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MASSEY

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THOMAS

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THE PRESIDENCY: STUDENTS REFLECT ON THOMAS' FIRST YEAR

BY ISAIAH JOHNSON, MANAGING EDITOR

This Founder's Day, Morehouse College will inaugurate David A. Thomas as its 12th president of the school. However, what makes this presidency special is that he is the first non-Morehouse graduate to be president in 52 years. The last president to do this was Benjamin E. Mays, who served as president for 27 years (1940-1967).

With a new president comes new ideas and policies that are meant to not only improve the school itself, but student life on campus. With a new president also comes a various amount of opinions coming from both students and faculty members, but primarily from the students.

So how do students feel about president Thomas and what do they want to see changed to their soon to be alma mater? For graduating senior Sterling Humphrey, he had this to share about president Thomas.

"I think that President Thomas is doing a great job," Humphrey said. "He's definitely showing the students and faculty who underestimated him not being a Morehouse man that he is capable of operating in his position."

Graduating from Yale University with a B.A. in Administrative Sciences, President Thomas had a different undergraduate experience than his current students that he now looks over. However, to become one with the school and his students he did something that would make him an honorary Morehouse man.

"He asked if he could stay in a residential building during NSO week and go through the experience with them" Humphrey said. "Although this was the first time freshmen seeing these events, it was his first time seeing it as well."

Having the NSO experience is one of not the most essential part of students' time at Morehouse, making their time here more memorable and shaping them into the leaders of tomorrow. President Thomas going through NSO not only shows his care for the students,; it also shows his love and appreciation for the event and the school.

Since he had the NSO experience with his students, whether or not he is a graduate of Morehouse shouldn't matter,

and junior Donovan Pinner believes that it shouldn't matter to people that he's not.

"I'm glad that President Thomas is not a Morehouse graduate" Pinner said. "He has a different perspective of the college than a graduate would have."

Since Mays' presidency, the formally inaugurated presidents have all been Morehouse graduates. During their time they built and enhanced the school in their own way, giving back to their beloved alma mater. However, there's always room for change and it seems as though Morehouse is open to it.

"I think he's making the proper calculations and adjustments to his team and the college," Pinner said. "As a whole ,he's making the moves to increase our endowments and the money we need to keep the college in operation."

Having a president who's not an alum of the school allows a different perspective on how things should be handled and how to improve the institution overall.

Benjamin E. Mays, a graduate of Bates College, accomplished many key things during his time as president. He brought in new faculty members, a chapter for Phi Beta Kappa and maintained enrollment levels during wartimes.

May's accomplishments could till be seen today. But will Morehouse College

have another Benjamin Mays with the soon to be inaugurated president Thomas?

Graduating senior Terrance McQueen believes that there's a possibility Morehouse can.

"We do know that one of Morehouse's greatest presidents was Benjamin Elijah Mays and he was not a Morehouse man" McQueen said. "It is possible that the spirit of Dr. Mays is returning through President Thomas."

With his first full year coming to a close, Morehouse has welcomed President Thomas with open arms. While it's unknown what the future may hold, the Morehouse community looks forward to seeing the positive changes he will make to the school as we commemorate 152 years of existence with a new president and a new age.

'I think he has our best interests at heart. When you listen to him speak, he always reminds students that this is for students because without the students, there is no Morehouse, and I feel like that's something he believes and that he pushes when he speaks to people.'
~ Sterling Humphrey

CANDLE IN THE DARK GALA COMES BACK TO LIGHT

BY AMIETEE FOUNDJING, STAFF WRITER

Of all the “can’t miss” events that take place during Morehouse College’s annual Founder’s Day Week, the one event that seems to steal the spotlight every year is the Candle in the Dark Gala. Now, 30 years since its inception in 1989, current Gala executive chair Henry Goodgame promises “another wonderful Gala experience” with appearances from Steve Pamon, who is currently the COO of Parkwood Entertainment (Beyonce’s company), and two-time NBA All-Star and former Los Angeles Lakers standout Norm Nixon, who will be accompanied by his longtime wife and famous actress, Debbie Allen.

The Candle in the Dark Gala first started in 1989 under Morehouse College’s eighth president, Dr. Leroy Keith Jr., in an attempt to raise much-needed dollars for student scholarships. The Founder’s Day Banquet was formerly held on the campus in the college’s cafeteria and cost \$10 per person. Two years later, the event was moved to the Westin Peachtree

Plaza at a cost of \$75 per person.

“In the early years, the event broke even and raised nominal dollars for scholarships,” Goodgame said.

Finally, in 1996, the event was moved to the Hyatt Regency Hotel and remains there to this day.

The Gala’s focus is still to raise scholarship dollars, however, with a twist in the form of a student showcase where students can display their talents in front of a generous audience. If you plan on attending the Gala you can expect to see alumni, friends and corporate friends of the college and masterful performances by student presenters, student musicians, and student hosts.

With an event as grand as it sounds, a lot of time and effort has to be put forth to pull it off.

“It takes about six to seven months of planning and detailed work for the entire Founder’s Week experience,” Goodgame said. “When you add an inauguration, that becomes an extra special

opportunity for the college to showcase its history and plans for the future.”

As executive chair, much of the responsibility in making sure everything runs well falls on him. When asked if the job ever gets stressful, Goodgame said, “Yes, every year, but our students deserve our very best effort every year.” For him, what makes it all worth it is “the people, history, and culture of a place I love dearly.”

In the past, the Gala raked in a \$5 million gift from Oprah Winfrey and a \$1 million gift from Ray Charles. Last year, the Gala raised over \$3 million, with \$1.5 million coming from Robert Smith.

“The success of the Gala each year means that hundreds of students seeking to have a first-rate education at the nation’s premier college for men can depend on our alumni, friends and corporate supporters once again,” Goodgame said. “The Gala, in its 31st year, is a testament to what can happen when you plan well and dream big.”

BAKARI COMES BACK

BY JAIR HILBURN,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Founder’s Week is known across campus for being a time to celebrate the birth of Morehouse College, but even amid the celebration, there is still some conversation to be had.

On February 15, there will be a presidential symposium on “The Morehouse Idea: Opportunities, Complexities, and Challenges for the Global Black Community in the 21st Century” that will include

many prominent figures - one being CNN political analyst and Morehouse alum Bakari Sellers ‘05.

“For me it’s always a pleasure to come back to the campus,” Sellers said. “It’s an honor to be wanted [and] to participate.”

“Morehouse has meant so much to me and is such an integral part of my life that just being back on campus I look forward to a great weekend.”

The symposium is meant to discuss preparing students for a 21st century global economy and to talk about what that looks like now and will in the future. For those that want to know how to be a part of that, Sellers had a few words to say.

“You gotta come see,” Sellers said.

President Thomas will be interviewed by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. the same day.

THE BLACK INK PROJECT

BY TORRENCE BANKS, CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Each college seeking re-accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has to create a Quality Enhancement Plan. Morehouse College's QEP is called The Black Ink Project and its goal is to increase the writing proficiency of all students, regardless of their major.

The accreditation process verifies that an institution has a viable mission and the resources needed to make it succeed and improve. The QEP allows the college to experiment in an area that it hopes to improve over the next five years. Writing was chosen at Morehouse because it is a skill used in every aspect of college and professional life, and it is in high demand from employers and graduate schools.

"Long term, the idea is to have all students writing at a proficiency level that will allow them to have success in college and in their long-term careers," English Professor and the Director of The Black Ink Project Dr. Nathaniel Norment said. "The idea is to develop students' writing skills each year.

"We are going to assess their writing abilities at the end of each academic year."

Students will be submerged in the writing process at all stages of their educational experience, from General Education and First-Year Experience courses to senior-level writing assignments.

As part of the project, faculty from various departments will be trained to learn the best strategies and practices to teach writing skills. Faculty will learn how to best help students improve their writing by using topics related to Black Life, History, and Culture (BLHAC).

"That involves faculty workshops," Norment said. "It involves working with various departments on creating writing assignments and making use of culturally relevant materials and content."

Business Administration Professor and SACS Coordinator Dr.

Hollingsworth said that three faculty members attended a conference in Austin, Texas, about how to become better teachers.

"One of the things we heard was that the best way to teach your generation was to get them emotionally involved in the topic," he said.

Morehouse College faculty began working on the project in January 2016. Surveys were given to students, alumni and faculty about their attitudes toward writing at the college.

CTEMS Professor Avery Williams suggested a naming contest, then he came up with the name and the advisory committee accepted it.

The symbol for the project is a Sankofa bird, an African

word that means there is "wisdom in learning from the past which ensures a strong future," according to the Carter G. Woodson Center website. SGA President Quintin Paschall and SGA Vice President and Senate President Wendell Shelby-Wallace were both involved in picking the symbol.

"Writing at its heart is reflective," Hollingsworth said. "You see something, read something, and then you write about it. We saw that as fitting into the Sankofa



DR. NATHANIEL NORMENT STANDS BEFORE THE LOGO FOR THE BLACK INK PROJECT HE CREATED TO IMPROVE MOREHOUSE STUDENTS' WRITING.//PHOTO BY TORRENCE BANKS

theme."

Norment said, "It represents reaching back to bring forth learning and knowledge."

Morehouse College enrolls about 2,000 students and is working to increase that number to 2,600 students. President Dr. David A. Thomas' goal for the class of 2022 is to have at least 70 percent graduate within six years. The Black Ink Project has the ability to help the college meet goals of amplified recruitment, admissions and graduation rates.

"I think it will be a national model for other writing projects," Norment said. "Not just for HBCUs, but also for PWIs across the country."

WHAT DOES FOUNDER'S DAY MEAN TO STUDENTS?

BY DEANDRE WASHINGTON
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again, where the celebration returns - as do those who once walked these same campus grounds asking for directions to Nabritt-Mapp-McBay or Merrill Hall. Morehouse College prepares to celebrate another Founder's Day. This year culminates 152 years of developing men with disciplined minds to lead lives of leadership and service.

Students have come here with the goal to do something different with their lives. And in four years, those same students learn to carve their own lanes in order to be proud of something when it's time to move on from Morehouse. But do they value celebrating the day Morehouse was founded?

"Founder's Day is cool," senior Theodore Cruz said. "It brings us closer together as students that go to the college, and creates a sense of community and understanding that none of this happened overnight."

That sense of community is the foundation that Morehouse has been built upon for 152 years. But with the daily struggles of a student, some can't find the time to care. In speaking with some of the students, they asked more questions than they gave answers.

Founder's Day at Morehouse College is the reminder to celebrate the work that's been done out of wanting to see brighter days for black men in the world. However, the idea that continued for 152 years now needs to remind

current students of its importance.

Students express that Founder's Day is nothing more than just another day of the week. Other students shared caring sentiments about the day; even going as far as expressing what they felt the disconnect is between the student body and their lack of engagement with the events.

"I don't know what events we have," sophomore Micah Guthrie said. "I believe the events are the concert and gala, but you have to pay for the gala. I'm not sensing much school spirit with the events, that may be lacking."

"I would say that the events, especially the gala, are for alum," he continued. "The gala doesn't have the same energy to be seen as a school wide event similar to football or basketball games - those are school spirit events."

Attempts have been made to communicate change. Through constantly exemplifying pride for the school, acknowledgement of the brother-sister relationships, and keeping traditions such as being pillars for Welcome to the House, freshman dorm stroll-offs, and even the humorous fear of having to move into Mays Hall over the Otis Moss suites.

"Founder's Day for me is a day of reflection of all the Morehouse men who paved the way for me to be here today," junior Jakarie Gates said. "The traditions and foundation Morehouse was built on was my reason for wanting

to attend Morehouse. Founder's Day is a holiday for us."

Gates concluded with a sentiment that every man that attends Morehouse comes to share once they learn about the prominent figures that walked brown street before them. "It gives me chills everyday to walk the same streets and sit in the same chairs as Maynard Jackson, MLK, and many more."

Students' opinions on the relevance of Founder's Day poses a question for the campus: how can we make the engagement better as the attention comes more from alumni than current day students?

That inquiry has yet to be given an answer as it's hard to encourage engagement and continue the same traditions that worked for so many years.

"I do feel that Founder's Day is more catered to the alumni of the school," junior Alani Scott said. "While the traditions of Morehouse are good, a lot of them do not fit the classes of today. I feel that in order to get the students more involved in Founder's Day, ask the students what they would be interested in doing for Founder's Day."

Students shouldn't see the value in Morehouse once their journey reaches graduation. And that's the disconnect between current Men of Morehouse and alumni. But until tradition meets current student's standards, Founder's Day is just another day to go to class.

MOREHOUSE
COLLEGE

Founder's Day Concert

Join us for an Evening of Romance on Valentine's Day Weekend



Morehouse College presents its Founder's Day and Inaugural Concert
featuring the electrifying sounds of

Ken Ford "King of Strings"

With Special Opening Performance By



Keeyen Martin '13, Soulful R&B Recording Artist

Date: Friday, February 15, 2019

Time: 7:30 p.m.

VIP Tickets include premium seating and an opportunity to meet and greet the artist

TICKET PURCHASE LINK: <https://goo.gl/iZ7N83>

Gala and Concert Accommodations:

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

Discounted room rate: \$199, plus tax. To reserve your room, call: 1.800.233.1234

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MOREHOUSE
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A Candle in the Dark Gala and Inaugural Ball

BENEFITTING THE MOREHOUSE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2019 BENNIE AND CANDLE AWARD HONOREES



BENNIE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Steve Pamon '91
Chief Operating Officer,
Parkwood Entertainment



BENNIE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D. '92
12th Dean, University of Michigan School
of Public Health and
Professor of Biostatistics



CANDLE IN BUSINESS AWARD

Ray M. Robinson
Retired President, AT&T Southern
Region and Chairman of the Board,
Citizen's Trust Bank



**CANDLE IN SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION AWARD**

N. Anthony 'Tony' Coles, M.D.
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Former Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer,
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**CANDLE IN LAW AND
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Jeffrey Harleston
General Counsel and Executive
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**CANDLE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN
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Norm Nixon
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Accomplished Businessman,
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SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 16
HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA
265 Peachtree St., NE Atlanta, GA 30303

PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - General Reception
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - VIP Reception*
7:30 p.m. - Dinner, Awards Ceremony and Dancing

*Gala patrons and corporate sponsors receive admission to the VIP Reception

TICKET PURCHASE

To purchase tables and tickets, please visit:
<http://connect.morehouse.edu/events>

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MADE ME FEEL LIKE A
STRANGER IN MY HOMETOWN**BY GERALD PERRY
STAFF WRITER

Super Bowl LIII is over, and while it wasn't the most exciting Super Bowl of recent years, the scene around the city definitely made up for that. The entire city was a madhouse all week from concerts to block parties – and that was all before game day. Atlanta really tried to make it a party for everyone, but if you are from here you might have felt like a tourist in your own city.

Being an Atlanta native, I already understand that there is a certain type of dysfunction to the city that makes it so special. For example, natives are aware that the traffic can come to a standstill for absolutely no reason at all. We also understand that if you are going out to eat on Peachtree you better have at least an extra \$20 bill for parking.

Whenever I venture outside of Atlanta, I typically like to go places where I know someone who is familiar with the area. That's mainly so I don't get taken advantage like so many travelers I've seen in my city. The locals are the best, they already know where to go so you don't have to break the bank just because you don't know any better.

This past week, however, none of that local knowledge mattered. I was in awe of how the city I felt I knew so well was transformed into a tourist trap. Gas prices went up, the parking prices soared, the extra traffic made it great for the Uber and Lyft drivers, even some menu prices at

restaurants seemed a bit higher.

When I got a chance to interview some of the Rams and Patriots players, they told me how much they were enjoying Atlanta. That makes sense as it almost took a seven-figure salary to be able to enjoy anything during the week before the Super Bowl. I do not consider myself broke by any means, but after that week I am much, much closer to it.

There was no escaping the craziness. My out-of-town friends were counting on me to suggest places they should go at night and I didn't know what to tell them because every decent nightclub had more than a \$100 cover charge, and close to the same amount to park. Sections at the Gold Room, a popular Atlanta night club, were said to cost upwards of \$15,000, and on game day, some lots on Northside Drive were charging \$250 to park.

I am usually a strong advocate for bringing big events to Atlanta. I have wanted the Super Bowl here since before we got a new stadium, and I was hoping that the NBA All-Star Game would arrive soon. However, after going through this experience, I don't think it will be hard for me to patiently wait for Atlanta to play host again.

HOW TO OWN YOUR SECOND SEMESTER

BY SYDNEY GOGGANS
STAFF WRITER

Recovering from a five-week Winter break is a hard battle for a lot of students. Whether that means adjusting to missing the warm comfort of home or mourning the end of living freely knowing there are no classes the next day, it is not an easy task to recuperate from.

It's only the beginning of February, but classes will only start to get more hectic from here. Here is a list of tips and tricks in order to continue maintaining good grades and motivation for your second semester.

1. Set goals. Setting goals helps us to stay focused and motivated. Whether that means striving to maintain all A's or even simply have the goal to do better than you did last semester, then it is more likely that you will have a great semester for yourself if you plan these out ahead of time.

2. There is always a finish line. Don't forget that the semester will eventually end. You still have your summer to be free from classes and course load. It is imperative that you do not give up in the middle of the semester due to laziness and remember there will be an end. Stay on top of your grind.

3. Work smarter, not harder. As college students, it is easy for us to get overwhelmed. Unfortunately, excessively multitasking leads to less productivity. When we work smarter by focusing on something one at a time or relieving our stress levels as we work, it is guaranteed that we can get a lot done more efficiently.

4. Go to class, no excuses. It's very tempting to stay in bed and catch up on some sleep. However, continuing to come up with an excuse not to go to class can become a habit. Class provides you with the knowledge and

potential resources that you need. As hard as it can get, remember that you are paying too much money to not go to class.

5. Create relationships with your professors. Professors are an excellent tool and resource to provide you the help that you need. You can create this relationship by showing them respect and going to their office hours to discuss the course material.

6. Find study groups. Interacting with other students can help you gain new knowledge, develop new study tips as well as allow for support and teamwork. Learning and studying with other people can help you grasp concepts better and pursue better grades in the class.

7. Study. It is not enough to just go to class. Find time outside of class to go out on your own and study. Studying by yourself or having a study group (like discussed above) will better prepare you for class. Try to find different techniques and study concepts that fit the way you learn best.

8. Invest in a planner. Planners allow for organization. Writing assignments and due dates in a planner will help you keep track of your coursework, so you do not have to worry about missing something important.

9. Be on the lookout for extra credit. Even if you do not need extra credit, you should never give up on those opportunities. Making your grade better is always the better option. When you see those opportunities, take them. Do not walk away from them.

10. Keep a positive mindset. As corny as it sounds, positivity is key. Keep yourself in a healthy space mentally as well as physically. Positivity will help you succeed through the semester.

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BATTLE OF AUC: MOREHOUSE DEFEATS CLARK ATLANTA, WINS SIAC EAST

BY KALEB MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

There was a royal rumble between the Morehouse Maroon Tigers and the Clark Atlanta Panthers in Forbes Arena Saturday night, especially within the last five minutes of the game. This game was Part II to the first electrifying game that took place on Jan. 26 on Clark's campus.

Unlike last time, Morehouse was able to survive with a 70-67 victory that secured its second consecutive SIAC Eastern Division title. The Tigers had the lead for most of the game and played some very impressive defense, holding the Panthers' shooting to 29 percent for the game. Morehouse's largest lead was 13 points.

Morehouse's defense was a definite focal point in the game. Morehouse (18-3, 12-3 SIAC) came away with eight steals and almost half the team recorded at least one blocked shot. The Maroon Tigers also recorded fewer turnovers than Clark.

Unfortunately, Morehouse's free throw percentages took a dip since the last time they played. The last time Morehouse went against Clark, the Tigers shot 73 percent from the free-throw line, but this time they only shot 52 percent by making 16 of 31 attempts.

"We have to learn how to finish games by passing the final exam, and that's rebounding the basketball and making free throws," Morehouse head coach Grady Brewer said. "We're last in the conference in doing that so that's not going to get us very far in tournament play. We've been having trouble with it all year long, but we're trying to fix it some-way somehow."

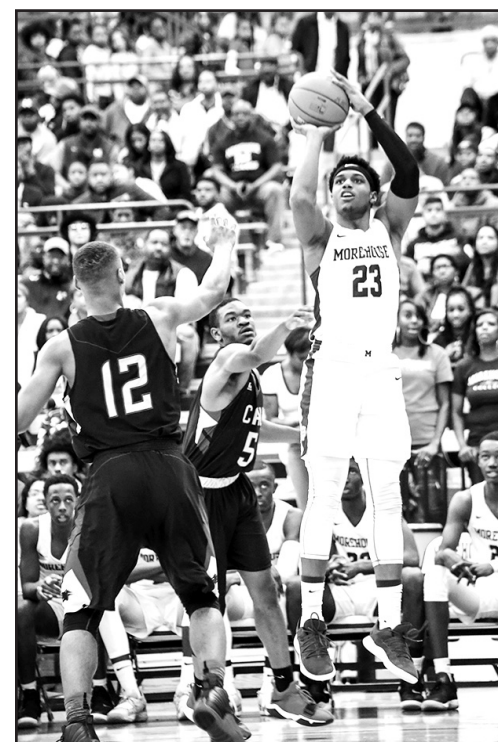
On a more positive note, Morehouse dominated the paint. As many as 17 baskets were scored in the paint in a variety of ways, including two monster dunks late in the game that came from Morehouse guards Robert Andrews and Chibueze Ebinum. The latter finished with 15 points on 55 percent shooting from the field and he also made the last two free throws that sealed the victory for Morehouse with only six seconds left to play.

"It was a pretty big moment, but at the end of the day we work on these (free throws) so I was very confident with every shot I took," Ebinum said about handling the pressure. "At the end of the day, I'm always playing my role and when we all play our roles, we are a better team."

Once again, Morehouse forward Omar Alston was the team's leading rebounder and scorer. He finished with 19 points, 17 rebounds, two blocks and a steal. Alston was scoring in the paint at will and got plenty of foul calls while doing so.

"We came with a lot of energy," Alston said. "We could've played better, of course, with less turnovers and could've made more free throws. We played good overall and we got the W."

This game was a satisfying watch with lots of energy coming from the crowd. Fans were unable to turn away because right after one team scored a bucket, the ball was back in play and going into the net of the other goal. It was a hard-fought battle between both teams, but the Maroon Tigers reigned supreme.



MOREHOUSE COLLEGE AND CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS PLAYED AGAINST EACH OTHER ON FEBRUARY 9 AT FORBES ARENAS. // PHOTOS BY ZEK HARRIS



CLOSING CURTAINS

FOUNDERS OF ARTS IN THE AUC SPEAK ON THE GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION AS THEY PREPARE TO LEAVE IT BEHIND

BY JAIR HILBURN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

&

ISAIAH JOHNSON, MANAGING EDITOR

The Atlanta University Center (AUC) is known for being a central spot for intellectual Black folk from all over the world to pursue a degree and leave world leaders and social changers. Behind the books, there are talents that are often left under the radar, but there is an organization that's working to change that narrative.

In the midst of their sophomore year, Bryce Lampkin, Ashley Townsel, Jordyn Walston, Jaelan Sanon, Mark Anthony Davis, Evelyn Angarica, Leron Julian, and Jadè Henderickson decided to create a platform that will shine a light on the talent that is in the AUC. This led to the creation of the organization Arts In The AUC.

Initially, there would be multiple forms of art - music, photography, spoken word, etc. - posted on their website until they decided to host a talent show for all members of the AUC to partake in.

"I think I always heard of there being a talent show in the AC, but then I tried to figure out why it didn't continue," Townsel said.

While all of them weren't friends, they knew of each other, but as time went on that dynamic would change.

"For me, I felt like a newfound

respect for each individual because I saw like their strengths and also their weaknesses that I never knew they had," Sanon said.

Since they aren't all alike, there was something that they could take away from one another to be better fit to fulfill their roles.

"I think for me, it was more of a learning experience being in a space where these different people have experiences outside the Arts In The AUC space and bringing them [into that] space," Townsel said. "I think being amongst diverse people with diverse talents and techniques and expertise kind of helped me grow into a leader."

By this time they've gathered enough knowledge to know who is best suited to do specific tasks which came in handy for them putting together their last show. While they hope it won't be the last, they know the road won't be easy because for it be entering the third year their "mind is blown" because unlike other organizations on campus they aren't registered. Through it all, they've learned that "improvising is key."

"You can never stick to one idea," Lampkin said. "For me, I like thinking on my feet. I don't really like planning things out.

"If it goes wrong, it goes wrong, and if something stops it then you find another way around it."

That philosophy has led them to go on to pull off their third talent show. While the show is used as a platform to showcase the different talents in the AUC, it also gives a platform to those who have never performed in front of an audience before which can garner new reactions but provide better results.

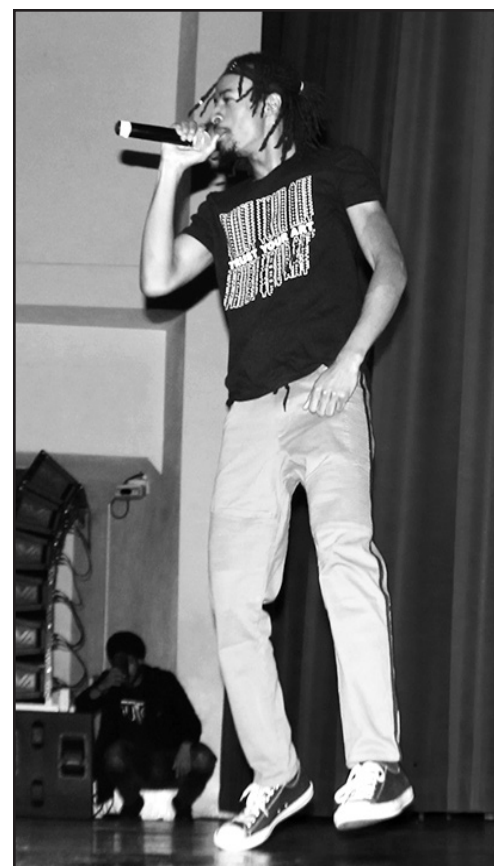
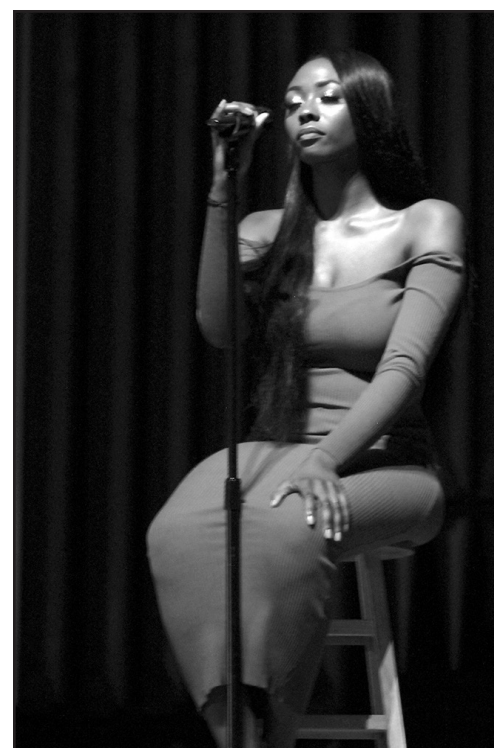
"At the last show, one of the girls had a panic attack, and I think we saw that this was these people's first time ever performing, going out and making a name for themselves," Walston said. "It's a little scary to think about because everyone that's coming they come with their own fears and anticipations for it, and we have our own about whether or not enough are going to come or if it's going to come together in time. In it if you just think about how everyone really is a person, and then when you reach into that level it's crazy what you can make, if you just take a break and take time to learn that person."

From being an idea to gain traction for the website to being on their third annual show, the talent show grew into a show that everyone in the AUC was going to show up for.



THE FINALE: ARTS IN THE AUC TALENT SHOW

PHOTO STORY
BY MICAH GUTHRIE



MICHELLE OBAMA'S PORTRAIT PAINTER CHATS WITH SPELMAN MUSEUM DIRECTOR

BY AUTUMN HARRIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amy Sherald doesn't remember much from her early childhood, but during her conversation at the High Museum of Art with Dr. Andrea Barnwell-Brownlee, she easily recalled Bo Bartlett's 1986 painting, "Object Performance," as her first introduction to American Realism. As a sixth-grader, it also doubled as her first time seeing a painting of a black person.

"I didn't know that a white man had painted it and I didn't know that it was a self portrait of himself as a black man," Sherald said Wednesday evening. "All I knew was that it was someone who looked like me, and it was a place I'd never been before and, in that moment, I knew I wanted to be an artist, I knew I wanted to paint people, and I knew that I wanted to make big paintings. It just struck me."

In 2018, Sherald was thrust into the spotlight as former First Lady Michelle Obama's portrait painter. The painting now lives in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., where 2-year-old Parker Curry famously stood in awe of Michelle Obama's official portrait.

Sherald's most recent works hang in the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, from now until May 18th, in her self-titled exhibition "Amy Sherald."

Sherald received her Master's of Fine Arts in 2004 at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She spent some time at home after graduating and visited the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida.

"I came back to Baltimore and, through that experience, decided that I would do some research and see if I could

find some images that were extricated from the dominant historical narrative of black history," Sherald said.

In 2008, she visited the Whitney Museum exhibition, "Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love," that depicted in dark tones the raw horrors of slavery in the antebellum South. She left the museum attempting to reimagine the black image.

"In processing what I had seen, I realized that there was a space or a conversation that, at the time, wasn't being had — a different portrayal of blackness." She checked out the film "Big Fish" while trying to figure out what she calls her "art DNA" — what she was going to paint.

"It was a light-bulb moment," she said. The movie echoes tones of magical realism as it's about the strained relationship between a father and his son, who just can't believe his dad's seemingly unconventional stories. But it turns out the stories were true.

Sherald was inspired by the narrative of the movie "and I recognized that there were limitations in the way that I got to know myself as a black person because of the (negative) narrative that stays with us."

So began her quest to find her authentic self, before others' expectations dictated how she interacted with the world.

"Everything became about fantasy," Sherald said. "I realized that so much of my identity had been formed through self-repression or assimilation. Every-

thing was constructed for me."

Her signature grayscale style evolved while she was creating "Hangman," her 2007 painting on which Black people's skin is painted gray.

"I painted gray first and then did the brown washes, and stopped in the middle," she said. As she reworked the painting, "I went all the way with the gray and it just looked really great so I stuck with it."

In 2011, Sherald spent a year in Norway studying under Odd Nerdrum, a figurative painter. Nerdrum helped establish Sherald's foundation as a painter.

"Since I was premed, I changed my major late," Sherald said. "So, I really never got to have those classes that everybody else had. I consider myself self-taught but in watching how he painted and how he interacted with students, I began to understand what I was doing and everything became easier."

Things went unscripted when Sherald had a heart transplant in 2012. Despite being an avid runner and without experiencing symptoms, she had been diagnosed with heart failure.

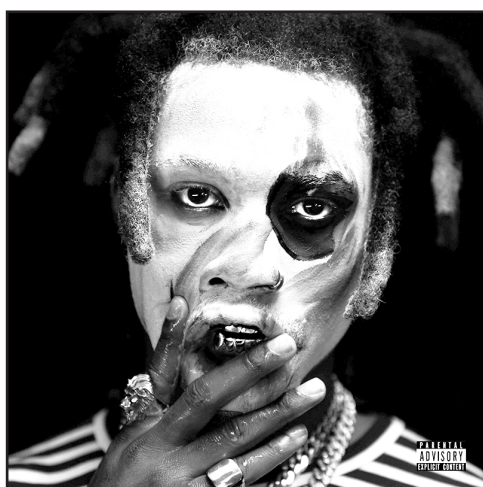
"You can't plan for your body to betray you," Sherald said. "It's really beautiful 'cause now I have a second family."

"You learn so much being at the brink of death that if you're not living fearlessly, you start."

While much of Sherald's life has veered off course unexpectedly, she continues to live her dream of reimagining black people in a style that has never been seen before.

7 UNDER-APPRECIATED RAP PROJECTS OF 2018

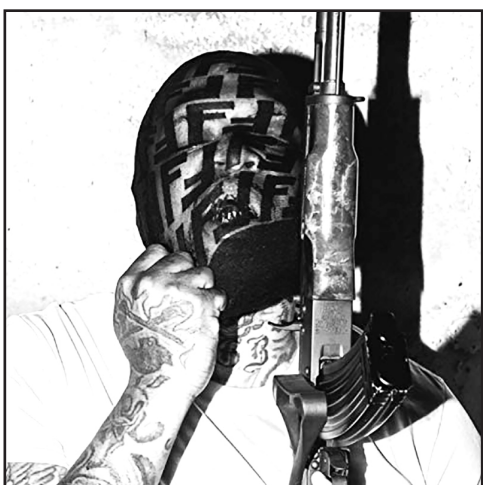
BY KENNEDY LONDON
 STAFF WRITER



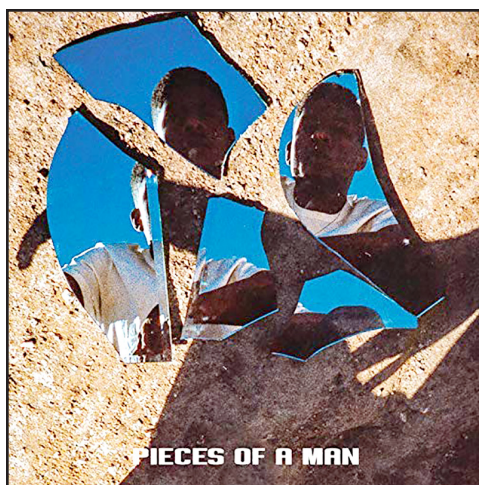
“Ta13oo” by Denzel Curry



“Fetti” by Curren\$, Freddie Gibbs & The Alchemist



“Supreme Blientele” by Westside Gunn



“Pieces of a Man” by Mick Jenkins



“Care For Me” by Saba



“No News is Good News” by Phonte



“Tana Talk 3” by Benny The Butcher

Around the end of every year, we as appreciators of music like to compile our favorite albums that came out. However, in the mainstream we tend to see the same few albums being circulated like they are the holy grail. On one hand, some of the albums do deserve the recognition, and on the other hand we understand the universal co-signing albums get by popular entities.

In 2018, albums like *Invasion of Privacy*, *Daytona*, *Victory Lap*, *Astroworld*, *Beerbongs & Bentleys*, *Everything is Love*, and *Scorpion* were the ones that were shuffled around in conversation from big publications to casual circles. Now, there are plenty of artists and music missing from these discussions that not only deserve the recognition, but are often purposefully left out because they might not fit a certain casual quota. The following seven albums are albums I feel deserve as much credit and just as much shine as the big industry darlings.

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