL WE TRUST

BY AMIETEE FUONDJING
 STAFF WRITER

IN SEWELL WE TRUST

BY AMIETEE FUONDJING
STAFF WRITER

Administrative newcomer Said Sewell has already made his presence felt across campus for the short while he has been here. Through his energizing e-mails and his cheery attitude that translates to a friendly face on campus, he has become the spark Morehouse needed that the school lacked in the vice president of student development position prior to Sewell's arrival. Sewell first arrived on the scene last May. When fellow newcomer President Dr. David A. Thomas was assembling his super team for the 2018-2019 school year he made the call to Sewell, and Sewell answered.

"The exciting part is that President Thomas had a vision for how he wanted to not just say student success is important, but to give full attention to it. I think he understood that my commitment was to help students to succeed and so, as a result, he asked me to join his team," Sewell says.

Sewell made clear the level of trust and responsibility President Thomas instills in him, and he is not shying away from the pressure. Sewell goes on to say, "He moved certain things into my space. So I now deal with Greek life, students services, student life, career services, health and wellness, and entrepreneurial activities. He also moved auxiliary services into my portfolio so that anything that touched the student's life via Which Which, the barber shop, or the parking deck, all of that would have some interface with our office. So I have a very unique portfolio that speaks to the president's commitment to me addressing issues of student's being happy."

Sewell's passion for student wellness does not just come out of nowhere, after all, Sewell was once a man of Morehouse himself. Said Sewell was born in Houston, Texas, went to a mixture of

private and public schools, and when the time came he chose to follow in his father's footsteps by attending Morehouse College.

"I wanted to go to the school I thought was the best school in the whole world," Sewell says.

During his undergraduate stint here Sewell was involved in the SGA and even served as a residential assistant while living in Thurmon Hall (now LLC). After four years of hard work Sewell finished in 1992 with a political science degree and went on to do many exceptional things before coming back full circle to his alma mater. After Morehouse Sewell worked in Washington D.C. at the White House, then moved back to his hometown to re-

**"I wanted to go to the school
I thought was the best
school in the whole world."
-Said Sewell**

ceive his master's degree in Public Administration Public Policy at Texas Southern University.

"It was where my mother went to school, so I tried to keep a balance of both my mom and my dad," Sewell points out.

Learning for Sewell did not just stop there, he furthered his education by earning a Ph.D. at the AUC's very own Clark Atlanta University and did some postdoctoral studies at Harvard University with the best of the best. Not only does Sewell's educational background support the President's choice of bringing him on board, but his vast administrative resume proves he is more than qualified for the job.

"For the last 20 years I was a pro-

fessor of political science, having worked at the University of West Georgia, Fort Valley State University as an administrator, then became a dean at Kent State and Ohio State. Then prior to coming here, I was the vice president and provost at Lincoln University in Missouri. My life kind of is in this whole world of higher education."

While working at these various institutions Sewell became a game changer in his own regard, beginning with his time at the University of West Georgia and Fort Valley State University. At UWG and FVSU Sewell and his colleagues pioneered the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) to respond to the need to work closely with African American males and provide the tools they need to complete their postsecondary education. The statewide initiative also works to establish self-identity, community, career-readiness, business connections, and brotherhood, many of which are values held dear here at Morehouse.

"The work was so significant and so successful that it became a model for other public universities in Georgia. So now, every university, be it PWI or HBCU, from large schools like the University of Georgia to small schools like Georgia Perimeter College, they all have an African American Male Initiative that came out of the work that we began in 2000." Sewell explains the reasoning for such an initiative, "I saw a need because African American males at West Georgia where I was as a professor had the lowest retention rate, the at the lowest graduation rate, the highest dropout rate, the highest loss of HOPE Scholarship, and they had the highest disciplinary issues. So I as a professor I said, hey, my job is political science, but I'm an African American male, and how can I begin to help these

young brothers to do well, at this predominantly white institution. It was from that commitment to helping that I kind of tried to recreate Morehouse at West Georgia University. I went to Fort Valley and I recreated Morehouse there.”

Sewell successfully did so, participants dressed up every Tuesday and Thursday, and there were monthly lecture series with appearances from African American scholars like Cornel West, Michael Dyson, and Steve Perry.

“The idea was to try to give those students at a white school the same experiences that I received when I was a student here at Morehouse.”

Sewell’s efforts were not in vain, during his time there he saw a significant increase in the amount of African American males being retained and graduating on time. But despite these successes, Sewell could not resist the temptation of doing what he loved at a larger scale.

“Creating it at a smaller scale was great, but to be able to come back to Morehouse and help impact the lives and make a difference in African American males every day was enticing.”

Sewell admits where he is now is a long way from where he was when he first got to Morehouse. “I wasn’t nearly as polished as I may be, but I had mentors here at the school who said hey I’m gonna help you do well in math because you’re struggling in it. I had a professor by the name of Dr. Harris Walter who said you know what, I’m gonna help you to get through math.” Sewell reveals that was his motivation to return to his alma mater. To help a young man the same way his former professor helped him. “That’s kinda why I wanted to come back.”

When asked where he saw Morehouse in the next 10 years Sewell replied, “I see Morehouse being even greater.” He stressed the importance of making excellence “not just episodic, but a habit.” In order to accomplish this goal, Sewell and his team have outlined four main aims. 1) Ensuring student success outside of the classroom. 2) Creating a vibrant and inclusive campus. 3) Promoting health and

safety. 4) Creating a global partnership. Sewell notes, “We have never had a strategic plan to my knowledge for student affairs. I wanted to make sure we are able to quantify what we do.” Sewell also expressed his delight about the percentage of students who completed the student climate assessment survey which was recently sent out. “It is amazing. It tells me you all are committed and are concerned about Morehouse being greater.” Sewell says he looks forward to sitting with students and together figuring out how to respond to the issues students have voiced. When Said Sewell is not too busy administering, he enjoys getting up every day at 6 a.m. to work out. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha, a fraternity he pledged in graduate school and remains an active member. He is also a member of the 100 Black Men of America, board member for the center of African American males, does charity work, and is in the process of adopting a child. When asked what led him to that decision, Sewell responded, “I’ve been very fortunate to have resources. I wanted to share some of my resources with a child that may have been less fortunate or came from less fortunate experiences.”

With such a seemingly demanding job, it may be hard for most people to stay motivated, but not for Said Sewell, he says he gets his motivation from the students.

“Everyday I walk across campus students are like ‘Hey Dr. Sewell, what’s going on?’ or a brother texts me on Instagram or hits me on Twitter or just stops by to say ‘Dr. Sewell just wanted to let you know I’m doing okay.’ That motivates me because it means that I’ve connected with that student. Obviously, he sees something in me that has resonated with him and as a result of that he wants to be around me or wants to keep in contact with me. That then says I’m doing it right and I’m meeting my purpose every day.”

Aside from feeding off of the students’ energy, Sewell’s sheer love for the college also helps keep him going.

“This is not work for me. I mean this is my alma mater. I love Morehouse.”

And to prove it, among all of the degrees that hang on the wall in Sewell’s office, Morehouse is at the top. To Sewell, his experience at Morehouse was the most lucrative.

Sewell describes his time so far at Morehouse as positive, he says he has been received well by his colleagues and by the students.

If you are a student at Morehouse Sewell says to look forward to a responsive administration and constant communication. Sewell is adamant that he is visible to the students. Therefore, when he first arrived on campus his first order of business was to change the location of the VP’s office to Kilgore 208.

“The previous VP had his office in Gloster Hall, I said no. I want to be where the students are so I can be in constant proximity to them.”

Sewell says if you want to help take Morehouse to greater heights, you can help by maintaining the campus. “If we can ever get to a point of not just repairing, but enhancing, it’d be great. Each time I have to go and put another door in that’s less money I could be using to enhance something else.” His message most importantly is to be our brother’s keeper. Whether our brother is being challenged or having issues personally or academically, Sewell challenges us to honor the words we pledged when we first got here. To have your brother’s back.

Sewell believes freshmen hold the key to changing the culture at Morehouse, and Sewell looks forward to facilitating student experience by keeping us encouraged. Sewell continues to wear the white wristband he gave to his freshman class during NSO to remind himself of the commitment he made to them.

Sewell clocks in with the same energy he clocks out with. “I typically come in at nine in the morning and I leave at nine o’clock at night and I’m okay with it because I’m here helping my brothers and that’s what my job is. That’s my purpose.” As long as Sewell keeps up the good work, Morehouse is in good hands.



RAPPER LOUIS 'LOUIE MACK' WILLIAMS/PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUIS WILLIAMS

RETURN OF THE MACK?

BY MYLES SALLEY-HOLLAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Louis Williams, known as rapper Louie Mack, performed at last year's Homecoming Hump Wednesday. Williams, a Morehouse student from Philadelphia, has loved music since he was born.

"I been listening to music my entire life," he said. "Really, since I've been in the womb. Rap music is something that came natural, especially where I'm from."

Williams talked about his experience and what he took from it.

"During homecoming week, especially in the AUC it's a very live time," he said. "It was very exciting for me to be on that platform. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot about myself as a performer."

"I would very much so love to perform this homecoming, but based on my schedule and based on the way everything is aligning with homecoming directors, I'm not 100 percent sure if I am performing. However, I am still looking forward to building my resume and performing at other places during the same week."

Austin Cutler, a fellow Morehouse student, close friend and fan of Williams, hopes Williams' desire comes true.

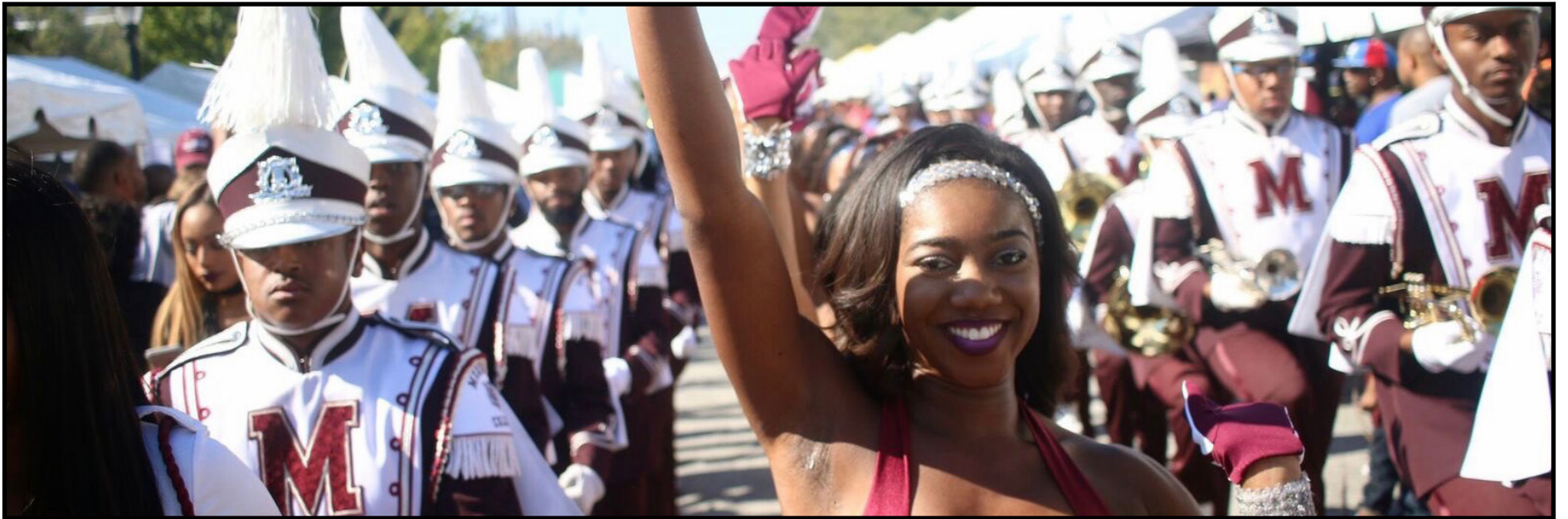
"I would like to see Lou perform again," Cutler said. "His performance last year was really good and exciting. It was great to see him on that platform. Hopefully a performance this year will give him the recognition he deserves."

Williams also has big goals for himself for future homecoming events.

"It's very exciting, there's a lot going on," he said. "It's always something to look out for. I aspire to do a little bit more, and one of my goals is to come back and headline one day knowing that I used to go here. That is something I'm definitely looking forward to."

Williams' latest project, "Drip," is available on all streaming devices and platforms. As homecoming is on its way, hopefully a Louie Mack performance is in the works.

THE SPELHOUSE 2018 HOMECOMING IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. MUSIC PERFORMANCES ARE JUST SOME OF THE MANY EVENTS THAT STUDENTS AND GUESTS LOOK FORWARD TO. MUSIC EVENTS ARE ALSO HELD FOR UPCOMING ARTISTS WITHIN THE CITY, ALONG WITHIN THE AUC.



MOREHOUSE BAND AND MAHOGANY-N-MOTION/COURTESY OF BOSSIP

HALL OF FAME HALFTIME SHOW

BY SYDNEY GOGGANS
STAFF WRITER

As classes are starting to get harder and the study sessions start to pile up, there is something that the AUC community can look forward to during this time of year: Homecoming.

Spelhouse is approaching and many events for the students will be full of fun, laughter and joy. Throughout the week, many organizations will prepare to have their own special events or performances to deliver to the students. The Morehouse College House of Funk Marching Band will deliver a special performance during the Morehouse and Fort Valley halftime show to the student body that they feel will be a crowd-pleaser.

Tyler Houston, a Morehouse senior and the head drum major of the band, created the drill this year. He is excited for the creative piece that the audience is going to see even though pulling it all together is going to be a difficult process.

"We are getting new pieces and working on some new drills to give a representative environment for the homecoming game, fun for all classes," Houston said. "We have a different target audience and homecoming week is very chaotic and hectic. Planning and keeping things orderly and productive can get difficult. Additionally we have to prepare for so many events time is of the essences.

Leading up to homecoming, the Morehouse College House of Funk Marching Band is preparing for the show by practicing every day in order to make it a spectacular performance for the audience. The dancers of Mahogany-N-Motion are also expecting their section of the performance to be wonderful for people coming to see them perform. Gabby Slaugh-

ter, a junior at Spelman College and co-captain of Mahogany-N-Motion, is encouraging the team to work hard as they approach their performance during the halftime show.

"We simply want it to be perfect for our alumna," said Slaughter. "I'm excited most about doing the 'back-up' with the alum. It's always very interesting to see all the women of different years dancing together. We also know that there will be lots of people at the game so we want to put on a good show," Slaughter said.

Houston is not allowed to spoil the surprise for what the band is planning for the show but he knows that it will be a success. As the head drum major, he is proud of the band's hard work they are putting into their performances and their teamwork.

"The band has really showed out this year and I see the eagerness of the younger generation to be better and to take on all challenges," Houston said. "I believe musically this year we have been much more sound than other years. Arrangements are better and more complete and instrumental sound is developing along with the band's balance and confidence."

Houston's measure of success goes beyond that of the actual product the band puts out on the field. It's about much more.

"The most rewarding experiences are those of progress," he continues. "Seeing the new faces coming back and wanting to do more, seeing the program progress and definitely seeing people find their niche within the program and simply having fun with those around them."

'The Hate U Give'

BY JAIR HILBURN,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During the press tour of the film "The Hate U Give," members of the cast and crew made an appearance at the Atlanta University Center to give more insight to the movie.

Before "The Hate U Give" became a movie, it was a #1 New York Times Bestseller book by Angie Thomas that follows Starr Carter as she struggles with the following events that occur after she witnesses the death of her childhood friend Khalil.

Before it was a book, it was a short story that Thomas wrote during her senior year in college. Living a predominantly Black community and attending a school that was predominantly White, Thomas had run into some personal struggles.

"I had to struggle because it was like two different people in two different worlds, and while I was school the Oscar Grant case happened," Thomas said. "He lost his life in Oakland, and video showed that he was doing nothing wrong when the cop shot him in the back. It led to protests and riots in Oakland when the cop got away with it, but it also led to conversations at my school in Mississippi."

From those conversations, Thomas started to see what the people at her school understood and what they didn't.

"One thing my white classmates didn't understand was why people would

mourn an ex-con, and that was the first thing they used to describe Oscar," Thomas said. "My anger and frustration I decided to write for myself, but some part of me wanted my classmates to understand because so often when we have these cases young men - more specifically young Black men - are often criminalized in their own deaths."

However, she also found inspiration in Rachel Jeantel, Trayvon Martin's best friend, because when she spoke up for Trayvon while George Zimmerman was on trial Thomas noticed that people weren't focused on what she was saying but the way she said it.

"They called her ghetto, ratchet, unpolished, but no one called her a hero," Thomas said. "So I wanted write this to book to say Rachel - and every other girl like Rachel are heros to me. I refuse to let the world continue to dehumanize you."

Throughout the course of the film and the book, Thomas manages to humanize the life of Starr. As the film progresses, audiences see there is more to her friend Khalil - who is played by Algee Smith - than meets the eye.

"It shows you that he actually had struggles going on that he couldn't turn anywhere else but to the local gang," Smith said. "He turns to the only place that the system has set up for him."

During the scene of Khalil's death, George Tillman Jr., the director of "The Hate U Give," takes an unconventional approach when shooting that scene because we wanted to make the audience feel what Starr is feeling in that particular moment.

"I was just really motivated when I saw the Philando Castile shooting in Minnesota," Tillman said. "It was just a video and it was a young lady inside a car, so I just kept everything through Starr's point of view looking at Khalil, and it was just pretty much straight ahead shots. I just shot them looking right at each other as he is looking into her soul and she is looking into his [to] put the audience there and connect with them right away."

Over his 20 year career, Tillman has always prepared himself for making his films, and for this movie he prepared for "eight or nine months." However, he threw out all of the time he spent preparing because he wanted the story to be honest.

"It was one of the first times out of making my 20 year career that I just threw everything out," Tillman said. "The only way you can really be honest is if you bring it from [your heart], so this is one of the first times I just said let me just rely on that."

As the film follows the life Starr,

viewers see how what she's going through is affecting the lives of those around her particularly her family. Her brother - Seven Carter - has his own issue in the film, but viewers don't get to see them because of the role the brother plays in his sister's life.

"As Seven - her oldest brother - you're always going to want to protect your little sister," Lamar Johnson said. "Even in spite of what he's going through he would sacrifice what he's going through in order for him to make sure that she's good."

From another perspective of the family, Regina Hall plays Starr's mom

- Lisa Carter. Hall's character struggles with whether or not she wants her daughter to be put in the public eye if she were to testify.

"Ideally, you want to tell anyone to speak up, but I think realistically when you're older you realize what that means the risk that you're children could face from their community and from their school," Hall said.

Despite how Starr's mom feels, Starr continues to keep wanting to fight for Khalil. Hall believes that determination that Starr has comes from Lisa Carter.

"I think that is how your child is

motivated to maneuver through life - in the way that you live, so I think the love that she had for her family and the sacrifices that Lisa made make you see Starr make choices that are similar to that, but she's even a step further," Hall said. "You want the generation that follows you to have everything that you have. You want to pour into them, so they can do more."

"As scary as it is because you don't know where that lead, the idea is that you want to instill that, so I think she probably lead by example and then served just a lot of love and strength."

THE BENEFITS OF NETWORKING FOR HOMECOMING

BY ISAIAH JOHNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

Each year hundreds of Spelhouse alumni return to their alma mater, to reconnect with friends and reminisce on their time spent in the Atlanta University Center. Homecoming is a joyous time where current and former students are all in one space, sharing stories, ideas, and forming lifetime connections. Though homecoming is primarily for the alumni, current students of each institution should take advantage of the high volume of alumni on campus. Networking with alumni from your institution can benefit individuals in various ways, here's a list of what current students can do to network during homecoming.

1. Reach out to your alumni association for events: Aside from Saturday where students will see the most alumni on campus, reach out to your school's alumni association to see if events are being held during the week. See if these events are open to students and what time the event takes place. These events may happen off campus so make sure you ask where the event is happening.

2. See if campus organizations are having alumni events: If you are a part of a campus organization ask the president/chief if there are any alum that work closely with your org. If so, ask if there's a way that the organization can hold the event where the alum(s) come in and speak with the students. That way the students are able to form a connection with.

3. Ask your department chair if there's major specific events: For those looking to network specifically in their major, ask your department chair if there's any networking events that the department holds during the week. You can also ask your chair if

there's a way to get alum to come in and speak in their major related classes. In most cases your department chair is an alum of the school, which means there can be more networking opportunities for students.

4. Network with the alumni on the day of homecoming: If you're unable to do any of these previous options listed above, there's still an opportunity for you to network, tailgate is where you will see the highest presence of SpelHouse alumni. Giving you the opportunity to speak with alumni from various classes, speaking to the alumni doesn't have to be an elaborate process, if you find yourself waiting and line to get food try to spark up a simple conversation. A good opener is how their tailgate is going?

5. Be yourself, but make sure its professional: If you happen to find yourself at an alumni event or trying to speak to an alumni during tailgate remember to just be yourself. However, be respectful to the person if they don't want to talk. Some people may not want to spend their time networking with students, so it's best to respect their space. If you do encounter someone that is willing to talk, you can be casual, make eye contact with the person and thank them for taking the time to have a conversation with you.

Networking is an important tool that people will use at various points in their life, the earlier you start it the better. So, I encourage current students this homecoming to utilize these suggestions and network with alumni. Doing this can have a tremendous pay-off in the long run, it just takes a matter of taking the first step.

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